

Lancaster Farming

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Is Wheat Support Necessary?

The wheat referendum last week was approved just as everyone knew it would be. Farmers in Lancaster County showed their discouragement in being outvoted year after year by almost boycotting the polls.

They knew that the wheat producers in the Great Plains would out vote them by favoring the price supports almost 100 per cent.

And why shouldn't the big producers favor the supports? Wheat producers have been getting almost two-thirds of all the money spent in price supports. It is the best crop insurance they have ever had.

In a trip through the Great Plains states last year, we saw some of the effects of the current government price support and acreage control programs in the major wheat producing areas.

The farmers have found that there is a lot of wafer under the dry sandy soils of Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma. They also have found that they can, for about \$10,000 in equipment, bring that water to the surface and that water will allow them to grow as much wheat on a section that they used to grow on three sections.

So what has been the net result? Wheat production has dropped very little despite all the controls. Corn producers on the fringes of the Plains are finding that grain sorghum is moving in on their market in the feeder cattle areas. And in the Eastern United States, grain importers — those farmers who can not grow enough grain on their own farm—pay prices for wheat that are well over production costs.

Especially are they over the cost of production in the Great Plains in a dry land operation. The ground is plowed once with a disc plow and then planted. The next time the land is gone over is at harvest.

There are no fences, few buildings and no costs for fertilizer. Equipment cost even is low for the size of the operation. The equipment is large and rugged, thus giving a long life per unit and of course giving the economy found in the purchase of a large unit as compared to a small unit.

Compare this to the high land cost in Lancaster County and the tremendous investment per farm in buildings and machinery. Here the diversification of farming demands the machinery budget be chopped into smaller pieces, thus forcing the farmer to buy the most low priced unit available.

Here the land must be prepared and tended carefully to prevent erosion, and fertilizer must be applied liberally to insure a high enough yield to make it worth while to plant a field to wheat.

So lets take a look at what might happen if the price supports were pulled out from under wheat.

First of all, the price would drop to about the world market level which is about \$1.35 a bushel. Can a profit be made at this figure? Canadian farmers have been doing it for the last several years with about the same land and equipment costs that prevail in the United States.

The effect here in Lancaster County would be that it would be so unprofitable to raise wheat that the acreage would drop to almost nothing, insofar as grain production is concerned.

But at the same time, demand for wheat as a feed grain would increase thus giving the market a boot upward

Admittedly there would be a period of violent readjustment and seeming chaos while the adjustment is being made, but many economists say that is what is going to have to happen. Even some highly placed officials on Washington have voiced the opinion that a free wheat market is going to have to be developed.

The Congress is becoming more and more aware that the farm population is only about seven per cent of the population of the country as a whole. The Congress is also extremely budget minded this year. So with the agricultural program up for some changes soon, we can expect some revolutionary thinking on the part of Congress. From some of the smoke signals trickling from the District of Columbia, wheat supports just might be one of the changes.



BY JACK REICHARD
50 YEARS AGO (1907)

25 Years Ago

A writer on child development in the farm home, a half century ago, put it this way

"There is a time for education and development with boys and girls in the home, just as there is a proper time for the cultivation of the crops in the field. Neglect or postponement in either case entails a loss that is seldom made good."

The writer pointed out it was not reasonable to expect that if youngsters were allowed to act like little heathens in the home they would "conduct themselves like models of etiquette when they were out in company or when there are guests in the home."

NEW RULING BRINGS DISTILLERY COMPLAINTS

Back in 1907 the distillers of the nation were caught short of the "real stuff" following a ruling by Secretary Wilson of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who ordered all whiskey products be labeled according to their contents. Secretary Wilson pointed out that if a whiskey was pure, it could be labeled as such, but if it was blended with common alcohol or other adulterants it must bear a label accordingly. The distillers declared the decision, which really was an enforcement of common honesty, would drive them out of business

OIL DISCOVERED IN LANCASTER COUNTY

On the Lancaster farm of Clayton Bowman, near the Black Horse Hotel, one mile southeast of Reinholds, kerosene oil had been discovered. It was declared that tests were made and the oil found of good quality. Promoters were considering forming a stock company to develop the well

Back in June, 1907, officials of a western municipality decided to do something about hobos who applied to the authorities for assistance. The city fathers enacted an ordinance compelling all applicants to dig up dandelions in the public parks and streets in return for food and lodging. The officials reported the new ruling had caused most hobos to sidetrack the city.

CIGARETTE LAW ENACTED

An act making it illegal to sell, give, or cause to be given, cigarettes or cigarette paper to minors had been signed and made law, 50 years ago. Each violation of the law was punishable by a fine from \$100 to \$300.

One of the many commendable benefactors of Andrew Carnegie, the steel magnet, was the placing of \$40,000 at the disposal of Luther Burbank, the American "plant wizard," so that while conducting his many experiments he would not be vexed in making a living

MARRIED IN WASTE

Fifty years ago this week the village of Calvert, Cecil County, Maryland, made news involving a bogus Lord Stanley who won the heart of pretty Miss Irene Clayton, two weeks after they met. In order that he would come into possession of a large fortune it was only necessary that he get married, he explained, and accordingly Miss Clayton accompanied him to a parish in Oxford, Pa., where the Rev. J. H. Royer performed the ceremony. Later developments proved the man was a fraud, and he was told to take off for more friendly parts.

"Lady" Stanley, too, was completely upset. "Come back when you have that \$20,000 dowry ready" were her parting words.

Interesting sidelights on the manners and customs of by-gone days are found in old newspapers and advertisements. The following public sale announcement was published at Versailles, Ky., in 1849:

"Having sold my farm, and as I am leaving for Oregon Territory by oxen team, I will sell all my personal property except two oxen teams (Ben and Buck, and Lou and Jerry), consisting of the following:

"Two milk cows, one grey mare and colt, one pair of oxen, one yoke, one baby yoke and two ox carts, one iron plow with wood mould board, 800 feet of weatherboards, 1,500 fence rails, 160-gallon soap kettle, 85 sugar troughs, 10 gallons maple syrup, one 40-gallon copper still, two spinning wheels, 30 pounds tallow, one large loom, 300 poles, 100 split hoops, 100 empty barrels, four sides leather, 12 wooden pitchforks, half interest in tan yard, one rifle with bullet moulds and powder horn, soft soap, bacon, hams, lard, molasses, six head of fox hounds, all soft mouthed but one.

"Also six Negro slaves, two men, two boys and two mulatto wenches, all together in one party, as I will not separate them. Sale will begin at 8 a.m. Plenty to eat and drink."

BANANAS FOR EVERYBODY IN U.S.A.

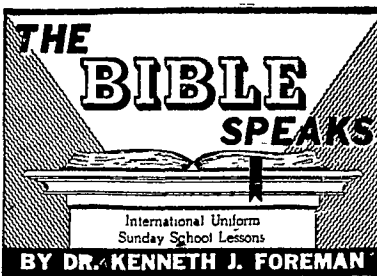
"If the bananas imported into the United States in 1931 were evenly distributed, every man, woman and child living in the country would have received several dozen each," stated a bulletin issued by the National Geographic Society in 1932. There were more than 55,000,000 stems of bananas delivered at American ports in 1931, the largest fruit import into the country, according to the report.

In Delta, Colo., they were manufacturing cheese by the hundredweight. There thieves broke into a cheese factory and made off with 300 pounds of the product.

While fishing off Fairhaven, Mass., Patrick Healey caught a 12-pound cod inside of which he found a solitaire diamond set in a gold ring.

Harry Rhutz, of Cedar Rapids, Ia., plowing in a field that morning, turned up a gold watch which his father had lost 20 years before.

When she refused to go to jail for contempt of court, Mrs. Margaret Fraley of Kingwood, W Va., was picked up in the arms of the sheriff and politely but expeditiously carried to a cell.



Background Scripture: Genesis 41:53-50, 26
Devotional Reading: I Corinthians 13.

What Is Greatness

Lesson for June 30, 1957

"THE habitual vision of greatness" has been called the secret of the ancient Greeks, one of the world's most wonderful people. Many would say that the ancient Hebrews were even more wonderful; and they too had their "habitual vision of greatness."

In our Old Testament are stories of great men, for whom even today little children are named. These great men and women too are of different kinds, you might say only one of a kind. Joseph was the kind of great man Americans love to honor. Hewas an immigrant, for one thing, a poor boy, with nothing but the clothes he wore, when he first crossed the border of Egypt. He was a man who rose, through all the layers of society, against very great odds. He was the "big executive" type, and immensely rich besides. Now it is not true that such men are always hailed and honored. Sometimes they are no more loved than General Bullmoose. But when such men do give their fellow-citizens a lift of pride, it is because of that something Extra which we call greatness.

The High Soul

Every truly great man or woman has some qualities or gifts which are unique in him, and are partly brought out by his own special circumstances. The greatness of an Abraham Lincoln, for instance, is not that of a Dwight L. Moody, and neither of these is quite like Helen Keller. But there are some features to be found in all persons who deserve the word "great." Joseph in Egypt is a good example of these. First of all is what can be called the High Soul. His house of life is open to the sky. He is guided by his faith in God. To such a man, faith is not a thing to be analyzed, or talked about. It is something to be lived, and lived by. Every single



Dr. Foreman

important step in Joseph's life is connected by his biographer with God; and Joseph himself shows that he was conscious of God's guidance. Even that decisive moment when he was being sold to Midianite slave-traders,—a moment which just then he would hardly have connected with God,—he later saw was an act of God. "It was not you who sent me here, but God," said he to his brothers later. What will God think of this? was not an afterthought with him, but it entered into his decisions beforehand.

The Open Mind

Great men have their prejudices, no doubt; what human being is entirely free of them? But a great man is capable of living above his prejudices. He can revise his opinions. Neither the man who is forever changing his mind, nor the man who can never change it, is likely to achieve greatness. When Joseph's first son was born, he called him by a name which means "making-to-forget." "God," said he, "has made me forget... all my father's house." Joseph at that time, and for years before and after that time, had no communication with his home back in Palestine. To be sure, his family could neither read nor write; but Joseph could easily have sent a message telling them he was alive and doing very well indeed. On the contrary, he seems to have been quite content to be cut off from home. Very likely he thought the less he had to do with his rascally brothers, the better. But when the famine time came, he got acquainted with his brothers again; discovered in one of them, at least, a noble spirit; and he so far revised his attitude that he invited the whole family into Egypt near him.

The Wide Heart

Joseph's treatment of his brothers showed more than a willingness to reconsider his prejudices. He had a heart willing to forget the past, willing to return good for evil. To men who had been as mean to him as they could possibly be, he was as good and generous as he could possibly be. Most of us think we are mighty virtuous if in return for a dirty deal we do just a tiny grudging act of kindness. That is better than vengeance, and mean dealing in return; but the great man is far above measuring what he gives by what has been given him. True greatness includes more than justice; it includes forgiveness and mercy. Voltaire used to say about God, "He will forgive—that's his business."

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