

Lancaster Farming

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Mr. Benson Speaks Up

*Although Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has been on the receiving end of many an unkind word about farm policies, he chose Southeastern Pennsylvania to speak up. He chose somewhat alien territory, and reaction to his appearance was mixed. Applause was not over-enthusiastic among the 5000 in Hershey Stadium, but when he drove home a point, the audience responded.

Politically, the Hershey appearance was important. This was the Secretary's first appearance since the Republican and Democratic party conventions, where the farm program was a primary issue. But the Secretary is not a politician He said,

"Farm people . . . have problems — serious ones. These problems have been brought on in large part by political maneuvering — by unwise government policies. They will not be solved by more political maneuvering. They will be solved only by facing facts — by sound thinking, and sound action."

Just as inheritance and the laws of Mendel apply so deeply to agriculture, Mr. Benson inherited in his office a system where farmers have been hamstrung by controls. When asked by Lancaster Farming if the United States farmer could ever hope to return to a free status, the Secretary said,

"Most agricultural progress has been made in the 50 to 75 years farmers have been free to make their own decisions. We must move toward a greater freedom for farmers."

In a note inserted — not included in his prepared speech — the Secretary said, "It is our purpose to keep the agricultural economy fluid, to keep this God-given (agricultural) right of freedom of choice; we don't want to freeze agriculture in uneconomic patterns.

"I have stated my views on what must be done to work our way out of the difficulties of agriculture. These views have not changed because of a coming election, because of political pressure," he added. Later he told, "We will not resort to nostrums and panaceas for political pressures."

War-time controls wrapped the farmer so tightly they couldn't be dropped at war's end, and, as he told the Hershey audience, "we didn't have the political courage to make the change when the war ended"

Mr. Benson's status is best summarized in a statement inserted at mid-point of his address: "Our objective is markets; a government warehouse is not a market. I will not support any program which is not to the best interests of the farmers — regardless of political pressures."

"The record is now clear — rigid price-fixing shrinks markets," he stated, and, "We have proven you cannot control production — all you do (under government decrees) is chase acres around."

His Soil-Bank is an emergency program, temporary, voluntary, one that is meeting little response in this section, where, as even the Secretary admits, it cannot be applied properly, but farmers in this area should benefit from increased prices for their farm commodities.

Mr. Benson is sincere. He speaks freely, openly, without assistance from aides at hand. He seeks a sound and expanding farm prosperity, on "programs founded neither on the quicksand of war nor the entanglements of bureaucracy."

Choosing between a man and his programs is difficult. Few can say the Secretary shies away from the issues and arguments at hand.

Hormones for Turkeys

Diethylstilbestrol hormone pellets are producing large type turkeys into good broilers at the University of Wisconsin. One pellet is said to make large type turkeys even fatter than some small type turkeys which have not been treated. Large type birds reach broiler weight about 20 days earlier.

Approved by the Pure Food and Drug Administration for use in poultry, "stilbestrol" as it is better known, may open a new field in the poultry industry.

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)

By JACK REICHARD

ROOSTER ATTACKS BABY

Grace Welde, twenty-two months daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Welde, Wilmington, Delaware, was attacked by a vicious rooster while at play near the house, when the fowl swooped down upon her and stuck a spur deep into her head. The screams of the child brought aid and the rooster was driven away. For a time it was feared the little girl had been fatally injured.

On the Lancaster farm of Lory Logan, near Collins, a dog killed thirty-four chickens. Logan immediately went for his shotgun and killed the animal. He stated the owner could come and get his dead dog if he wanted it.

Thieves entered the smokehouse and icehouse on the farm of T. C. Gregg, near Chestnut Level, carrying off all the meat. Several fine hams and a lot of fresh meat on ice in the icehouse were stolen. Detectives were investigating.

ELECTRICITY USED IN GROWING POTATOES

Potato growers in general, were interested in experiments made in Massachusetts where electricity was being tried as an aid to the growth of plant life, fifty years ago. Electric currents were passed through the soil by means of wires attached to batteries buried in the field. The experiment was declared a success, and the potatoes were found to be larger and of superior quality.

A poultry expert declared that "inbreeding is just as disastrous in the case of poultry as in the human species"

FY TRAP, 1906 MODEL

A Pennsylvania farmwife told how she got rid of flies by filling a glass jar about half full of strong soap and water solution and covering it with a soft crust of bread that was moistened with a little milk. She stated,

"Make a small hole in the center of the bread and press tightly over the top of the jar after the addition of a little sugar to attract the flies. Place this outside of the door where the flies gather and the results will be surprising"

An Iowa woman had made her village famous by advertising a certain day each summer as Chick Day, when she exhibited thousands of chicks newly hatched in incubators of her own invention. Thousands of people assembled each year to witness her annual hatch.

From the Lancaster orchard of George Graham, Sr., Paradise Township, nearly 1,000 baskets of peaches were sold in the 1906 season.

25 Years Ago

Lancaster Farm women Society No. 11, entertained the members' families at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. William Bucher, Mechanic Grove, 25 years ago this week.

According to E. B. Fitts, in charge of dairy extension work at Pennsylvania State College, Pennsylvania ranked fifth among the states in the number of dairy improvement associations, in 1931. Of the 1,112 associations reported by the Bureau of Dairy Industry, 88 were in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin led with 131, Iowa, second with 100, and Minnesota, third with 96.

Harry Benninger, 22, of near Easton, Pa., an alleged potato thief, was killed and his companion, Benjamin Charwock, 25, of Allentown, was peppered with bird-shot, when the pair invaded the farm of Thomas Graver, Moore Township.

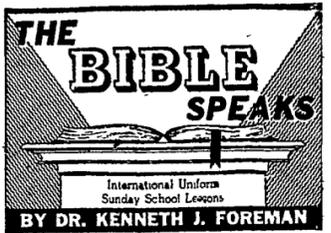
The shooting was, it was charged, by Graver's son and two hired men, who were on guard against potato thieves, who, for several nights in a row, had robbed the farm of large quantities of tubers.

CHINA BUYS U.S. WHEAT

Twenty five years ago this week, President Herbert Hoover announced the completion of negotiations for selling 15,000,000 bushels of wheat to China. The grain was to be used to feed the hungry in the flooded regions along the Yangtze River.

Carl Williams, Farm Board member, said a minimum of 50 per cent of the wheat would go as flour.

The Chinese Government, he said, agreed to pay equal installments on the wheat in 1934, 1935 and 1936. The price was subject to market quotations at the time of shipment with interest at four per cent.



Background Scripture: Luke 6:27-31; 10:30-37, James 2
Devotional Reading: I Corinthians 13.

Royal Law

Lesson for September 2, 1956

"LOVE your neighbor" is called the "Royal Law" once in the Bible. It becomes and is the royal law only when all of it is meant: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Everybody loves his neighbor a tiny bit. At least you don't want to see his house burn down, and if you heard that his children had been eaten by an alligator, you would have (it is hoped) some hope of regret. But loving your neighbor as yourself — ah, that is something quite a lot harder to do.



Dr. Foreman

But the Royal Law demands that we love our neighbor, any neighbor, all neighbors. This is a Royal Law, as James called it, because it is the law by which the King of the Universe operates. To be sure, we cannot say that God has "neighbors" just as we have; but when God was here on earth, focused (you might say) in one person, this Son of God, truly royal if ever a man was, lived by the Royal Law.

No Exceptions!

James writes that keeping the law means keeping all of it. To fail in one point means failing, period. We can apply this to the Royal Law. If we are (as Jesus called us) sons and daughters of the Most High, then we are under a kind of regal obligation to live as befits our high privileges. The more truly we live as children of God, the less we can afford to make exceptions, on our own, to the royal law of love. But most of us do make exceptions. Jesus knew what they are; so did James. Jesus mentions people who love those who love them in return. We all know the type — maybe we are the type! — the person who treats his friends like princes and other people like dirt; the family who are very warm-hearted — noted to one another but minister has a very

FARMERS HEAR GOVERNOR PINCHOT

In a speech before the Missouri Farmers' Association at Sedalia, Mo., Pennsylvania's Governor Pinchot, told the assembly

"For generations the farmer has been the orphan child of American politics I am taking him into the family."

"For generations, the government of the United States believed that the only thing it needed to do for the farmer was to help him grow more crops. What he got for his crops when grown, and what kind of a life he and his family led on the farm — with these things the Government held it had no concern."

On the Lancaster farm of Harrison Sollenberger, near White Horse, a large barn was struck by lightning, and burned with all the season's crops except tobacco. Sollenberger, who was standing near the building when the lightning struck, was stunned. He recovered a few moments later, and he hurriedly released the livestock quartered in the barn.

One calf and a newly purchased hunting dog were forgotten in the confusion and perished in the flames.

Firemen of the Salisbury Fire Company were called but the fire had too great a headway so they turned their attention to saving the farm house and other buildings.

hard time enlisting in any project for community betterment; the college student who is a very loyal fraternity brother but who hardly knows, and doesn't care to know, the student without money to spend. Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan showed up two men who made exceptions to the Royal Law. The priest must have loved his neighbor priests; but the beaten stranger was no priest, so this priest didn't bother with him. The Levite must have had friends; he belonged to a class of professional philanthropists. But Samaritans were not on the Levite's list of Worthy Causes. So he wasn't bothered. As for the Samaritan, there was every reason to cross off that battered stranger by the roadside. By every Samaritan standard, he didn't "belong." But the Samaritan kept the Royal Law without making exceptions.

For Whom Do We Pray

One way the reader can test how well he himself keeps this Royal Law, is to reflect on his own prayers. We get around to more people in prayer than in actual visits. It is true that on a given day we probably don't pray definitely for every sort and condition of men; but the question which really probes us is not, "Do you pray for every one," but, "Are there any kinds of people for whom you would not pray?" If you are a democrat, do you ever pray for a republican? If you are a white person, do you ever pray for negroes? If you are Protestant, do you pray for Roman Catholics? For the Pope? If you are an American, do you pray for Russians? For Chinese? If you are a business man, do you pray for your competitors? As a law abiding citizen, do you ever pray for the men and women in the state penitentiary? You see how it is. The Royal Law is the hardest law there is.

With Whom Do You Pray

James draws a sarcastic little picture of some church ushers he had very likely seen, — polishing the apple of the well-dressed visitor to their church, and showing the poor man around so that he would be almost sure never to come back. How is it in your church? You may have hanging on the wall somewhere a copy of the Royal Law; but does the church itself keep it? Are there people, Negroes perhaps, who if they risked showing themselves at your church, and wanted to worship with you, could be shoved into a corner of rhaps refused admission entirely? Does your church set the example for its members, the example of love without exceptions?

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