

Lancaster Farming

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Some Win - Some Lose

Last week we had the pleasure of attending a convention of newspaper farm editors in Washington, D.C. Editors from all over the country attended the meeting.

It was amusing in a way to listen to them and see how one man's meat is another poison. Take feeder cattle for example.

The fellows from the feeder cattle producing country were all smiles and happy about how the market had picked up and had many tales of how well producers in their areas were doing.

But listen to the cries of woe from the feeder cattle buying areas! How, they say, can a feeder make a profit using such high priced cattle?

This proves a point that is often overlooked when one thinks of American agriculture. In a country so vast as this, when one phase of farming for one group is good, often it is at the expense of another.

We all remember when the big butter-oleo fight was on. The dairymen were losing a market. They were losing money. But at the same time, in the South, the cotton producer was gaining a market for his seed which is made into oil for the spread. His income was going to be raised.

It looks like another of these paradoxes is shaping up right now in the red meat-poultry industries.

Congress is considering a bill for a national check-off on red meat for promotion and advertising. If this bill is passed, how long will it be until the poultry producers feel that this is necessary for their industry?

From our standpoint, we fail to see much gain from any such government sponsored program.

In the first place, money passing through Washington, D.C., seems to have developed a habit of sticking there. Administrative costs of handling funds in government sometimes become astronomical in the process of protecting the taxpayer from misuse of these funds.

Furthermore we have a history of repeats and repeats in government programs. If this red meat check-off is inaugurated, who will be next? The wool growers, the cotton growers, the poultrymen, or perhaps the turnip green producers?

We can see the letterhead now: Batton, Barton, Durstine, Osborn & Uncle Sam, Advertising.

And perhaps the biggest reason is that there is now an organization, farmer supported on a voluntary basis, that is doing a good job in the same field that the government proposed to invade.

It is the National Live Stock and Meat Board in Chicago. Most of the marketing cooperatives, the farm organizations, and the allied meat industries have representatives on the board of directors of the organization.

One of the members of the Board, the packer supported American Meat Institute, has carried on a highly successful educational advertising campaign promoting the use of all red meats.

We believe that farmers should take a hand in the promotion of their products, but we believe that that hand should not be tied to Washington.

For a Well Done Job

Our Lancaster County Agent Max M. Mith was honored this week by being presented a distinguished service award by the Department of Agriculture.

The award is being given for his work in the 4-H Club program and with the baby beef program in particular.

So we take this opportunity to add our congratulations to him. Keep those purple banners coming into Lancaster County.



BY JACK REICHARD

50 YEARS AGO (1907)

The pealing of the farm dinner bell, rung just after midnight by a collie dog, saved the family of William Beattie, a farmer near Oxford, Pa., from burning to death.

The house and its furnishings were completely destroyed.

The fire started about midnight in one of the back rooms in the frame dwelling. The dogs immediately began barking and tried to rouse the family, but no attention was paid to them. Finally the collie, which had been trained to ring the bell in calling the men in from the fields at mealtime, grasped the cord and kept ringing the bell, arousing the Beattie family and their neighbors.

NO ICE CREAM ON SUNDAYS?

Nothing in the history of Lancaster City, outside of politics, stirred up more interest throughout the county in general than a crusade of the Federation of Churches in an attempt to enforce a rigid observance of the Sabbath Day laws, a half century ago. Notice had been given that effective June 1, 1907, anyone violating these laws would be prosecuted. The war was apparently directed against cigar, ice cream and soda water retailers. The dealers threatened to fight the federation and it looked like lively times ahead.

When an elderly couple walked into the Erie, Pa. office of Clerk of Courts Miller that Saturday, back in May, 1907, the official instinctively scented romance. His intuition proved right when the woman gave her name as Mary E. Starks after her companion had given his as Lewis E. Starks, both gave their age as 62 years.

Clerk Miller's records showed that they had been married to one another, and had been divorced in the local court April 2, 1883, twenty-four years before. But Starks had renewed his acquaintance with his former wife and declared he was marrying her again.

FARMER BLOWN TO BITS BY DYNAMITE

A news dispatch out of Indiana, 50 years ago this week, told of a farmer in that state who stubbed his toe in crawling through or over a barbed wire fence with a stick of dynamite which he was planning to blast out a stump, with the result that not enough of his physical anatomy could be assembled to justify the holding of a funeral.

A Plymouth Rock hen owned by an eastern fancier, which was brought up to production of 251 eggs during a period of a year, was given a hot mash of ground wheat, oats and barley in the morning, with cracklings of meat meal, and in the evening all the wheat she would eat up clean. The owner declared he never fed corn to his chickens.

Investigations conducted by the federal department of agriculture, a half century ago, led it to classify the skunk a friend of the farmer rather than one of his enemies. It was found that the skunk consumed large numbers of grasshoppers, crickets and other insects and should not be exterminated, but protected.

An expert writer on farm life, 50 years ago, had this to say.

"The farther the farm home is removed from the condition of a mere roosting place, where folks just eat and sleep, the nearer it comes to performing its mission as a saving and uplifting force in the life of the community, the state and the nation".

25 Years Ago

Back in 1932 it was estimated that \$4,500,000 worth of gold lay within the city limits of Colorado Springs, with officials of the Golden Cycle Mill and residents of the city anxious to find some one who would take the huge fortune away.

Unguarded, the vast mountain of gold, about four city blocks long, two blocks wide and 100 feet high in places, had accumulated during a period of 25 years at the rate of \$150,000 a year.

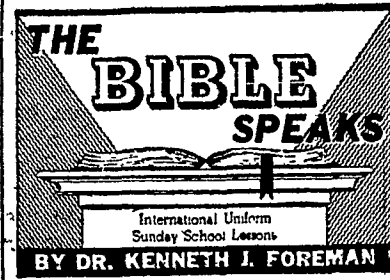
On windy days the lawns and carpets were covered with gold dust, and people had to dust the powdery metal off their clothes.

But the catch to the give-away was that the cost of sifting the gold from the rest of the residue was found to amount to twice what the metal was worth.

UNDERTAKERS MAKE NEWS IN KANSAS

In Topeka, Kas, a busybody, who saw a suspicious looking box being cared into a house, notified Joe Deimler, special liquor investigation, that moonshiners had moved into town. Deimler rounded up a squad of policemen and made a raid on the place.

The findings: An undertakers' convention was in progress in the building. The suspicious box contained a sample casket.



Background Scripture: Genesis 26:1-5, 12-33
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 55:6-13.

Man of Peace

Lesson for May 26, 1957

In a hospital for the insane, the patients may think the doctors are crazy. In a land of three-legged men, a man with only two legs would look deformed. Maybe that is why in the world today people who speak a good word for Peace are looked on as somewhat "touched in the head." This is a warring world. It is a fact that the heathen ancestors of most readers of this column followed a religion in which heaven was thought to be a place where fighting went on all day and drinking all night. But north-Europeans



Dr. Foreman are not the only fighters of the world. Wars and fights, large and small, have been going on in all parts of the world since cave-man times. This Twentieth Century is the bloodiest of all, with fewer wars than formerly, but far more serious ones.

Surrender

Isaac, second son of Abraham, is known as a man of peace. But he must have seemed to be a rather odd man, around Gerar where he lived. He did not seem quite normal. He was willing, even eager, to make peace; but what lessons he endured in the making of peace? In the famous story of the Wells of Gerar, which is in our Scripture this week, we see Isaac giving up his comforts, his profits and even his rights, in order to keep peace. He moved farther and farther into the wilderness; he got no return on all the labor put in on the wells; and he actually gave up what he had a perfect right to keep—the wells themselves. It is very likely that a man or a nation that is going to stay at peace with the rest of the world, will, like Isaac have to surrender some comforts, some profits, even some rights. A nation, or an individual, unwilling to make any concessions, yield any points or their profits, is

DRY FORCES IN SESSION AT LANCASTER

Thousands of persons from every walk in life packed Lancaster's Convention Hall, 25 years ago this week, when the Allied Force of Prohibition concluded a two days' get-together in this city.

F. C. Beckwith, of the Hamilton Watch Co. presided. Rev. J. H. Musselman offered prayer and group singing was led by Ira Drumpp.

Dr. Damiely Poling and the Hon. Ira Laudrith were the speakers.

Dr. Poling declared that since the campaign had opened more than one and one-half million persons had been enrolled, including a half million young people.

At the concluding session, the Hon. John A. McSparran, State Secretary of Agriculture, was named chairman to head the Allied Dry Forces in Lancaster County.

Twenty-five years ago this week Miss Helen Mutcher, sixteen, of Dillersville, upper Lancaster County, was almost instantly killed when struck by a hit and run driver while she and two girl companions were walking along the Harrisburg pike to their homes.

Tossed approximately 25 feet by the impact, the girl was picked up by a passing motorist, who conveyed her to Lancaster's St. Joseph Hospital, where attendants pronounced her dead.

Those witnessing the tragedy declared the car was traveling at an excessive rate of speed and swerved off the concrete and hit Miss Mutcher.

headed for a fight And the fight will cost more than what they fought to keep.

Sons of God

Nevertheless, peacemakers shall be called sons of God. So Jesus tells us; let it be noted that he said peacemakers, not peace-wishers, peace-praisers. This means that peacemakers are like God, they belong to his family; it means that the peacemaker is in line with the purposes of God. Consider Isaac again. What became of all the nations whose battles reddened the earth, whose wars were the big news, whose generals were famous men, whose conquests made history? The nations of that day are now dead, so dead that until recently—we know better now—there were some who thought the Bible's references to them must be fiction. Only university professors know about the Gargashites, the Philistines and all the rest, and they don't much care. But what became of Isaac? His name is immortal; the family descended from him is found everywhere in the world. The sons of Isaac are the most indestructible folk of history. When God sent his Son into the world, it was to the sons of Isaac that he first came, not to the children of the Philistines.

Witness of History

Sometimes the most peaceful men or nations are forced to fight. But the truly great are not those who keep the fight going on for years and years, but those who bind up the wounds they have made. Germany, at the time these lines are being written, shows an example. That nation was conquered by America and Russia, along with other nations. Today America and Russia are the two principal powers occupying Germany with their armies. But the part controlled by Russia is being systematically bled. The great Russian war memorial in east Berlin is lined with inscriptions (quoted from Stalin) insulting the German people; most prominent in East Berlin are great ruined empty buildings. In the west zone, controlled by the United States, there is comparative prosperity; this country is devoting immense sums to the upbuilding of our former enemies; most prominent in west Berlin is the rising new city built on the ruins of the old. It cannot be said that Germans love to be occupied by foreign armies. But they know the vast difference between a former enemy who turns as quickly as possible to the ways of peace, and an enemy that never knows the war is over.

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