

Lancaster Farming

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This Week in Lancaster Farming

BY JACK REICHARD 75 Years Ago

Seventy-five years ago Americans were being warned of the degrading social and political standards in the nation by one Dr. Dix, author and lecturer, who made an extensive study on the causes of divorce. On a lecture tour through the New England states, in 1883, Dr. Dix had this to say:

"It is a fact that as civilization advances the sacredness of home in some walks of life seems to decline. When there were no telegraphs, no railroads, no sensational papers, no pernicious periodical literature, there were fewer divorce cases, fewer elopements and a healthier emotional life. People were content to live as their fathers and mothers had lived, and if there did occur an exceptional case of elopement with another man's wife, it was the talk of the countryside for months and the woman lost favor among her people forever."

Dr. Dix declared that in New England States alone 2,000 homes were broken up every year, with crimes against morality, chastity and decency steadily increasing. In 1883 Dr. Dix said:

"Two poisons pollute the fountains of our national life — the one is rum, with its attendant evils, the other divorce, with the misdirected passions and affections warring against virtue."

C. P. R. R. PROPOSES IMMIGRATION PLAN

Back in 1883 a plan of "assisted emigration" had been proposed to the British Government by the Canadian Pacific Railway which appeared to have more business-like possibilities than any emigration experiments made previously.

It was proposed that the government advance to the Northwest Land Co., on the security of its many million acres, a loan of one million pounds for ten years without interest.

With the money the company agreed to undertake the transfer of 10,000 small farmers with their families, totaling about 50,000 persons from Ireland to the Canadian Northwest provide each family with 160 acres of wheat land, a house, cow and the implements necessary to begin cultivation of the farm.

The land company was to take a lien on the farm to the amount of 100 pounds, on which interest was to be charged after two years, the emigrant having the right to pay off the principal at any time. The company, of course, received its compensation in the increased value of its other lands and in the increased railroad business.

50 Years Ago

According to agriculture experts the year 1907 was one of the most unusual weather-wise in the eastern section of the nation over a period of half a century.

In Maryland heavy frosts and frozen ground extended into late May. Farmers in southern Virginia who planted their corn at the usual time had most of it killed after being up by unseasonable cold weather. All early fruit crops in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania were wiped out by cold weather.

Farm crops in general were extremely late. Most of the corn in Maryland and Pennsylvania was not planted until late June. Hay, wheat and oat harvesting were long drawn out affairs.

In Lancaster County the average hay crop was not finished until late August.

Bumblebees, hornets, yellow-jackets, wasps and house flies did not put in their appearance until late in the summer.

But if grain and vegetable

crops were late in 1907, the crop of tobacco in Lancaster County pushed itself into full growth before fall frosts, clean of holes and curing a good color.

THREE-WHEELED AUTOS IN GERMANY

Fifty years ago three wheeled motor vehicles were introduced in Germany, but the manufacturers had difficulty popularizing the autos because the public felt "the new vehicles suggest an old-fashioned baby coach or a wheelbarrow."

A fire apparatus built on these lines was put into service as part of the Fire Department of Nuremberg, Germany, which was declared a great success. It was a steam pump, and the same source of power was used to propel the engine and drive the pump.

DOG TAX SYSTEM ABOLISHED

Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, had a peculiar municipal ordinance, 50 years ago. Every person who paid a \$2 dog tax was entitled to vote in elections for mayor and alderman. But the system soon led to abuses. It had been discovered that six enterprising women voted on the strength of a single dog. Worse still, one ingenious lady unable

to secure a real dog in time to qualify, took out a license for a china pup she kept on her mantle-piece. After that disclosure, the system and municipal franchise was doomed.

25 Years Ago

In an effort to make Lancaster County streets and highways safer in 1933 the Lancaster Automobile Club called the attention of all motorists to the following "Do and Don't" list it had prepared:

Never pass a car on a hill.

Always give the car to your right the right of way.

Slow down when another car gives signal to pass, don't step on the gas.

Pass on the straight road, not on a curve.

Don't cut in and out of traffic unless you have plenty of leeway. Don't drive at excessive speed, but don't "hearse drive".

Keep to your side of the highway — don't be a "road hog".

Don't stop on a hill or curve. When you do stop, pull off the highway.

Always be on the lookout for children playing on streets, or along the curb.

When accosted by an officer be considerate, don't put up an argument.

At all times practice common courtesy and observe that golden rule on the highway — "Drive as you would have others drive."

Although these rules were compiled for motorists of 25 years ago, there is no doubt that the observance of them today would prevent a lot of highway accidents and human suffering.

Cigar Use Gaining

TOTAL 1957 CONSUMPTION of cigars and cigarillos in the United States and by overseas forces is estimated at 6.2 billion—a little above 1956, according to the December Tobacco Situation Report released by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the USDA.

The report notes that this consumption is the largest since the late 1920's and that 1958 consumption is expected to continue near the 1957 level—perhaps gaining a little.

The AMS also estimates that about 40 per cent of total cigar output now has the processed binder instead of the natural leaf binder. A very large share of cigarillos is now made with the processed binder.

Another record is likely to be set this year by bonded manufacturers using imported and Puerto Rican leaf. The number shipped from Puerto Rico to the United States is the highest since 1931. Imports of cigars from Cuba are the largest since 1945 but remain a small fraction of total consumption. Presently some 94 per cent of the cigars used in the country are manufactured in domestic plants.

Puerto Rico is becoming more of a factor in the cigar business. A federal market quota is not in effect for Puerto Rican tobacco and its price support is set in accordance with a sliding scale related to supply. The support price for the crop to be marketed in 1958 reflects 90 per cent of parity as of Oct. 1, 1957. In the 1956-57 marketing year, the support price was based on 89 per cent of parity.

On Oct. 1 stocks of Puerto Rican tobacco at 50-1/3 million pounds were over seven million less than a year earlier and nine million less than two years ago. About 51 per cent was held on the mainland and 49 per cent on the Island. Early unofficial reports indicated that given favorable weather, the 1957-58 crop could be around 25 per cent larger than the 24 million pounds produced in 1956-57.

The 1957-58 total supply of continental filler type tobacco the report says is 175 million pounds, five per cent less than last year and the lowest on record. Oct. 1 stocks were up slightly from last year (attributable to larger holdings of the Pennsylvania type filler), but the 1957 crop of nearly 47 million pounds was over a sixth smaller than harvested in 1956. Though acreage harvested in the Pennsylvania area was only two per cent smaller than in 1956, adverse weather reduced the crop to 41 million pounds, nearly 20 per cent less than obtained last year. The Ohio crop is 10 per cent smaller than in 1956.

Benson Wants to End Soil Bank

SECRETARY EZRA TAFT BENSON said Tuesday that the administration will recommend ending the acreage reserve provisions of the Soil Bank program. This program has cost the government about half a billion dollars annually.

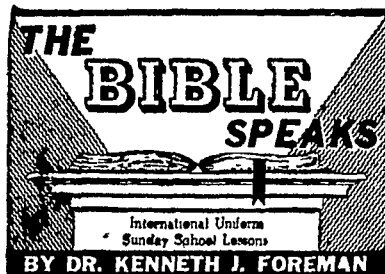
While he did not outline what the administration would do in dropping the acreage reserve, he did imply that recommendations to Congress would call for wider government discretion in setting price supports and greater freedom for farmers in planning production operations.

His statement came as no surprise to most observers who have been expecting an announcement of this sort for several months. Benson's recent speeches, including the one before the powerful American Farm Bureau Federation, were most emphatic in calling for less governmental interference with the farmers' production plans. At the same time he called for a means to allow the government to do something to reduce the staggering load of surplus farm commodities.

The secretary has long advocated the abolition of rigid price supports. But this form of price supports has always had the favor of Congress. While the abolition of the seemingly unworkable acreage reserve program probably will cause little trouble for the administration in Congress, the lawmakers most likely will balk at putting a support plan into effect that will allow Benson to do as he wants with prices.

Too Bad

It's too bad that the future generations can't be here to help us spend their money. — Tester



Bible Material: John 16:1-15; Acts 1:1-14; 2:1-41.
Devotional Reading: I Corinthians 13:1-13.

The Church's Power

Lesson for January 12, 1958

WHEN is a church not a church? asks Dr. W. M. Horton. Answer: When it has lost the Holy Spirit. In this all Christian thinkers will agree with him. At least they will agree this far: a church is not a living church, it has lost its power, if the Holy Spirit is not in it.

A church may be a true church, or (we had better say) truly a church, i.e. not a club, not a gang, but a church with a correct creed and a leadership absolutely apostolic, — and still not be a live church. The church, like a corpse, needs life-force. And suspended animation may be about the same as death. The church was never expected by our Lord just to sit there with folded hands waiting for the skies to open. "You shall receive power," He said, "when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." A powerless church might as well be no church.

What Kind of Power? Churches have sometimes coveted the wrong kind of power. They have become power-systems for their own benefit. For instance, there is political power. On the one hand political activity is part of a Christian's service to his community, and alerting its members to any moral issues involved in political issues may well be a proper duty of the church's leaders. But when the church itself becomes a kind of political party, it is reaching for the kind of power which, if it acquires, will kill it off. Imagine, if you can, a preacher or a bishop going to the local political boss and saying, "Boss, I have 500 Presbyterians (or Methodists or what not, as the case may be) votes that I can deliver next Tuesday. Let's have it on the line: How much are these votes worth to you?" If that could be done (and it cannot) the church would have stopped be-



Dr. Foreman

ing a church. It would be nothing but a political party at best, a cheap mess of men for sale at the worst. Closely kin to this is another wrong kind of power which can be called compulsive. Sometimes a church has not only made herself a partner of the State; she has become, practically, the State itself. A church can, as in the Spanish Inquisition, come to have life-and-death power enforced by the state, killing or exiling everyone who ventures to question the church's words or ways. But this again is fatal to the church's true life. A third wrong kind of power is braking power, where the church becomes a drag on mankind's progress, hobbling and crippling every forward step, becoming a self-appointed guardian of Things As They Used to Be. But it is not power to hold back, it is power to go forward that the church needs. Power for What?

What the church needs is spiritual power, that is, power in its own spirit, power to move the spirits of men. It needs power to win men and women and children; to stir the indifferent, to challenge the cynical, to reclaim the wasted life. It needs power, in short, to win men to Christ. To win them all the way, not to stop at the threshold of decision but to enter deeply into the life and spirit of the Master. The church does not herself change lives. She is not God, she is not divine. But under God the church can bring men into the presence of the Divine Spirit, who alone can change the heart. The Christian church moreover needs power to become the conscience of society. And all the grey compromises of the world, the church at her best has the clear vision that sees black, black, and white, white. A starvation diet will sometimes produce blindness; and a church starved for the Spirit will be a blind leader of the blind. The church, in a word, needs power to be the body of Christ, seeing with his eyes, working with his hands, feeling with his heart.

How Does Power Come?

The kind of power the church needs can come only through God's Spirit, who is also the Spirit of Christ. And the Spirit comes not always in the spectacular way celebrated in the book of Acts, but more often in quiet and at first unnoticed ways. The Spirit comes only to a church that prays, a church that expects, and a church that obeys. It was so in the beginning, and so it will always be. God is always willing to send his Spirit, but not to a church, or a man, that does not desire, or will misuse, this great gift.

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