

Lancaster Farming

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BY JACK REICHARD
50 YEARS AGO (1907)

Back in 1907 the outlook for Lancaster County's tobacco crop was not bright. Growers in general found their crops in a very immature condition, with prospects of developing them into the ripened product doubtful. Cool weather in the spring coupled with little rain during the growing season was blamed for the retarded growth. A leading tobacco expert, after inspecting a number of fields had this to say:

"The condition of the growing crop affords ample cause for general comment, on the side of the growers, as well as on the side of the dealers. The latter are not half so worried over the situation as are the former. The dealers paid a big price for the 1906 crop, much of which they yet have on hand, holding for better prices, and a shortage in this season's crop would help them out of a very troublesome situation."

"I never before saw fields so badly mixed in character of the plants growing in them. One of the worst features is that even the small plants are, in many cases, shooting in the seed-pods before having half as many leaves as they have."

SYNTHETIC CHICKEN SOUP

Chicken soup with no part of chicken, and owed none of its savoriness to the dexterity of a cook, was to be found, perhaps, only one place in the world, according to a report made by a prominent scientist in 1907. The particular favored spot was located in the state of Nevada, and the so-called soup was a natural product.

The report stated that a spring of calcareous deposits, located near Elko, produced by the hand of Mother Nature what the inhabitants of the town regarded as a better chicken soup than could be found in any of the hotels along the neighboring line of railway. The spring was named Soup Spring.

It was declared the spring contained sulphur, iron, magnesia and soda, with some copper. Its waters was dipped up by tourists, and a little salt and pepper added.

During the month of July, 1907, some 4,000 boxes of celery was shipped from the celery growing area around Kalamazoo, Mich. This amounted to about 150,000 stalks daily, and most of it was shipped by express. The growers received 12 cents a bunch containing 12 stalks. The shipper got 18 cents a bunch. Nearly 300 persons were engaged in growing the celery on tracts ranging from one to six acres.

FARM HELP A PROBLEM

Fifty years ago the securing of dependable young men and girls for help on the farm was a problem. The question of indoor as well as outdoor help on the larger farms was solved by erecting tenant houses and securing the services of a reliable married couple, but the smaller farmer had to depend chiefly on elderly men and women and shiftless young people for help during harvest seasons.

One of Luther Burbank's creations, in 1907, was a plum as large as an apple had a pit stone like a cherry. It was a cross between the Beech and a Japanese variety. The plum was bright red in color and was claimed to be of good quality.

25 Years Ago

A disastrous fire wrought great loss on the Lancaster farm of George Cramer in the Mt. Nebo section. The blaze was discovered by Mrs. Cramer.

The barn, tobacco shed and chicken house were attached and

fell prey to the flames, as did the hog-pen and about 30 head of hogs. Only three of the hogs were saved. A number of chickens also were burned.

The mules, cows and steers in the barn were released and left room to safety.

All of the season's crops were burned, including wheat which had just been threshed. An auto, farm implements, harness and the like were consumed in the blaze.

West Willow and Quarryville Fire Companies responded to the call, but the fire was beyond control when they reached the scene.

WORLD'S GREATEST NEWS

The most important world wide news of the century came from Berlin during August, 1932.

Two German scientists, Lang and Brasch, using an artificial "thunderbolt" of 2,500,000 volts, had split an atom of lead, releasing energy equivalent to fifteen million volts.

The scientists declared that the energy locked up in the atoms of oxygen and hydrogen in two teaspoonfuls of water would drive the steamship Leviathan twice across the ocean, but advised investors not to sell their coal mines or good oil stocks because science moved slowly. It was pointed out that a little steam engine had been shown in Alexandria in the Serapion, long before the birth of Christ. But man

waited for the steamboat and locomotive.

Twenty-five years ago this week Lancaster Farm Women Society, No. 11, entertained members' families at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Eshleman Mechanic Grove. A short business session was in charge of Mrs. William Bucher.

FARMERS' STRIKE IN FULL SWING

Governor Warren Green, of South Dakota, issued a call for a conference of the Governors of 15 Farm Belt states to take place at Sioux City, Iowa, to consider concerted action in connection with the farmers' strike in full swing back in August, 1932.

A single state wide cooperative organization to control marketing of farm products, and possible working together with similar organizations in other agricultural states was proposed by Gov. Floyd B. Olson, of Minnesota. Gov. Olson stated:

"Into this single cooperative organization the 4,600 cooperatives in states could be grouped, and these, protected by law, they could control the marketing of agriculture products and make really effective the farm holiday plan."

That same week John W. Keller, Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, warned all "Scotch" Santa Clauses, who cut their Christmas trees from State forests or from privately owned land without the owners consent, "must be prepared to pay a fine of \$25 for each tree removed."

change from century to century, but the thing is always the same. The crusader is a man with two slogans. He does not always put it this way, but these two are always samples of his attitude to life and the world around him: Something is wrong with the world: fight it!

Something is wrong with the world: right it!

Crusading From the Bottom

If you think all's well with the world you are no crusader. If you think a lot is wrong with the world but nothing can be done about it, you are no crusader. But even if you can say Amen to those two slogans just now mentioned, you are still no crusader if all you do is stand there and yell. A true crusader wants other men to join his fight. That was true when the word began to be used, in the years when European army after army went out to the mid-east to win back the Holy Land. It is still true, a crusader is a rouser of men, not merely an aroused man.

What makes a crusader tick? They both feel the weight of the world's evil, but in different ways. The crusader from the bottom is a man who has felt the evil Amos was in that class. He came from the very bottom drawer, a hired man in a submarginal area, next to beggars, about the most underprivileged of the underprivileged. He well knew what social and economic injustice are; he had been a victim of both. So today, and always, some of the most effective crusaders are men and women who have personally been victimized by the evils they set out to destroy. Some of the greatest temperance workers and crusaders have been men whose own lives had been wrecked by alcohol.

Crusader From the Top

The crusader from the top, on the contrary, is a man or woman who has never personally suffered from the evils they fight. They are people with both sympathy and imagination. Wilberforce in England and Lincoln in America had never been slaves, neither had John Woolman; but they felt the evil of slavery more keenly than some slaves did. Frances E. Willard, founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, had never been an alcoholic. The greatest crusader of all time was surely Jesus Christ. Should we not say that he was a crusader from the top?

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

The Drouth and Federal Aid

TRAVELLING over 150 miles through Lancaster, Berks and Chester Counties with Governor Leader Monday, we had a good opportunity to see the effects of the drouth first hand.

The worst-hit areas were in northern Lancaster and southern Berks Counties. It seems that on both sides of the ridge that divides the two counties there has been little rainfall all season. This, combined with the type soil found there, has hurt crops to the no-yield stage.

In the parts of Chester County visited, it was not nearly so bad. One farmer there was plowing—granted, with difficulty—and the corn crop is expected to yield 50 per cent as compared with the 30 per cent normal expected yield in the other two areas.

One point not often considered was brought home. The size of the farm operation seemingly is in direct proportion to the farmers opinion of the drouth.

One farmer who operates 350 acres in Chester County and has about 90 head of cattle said that he will have hay to sell. On the whole he expressed no great fear of the outcome of the dry weather.

On the other hand his neighbor who operates only a hundred acres with the same number of cattle is hard-pressed to find feed for his cattle.

Both are family sized farms. Both men have been making a good living at farming. But now one is in favor of federal aid and the other luke-warm.

Farming is a business, and like most businesses, it is possible to overstock. This seems to be the case with many of the farms this year.

However we see no need for the federal government to have to come to the aid of a gamble that has lost. It surely does not when the merchant lays in too much stock that does not move and gets into trouble.

The federal aid programs for natural disaster relief are fine and we have seen many farm families remain on the farm through them.

But we urge the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to use the greatest discretion in recommending such a program for the state.

President Eisenhower has implied by his action thus far this year that he is not making these programs a general pork barrel, but rather a source of relief to farmers in dire need.

Farmers in this state, we believe, are a too proud and independent people to go crying to Uncle Sam for a hand-out when it really isn't needed. If the need truly exists the proffered aid should be accepted.

Governor Leader is the man on the spot. If he asks for federal assistance and is refused, he will have lost political face both nationally and in the state. At the same time there seems to be a tremendous pressure from certain groups to ask for aid.

It's his decision. Let us hope that he considers all the facts available to act in the best interest of the farmers of the Commonwealth.

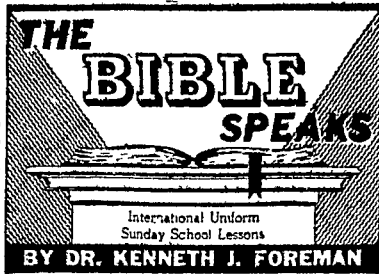
What's Happened to Broilers?

SOMETHING peculiar is happening in broiler prices at the Lancaster Poultry Exchange this year.

According to sales records from the Exchange, March has always been the high ranking month, price-wise. But this year July has taken the honors.

In 1955 and 1956 the March price average as 32.3 and 23.7 cents respectively. But this year it was only 20.86 cents. July, on the other hand, has jumped from that average up to 23.57 cents.

Maybe it's all the barbeques. Maybe it's that a 100,000 fewer chickens were sold. It's really hard to tell. But it sure isn't hard for the broiler producer to enjoy.



Background Scripture: Amos
Devotional Reading: Amos 5:18-24.

Crusaders

Lesson for August 25, 1957

WHEN Amos, the hired man, Amos the migrant worker, stood up in the city square at Bethel to make a speech, no doubt people laughed. It looked funny to see a man in overalls making like a politician. They laughed; but they did not keep on laughing. He did not talk like a politician.



Dr. Foreman

at all. It was like nothing they had expected. It was more like... well, like a prophet, only there hadn't been a prophet at Bethel since any one cared to remember. It was like a prophet, only Amos himself didn't want that title. The country was full enough as it was, of prophets who were happy as June-bugs, and about as effective. The one tune they hummed went something like "Everything is for the best in the best of possible world's."

What Is a Crusader?

Amos did not see it that way. He drew such a dark picture of the country and the times, and the prospects, that the leading citizens were worried. Get that man out of here! they said. He's not good for business, he's not good for the church, he's not good, period. But Amos kept right on. We do not know how long he lived after those exciting days in Bethel, but his speeches are not dead yet. We can call him an early type of crusader. No popular occupation!

A crusader is next door to a crank, and some crusaders are cranks, and all cranks are nuisances; so most people shy away from the very word. However, we have other words meaning much the same thing. To crusade—it's no different from "stand up and fight," "stand up and be counted," "go out on a limb," "carry a torch for—," "go to bat (or to the mat) for—." Words