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MEAT SUPPLIES AT RECORD AGAIN

Meat production in 1956 appears to be headed for a new high record of something over 27.75 billion lbs. That will be three per cent above last year's production and 25 per cent above the production for the years 1947 to 1949.

Such is the word given by Wesley Hardembergh, president of the American Meat Institute at the 33rd annual meeting of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Meat consumption is expected to average out 162 to 163 lbs per person this year, up about one pound from a year ago.

"The output of federally-inspected beef through the month of June has been 10 per cent larger than in the same period last year, with the increase mainly in grain-finished cattle. . . . Marketings of cows through April have been about nine per cent smaller than last year, which, of course, leads to the interpretation that breeding herds are being maintained or possibly even increased a little," Mr. Hardembergh continued.

As for hogs, " . . . it seems fairly certain that the large increases in marketing that were recorded during the first half of the year — up 18 per cent over last year — will slip gradually into minus figures as we come into the late summer and fall. You probably know that the estimated pig crop shows an 8 per cent cut in the 1956 spring crop.

Pork production and hog slaughter for calendar 1956 will exceed that of last year.

His conclusion is one of which all livestock producers might well take note: "The trend of the last few years has been downward as so far as the percentage of people's disposable income spent for meat is concerned. Whether this will be or can be checked and whether it will turn the other way, I don't know I doubt that anyone does. Under these circumstances, I think it is clear that all of us would be wise to pay attention to increased efficient operation — producer, feeder, packer and retailer alike. The good job we are already doing must be stepped up to a superior job."

COWS ON THE COUCH

Cows and poultry are receiving the psychologists' couch treatment, and some unusual findings are coming to light.

It has been known for some time that a newcomer in a herd of cows often, two kinds of treatment, either complete shunning, or butted about by the old-timers. As time goes on, and she proves her position, things work out better, her milk production returns to normal, and all's well in bovine social circles

Behavior studies of chickens and turkeys have been underway at Pennsylvania State University since 1949, and it has been found certain fertility problems plaguing turkey growers are due to differences in behavior among groups of males and groups of females.

Next in line, as the animal behavior section expands, work may be done with sheep, hogs, goats and horses — as well as various wild life species. Aspects such as cannibalism and feeding behavior will be tested as they apply to the production of meat, milk and eggs.

There's more to it than a bit of humor. The case of the melancholy cow, the high-strung horse, the "cock-of-the-walk" in the hen yard, may have more significance than was once realized. So let's pull up the couch!

THISTLES ABLOOM

Thistle is abounding in colorful thistle. A wise item at this time? Many quickly spread. Only complaint of the thistle is that it's colorful some we've seen.

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)

By JACK REICHARD

Farmers in 1906 Urged to Plant Timber

Half a century ago, farmers in general, were urged to start timber lots. It was pointed out that with the very poorest of soft wood boars bringing \$25 to \$30 per thousand, in 1906, and an expected increase of prices in the years ahead, the future demand for lumber in America would bring woodland owners attractive prices. Attention was called to a central Iowa farmer, who had planted an acre of cottonwood trees in 1881, its lumber value was estimated at \$1,000 to \$1,200 in 1906. It was believed that by 1931, a similar tract would be worth between \$1,500 to \$2,000. Higher prices of all kinds of lumber was predicted for the future, and the planting of generous areas for the use of future generations was recommended.

Octoraro Farmers In Session

The 1906 July meeting of the Octoraro Farmers' Club was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Newcomer, near Lincoln, Chester County. A large number of members and guests attended the morning and afternoon sessions. During the forenoon, the proper procedure for turning an old peach orchard into a permanent pasture, and the best time to manure wheat stubble and to plow the stubble for seeding to clover, were discussed. Following a dinner-spread under the trees on the spacious grounds, the questions, "Can women make themselves as useful as men on school boards," and "Has a good director any duties during the months school is closed?" were given an airing.

Fifty years ago this week, Lancaster farmers from a number of sections in the county complained of a strange young woman appearing at their farms. It was declared the woman called at the house just before dark, too late to turn anyone away. She explained she was trying to locate her wealthy uncle and offered \$10 for a week's stay with the family. A few days later she announced she was going to the store or post office, when she departed for scenes of new operations, usually taking some wearing apparel belonging to the farmwife with her. In the Strasburg area, she escaped being arrested by promising to leave the neighborhood.

Lititz Has Another Newspaper

Fifty years ago this week, another weekly newspaper, The Lititz Times, made its bow to the public, making three newspapers in the borough. The new publication was a four-page, seven-column sheet, full of news and well printed. Edgar H. Enck was the editor and John A. Snyder associate editor.

In a dispatch from an English correspondent to the National Stockman, it was reported that a large Yorkshire sow had farrowed 85 pigs in five litters and reared 66. Three times the sow reared 15 giving milk in only nine teats. Her largest litter was 21. No pigs were destroyed.

During that same week in 1906, a stalk of field corn from the Lancaster farm of I. Galen Lefever, near Quarryville, measuring thirteen feet, nine inches, with two large ears of corn, was placed on exhibit at the office of the Quarryville Sun.

President Eisenhower recently signed the \$33,480,000,000 highway construction bill, and Secretary of Commerce Weeks promptly announced the allocation of \$1,125,000,000 to states.

25 YEARS AGO (1931)

Muskrat Farm Gets State Approval

Twenty five years ago this week, A. E. Rupp, chief bureau manager of the State Department of Forests and Waters, announced the granting of a lease for a muskrat farm, the first in the history of the department. The farm was planned by Henry L. Quick, of Germania, Potter County, who entered into an agreement with the state for the purpose of raising muskrats in a swamp at the head waters of Kettle Creek, according to District Forester H. E. Elliot, of the Susquehanna State Forest in northern Pennsylvania. The lease was granted on the same basis as camp site leases in the State Forests. "The muskrats were not consulted", said Department Chief Rupp. Muskrat farming was a prosperous enterprise in 1931, particularly in the lake states and in Maryland, where the extensive marshes of the eastern shore were a center for muskrat fur production. The animals were said to breed three to five times a year, with an average litter of from six to eight young. Muskrats require no feeding if raised in their natural haunts.

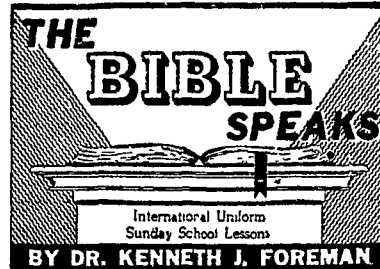
Quarryville Cannery Booming

Twenty five years ago this week, more than 100 persons were employed at the Quarryville Cannery canning beans, was announced by W. C. Cannon, business manager. Up to July 1931, over 4,000 cases of 24 cans to the case, had been packed. The crop of beans in the area was expected to keep the plant in full operation up to August 1 of that year, when the machinery was to be changed over for the canning of tomatoes.

Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, wife of the governor of Pennsylvania, was chief speaker at the annual gathering of Lancaster County Farm Women at Chestnut Level. Other speakers included the Reverend W. J. G. Carruthers, a former pastor in the community, and the Reverend Rufus P. Bucher, of Mechanics Grove Church of the Brethren. Farm Women Society No. 11 presented a play.

First Hit-And-Run Was Ox Team Driver

In a 1931 news dispatch out of Medford, Wisconsin, it was stated that Medford's first "hit and-run" driver, who escaped apprehension, was the driver of a yoke of oxen in 1886, according to newspaper file records. The record revealed: "A yoke of oxen knocked down a little girl on the crossing in front of Brodowsky's store recently and the brute who was driving them did not stop to see if the little one was hurt."



Background Scripture: Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:19-25, 11:1-13:8.
Devotional Reading: Ephesians 4:1-13

Great Company

Lesson for July 22, 1956

MAN is not made for loneliness. He not only feels incomplete when circumstances force him for a time to live alone; he is actually incomplete. It is only through existence with others that we arrive at our true selves. People who have never thought this through know it by a kind of instinct. That is why there are so many organizations and societies and fraternities and groups of innumerable sorts in the world. Even when an organization has no very important reason for its existence, its members just like to get together.



Dr. Foreman

The Great Company

Of all groups of human beings, the greatest is the "great company" we call the Church. Belonging to it is more than joining another organization. It is more than any denomination, more than any existing list of members, even if you put all the members of all the churches into one master-list. The writer to the Hebrews, thinking of the heroes of faith, does not think of them as past-and-gone saints. They live now; they are the great "cloud of witnesses"—the cheering grandstand, we may dare to say—in whose presence our own race is being run. They are living members of the Fraternity of Faith. All those who have dreamed God's dreams after him, all who have looked beyond their times to the heavenly city yet to be, all who have toiled to make this world a bit more like the world of God's intention, who have by faith seen what God promised and greeted it from afar; these make up the company to which every man and woman is invited; these are the light-bearers, the builders, to whose fellowship every Christian belongs. Men of faith often have to live lonely lives; they can be misunderstood, imprisoned, tortured and killed; but they take heart, knowing that they do not

stand alone.

Marching With the Heroes

For some persons, precise accuracy of belief is what makes a good Christian. Surely accuracy of belief is a good thing. To say the least of it, there is no point in believing what isn't so, or not believing what is so. But from the standpoint of this letter to the Hebrews, indeed from the standpoint of Jesus himself, accuracy of belief and completeness of understanding are not the last word in what makes a Christian Faith, in the way the word meets us in the famous 11th chapter of Hebrews, is not voting "aye" to a set of propositions. Faith is doing something for man and God. It can be expressed in the slogan, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." Faith of this rousing, robust kind is more than thinking, it is doing. It is thinking too; faith certainly is no substitute for thought. Reading the stories of the men and women the writer to the Hebrews lists in his roll-call of faith, one finds them planning ahead, working, fighting never blindly but with the determination that comes from a thinking faith. Heroes think, plan, believe; but also heroes DO. It is the doing that makes them heroic. So the Great Company is a marching, fighting company, marching at God's orders, fighting God's war.

Supermen?

Thinking about such things, and such men, has put iron into the blood of many weaker men and women, struggling through their own battles on this earth. But it has a discouraging side, too. These men—Abraham, Moses, all the rest, and all the others that Christian history can name—these heroes of faith were supermen, we feel. Quite out of our class. In such a company, many a humble Christian feels like a boy who can't do simple arithmetic being elected by accident to a Mathematical Society, or a boy twelve years old suddenly finding himself in the middle of a football game between Notre Dame and Texas. It's embarrassing. But no—that is a mistake. The men named to that Roll-Call of Faith were not really supermen. Indeed some of them felt so small that they tried to resign before God elected them. By themselves they would have been no more remarkable than ourselves. For after all, it was not their faith, or their character, or their power, that made them; it was the God in whom they had that faith, who made them. And God still makes men!

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