

Lancaster Farming

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STAFF

Alfred C. Alspach..... Publisher
Robert E. Best..... Editor
Robert G. Campbell..... Advertising Director
Robert J. Wiggins..... Circulation Director

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Cooperative Economics

There are a number of important economic problems that the cooperative will be able to help solve:

Cooperatives can integrate farms with markets and with sources of supply, and thus make agriculture a stronger segment of our society. Many farmers already belong to cooperatives which give them efficiency in procurement and in marketing. If such organizations are extended and combined, they can make farms the control center of a business system designed to meet their needs.

Farming under these circumstances ceases to be isolated and becomes the heart of an integrated farm-enterprise system with the advantage of integration, including a better adjustment of supplies to markets. This process has already gone further than many realize, and has great promise in building a stabilized agricultural community.

Cooperatives can also help to keep the economy in balance. Because of the large numbers of people investing in them, cooperatives are conservative organizations. Farmers marketing and purchasing cooperatives alone represent the investment interests of 3 million farmers. This is a stabilizing factor in our economy, and as cooperatives grow in membership and strength, it may prove of increasing importance in times of stress.

Cooperatives may also serve as a check against higher costs of distribution. Because cooperatives provide services at cost, farmers and other individuals tend to join them to make ends meet when the costs of distribution go up. Even if cooperatives are not able to achieve significant savings for their members, they may be able to strengthen competition and reduce the margins taken by others.

Cooperatives can help to maintain competition, which may well be a problem in future years, because in many fields the number of effective competitive farms is declining. Through their principle of returning margins to patrons cooperatives can keep other forms of enterprise on their toes by demonstrating price advantages to those served.

Many cooperative leaders hold that this function is of the greatest importance in assuring a good standard service for all. If service or price is unsatisfactory, the cooperative route will be taken.

—Joseph G. Knapp, Harvard Business Review

Mistakes Can Mean Progress

Mistakes are often the road to progress.

Take dried milk for instance. It developed originally in an instance where someone overheated the milk and discovered that it was possible to separate the solids from the liquid in that manner.

Or take that popular juvenile delicacy — the eskimo pie. Its development came about this way: the fountain man dropped a blob of ice cream into the chocolate syrup. He speared it with a stick and offered it to an urchin at the counter as a good-will gesture and to thus dispose of the fumble.

Out of that came an industry known as the Eskimo Pie — now nationwide.

Interestingly enough Eskimo Pie is owned by Reynolds Aluminum. The packaging of this product, in an aluminum foil, is such an important outlet for aluminum products that Reynolds simply bought out the Eskimo Pie Company.

Mighty oaks from little errors grow. (We keep telling ourselves.)

—The Iowa Falls (Iowa) Citizen

No Matter

Most girls don't care whether men have blue eyes or brown eyes as long as they have greenbacks. — St. Albans Naval Hospital News, U. S. N. H., St. Albans, L. I., N. Y.



BY JACK REICHARD

50 YEARS AGO (1907)

A case which attracted widespread interest in tobacco circles ended in Common Pleas Court at Lancaster 50 years ago this week. The case centered around numerous disputes between growers and packers over the delivery of the new crop, involving high prices paid for the goods and packers' insistence on too close division of wroppers and fillers.

The test case was started by M. K. Strebig, a grower, against Charles W. Bitner, a Lancaster packer. The former had sold the latter eight acres of tobacco. Bitner at first refused to receive it, claiming the delivery was not made according to contract. Strebig left the tobacco in Bitner's warehouse and the latter sold it. He offered Strebig what it brought, \$129.15, which was refused. Strebig then sued for the full value of the tobacco, \$898.84, and received that award from the jury.

SUSQUEHANNA SHAD SEASON OPENS

Farmers from Lancaster, York and bordering counties were making trips on horseback and in horse-drawn vehicles to points along the lower Susquehanna River, where a good run of shad were being caught at the various batteries. Buck shad sold from \$25 to \$50 per 100. Top roe shad was bringing up to \$60 per hundred.

LITITZ IN THE NEWS

The Wellington Starch Company, with plants at Lititz, Lancaster County and Decatur, Ill., sold both properties to the United States Starch and Glucose Co. The latter announced that both plants would be enlarged and production increased.

A somewhat simple departure from the common way of raising tobacco plants had been made by a grower in the Lititz area during the spring of 1907. Instead of following the usual custom of raising the muslin a foot or so above the bristle that covered the plants the grower laid it flat on the bristles. The experiment was being watched with great interest by other growers in general.

Elsewhere in Lititz that week, George Rettew, District President of the 3rd district of Lancaster County, took the charter and removed all the paraphernalia of Lititz's Camp, No 651, P.O.S. of A. The reason for the action was due to apparent lack of interest in the local organization, the group failing to hold regular meetings nor did they pay the per capita tax as was required.

TORNADO STRIKES TEXAS

Fifty years ago this week, eight persons were reported killed, an entire village destroyed and farm crops ruined over a wide area in Texas by a tornado.

HOGS FED ON HAY

The feeding of hay to hogs was something new to farmers a half century ago. The idea was successfully carried out by former Governor W. D. Hoard of Wisconsin.

For his brood sows during the winter Governor Hoard fed the pregnant sows absolutely no grain whatever until two weeks before farrowing time. He fed but two things, alfalfa hay and separator milk. The hay was fed dry without cutting or chopping.

Half a century ago agriculture

experts in this country were testing a fiber plant which had been discovered in South America. It closely resembled American hemp, grew to maturity in five months and produced three grades of fiber suitable for the manufacturer of different grades of textile fabrics. The remainder of the plant was found ideal for producing the finest grades of writing paper.

25 Years Ago

Real increases on the Lancaster farm of Grant Lefevre started at 5 30 in the morning and ended at 8 30 in the evening on April 24, 1932. There were 4 chicken eggs set under a pigeon, with all four hatching. One black sow had 11 white pigs. Upon going to the barn it was found the old brindle cow had twins. In an incubator 99 chicks were hatched out of 150 eggs. Two geese set with ten eggs each got 14 little one, and the old beagle dog had seven pups. Lefevre commented.

"But the last was the best of all, my sister, Elizabeth, just received a young son at 7.35 p. m. I guess I better go out and look at our pet mule and maybe he is

fresh, too. Don't tell me things are getting worse".

Elsewhere in Lancaster County that week, bee keepers met at the apiaries of Norman Shreiner, White Oak, and D. L. Burkholder, Mechanicsburg.

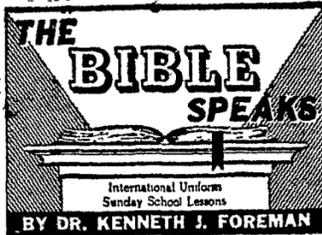
The sessions were in charge of Prof. E. J. Anderson, of State College, and included discussions and demonstrations on spring requeening, transferring into standard hives, feeding and strengthening of weak colonies, and the detection of disease.

MOTORISTS COMPLAIN OF HIGH GAS TAX

In 1920 the average price of gasoline was 30 cents per gallon, and the state tax averaged .09 of a cent. At the beginning of 1932 the price averaged only 13 cents, with the tax rate at 4 cents, making the total cost to motorists 17 cents a gallon, of which over 30 per cent went to the state.

It was pointed out that the high price of gas was no fault of oil industry, which had made consistent progress in improving its products and in lowering the cost, but was due to exorbitant taxes.

A teenager lover's quarrel which was started in 1888 had been patched up in 1932 with a happy ending, resulting in marriage for Tom Escue and Sarah Sullins, both sixty, of Springfield, Md. They had a spat a few days before they were to be married in 1888, at the age of seventeen, and after 44 years finally agreed on terms of peace — or maybe it was only an armistice.



Background Scripture: Genesis 1-2.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 104:1-13.

God Made Us Last

Lesson for April 28, 1957

THE readers of this column will not all read Genesis in the same way. Some will take it pretty literally, others will read the early chapters in it as picture-stories, parables in half poetic form. All readers, it is hoped, can agree on one point: that whether we take these stories literally or as parables, the meaning is the same in any case. We do not have to go grubbing in obscure corners for the meanings and messages of Genesis. The book was not written for people with complicated minds. The meanings it conveys are on the surface, or so near it that the simplest readers can see them.



Dr. Foreman

The Earth Is Man's Home

From the second story of creation which we find in Genesis, in chapter 2, the story which concentrates on man himself, we can select some outstanding impressions which the story makes, and no doubt was intended to make. First of all, this earth is the home of man. That is its principal use. Man came late to the planet; God made us last. We did not make our appearance here till all was ready for us. Some thinkers have thought of man as a sort of homeless creature, dropped into this earth almost by accident, sitting in nowhere. Quite the contrary; man might be lonely and restless on some far galaxy, but not on this green earth. Man, furthermore, being at the top of the ladder of creation, is master of this planet. This does not mean he is master of the universe. It may be discovered some day, as the science-fiction boys have already suggested, that men may some day find themselves on another planet, but as intruders, only to be thrown out or destroyed. But on this earth

man has a right to live, and to achieve mastery. In Genesis I (where the horizon is wider than in Gen. 2) man is told: Replenish the earth and subdue it. Man, in short, is to work together with God in bringing order and completeness to the planet which is his rightful home.

Top of Creation

Let us pursue that thought about the top of creation a little further. This story in Genesis presents man as made from dust, and all other living things, both plants and beasts and birds, are likewise sprung from the dust by the power of God. Man has a kind of kinship with all of life, and therefore, as 'Albert Schweitzer' has said, must have a reverence for life. Man cannot give life to himself nor to any other creature; and should be very slow about taking life of any sort. Nevertheless it is much nearer the truth to say that the creation is made for man, than that man is made for the rest of creation. Not that God intends everything in the world to be used. It is an interesting point that the trees of Eden are not all good for food; some of them are simply beautiful to see. The beauty of the world, sometimes its useless beauty (like a sunset) is for man alone, just as its usefulness—sometimes its unbeautiful usefulness—is appreciated best by man alone. Only man can heat the arctic and cool the tropics; only man can bring his foods from the ends of the earth.

"One Man Is No Man"

The Greeks had a slogan: One man is no man, meaning that we each need the help and companionship of others to live at all, as human beings. The story of the first man as told in Genesis illustrates this in a moving way. God sees that this man is incomplete, though he is set in the midst of great beauty and has work to occupy mind and hands. So God produces all the other animals; but man can only talk about them, not with them. So at last another human being is made. Before, there was only a man alone; now there is a human race. This is not science, not intended to be; but it is a profound truth. Man is made for community. Without it, sinks to the brutes' level. In community a man becomes human. And yet if the only companionship man finds is human, he has still missed his destiny. For man was made for fellowship, above all, with God. Only as friend of God can man become what God intended him to be.

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