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**WEAKNESSES IN SOIL BANK**

A couple years ago, an Illinois farmer came into my office, sat down and explained his "Soil-Bank Plan." It was a nice visit, and the merits of the proposed program were duly reported.

But today, Melvin P. Gehlbach, Lincoln, Ill., farmer and farm management specialist, termed by Secretary Benson as the "Genesis of the soil-bank plan," asserts a different approach is being used in the Administration's program. Mr. Gehlbach had testified before the full House committee on agriculture in the Capitol April 15, 1954.

His plan would pay farmers an incentive to shift acres to soil-building crops in excess of a minimum base. The administration's Acreage Reserve Program is limited to under planting of acreage allotments for the basic crops.

It is reported that in the Corn Belt 60 per cent of the farmers are not in compliance with corn allotments. Here the program would fail, Mr. Gehlbach believes. In another personal instance, dry weather three years reduced production considerably. To meet requirements of even a sub-normal livestock program, it is necessary to plant more acres than the Government decrees.

Plans are made to be changed. Such has happened to Mr. Gehlbach and his Soil Bank Association's program. To work up a farm program that will equally apply to the small farmer and the rancher, the beef producer and the dairy producer, the corn grower and the tobacco grower, is an impossibility. And the bone of contention will be chewed long and loud.

**SOIL BANK FISH**

Arkansas's Senator Fulbright has suggested farmers could harvest a crop of fish from land diverted to the soil bank. The same applies to pheasants, ducks and other wildlife.

Several Arkansas farmers are doing this, diverting or resting rice lands into fish ponds. Fertilizers the fish provide aids the land tremendously, and water levels are being restored more easily.

Alabama farmers have averaged \$50 to \$100 per acre from commercial fish production, plus another \$100 to \$200 an acre from the sale of fishing rights.

This brought our comment of the possibility one could have both crop rotation and crappie rotation.

**BIG, LONG DRINK**

America the past few years has become more water-conscious than ever. But few realize how much water each individual uses each day. Here are some figures from the American Water Works Association:

- 25 gallons for a shower
- 36 gallons for a bath
- Half gallon daily for drinking
- 5 to 8 gallons for each toilet flush
- 20 gallons to shave, with running tap
- 30 gallons to wash one meal's dishes, with tap running
- 45 gallons for nine pounds of laundry in a machine

All told, you'll use 8 to 110 gallons daily. Your share for all purposes (municipal, industrial, agricultural) amounts to a staggering 1,100 gallons a day.

No wonder there's a water problem. Figures for each head of livestock would be equally staggering.

**FARM YOUTH**

It's been asked before, "How are you going to keep them down on the farm?" The city is enticing away many of today's farm youth — but a phone call today helps show one way you can develop an interest in your son's future. One dad called for copies of a paper mentioning the son. This dad is interested in his son's accomplishments, it's a family pride. He is developing his son's interest in agriculture.

To us, that's one of the best ways to keep 'em down on the farm.

**50 Years Ago**

**This Week on Lancaster Farms**

(This Week In 1905)  
 By JACK REICHARD

**Russia Appeals For U. S. Scientific Advice**

Fifty years ago the Russian government appealed to American scientists for aid in solving its European soil problem. This week in 1906 the California University College of Agriculture reported it had received specimens of the famous "black earth" from European Russia for analysis. The Russians wanted advice on methods to revive the soil for agriculture purposes.

**Cotton Seed Oil Returned As Olive Oil**

A 1906 report from the cotton growing sections of the South declared the United States had shipped "one and one-half million dollars worth of cottonseed oil to Italy, which came back to this country as pure olive oil in bottles, impressively labeled, wired and sealed".

**What Was It? Harry Starr Wonders**

That's what Harry Starr, a Lancaster farmer residing near Rohrerstown, wanted to know, who had in his possession a cat-rabbit freak. Mr. Starr declared the animal had the head and body of a cat, but the tail of a rabbit, which moved by a succession of jumps and it sat on its haunches like a rabbit.

**Corn Shredding Most Dangerous**

In a commentary on farm accidents the corn shredder was singled out for injuring the greatest number of persons on Pennsylvania farms in 1905. The other two agricultural operations listed among the three top hazards on farms were dynamite and the herd bull.

**Silo Cost Reported by I.E.S.**

Prof. W J Frazer of the Illinois Experimental Station, reported in a 1906 bulletin that construction of a round silo plastered with cement, 20 feet in diameter, 24 1/2 feet deep, holding 228 tons, could be built at a cost of \$383, or \$168 per ton capacity.

**Farmer Smothered Under Straw Stack**

Oliver Weidler, wealthy Pennsylvania farmer in the Nippenose Valley, near Williamsport, was smothered to death beneath a straw stack on his farm. It was believed Weidler had been standing beside the stack that day when it toppled over. A son, passing by later, saw a hand protruding and found the body of his father.

**Hastings Heads Kirkwood Four-H**

James Hastings, Kirkwood, was named president of the Kirkwood 4-H Club Tuesday night with more than 40 members attending. Other officers named were:

- Richard Hastings, Kirkwood, vice president, John Heir, R2, Quarryville secretary; Donald R2, Quarryville, treasurer, Janet Hastings and James Rupert, both of Kirkwood, game leaders, Barbara Miller, R1 Oxford, and Sandra Graeff, Kirkwood, song leaders; and Ross Ferguson, Kirkwood, news reporter

**SISTERS ROBBED.**

Los Angeles — Someone entered the home of two sisters, Miss Loretta Whitmore, a department store buyer, and Mrs. Berdena Loring, a telephone company supervisor, and fled with \$1,400 in cash, numerous stocks and bonds, and—their Thanksgiving turkey.

**25 Years Ago**

**Farm Board Head Resigned 25 Years Ago This Week**

Twenty-five years ago this week President Herbert Hoover accepted the resignation of Alexander Legge, of Chicago, as chairman of the Federal Farm Board. James C. Stone, of Kentucky, was immediately appointed to succeed Mr. Legge. In announcing the new appointment, President Hoover pointed out that the new chairman had been a member of the board from its organization, with many years experience in co-operative marketing, the fundamental principal on which the agency reported.

**Unofficial Use Of State Autos**

Government officials and other personnel with State cars assigned to their use were instructed in plain words just when the autos were to be used. In a special communique issued by Governor Pinchot, 25 years ago this week, the use of State cars on Sundays and for unofficial purposes on all other days of the week had to be ended. At the same time it was announced that all motor vehicles of the State, except those of State Police, were to be painted buckskin brown with the State coat-of-arms on front doors.

**Lancaster Dogs Quarantined**

More than 100 dogs in the southeastern section of Lancaster County were under quarantine by State order Dr Joseph Johnson, Lancaster, appointed in charge of the quarantine, said several dogs afflicted with rabies were on the loose in the area, and had bitten a number of other dogs and cattle.

**Public Sale Prices 25 Years Ago**

Prices paid at Lancaster County public sales during the first week of March, 1931, were reported as follows: Cows, from \$76 to \$115; bulls, \$75 to \$127; horses, \$140 to \$225.

**Lancaster Livestock Price Range**

The Lancaster livestock review reported March 7, 1931, by U. S. Department of Agriculture, co-operating with Pennsylvania Bureau of Markets, showed the following range of prices: Steers: good, \$8 to \$9.25; medium, \$7 to \$8; Vealers: good and choice, \$9 to \$10; medium, \$8 to \$9. Feeder and Stocker cattle: good and choice, \$7.50 to \$8.75; medium, \$5 to \$7.50. Hogs: good and choice, 160 to 180 lbs \$8.50 to \$9.

**Received 15 1/2 and 3 For Tobacco Crop**

Raymond Siplin, near Bainbridge, reported selling his seven acre crop of tobacco to a packer in that area, receiving 15 1/2 and 3.

**BIBLE SPEAKS**  
 International Uniform Sunday School Lessons  
 BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN  
 Background Scripture: Luke 17-20, 21, 21:5-38  
 Devotional Reading: Romans 8:28-39  
**Jesus on History**  
 Lesson for March 11, 1956

HALF way through a movie you may see people getting up and walking out. That does not necessarily mean they are disgusted with the picture. It's just that they came in right there in the first show. "This is where we came in," they say, and they don't care to see the second half of the film twice (Query, by the way: Is a movie, or a book, that isn't worth seeing or reading twice, worth seeing at all?) In ancient times, the learned Greeks thought that history was like a motion picture shown over and over again.



If a man lived long enough he could see history repeat itself, they thought. The diagram which the Greek mind best represented history would be a circle. Fly, moth or man, going around in circles will never get anywhere. History, the Greeks thought, is like that. It moves, but it never gets anywhere.

**History Goes Somewhere**

The Bible's view of history is a different one. History is more like a straight line than a circle. "Straight" line is too simple. If you will read the book of Judges in the Old Testament you will find a line of history that goes uphill and down in dizzy succession. But crooked or straight, it is a line going somewhere. On a circle, you pass a given point. Now, after you have passed that point, are you getting farther away from it as you move, or are you getting nearer? The answer is both, of course. Now if history is a kind of circle, then if you ask the question, "Are we getting farther away from barbarism, is the world getting better at all?" The answer will have to be: It doesn't make any difference. We are farther from that period of barbarism through which we last passed; but we are getting closer to the next period.

There is something more in thinking about Jesus and his sacrifice, when we take Communion in this sacrament we find Him. It is quite true, different churches have different official explanations about how we find Christ here. But from "High Church" to "Low," in "Liberal" and "Conservative," in Catholic and Protestant congregations alike, if you could ask the people as they come out of doors again, "What did that service mean to you?" It might be that some would hardly know what to say, for it is always possible to go through the motions, without really thinking what one is doing. But those who had entered whole-heartedly into the service, who had come "in love and charity" and in faith, would all tell you about the same thing: "Christ came very near to me." If Christ seems just as far away after the Lord's Supper as before, then there has been something wrong about us. That is why the Roman Catholic church will not admit any one to communion if he has not been to Confession first. That is why in many Protestant churches the people are warned to abstain from Communion if they harbor malice or ugly feeling toward their neighbors.

**We Share Him**

If it is true that in the Lord's Supper we find the Lord himself, it should be true—and happily it is so—that afterwards life should go on at a higher level than before. The Lord's Supper is less like a doorway leading from one room to another just like it, than it is like a gateway across a boundary from one country to another. Christ comes to us in the Sacrament, but not as a fleeting guest. If we are serious as we take the bread and wine and think about all this in the quiet of prayer, we will so enter into the spirit of Christ himself that we shall re-dedicate ourselves in his service. It is a kind of parody on Christian ideas to think of Christ's sacrifice as alone and by itself. His cross must be followed by other crosses. His outpoured life must be shared by others who are willing to pour their lives out in turn. And it is this, again, which unites all the Christians who in their many varied fashions have taken this Lord's Supper with devoted hearts. For there is a family resemblance among all real Christians, whatever their church-label may be. And the resemblance goes back to the same Christ, who has shared himself with every Christian everywhere and always who has taken this Bread and Cup.

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