

Lancaster Farming

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PUERTO RICO — FOMENTO

Last week's Lancaster Farming touched upon some of the issues the West Indies — Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands — are facing and meeting

Although they are lands quite remote from Lancaster County, there are a few issues of interest to the Garden Spot, for this area has provided considerable quantities of seasonal labor. On the other hand, one native couldn't figure where there would be a supply of labor to be tapped in the Virgin Islands, yet he at the same time complained of unemployment there, the need for industries.

Here are some items that show the cause and effect: The Virgin Islands, once great producers of sugar, have lost their standing. Much of the production has moved to Cuba. This year, Cuba has received from the USDA an increased quota and proration, to 3,089,760 short tons, raw value, an increase of 54,000 tons, while the Virgin Islands — small though they be — have a revised quota of but 12,000, representing no increase.

Much of this has been due to production of sugar beets in the United States. Little wonder hundreds of old stone mills stand today in the Virgin Islands, devoid of their sweeping wheels, empty shells of a sugar regime that once existed.

The Virgin Islands best represent one of the best — or worst examples — of the rise and decline of agriculture.

In Puerto Rico, there is change — they call it fomento. In the six year period of 1958-1963, new investment in that island is expected to provide 42,000 additional jobs. The Development Company will provide about \$58 million of the capital investment needed, and private sources will probably be tapped for the additional \$300 million necessary. To June, 1956 the Development Company has drawn upon the U. S. Government General Fund \$49.8 million, principally for construction of industrial plants.

Streets are being torn up right and left in San Juan. Parks and parkways are being constructed. Slums are being leveled. New housing, both private homes and apartment buildings, are going up in a \$74 million program in the next two years that will provide 8,420 new homes. In the past four months, \$17 million has been spent for private building, seven million of that going into new one-family homes which may sell from \$5000 to \$9000. Building materials purchased in the fiscal year 1955-56 totaled \$34 millions.

Building costs in the tropics are lower. No provisions are necessary for heating. Masonry blocks prove economical construction, prove more weatherproof than frame.

Income tax exemptions are offered industries and builders from the United States.

In the Virgin Islands, one merchant in St. Croix complained sources of private loans are difficult. To quote him loosely, "To obtain \$3,000 loan, you must put up ten times that much collateral, then take a chance you won't get the loan. Our banks here are depending entirely on the fact they are federal depositories for social security and other governmental funds. I tried to get a \$3,000 loan, but it was suggested I put up almost \$40,000 in security."

New hotels are going up. New housing is appearing. In San Juan the statesider would be most amazed to see the many men on the streets in the afternoon wearing coats, white shirts and ties; youngsters sparkling clean, wearing neat clothing beautifully embroidered in the sewing so famed in the island. Slums still exist. The lower class still exists. Many workers live in rural villages until the work season is over, then move to the city slums, with the one ambition of moving to the States — and Harlem. However, this is by far not the majority.

Fomento — fomenting, and the building industry is fomenting in an area where once ships calling for sugar came arrived with building materials as ballast. Operation Foot-Strap, some call it, and its effects are far-reaching, something the average United States man should see to believe. It's a subject perhaps remote to Lancaster County, but worth study.



This Week in Lancaster Farming

By JACK REICHARD

50 YEARS AGO (1906)

Fifty years ago this week, Old Man Winter made front page news with a knock-out blow of freezing wind and blinding snow across towns and farms in southwestern Missouri, southeastern Kansas, parts of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. In certain sections of Oklahoma, where a fuel famine prevailed, great suffering resulted from the storm. At Mangum, the mayor of the city appealed to the Rock Island Railroad for a trainload of coal to relieve suffering there. Railroad officials took immediate action, and the coal-laden train was given the right-of-way over all other traffic. Between Grand Forks and Minot, North Dakota, on the Great Northern Railroad, 11 freight trains were snow-bound due to the blizzard and a shortage of coal.

BANKER SHORT ONE MILLION DOLLARS

Depositors in the Farmers and Drivers National Bank at Waynesburg, Pa., received a stunning blow in their Christmas planning, in 1906, when J. B. F. Rinehart, the cashier, was charged with forgery and making false statements to the comptroller of the currency in connection with the closing of the bank. Bank Examiner John B. Cunningham found a number of false entries on the books of the bank and placed the shortage at one million dollars, but assured the depositors they would receive everything due them. Rinehart consented to assign all his property, valued at one million dollars, to the board of directors, who selected three disinterested business men to convert the property into cash.

Just when butchering time came around in Blair County, Pa. that winter, an epidemic of cholera broke out among the hogs in the area. Dozens of the fattened porkers were killed and their carcasses cremated.

TRAGEDY AT LANCASTER: TRAIN KILLS YOUTH

The 1906 Christmas Season at Lancaster was marred by tragedy, when William H. Gardner, 13, was instantly killed while a P. R. R. railroad engine was shifting cattle cars on the siding at the Lancaster Stock Yards. The youth had attempted to get on the cars, when he missed his footing and was caught between the platform and moving train, throwing him to the track, where several cars passed over his body.

FARMER HELD ON PEONAGE CHARGE

In December, 1906, Dan January, colored, filed an unusual peonage charge in the federal court against James Patrick, prominent farmer of Rankin County, Miss. The affidavit alleged January was held in involuntary servitude together with his wife and six children by L. D. Carter for about two years; that Carter then sold him to Patrick for about two years; that Carter then sold him to Patrick for the sum of \$1090, Carter alleging that Patrick owed him that amount and refused to release the complainant from custody until the debt was cancelled. January charged that he was whipped with a buggy trace until he was bloody from head to heels.

Back in Lancaster County, at Quarryville, Pa., the boys will

known butchers, purchased a steer from William Boyce, of Chestnut Level, which tipped the scales at 2,020 pounds, marking the largest beef animal the brothers had ever slaughtered.

25 Years Ago

During the final sessions of the Pennsylvania Grange Convention at Dubois in Dec 1931, things were enlivened by a heated verbal exchange between State Secretary of Agriculture John A. McSparran and E. B. Dorsett, master of the State Grange. Mr. McSparran was a past master of the organization. The tiff grew out of criticism directed at Governor Pinchot for his lack of support to a school bill proposed by the grange, designed to give stronger State financial aid to rural schools. Dorsett attacked the State administration in his annual address. McSparran supported the Governor's policies and defended his action in the handling of the grange school measure.

41 HUNTERS KILLED IN 1931 DEER SEASON

Pennsylvania's 1931 deer season closed Tuesday, Dec 15, with an all time record for hunters killed. State Game Commission compilations showed 41 gunners were accidentally killed and did not include scores of others who were still in hospitals suffering from wounds. In addition to those killed by guns, seven hunters had succumbed to heart disease while gunning.

During that same season, hunters returning from the South Mountain, reported a great abundance of apples in the Boonsboro area, where orchard grounds lay covered with apples that had not been picked or gathered for market because of the low price. Thousands of bushels of York Imperial, Grimes Golden-Paradise, Delicious, Staymen, Winesap and Black Twig apples were left to rot.

FARM SOCIETY NO. 12 MEETS

Lancaster County Farm Society No. 12 met at the home of Mrs. Lillie Garvin, Mt. Nebo, 25 years ago this week, with 81 members and guests in attendance. Following the business session Santa arrived with a small gift for each one present. Music was furnished for the occasion by the Mt. Nebo Mountaineers.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN
Background Scripture: I Corinthians 12:27-13:13
Devotional Reading: I John 4:7-21

Way of Love

Lesson for December 16, 1956

THERE are many ways of living in this world. There is the way of ruthless pride, with the motto: "The world is my orange and I intend to squeeze it." There is the way of the fool, who never thinks beyond today and is always surprised to discover that what he sowed came up and what he didn't plant did not come up. There is the way of the lazy man who can't be bothered, and who always takes the easiest way no matter what. There is even the way of hate, the way of bitterness and suspicion, going always downhill among dead trees without leaf or fruit. Everybody knows that these are not the Christian ways. Even those who are not Christians know that the way of Christ is the way of love.



Other Ways of Love
But what is the Christian way of love? There are more ways than one to use the word "love." There are ways of love, so called, which are not the Christian way. For instance, there is something called love, which consists really of fondness for things or people that are lovable. For example, a young woman stands at an altar and promises to take a man "for better or worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health." But she does not really hear the vow she makes. And if the man turns out to be poorer or worse than she thought, she looks up a divorce lawyer. The way of Christian love does not demand lovableness first; on the contrary, Christian love can make an unlovely and unloving person lovable. Some love is all for one's own benefit; "I love you" can mean no more than "I want you for my exclusive use." Christian love "does not insist on its own way." It does not ask, "What can you do for me?" but "What can I do for you?"

Blessing the Universe

Another way of love, sometimes mistaken for the Christian way, is no better than sheer sloppy sentimentality. Sometimes it consists in a vague feeling that everything is very nice in a very happy world. A minister once preached on the text, "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil." After the sermon a lady told him she didn't like that sermon at all. She had been brought up to believe that love was always right and hate always wrong. Love is always right, yes; but that does not mean we can feel free to love what is evil. If we love the good, we shall not love what destroys good. Sometimes this substitute for Christian love takes the form of a general feeling of good will toward the world in general. A well-known American wrote shortly before his death, "I bless the universe." Now it is certainly better to bless the universe than to curse it. But blessing the universe seems a curious sort of thing to do. Are you really blessing all of it, sir? Cholera and polio, stars and atoms and typhoons and germs, criminal and judge, saints and sinners, miracles and murderers? We have to be careful that we don't love the universe in such a way that whatever happens seems exactly right!

The Christian Way

The Christian way of love is not totally different from these other ways; but it is vitally different. It is inspired by God in the first place and it mirrors his love. It goes beyond the lovable; it is more than an exchange of love. It even goes out to one's enemies. American history gives us two striking illustrations of the actual power of love, in two men on opposite sides of the American civil war. The two enemies, as they once were, are now honored more perhaps than any other two in that tragic conflict: Lincoln and Lee. Each was a man who could do nothing else but stand by his convictions and fight even when other men were ready to give up. Their love was not the child of indifference, selfishness or cowardice. But it was Lincoln who coined the phrase, "charity toward all and malice toward none." — and he meant every word of it. It was Lee who later as president of a college refused to let any one in his presence speak evil of his former enemies. It is not the men who are the best haters, but those who show what Christian love is, who have greatest power over the hearts of mankind.

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