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**That Post Office Deficit**

Postmaster General Summerfield has expressed serious concern — and with good reason — over his department's deficit problem.

The deficit will soon approximate a billion dollars a year, he warned, unless postage rates are raised to realistic levels. Indeed, the deficit would have passed the billion mark by now, had it not been for certain financial and management improvements put into effect during the last four years — including increased parcel post rates, higher foreign mail rates, and payment of postage by Congress and government agencies.

The situation is worsened further by the fact that the department faces higher operating costs, due to increased wages and mailing charges. And the fiscal plight is compounded by the department's need to modernize its physical plant to expedite the handling of an ever-increasing volume of mail. As Mr. Summerfield sees it, "The only possible solution is increased postage rates to assure better service and to introduce financial sanity in the handling of the fiscal affairs of this huge businesslike operation within government."

We usually think of these proposed increases in rates in terms of letter postage. But fiscal reforms should not stop there. Parcel post (the fourth class mail classification) is still operating at a deficit, and is thus subsidized by the taxpayers, despite the rate increases Mr. Summerfield mentioned. And parcel post imposes a heavy burden on the department's physical facilities that are now in need of modernization and expansion — for it accounts for more than 56 per cent of the weight of all domestic mail.

Making the user pay the full cost of parcel post service would both relieve pressure on the post office department, and on the strained Federal treasury itself. And this would help the department, to quote Mr. Summerfield again, to "... contribute its share to the balancing of the Federal Budget, so essential to the economic well-being and security of 170 million Americans."

— Industrial News Review

**Just Common Sense**

Once again an all-out political effort is underway to have the government build a high dam on the Hell's Canyon reach of the Snake River — even though the Federal Power Commission authorized an independent power company to undertake a three-dam project there. The FPC's action, incidentally, was no hurried one — it conducted exhaustive hearings for a year and the record contains 20,000 pages of testimony and over 400 exhibits.

We'll be hearing a lot of the alleged virtues of the high dam, so it is a good idea to state a few facts now — facts developed in the FPC hearings.

The installed capacity of dependable power on the high dam would be but slightly larger than that of the three low dams — 300,000 kilowatts as against 783,400 kilowatts.

The cost of the three dams is estimated at \$133 million by the company and at \$175,766,000 by the FPC. The cost of the high dam is estimated at \$399 million — well over twice the higher estimate for the low dams. And the low dams, of course, will be built entirely with private funds, while the high dam would be paid for by all the taxpayers.

Annual tax payments of the three-dam project would be \$10 million a year. The high dam would pay exactly nothing in taxes.

According to the FPC, flood control, navigation and recreation purposes can "be effectuated to about the same extent under either plan of development." In other words, these factors are not an issue at Hell's Canyon.

There is the story. There is why the FPC said in its formal report: "It is our judgment that the United States itself should not undertake the development of the water resources of the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River."



**This Week  
in Lancaster Farming**

BY JACK REICHARD

50 YEARS AGO (1907)

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March 15, 1907, thousands of persons residing in Pennsylvania's Johnstown, were marooned in their homes, when flood waters rushed down the Conemaugh River, transforming the streets of the city into lakes filled with floating fences, gates and all sorts of debris. It was the highest water recorded there since the great flood of 1889, when 2,500 lives were lost, following the breaking of Johnstown dam.

In addition to the thousands marooned in the city, other thousands who fled from the low points were packed in houses on higher ground.

Residents along the Juniata Valley were also witnessing the most disastrous flood in that section since the memorable one of 1889. Melting snow, combined with heavy rains, raised the Juniata River 17 feet above the low mark. Farmers living along the Juniata suffered great damages, many having lost their barns and out-buildings, cattle and crops.

Reports from points along the Susquehanna River were more favorable, where a general breaking up of the ice was moving off freely, with no serious gorges reported.

**CHURCH BLOWN UP BY GAS**

In Lancaster County, that week, the Church of God at Washington Boro, along the Susquehanna River, was blown up by the explosion of an acetylene gas plant installed when the edifice was rebuilt in 1895. About thirty members of the congregation were in the annex of the church holding prayer services, when the plant in the ceiling exploded. The floor of the main church was torn up and the long benches tossed into the air. The glass from the windows was blown into bits and scattered over the adjoining cemetery. The pulpit, Bible, organ and choir chairs were blown into a corner of the church.

The Rev. J. H. Gervin, Josephine Staman and Jacob Kane, were all severely cut by flying glass. Every member present suffered minor cuts about the hands, face and body.

Following the blast, fire broke out in the basement and the entire town responded to an alarm by the ringing of the church bell.

**RATS ROBBED DEALER 20 YEARS**

Frank Speakman, Coatesville after 20 years, found where his oats had been going. After tearing down a building to make improvements, over 200 bus. of oat hulls were found under the structure. Rats had carried the grain from the third story under the building.

Elsewhere in Coatesville that week, when Mrs. Agnes Ross went to the springhouse to get a pail of water, she was horrified to find her two-year-old child lying headfirst in a dip hole, drowned.

At Hancock, Pa., Emanuel Baer killed a chicken hawk which measured 47 inches from tip to tip of wings, 50 years ago this week.

On the Lancaster farm of Amos Hershey, near Kinzer, that week, fire destroyed over 1,000

bundles of fodder. The barn, which stood nearby, was on fire several times, but saved.

**25 Years Ago**

The entire world was shocked by the tragic death of Ivar Kreuger, the world's greatest industrial figure and financier, a quarter century ago.

Kreuger, a Swede, extended enterprises all over the earth and was the world's largest individual lender of money to industries and governments.

He controlled International Telephone and Telegraph Company, that owned the American Postal Telegraph Co. in this country. His suicide was attributed to a nervous breakdown, affecting his mind, caused by financial worry. Shares in his various companies fell suddenly during January, 1932.

Kreuger, according to close associates, claimed a powerful ring of speculators in Amsterdam were working to wreck his business, by selling short and

damaging values.

**M.S.H.A. STUDIES  
TEENAGE MARRIAGES**

According to Peter Kasius, executive secretary of the Missouri Social Hygiene Association, the marriage rate among young people between eighteen and twenty-four had been steadily increasing, 25 years ago.

Twice as many girls between the ages of fifteen and nineteen married on the Pacific Coast as compared with the number of marriages between the same ages in the New England states, in 1931.

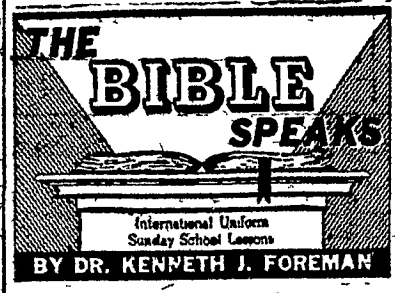
"Climatic conditions, religious views, social upheavals and cultural, economic and educational factors influence such young marriages", Kasius declared.

**42 HEAD OF  
LIVESTOCK PERISH**

Fire of unknown origin destroyed a large barn on the Lancaster farm of Joseph M. Davis, Gap R.D.

Twenty cows, six mules, four horses, a pony and 11 pigs perished in the blaze, along with tons of hay, a quantity of wheat, straw and oats.

On the Lancaster farm of Earl Walton, near the birthplace of Robert Fulton, thieves broke the lock on the henhouse door and carried off 36 fine Plymouth Rock chickens, 25 years ago this week.



Background Scripture: Matthew 21:12-22:46.  
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 53:10-12.

**Highest Command**  
Lesson for March 17, 1957.

WE ALL live by authority of some kind. When some one says, "Do this!" we do it—willingly or unwillingly, but we do it if we can. If a man says, "I wear no man's collar, I do as I please, I am my own authority," a close observer can often perceive that the man is fooling himself.

He may have certain habits, certain appetites. He may be one whom Dorothy Parker describes: "Some men cannot pass a bookstore." It may be books, or liquor, or fishing tackle, or women,—something says with compelling voice to this boastful man, "Come!" and he loses no time coming. Sometimes the man who brags most of his own freedom is the man who is the most willing slave.

Who is in Charge Here?  
Consider some of the many bosses of the human race. One authority whose voice is loud in the land is the "Voice of the People." Some politicians live by it. A politician will split the welkin telling the world what a low-grade rat his opponent is; but then the opponent beats him in the primary, and the politician sings another tune. "The people have spoken," he says; and turns around to support the very man who (he had just been saying) was hardly fit to be dog-catcher. Others again regard the law as the highest command. In their eyes, law can turn right into wrong or wrong into right. But the law is a human thing; any old lawyer will admit that there is a gap between what the law commands or permits, and what is morally right. Law tries to hup with morals; it never gets right or wrong.

Others again find their highest authority in money. Some will admit it, some will not. But whenever you find a person making all his decisions in the light of the one question: What will make the most money? Or, What will cost the least? then you know that for that person the last word is with the cash account. One form of this authority is Business. If it's good for Business it's good for the country. In the name of this authority many practices are advocated which are definitely not good for the people who make up the country. For many other persons, the highest command is the voice of the one who is most loved. In times gone by, it might be the King's Favorite. In our more democratic era, individual citizens may take their wife's or husband's word as the last word. Or—to take one more type, for a vast number of persons the highest authority is their Church. Some people even think the church cannot make a mistake!



Dr. Foreman

**Jesus, Lord of All**

For the Christian, however, his highest command is that of Jesus, Christ. The vows taken when a person is confirmed, or joins the church, profess, sometimes in these very words, "I take Jesus Christ for my Lord and Savior." "For my Lord . . ." If the word means what it was intended to mean, it means that above all other authorities is His. All these other commands have their places; but His is supreme. In a great corporation there are many persons with authority; but only one President.

No decision at lower levels is valid; if it conflicts with a policy the President has laid down. So there are situations where the money question is decisive. There are other situations in which a political party's decision, slate or platform may be decisive for the party worker, — and so on. But if decisions on these lower levels come into conflict with what we may call the policy of Jesus, then those lower decisions must give way. In Jesus' lifetime He challenged every authority that confronted him. He was responsive to authority within proper bounds (as when He paid taxes or when placed on oath in a trial) but even over the church, even over the inspired Law, He claimed first right. The sensible Christian does not claim for Jesus what He did not claim for himself. He did not set up to be an authority on forms of government, financial affairs or farming. But He did lay down certain great principles founded in the will and nature of the heavenly Father.

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37 Talks