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FARM BILL REACTION

Something more than a tempest in a teapot has boiled up since the Presidential veto of the farm bill, as much a ruckus as the measure produced before it was rejected.

Statewide, Pennsylvania reaction has been for and against. Here are some quotations:

Wilham L. Henning, state secretary of agriculture: "To me this (veto) looks like an election year move . . . Apparently the President did not like the farm bill with amendments, but I cannot understand why he immediately raised price supports when Secretary (of Agriculture Ezra Taft) Benson was pledged to flexible supports."

J. Collins McSparran, executive secretary, Pennsylvania State Grange: "We are disappointed in the veto for one reason. We feel the domestic parity program should have been allowed to be tried on a domestic commodity. Anything over that (domestic human consumption) would be sold in any channel, for the going price. Neither rigid price supports, nor flexible price supports help the Pennsylvania farmer. What we need in the farm situation is a complete change in the approach to agricultural problems."

C. M. Wilson, executive secretary, Pennsylvania Farmers Association: "This bill as passed by Congress was detrimental to Pennsylvania farmers. In fact it would have worked to the direct disadvantage of most of the state's farm economy"

Miles Horst, Republican State Committee Chairman and former state secretary: "I think the farmers of Pennsylvania are in accord with President Eisenhower in his approach to this farm problem. We are a deficiency producing state from the standpoint of feed material. That farm bill, as vetoed, provided features that instead of relieving the situation we have today would have increased the problem and made it more serious."

Both President Eisenhower and Secretary Benson placed themselves in a vulnerable position politically, and are to be commended for their courage in taking that chance. To compose a measure that would apply equally to all farmers all over the country would be an immense undertaking.

Always the farm problem will be a political problem, and like the old saying: "There's no business like show business" it might be said "There's no problem like the farm problem."

SOIL BANK ADVANCES

Now that the omnibus farm measure has been turned down by the Department of Agriculture and by Presidential veto, work on the Soil Bank proposal has moved ahead with an appropriation of \$1,200,000,000.

But Secretary Benson says he has no authority to spend the monies. Then there are prospects some Southern crops, already planted, would need be plowed under for farmers to benefit from the program.

This latest proposal must still meet another trip through the Senate and be signed by the President before it can become effective. But its success, both factions will admit, depends wholly on proper administration.

Idled acres can fit well in the program of a 1,000-acre Corn Belt farm or a 30,000-acre western wheat farm, but with the average size of farms in Lancaster County far under 100 acres, there's little place for soil banking, as proposed, here.

ANOTHER PENDULUM SWING

The midwest is swinging more support to the Democrat party in hopes of solving a farm problem that is becoming more acute. Early indications of this were indicated in letters to Lancaster Farming, and the enthusiastic cry of "Give 'em H-, Harry" has been heard again.

Midwestern farms are in a state of determined unrest. Iowa farm incomes have dropped 50 per cent. Returns on livestock for each \$100 worth of feed tumbled as much as 32 per cent. Cash incomes on 148 farms slipped according to the following figures: 1953 — \$10,247; 1954 — \$8,269; 1955 — \$7,051. Gross value of crops per acre fell to \$57 last year, from \$68 in 1954, \$64 in 1953.

Cattle replacement costs are forecast higher this year, adding to an outlook of further loss, an outlook of further discontent.

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)
 By JACK REICHARD

Families on Lancaster farms were interested in the case of Charles Musselman, farmer near Coopersburg, Pa., whose farmhouse was robbed while the family was at work in the fields. When one of the children returned to the house one of the robbers fired at her. The girl ran out of her home and called to the family, and the thieves ran off with their loot.

Later that day a man passed the farm and the girl recognized him as the thief who had fired at her. A chase followed and after about a mile across fields the man was cornered in the barn of a neighbor. The infuriated father and neighbors got a rope and threatened to hang the intruder, who got down on his knees, begging and praying not to be lynched.

After some deliberation the prisoner was turned over to the authorities and placed in the Coopersburg lockup. Later he was removed to the Allentown jail for trial.

Pennsylvania Gold Rush Of 1906

The belief that South Mountain contained gold, silver and other precious metals, sent prices of farm land in Cumberland County skyward 50 years ago, attracting dozens of capitalists from Harrisburg, Philadelphia and New York to the region. Among prospectors inspecting lands in the Dillsburg area was Thomas A. Edison. Immediately after his visit the Hedges farms, which had been advertised for sale a few weeks before at \$5,000, were sold for \$50,000.

The largest purchaser of land in the Huntsdale section was James M. Cameron, Harrisburg, who had more than 50 deeds recorded, according to a news dispatch.

A. P. Zeigler, who had purchased 160 acres from County Commissioner Harmon, of Mount Holly Springs, at \$700 an acre, offered \$2,500 an acre.

Farmers who had struggled for years to wrest a living from the soil suddenly found themselves agriculturalists without farms, but with large bank accounts. A number of other farmers refused to sell while prospectors daily scoured the mountain for "pay dirt", which never materialized.

California farmers in the Woodbridge area, along the Mokelum River, were highly pleased with the outcome in their section resulting from the 1906 earthquake. The bed of the river there had dropped 12 feet, providing a deeper channel for flood runoffs, greatly reducing the danger of flooding their lands.

Mrs Joseph L. Garrett, West Fallowfield, was found dead in a field on her husband's Pennsylvania farm. When the men returned to the house for dinner that day, they found Mrs. Garrett had made no preparation for the meal and immediately went in search of her. Her body was found in a field, where she had gone to feed the turkeys.

Fattened Oysters On Corn

Down along the Chesapeake Bay, in Maryland, they were fattening oysters on corn, just as Lancaster farmers were fattening their hogs. The oysters were placed in cool cellars, wet down with salt water and cornmeal

sprinkled over the piles, which it was stated they greedily devoured.

The New Holland Machine Works in Lancaster County did a \$120,000 business in 1905, turning out 1,000 feed mills, 400 wood saws and 299 gasoline engines. A dividend of six per cent was declared by the company that year.

25 Years Ago

The discovery of irregularities at several plants buying milk from farmers on the butterfat basis, prompted the Department of Agriculture to inaugurate a check-up on the method of testing in milk plants throughout the State.

There were over 1300 milk plants and receiving stations in Pennsylvania, in 1931, and most of them paid for milk and cream on the butterfat basis.

State officials stated a great injustice could be done the dairy industry by incorrect tests. The small fraction of one per cent of under-reading meant a loss of 8 to 10 cents per 100 pounds of milk produced.

The Department ruled that where money was taken from farmers through under-reading tests, it would have to be paid

back. Plant owners prosecuted on a second offense lost their license.

State Secretary of Agriculture, John A. McSparran, called the attention of farmers to the importance of growing alfalfa, cow-peas and soy beans, during 1931, to grind and substitute for some of the high-priced protein feeds commonly purchased.

Twenty-five years ago this week, the Lancaster County Drouth Committee, comprised of Leslie Bolton, Holtwood RD 1; C A Raezer, Ephrata, and Albert Risser, Bambridge, sat at the Lancaster postoffice building to receive applications for loans for the purchase of seed, fertilizers, feed and tractor fuel. A chattel mortgage was security for loans.

Lancaster Farm Women Society No. 11 met with Mrs. Abner Musser, Buck, "the Biggest Little Town in U.S.A.", Thursday afternoon, April 30, 1931.

According to a 1931 bulletin issued by farm crop specialists at State College, sweet clover, seeded alone early in the spring on good land adapted to it, should make good grazing after mid-summer.

Seeded in grain, sweet clover need most of the first year's growth to make sufficient root, it was stated

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
 International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
 BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN
 Background Scripture: Acts 8:4-40.
 Devotional Reading: Luke 10:1-9.
Church Must Grow
 Lesson for April 29, 1956

not "go home mad" because he has to play with a handicap against him. He takes it as a compliment and a challenge. So the early church took their hurdles and handicaps as challenges.

Laymen and Clergy

When you see a present-day church with no outreach, one of the reasons may be that the people leave all the outreaching to the minister. He is supposed to be interested in missions, sure, that's his business. But the people—well, we have a hard enough time raising money with our bazaar just for the preacher's salary, you can't expect us to think about missions! In fact, one has seen churches where the only really "active member" was the preacher. Now the early Christians talked no such nonsense. They did not have the hard-and-fast division into "laity" and "clergy" that churches today have, even if they use other words like "member" and "preacher," or "pew holder" and "pulpit orator." The Apostles, it is true, were men set apart. But the outreach of the early church was mostly done by people who were not Apostles. And so far as we hear in the book of Acts, the Apostles did not dress differently from any one else. They did not claim exemption from taxation, they did not claim reduced rates at stores or when traveling. They were not given titles like Reverend or Doctor,—everybody called them just Paul or Peter or whatever, without so much as a "Mr." in front of their names. They worked at outreach, yes, but the point is, they were not looked on as professional outreachers while the "laymen" were professional sit-backers!

Multitudes and Lonely Man

The early church reached out in two ways. They went where the crowds were, and also they went to far lonely places. We hear about crowds in Jerusalem and Samaria and elsewhere. We also have the story of Philip going down to a desert road where his only congregation was one lonely puzzled foreigner. The going church today, the outreaching church, the New Testament kind of church, also will be reaching out to the multitudes, and to the lonely man. It will be sending missionaries into great cities, in our land and overseas, working among overcrowded tenements and swarming streets. It will be reaching out to cowhands on the open ranges, to lighthouse keepers' families along the seacoast, to little villages on the edge of the Arctic and under the dripping tropical rainforests.

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Dr. Foreman