

Lancaster Farming

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Supply and Demand

Politicians and other big voices in agriculture do a lot of talking about the "law of supply and demand." Most of us agree that supply and demand is the basis of economics, but many of us are inclined to get hazy on just what the magic formula is.

So let's take a look at supply and demand and some of the rules and requirements for its proper functioning.

Rule One — People will buy more of an item when the price is low and less when it is high.

As used here (and in Rule Two), the terms "high" and "low" are relative. For example, value of money changes — 10 cents a pound would have been a high price for hogs in 1940, but it is a low price today because the dollar is only worth about one-half as much now as then.

In the case of some items — for example, beefsteak — it takes a smaller reduction in price to get people to buy more than in the case of some other items, such as potatoes.

Rule Two — Producers will supply more of an item when the price is high and less when it is low.

Producers are in business to make money. So they want to produce those things which seem to offer them the best chance to make a profit. When the price of an item is relatively high, people who are already producing it look for ways of increasing their production and other people move into the same business. When the prices are relatively low, the reverse takes place. This happens in agriculture, too, but these shifts take time.

Rule Three — The market price tends to settle at the point where the supply offered by producers will be in balance with the quantity demanded by buyers.

This happens because neither the producers nor the buyers are operating without the other.

In agriculture the operation of this rule is sometimes hidden by such things as irregular marketings and uncontrollable variations in production. But, when we look at average prices and allow for all of the factors that affect a market, we will find that the rule does work.

Rule Four — The demand for an item can change.

Demand can be changed by such things as a rise or fall in consumer incomes, improvement in the quality of the product, a new development in the foreign trade situation, discovery of a new use, the development of a substitute, or promotional activities which cause consumers to shift from one product to another.

Rule Five — The quantity of a product producers will supply at a certain price can also change.

Other things being equal, producers will supply more at a certain price when ways of cutting cost of production are found, when new resources such as reclaimed land are brought into production, or when it becomes less profitable to produce something else.

Polio Vaccination Makes Sense

Suppose someone took you aside and said: "You have an enemy who may waylay you and cripple you for life. But I know how you can stop this enemy. You'll have to act fast. It won't cost much money, and it will take only 180 seconds of your time."

If you knew the facts were true, you'd take him up on it, wouldn't you?

Well, the facts are true. The enemy is paralytic polio. If you're under 40 years old, you're a possible victim. If polio strikes, you may face a life shattered by disease and disability.

There is no cure for paralytic polio, but there is a way to prevent it. The preventive is the Salk vaccine. It is safe and it works. Three properly spaced shots—at 60 seconds a shot—gives you protection.

Over 45 million Americans have been smart enough to get this protection. But 60 million in the susceptible age group have been foolhardy enough to neglect it.



BY JACK REICHARD
50 YEARS AGO (1907)

Fifty years ago this week, the entire fruit crop of Southern Maryland had been reported killed by a sneak cold snap, with thermometers registering 22 degrees. Peach trees were in full bloom, while apples, pears and other fruit trees were in such advance state that the total destruction was declared certain.

Further south, in Norfolk County, Virginia, an official reading of 30 degrees was reported, damaging the growing crop of early potatoes, peas, beans and strawberries.

INCENDIARY FIRE DESTROYS MILL

In Norfolk, Va., that week, fire of incendiary origin destroyed the huge Dairy Rolling Mills, entailed a loss of \$100,000. A woman who conducted an eating place across the street from the mills informed the police she had seen two men pouring the contents of a bottle against the sides of the mill building just before the fire started. One of them ran after her when she saw she had witnessed their action, she told police. No trace of the men could be found.

In Lancaster County that same week a fire, believed to have started from an electric wire, broke out in the gymnasium at Lititz's Linden Hall Seminary. Part of the roof was burned off and the interior damaged by fire and water before firemen brought the blaze under control. The building originally was a barn, which was fitted up as a gymnasium for the young ladies of the seminary.

MULE DRAGS BOY TO DEATH

Shull Skelly, nine, was dragged to death by a runaway mule at New Franklin, Pa. The youth was riding the mule home from a blacksmith shop when the animal frightened at something and ran away. The boy's feet were caught in a strap, and he was dragged over the rough dirt road. The first knowledge the parents had of the accident was when the mule returned home without their son.

On the farm of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Kitzmiller, near New Cumberland, a three-year-old daughter of Clarence Kitzmiller, Harmsburg, received burns from a brush fire which caused her death.

The child was on a week's visit with her grandparents and was playing about a brush fire, when she tripped and plunged head first upon the flaming pyre. She sprang up and ran screaming away, with her clothing ablaze. A farm hand tore the clothing from her, but not before fatal burns were inflicted.

Pete, a canary owned by Mrs. Effie Bishop of Quincy, Mass., survived by burying his bill in his feathers when a fire filled the house with smoke.

At Lancaster that week, Harry Hammond had the misfortune of having his horse killed when struck by a trolley car. The animal was knocked down, breaking both front legs and otherwise injured, dying about one hour later. The wagon was damaged considerably and the driver was thrown out and suffered body bruises.

25 Years Ago

Men are far more careless than women. That was the conclusion expressed by a prominent official of an insurance company, 25 years ago. He admitted that women do foolish things about the home, like carrying around knives as if they were pieces of wood, and cook over open flames wearing loose, hanging clothing, and then are surprised when they

catch on fire. But after a lifetime of observation, the insurance expert declared women's stupidities were pale beside the long list he could bring against men.

In Chicago, in the gallery of a Baptist Church, a dog began to yelp when the choir started to sing and the music was halted until the animal was ejected.

SHEEP AND WOOL GROWERS IN SESSION

Twenty-five years ago this week, many of the 28 cooperative sheep and wool growers associations were holding their annual meetings.

In 1931 these organizations marketed 600,000 lbs. of wool for 3,500 farmers, reported W. B. Connell, sheep and wool extension specialist of the Pennsylvania State College.

In 1932 it was decided to continue the wool pools and sponsor five sales at which about 200 purebred rams were to be sold. Definite action also was taken by the associations to get all members to use paper twine for tying wools. Several associations stressed a cooperative lamb marketing program where local markets were unsatisfactory.

Back in 1932, Senator Borah

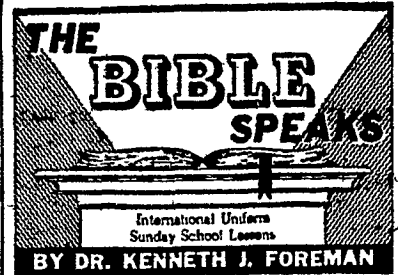
didn't get to first base with his proposal to reduce salaries of the cabinet and members of Congress. Neither did his plan to reduce the 20 cents a mile allowed Congressmen for traveling expenses receive any support, although he pointed out that he was allowed 1,068 for a round trip between his Idaho home and Washington which really only cost him about \$350.

Different persons react differently to good or ill fortune. Twenty-five years ago, when Alex McGarvock of Glenarm, Ireland, was informed that a brother had left him 17,200, he dropped over dead.

But Mrs. Blanche Karsch of Memphis, Tenn., continued to drive hard bargains with vegetable dealers after being told that her foster mother had willed her \$3,500,000.

POLECATS EAT HONEY BEES

Joe Kirk, the bee king of Lower Lancaster County and producer of blue ribbon honey at his Fulton Township property, 25 years ago, declared that the polecat's taste ran to honey bees. According to Mr. Kirk, the polecat approached the hive, scratched on the board, and when the bees emerged, gulped them down without batting an eye. It was pointed out that the polecat's competitor is the toad. He takes a position in front of the entrance to the hive and when the bee appears, the toad reaches out with his long tongue and lands the prey.



Background Scripture: Matthew 24-25.
Devotional Reading: Matthew 24:32-44.

Last Judgment

Lesson for March 31, 1957

ALL human judgments are imperfect, and some of them highly unjust; because no man knows all the circumstances of any act, not even his own. We are notoriously poor judges of our own actions; but we are no juster to others. Judgments of ourselves are spoiled by pride; judgments about others are spoiled by prejudice. We never do really see any action in all its dimensions. We can never judge the consequences of an act because we know only a small fraction of them. We cannot well judge the motives of an act, because we mis-read (or read through rose-colored glasses) our own motives, and the motives of others we can do no more than guess at.



Dr. Foreman

Final Judgment

Nevertheless, most of us are called on to pass judgment on others in various ways. And when we are honest we do try to come as near to God's viewpoint as we can. That is, we try to take everything into consideration. But try as we may, we must admit first and last that only God can be the final judge, for only he has all the facts. There are many pictures of the "Last Judgment" in the Bible and they do not agree in details, since they are pictures of what cannot really be imagined. But back of all the pictures, stern, compelling, chilling as some of them are, we discern some plain truths. One is that not only is God the final Judge of every man, but his judgment is final because he and only he has all the facts, and he does not render his judgment till all the facts are in. True, God's judgment is going on all the time, and we can recognize it in history. "I can read the eternal sentences by the dim light of lamps" as

the poet says. This is true of men and nations, that the divine judgment is interwoven with their lives. God settles many of the affairs of this planet, on this planet. But in the ultimate future, and only then, will all the facts be in. No judgment before then, not even God's, is final.

The Great Separation

All sorts of efforts have been made to dull the force of Jesus' terrific picture of prophecy of the Last Judgment in the parable of the sheep and the goats. It has been said that this is a judgment of nations, not individual persons; but anyone who can read Greek can see that is not the case. The word "them" in Matt. 25:32 plainly does not refer to nations but to persons. (Furthermore, how do "nations" fit into the end of the story?) It has been said too that this is not a separation of the "saved" from the "unsaved." But the issues of the Trial, as Jesus pictures it, are eternal life and eternal death. The fact is, this is Jesus' picture of the Last Judgment of mankind, and there is no getting out of it. At least two points stand out, etched as it were by fire. One is that the final judgment against a man is not necessarily for what he has done but for what he didn't do; did not even think about doing. The other point is that the basis of judgment is a man's human relations. True, deeper than that is a man's relationship to Christ; but in this parable, Christ identifies himself completely with the troubled sufferers of the world. What we do, or do not do, about human misery, we do or fail to do for the Lord.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

Another strange thing appears in this overwhelming portrayal of judgment, vast and final. The Judge, the King, is the Son of Man, Jesus Christ himself. This fits in with other passages in the New Testament where sometimes Christ, and sometimes God, appears as the Judge of all. This is a tremendous claim on Jesus' part, to have the right to sit on the throne of the universe. Nowhere is the deity of Christ more strikingly affirmed than right here. On the other hand, he is still the Son of Man. He is our Elder Brother, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, "made like his brethren in every respect" as Heb. 2:17 says. God in his final judgment, acts with and through his Son who was and ever shall be one with God and one with man. We cannot deceive him. He is one of us.

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