

Lancaster Farming

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year, from Lancaster Farming.

Not only is this moment a time for resolutions — some that may never be kept — but it's a time for review, a time for hindsight, a time for foresight.

Just past is a year that smiled well on Lancaster County farms. There was an election. There was the corn referendum, the many, many activities that make farming a bustling business. It was a good year, 1956, locally, and when it draws to a close at midnight Monday, there will be time for reflection.

Rains came at the right time. Some crops were a bit burned by the blazing sun; for awhile it looked like the rains might not fall at the proper moment on the Garden Spot, yet they came. Crops flourished.

But what a contrast there is nationally. Requests were made to have part of Pennsylvania — those scattered areas in the far west of the Keystone State — made a disaster area where excessive rains ruined crops. Sweeping north from the Rio Grande, drouth blanketed the Great Plains, causing severe damage in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri, in parts of Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico and Arizona, some 1,700,000 square miles in 26 states.

Yet there has been no mass exodus as in the days of the Dust Bowl. Good times in 1956 enabled the farmer to meet his obligations. His soil conservation practices have lessened the loss, and Government aid — indirectly the Soil Bank — helped cushion the loss.

Meat production boomed in 1956. Each individual consumed an estimated 163.5 lbs of meat, breaking the long standing records of 163.3 lbs set back in 1908.

What's ahead?

Our business is not forecasting. We can just quote. One authority says prospects for 1957 are for another year of ample meat supplies at reasonable prices, although a reduction in hog numbers is likely to develop some decrease in the supply of pork. It takes the average industrial worker less than 19 minutes to earn a pound of meat, where as recently as 1951 it took 25.9 minutes to earn a pound of meat. A pound of pork costs 15.7 minutes of labor, a pound of beef — at a new low — 21.6 minutes.

Total meat production in 1956 is estimated at 27,750,000,000 — twenty seven and three-quarters billion — pounds, up three-quarters of a billion pounds. Per person, this means about 3.5 lbs of beef, 66.3 lbs of pork, 9.3 lbs of veal, and 4.4 lbs of lamb and mutton.

Strong markets for meat are anticipated in the coming year, with a prospective smaller total meat supply. Per capita beef consumption may drop to about 2 lbs, veal around 9 lbs, lamb and mutton to 4.2 lbs, pork may hit 61.5 lbs, totaling less than 157 lbs.

Daily the population increases 7,000, so there will always be more mouths to be fed.

Whatever happens, it is certain there will always be a demand for food, a bigger job for the farmer to produce, a job he has never failed to do.

SCIENCE AND THE FOOD FREEZER

Owners of home food freezers will find interesting the results of tests by an eastern ag school which showed that freezers which operate constantly without thermostats can run just as cheaply, last longer and keep food better than do the present thermostatically-controlled kind.

They run with no more expense because they use a less powerful motor; they last longer because continuous operation is easier on the mechanism than stop-and-start operation; they keep food better because they hold temperatures down to 20 to 40 degrees below zero. So say the experimenters who are trying out this system.

One interesting observation is that "freezer burn" is eliminated in constantly operating freezers. "Burn" occurs when frozen foods lose their moisture due to rising temperatures which occur before thermostats start the compressor in the present stop-and-go cycles. This moisture condenses on the coils as ice, so the icing problem would be solved in large measure, too.

The idea of a freezer that never shuts off seems rather revolutionary. But we may be hearing a lot more about it some day. (Corn Belt Farm Dailies)



By JACK REICHARD
50 YEARS AGO (1906)

A writer on agricultural subjects a half a century ago declared the worst pests on the nation's farm that winter were rats. They were not only extremely numerous but also bold and voracious. Various ways were recommended for the extermination. One suggestion was to stir up a flour paste and let the rodents acquire a liking for the mixture. When they got to eating it greedily, a new batch was to be mixed with a tablespoonful of powdered arsenic added. Another plan, suggested by a German farmer, was take a good sized sponge, cut it into small pieces and fry them in pork grease. "When thoroughly soaked and flavored, put the pieces of sponge where the rats can get them. They stick in the digestive tract, and this does the business", the farmer declared.

HORSE MAKES NEWS IN CHESTER COUNTY

When Baynard Irwin, near Lenover, Chester County, drove to Atglen that evening he tied his horse in the hotel shed. Later a young Parkesburg man unhitched the team and drove it off. At Good's Corner the turn was made too short and the driver, cushion and blankets were thrown out. The horse continued along the Valley Road, ran across a residential yard, then proceeded down the low grade tracks of the Pennsylvania R. R., passing a freight train on the way. The animal made the trip, a distance of three miles, in eleven minutes. No one would guess where the horse would have stopped had it not been for the ash pit along the right-of-way where ashes were cleaned from the engines. Here it fell into the pit, landing on its back with the wagon standing on the track. The next freight train scooped the wagon off the tracks before it stopped. The horse, fastened in such a manner that it could not move, escaped without a scratch. The wagon, too, was only slightly damaged. The young man who had taken the team paid \$15 to settle the case.

Fifty years ago this week, Lancaster tobacco growers were busily engaged in stripping operations. Most crops in the county had been sold and some deliveries were being made.

In Germany, back in 1906, women were collecting what was claimed to be the smallest potted plants in the world. They were cacti growing in pots about the size of a thumb.

SUBSTITUTED AMERICAN FROGS

In London a peddler was doing a rushing business selling "bright green American tree frogs" at 65 cents each. When the color wore off they were found to be ordinary English frogs.

Back in America, in 1906, the tallow candle was still holding its own in competition with kerosene, gas and electricity. The production of candles during the fiscal year of 1905, according to a report of the U. S. Agricultural Department, was valued at \$3,889,362.

25 Years Ago

VETERANS MADE HAPPIER

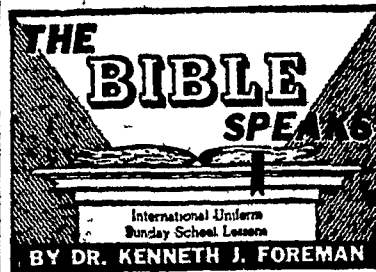
At Washington, D. C., just prior to Christmas Day, in 1931, President Hoover got out his pen and signed a bill making available \$200 million to replenish the almost exhausted coffers of the Veteran's Bureau, assuring the continuance of making payments on bonus certificates. Another measure signed at the same time provided the Depart-

ment of Labor immediately with \$120,000 to extend its employment service.

In 1931, when the nation was still in the grip of a major depression, those deserving of need were not forgotten at Christmas time. At Lancaster the Water Street Rescue Mission fed more than a thousand men, women and children that day before Christmas and distributed over 300 baskets of food. At the Salvation Army headquarters a party was given to about 400 boys and girls, when a play, "The First Christmas Day", was presented. Santa also appeared at the Children's Home that year, where 78 fatherless and motherless boys and girls received gifts around a gaily trimmed Christmas tree. Under auspices of the Civic Council, a Christmas party was held at the Grand and Hamilton theaters to gladden the hearts of those from the Home for Friendless Children. Following the program the boys and girls received toys, sweaters, candy and fruit.

SANTA AT ELIZABETHTOWN

At the Crippled Children's Hospital, Elizabethtown, Santa was on hand Christmas Day to make glad the hearts of a hundred young patients, by going



Background Scripture: Revelation 21:3
Devotional Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

All Things New

Lesson for December 30, 1956

ON THE verge of New Year's Eve, our thoughts go forward to the New Year. But what will be new about it? We shall mostly have to "make do" with what we have, rather than find much that is brand-new. We shall be the same people. Sleeping between Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 is not going to change us a great deal. We shall live in the same house, have the same neighbors, the same problems, temptations, brains, bodies, bank account (if any), tax bills, diseases and prospects. What we can have that is new, is a new attitude to some of these things. But that is another story. What we have to think about here is another of the great chapters of the Bible, the one in which come the thrilling words, "Behold, I make all things new." What will life be like in that "new heaven and new earth" which is described here in shining pictures in the very last chapter of the Bible?

Death Behind Us

In that life wherein all things are made new; not by clumsy man but by the power of God, what will be especially new—if you like, shockingly new, so new we shall not perhaps easily become used to it? First we can see a complete contrast with this present life, in that death will be always in the past, never in the future. The one thing that is certain about life on earth is that we shall all die. Death is the one certain prediction that can be made about every one who reads these lines. (Or, if Christ should come in your lifetime, you would undergo a radical change, just as radical as death itself, in any case.) But in that world where all is made new, death is behind every one, not in front; a memory, not a hope or a fear. The one experience which unites all men in this world is one which they have

personally through all the wards, visiting every bed, speaking cheer and presenting gifts to each one. The wards had been decorated in green and red and lighted with appropriate lights symbolic of the season. At noon came the dinners, when turkey and everything that goes with it was served to the children, many receiving second helpings. Following the afternoon spent in happy play, a moving picture was shown in the evening. Many parents were present to help make the occasion more delightful.

CHRISTMAS, 1931 AT MT. ALTO

At the Mt. Alto Sanatorium, where more than 200 children away from their home as guests of the State of Pennsylvania, 25 years ago, Dr. Royal H. McCutcheon, medical director, and Miss Esther Williams, chief nurse of the children's department, succeeded in making Christmas Day the happiest day of the year for the youngsters on South Mountain. In addition to Santa Claus, Gettysburg firemen came rolling through the grounds leaving candy and fruit for all the children. Dinner was served at noon with all the turkey each boy and girl could eat, with plenty of good rich milk.

AFTER ALL

A man out in Idaho is reported unconscious from a spider bite. And so we learn, after all these years, that Little Miss Muffett understood that discretion was the better part of valor — Lansing (Mich.) State Journal

not yet had. But in that world of the redeemed, the experience of death is one they all shall have had. We cannot even imagine this, just how it will be. But think how much activity in this world is devoted to one object alone—to stave off death. All that will vanish with death itself.

Evil No More

Another absolutely and unimaginably new thing will be the complete riddance of all forms of evil, especially suffering and sin. (Ignorance and ugliness too no doubt will be done away with, but they do not weigh upon us here quite so painfully as the other two.) No matter what your idea may be, about sin and suffering, what they are and where they came from, you have to admit that human life is woven of these threads. At this very moment every reader's life would be radically different if he himself had never sinned, and as for our neighbors' sins, and the sins of our ancestors, the world we have inherited is a world fashioned and controlled by sinners. It is only by the mercy of God that it is not worse than it is. Try to think what life would be if there were no form of evil affecting it whatever. You can't really think it; but that goes to show what an amazingly new state of things the "new heavens and earth" must be.

At Home With God

Most wonderful, and least imaginable, of all the new features of that life to come, is the presence of God. It is true, God is everywhere. But it is also true that God is in some places and situations and occasions more than others. What is said in Revelation about God's coming to dwell with men leads us to think of God's presence in the truly New World as being far more direct and less veiled than for us at our present stage of existence.

Indeed, as God is real to us in prayer far more (as a rule) than when we are feeding the hogs or getting a haircut, so the presence of God in the all-new World may be as far beyond our highest awareness of him here, as the prayer is more spiritual than the haircut or the hogs. All we know is that in this world we seldom do feel quite at ease in God's presence, and may even be seldom certain that he is near. But "over yonder," we shall be at home with God as we never been in this life. Foretastes of the New Life we may enjoy here: in freedom from fear of death, in a life growing more purified by the Spirit, in the "practice of the Presence of God"; but the fullness of glory we cannot imagine, only trust God that these things shall be.

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