

# Lancaster Farming

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## Solution to the Farm Problem

Back in the days when wheat was worthless, a wise little grower noted that he could buy wheat cheaper than he could produce it. Because he was a good farmer and could raise about 3,200 bushels on his quarter section, he went on the market that fall and bought what he anticipated he would produce the following harvest. He didn't turn a clod on his 160 and was certain that he would have 3,200 bushels to sell, without losing a drop of sweat, when combines began to hum.

By harvest time, the price of wheat was up some and a little nearer what it was worth. Thus, the wise little farmer, although he worked not during the year and his land rested, had as much wheat to sell as he would have had, maybe more, had he planted his field the fall before.

Sometimes the solution to the farm problem seems very simple. At the moment, the government is burdened with millions of bushels of wheat that isn't worth one intrinsic penny and will be disposed of sometimes at a total loss, plus carrying charges.

Why not say to the quarter-section farmer, "Let your land lie idle this wheat year and by next June the government will give you 3,200 bushels from its surplus stock. You can sell it on the open market for \$2. a bushel or more, with the understanding that, if the market is below that figure your government will buy it at \$2."

Who has lost anything? The farmer has \$6,400 without working for it. If the price is above \$2, the government doesn't buy it. Moreover, if forced to buy the wheat it will have 3,200 bushels surplus in the stock pile — not additional bushels, but instead the same number that was in the pile the previous year.

What's wrong with the idea? You figure it out. We just write the editorials and find it very difficult, in this era of belabored planning, to present a simple point clearly. It should be like crystal that the government cannot accumulate surpluses and encourage their building and still be on sound economic ground. But who dares to look at the farm problem, except through smoked glasses?

— Garber (Okla.) Free-Press

## With Human Hands

When we think of the agricultural revolution, we usually think of it in terms of a change from animal power to mechanical power. But, as the head of one of the leading farm equipment companies points out, there is more to it than that.

As recently as 100 years ago, he reminds us, the principal source of power on farms was the human being. Animal power was used for plowing and some other tasks. But crops of the day were largely planted and harvested by human hands.

It was not until early in the present century that we made a real conversion from human to animal power. And the second great step in the agricultural revolution — the conversion from animal power to mechanical power — did not get into full swing until the decade of the 1920s, and was not substantially completed until the 1940s and 1950s.

The fruits of this are seen in various forms. For one thing, there has been a substantial reduction in the number of farms — a drop of almost 20 per cent in the last 10 years alone. In those same 10 years the number of tractors on our farms has jumped by 85 per cent. As a consequence, the average farm has increased in acreage — for the obvious reason that each farmer, with all this mechanical power at his command, can do much more productive work, and do it more easily, than in past days.

This trend has strengthened — not weakened — the institution of the family farm. It is the mainstay of American agriculture, and every sign indicates that it will remain so.

— Industrial Review



BY JACK REICHARD

### 50 YEARS AGO (1907)

The Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., as well as tea merchants in the country, were watching with great interest the progress of a tea growing experiment conducted at Wharton, Texas. The plants, which were set out in 1904, were thriving, averaging three and a half feet in height and full of leaf and bloom in 1907.

### LARGEST BUCKWHEAT MILL-LOCATED IN N. Y.

The largest buckwheat milling plant in the world was located at Cohocton N. Y., with a capacity of turning out 1,000 barrels of flour every 24 hours, a half century ago. The most interesting feature of its operations was the fact that the buckwheat hulls furnished more fuel than was needed to generate the steam power necessary to operate the plant.

### WEALTHY FARMER KILLS FOUR

Thomas Baldwin, 68, a wealthy farmer and former merchant of Colfax, Ill., shot and killed Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kennedy, Mrs. Sim Eisman and her daughter, Cora. Baldwin, who was under bond, charged with criminal assault on Cora Eisman, fourteen, had settled with the girl's father for a sum of money, but was later arrested and blamed the Kennedys and Mrs. Eisman for the prosecution.

Baldwin narrowly escaped lynching at the hands of angry area farmers. He surrendered to a deputy sheriff at Arrowsmith, was driven hurriedly to Saybrook and taken by train to Bloomington, where he was placed in prison.

### BIG COLONY FOR MEXICO

Five thousand families of European immigrants were brought to the northern section of the state of Nuevo Leon to form the nucleus of a gigantic colonization project. Two million acres of land had been secured upon which the colonists were to establish themselves.

An Indiana horse raised bought a pure bred Percheron mare for \$300 at a neighbor's sale, raised three colts from her for which he received \$1,250. In 1907 he had a fourth colt from the mare, eight months old, for which he refused an offer of \$500, indicating there was money in pure breeds a half century ago.

### FOREST NURSERIES ARE EXTENDED

Fifty years ago this week, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced plans for the extension of forest nurseries on the ranges of the central-western states. "A forest garden on every ranch" was the slogan adopted. The government was to supply such trees that were considered suitable to the soil and climate of each community, and ranch owners were depended upon to do the rest. It was believed that within a few years the trees would be large enough to be transplanted to various areas on the ranges to furnish shade and timber for the future.

### 25 Years Ago

John A. McSparran, State Secretary of Agriculture, spoke at a meeting of group five of the Pennsylvania Bankers' Association in Harrisburg. McSparran made a plea for fair treatment

for farmers. He said that minor farm products staples could be given some protection by the tariff but that none could be given the major staples, in 1932.

He said farmers in general were willing to make no requests for any government assistance, if business will agree that the government should take its hands off business. "Agriculture cannot be expected to continue to exist if the burdens of taxation are to be piled on real estate and the burdens of the tariff on the public, of which the farmer is the largest consumer" he asserted.

He stated business had overstepped itself in imagining that prosperity can be continued "by overtaxing one class of people for the benefit of another".

Twenty-five years ago this week, members of Lancaster County Farm Women's Society No. 3, of Ephrata, went on record as opposed to the adoption of daylight saving time.

Elsewhere in Lancaster County that week the Octoraro Farmers' Club met in session at the James Hastings Green Meadows Stock Farm

On the Lancaster farm of Miss Ella V. Townsend, near New

Texas, thieves entered the poultry house and stole eleven chickens. On the night of Feb. 4, 1932, the robbers returned and carried off 44 more chickens. The door was locked and entrance was gained through a window from which the thieves cut a wire mesh.

which Miss Townsend was member, was investigating.

### SCHOOL GIRLS LIMITED TO 3 YEARLY BATHS

The average school girl of today, who is scrubbed, fed and sent off each day with a pile of books under her arm is probably healthier and happier than the young scions of nobility who were placed in private institutions of learning years ago.

From a catalog issued in the Eighteenth century by a school for the daughters of nobility at St. Cyr, France, we get the following information:

"Pupils are entitled to have one set of underclothing, one pair of stockings, and two handkerchiefs per month. Towels: Pupils, one every week; nuns, one every two weeks. Footbaths: Pupils, one a month; nuns, only by special authorization of the superior. Complete baths: Three a year (May, June, and July). Pupils unable to take their baths on the appointed day must wait until the following month".

So in America today, even children of city slums are not as rigidly cut off from the comforts of cleanliness as were the daughters of bygone kings.

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

**BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN**

Background Scripture: Matthew 13  
Devotional Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

### Truth Is Alive

Lesson for February 17, 1957

HOW do you explain advanced mathematics to children who don't know what 2x2 means? Jesus had an equally hard time trying to explain what he meant by the Kingdom of God. (By the way, comparison of passages will show that Kingdom of "God" and of "heaven" mean just the same thing.)

nearly everything he said about it has been persistently misunderstood by somebody or other. Harder than explained a totally new idea is transforming an old one, and Jesus had this more difficult task; for many of his contemporaries, both friends and enemies, thought they knew what "Kingdom of God" meant, already, and they did not want to be told.



Dr. Foreman

#### A Definition

We can venture a definition of the Kingdom of God to which most persons will agree: The state of things in which God's will is wholly done by all men in all things. Many persons will agree to that definition; but it leaves several questions unanswered. One of these questions is dealt with in the parables chosen for this week's study. It is this: How does the Kingdom grow, or spread, or come? This is an especially important question if we understand that it is a part of God's plan to use his servants—meaning and including ourselves too—to help bring the Kingdom to pass, to bring it out of the world of hope into the world of fact and experience. Most churches sing the hymn: "Rise up, O men of God!" They do not sing the parody on it which begins "Sit down, O men of God, you cannot do a thing!"

#### Not by Force

But suppose we do rise up to work for the Kingdom, what sh-

we do? Good men have long asked themselves that question... and sometimes given wrong answers. Some have thought that the reign of God should be forced on men. So we have had the Crusaders, the Inquisition, the New England "theocracies", Calvin in Geneva and Cromwell in England—all working on the same theory: You can force people to do God's will. This earth can become like heaven if your police force is good enough.

#### Not by Machines

But that never has worked. It can't work, because the Kingdom of God is not that sort of thing. So, other good but mistaken men have supposed that the way the Kingdom spreads abroad is by a copying system of some kind, let us say by a vast mimeographing machine. Some particular person, or period, or institution, is taken as the absolute pattern, and people are encouraged to imitate it to the last detail. For example; the early Christian church, as described in the book of Acts, is taken by some people as the picture of the ideal church, and all churches (it is said) should be as nearly exact copies of it as is possible. Or the social and political organization set forth in the laws of Moses are taken to describe the ideal state, and we today should imitate that if we want to get the perfect society. Or some ancient saint is taken as the exact model of every one who wants to be a good person. But these notions are all off center. No world and no institution and no age or system in the past was perfect even for that day; and when you take something that was imperfect yesterday and try to make it fit today, the result is more imperfect than ever.

#### The Kingdom Is a Living Thing

Jesus' parables show how the Kingdom of God really spreads and grows. He called it once a kingdom of truth; and truth is a living thing. Truth cannot be forced upon people. Mere copying of truth is mechanical and may even be meaningless. Truth grows the way a plant does, the way yeast does in dough; silently, steadily, by the sheer power of the life that is in it. But since the Kingdom of God is made up of people, since the truth of Christ is not one to be read about but one to be lived out, the Kingdom of God, the world of his heart's desire, comes into being by the personal touch of life on life. Truth spreads from pole to pole only as it spreads from soul to soul.

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