

Tobacco Co-operative Plans Sound Good, But How Will They Work in Practice?

COUNTY TOBACCO GROWERS, members of the County Tobacco Cooperative, Friday night took a stand that acreage should be cut and that perhaps a tobacco auction should be started in the County.

Neither of these ideas is new. As a matter of record, both have been given an opportunity in the County. Neither seemed to work too well. Although, to be more exact, the acreage cutting business was taken up in a federal referendum calling for government control of acreage. This was defeated by a large vote.

The tobacco auction did function for a while with fairly good results. But due to a number of factors it died.

Perhaps the biggest reason it died is that farmers were quite willing to sell by the average set at the auction, but are unwilling to show themselves at the auction to sell a crop.

Two very good examples of this attitude are at the Lancaster Poultry Exchange and the Eastern Shore Poultry Grower's Exchange in the Delmarva area. These two auctions have stopped giving the sale averages on the day of the sale. So many broilers were being sold on the average that listings were getting too small to give a true average price for broiler chickens.

The same is true for any terminal market. For a true price for any given commodity to be established, there must be enough volume at the market to make a price. If the price is not made in a true supply and demand situation, you can be sure that the buyers will be quick to establish the price that best suits them.

That is the problem that faces the tobacco cooperative if they decide to start an auction. They must have enough guaranteed

volume on a year-in-year out basis to make a true market. From the history available, it appears doubtful that this could be accomplished.

And as for cutting tobacco acreage, that is just exactly what should be done if you believe in the supply and demand formula of the economists. Lower the supply, the demand stays the same, and prices will rise. It looks real good—on paper.

But in actual practice what happens? Well, the tobacco check was pretty slim this year. We need a little more cash. It doesn't look like the price will rise. We need the money too much to take a chance on cutting our acres, so we'll plant an acre more. That should give us a little more cash next fall.

In other words, it's a good idea for the other guy to cut his acreage, but we just can't afford to. Multiply this by some three or four thousand farms and you see that you have more tobacco than you know what to do with.

Actually tobacco acreage could be allowed to rise a little each year. Cigar consumption rises a little each year. But the manufacturers are learning to cut their use of leaf in the manufacturing processes just about as fast as the consumption rises. So the average farmer almost never is able to notice any difference.

So to sum up, we think that the members of the co-operative have an excellent idea, both by the book and in practice. But we believe that they do not, at this time, have the tight organization and control of their members that will be required to make either plan work.

The plans can be worked, but it will require a tremendous education of the tobacco farmers and a drastic change in the marketing habits of the area.



This Week in Lancaster Farming

BY JACK REICHARD
75 Years Ago

August Hechler, a farmer living near Reading, Pa., suddenly disappeared from his home a few days later it was reported that the missing man was seen in Lebanon and Harrisburg. His wife refused to believe these reports, stating that every night she had a premonition that her husband's body was at the bottom of a neighborhood abandoned mine. She insisted that the deserted mine be searched. A number of neighbors agreed to make a search, and to their amazement found Hechler's body at the bottom of a 60-foot shaft in 15 feet of water, with a 20-pound stone fastened about his neck. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of suicide.

PASTOR'S WIDOW
COMMITS SUICIDE

At Bridgeport, Ala., Mrs. Wheeler, widow of the Rev. J. H. Wheeler, went to an orchard climbed a suitable limb of an apple tree and pruned off its branches. She then dressed in her best clothing and carefully arranged her hair. Being unable to find a rope, she made one out of colored yarn.

This she securely tied to the limb of the tree, formed a noose at one end, and encircling it about her neck sprang forward. She dropped about five feet and died of strangulation. Five children were left to survive.

William Strickler, one of the wealthiest men in Clark County, Indiana, in 1883, deeded a farm to each of his six children. The smallest farm was valued at \$11,000, the largest at over \$20,000. Strickler explained he did not want his will contested after his death, and desired to see all

his children satisfied before he died.

Seventy-five years ago there was only one nickel mine in operation in the United States. It was located in southern Lancaster County, Pa. The mine was some 200 feet deep and had been worked for 17 years. At that time the refined product was worth \$3 per pound.

UNITED STATES PAYS
CHEROKEE INDIANS CLAIM

Back in 1883 Secretary of the Treasury Teller paid to Chief Bushyhead, of the Cherokee Indians, \$300,000 appropriated by Congress for lands ceded to the United States by the Cherokee Nation. The money was to be distributed among Cherokees and their descendants then living, in accordance with the decision of the Cherokee Council.

50 Years Ago

Back in 1908 a Western farm family came near being exterminated because of a keg of liquor kept in the barn.

Five sons living at home, primed up to the hilt with booze drunk during the night, were told to milk the cows that morning. One of the boys pushed the cow he was milking against another next to him and knocked a brother off his perch. Starting with milk stools, the conflict spread until all were involved and pitchforks, shovels and pocket knives were brought into play. The parents attempting to quell the disturbance, were nearly killed.

Finally neighbors phoned in a riot call to the nearby town, and peace officers soon appeared on the scene and stopped the fight. Two of the boys were slashed and cut so severely that they all but bled to death, while the father, some 80 years of age, suffered a broken hip. Every member of the family, including the aged

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mother, required medical treatment for cuts and bruises.

As a matter of record, the dispatch stated that the children never had any educational advantages, nor had they ever attended the nearby church.

CORN MOULD ALARMS
PENNSYLVANIA FARMERS

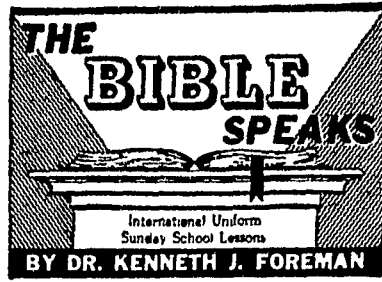
Pennsylvania farmers in general were greatly alarmed over the condition of their 1907 corn crop. The crop in many sections of the state, which had been cut before fully ripened, became mouldy and the death of a number of valuable farm animals resulted through its use as feed.

Veterinarians, who had been consulted on the matter, advised the destruction of the corn as soon as the mould appeared. The mould started in the center of the cob making it soft and mushy, soon affecting the whole ear. The fodder was similarly affected and equally harmful when used as feed, according to the veterinarians.

Landisville, Lancaster County, Pa., held the honor of having the finest suburban street car station in the United States, a half century ago. It was constructed entirely of glass, iron and concrete. The roof and spouting, all in one piece, was made of corrugated iron. The station was built jointly by the street car company and private contributions raised through the efforts of the late Simon B. Minnich.

25 Years Ago

Emphatic opposition was voiced by J. Barton Weeks, president of the Keystone Automobile Club, to a plan advanced by George C. Talbot, Speaker of the



Bible Material: Acts 2:26-38; 1 Timothy 4:6-16; II Timothy 2:14; 3:10-17; Devotional Reading: Psalm 119:33-40

Daring To Teach

Lesson for February 8, 1958

TEACHING is not always a drab matter of pounding facts into people's heads. It can be something much more exciting than spinning fine theories which only a few "egg-heads" can understand. Teaching can be dramatic; it can even be daring. It can be met not only with sleepy indifference but with stones, rotten eggs or worse. This is true of the teaching of the church. Admitted, what the church sometimes passes off for "teaching" is dull stuff. There are churches where what is taught seems to make no difference whatever to the people who hear it. There are churches where the preacher or teacher seems to have joined the politician in singing the praises of home, peace and mother, amen.



Dr. Foreman

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How It Was With Jesus

Teaching can get people into trouble. Jesus himself went to the cross because of his teachings. The mobs that nearly lynched him on more than one occasion were stirred by his teaching. Whether people were angered or not, they were always impressed, — astonished, Matthew says. Yet he dared to teach, and did not quiet down over "controversial" issues. He expected his followers to be equally daring, but he did not tell them to expect every one who heard them to believe them. If the church in any way follows Christ, it must be a teaching church, and must not shrink from teaching the unpopular, the unpleasant, when it is true. The first word spoken to Jesus after the resurrection, so far as our record goes, was the word Rabboni! which means Teacher! One of the last commands he gave his disciples was to go and in their turn make disciples of all nations — that is, make pupils, for "disciple" means "learner," "stu-

dent."

Teaching Through Centuries

All down the centuries we find the church teaching. Philip teaches a lone rider the meaning of a passage from the Bible; Paul highlights two special matters for Timothy's special concentration: himself—his personal life—and his teaching. Timothy is to entrust the truth to men who will be able to teach still others. When Paul is urging Timothy to follow his (Paul's) example, the first item he mentions in his teaching. When Paul holds up the importance of the Scriptures, the first point he mentions is the usefulness of the Bible in teaching. There was plenty of preaching in Paul's life, but he was not one to let teaching fall out of sight.

So it was in the long history of the church. It is true, there were places and times when the teaching duties of the church were forgotten. But as the Roman Empire crumbled and darkness fell across Europe, it was the Christian church which undertook the vast work of teaching the raw and untamed barbarian peoples of the continent. Every monastery was a center that kept the lamp of learning alight. One Bishop of the 8th and 9th centuries—Theodulph of Orleans, was not only the leading poet of his time, but as Bishop he insisted that every one of his priests establish a school and make education open to all. Gubert of Nogent, an Abbot who lived at the time of the Crusades, wrote a little book he called "How to Make a Sermon" but it is plain he had no use for pulpit orators, he wanted sermons from which wide awake listeners could learn Christian truth.

The Courage to Teach

In our time, what with the printing press, radio, TV, prosperity, and photography, the church teaches in many more ways, and more effectively, than could be done in any Christian century before now. In Sunday schools, day schools, colleges, conferences, study groups; in newspapers, quarterlies, tracts, magazines, books, film strips, catechisms, plays, in pronouncements of church courts, in textbooks, in popular books, in the findings of great interchurch study conferences such as the one at Oberlin last September; in these as by the week-to-week preaching of the Word all around the world, the church is teaching her members, often what many members do not welcome (as when a southern church speaks out against segregation), what the Word of God means when spoken in today's world.

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Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO ORDER SEEDS — Now is the time to be planning and ordering the farm and garden seeds needed this spring and summer. Some varieties of outstanding producers have limited supplies. Order early and be sure to get what you want.

TO REPAIR AND SERVICE MACHINERY — Work to be done on tractors or other farm machinery by yourself or your service man could well be started now. You will avoid the spring rush and be more satisfied. Repairs and attention now may avoid costly delays during the rush periods.

TO PREPARE STAND-BY POWER UNITS — With the vast use of electricity in our farm business a power failure may cause a major crisis on many farms. Many perishable products are held with the use of electricity, large dairy and poultry operations with the electric labor-saving devices may face critical labor problems in times of power failures. Generators operated with either engine or tractors might be a good investment.

TO PRACTICE PROPER SHEEP MANAGEMENT — Lambing time is the most important time of the year for the shepherd. Close supervision and management of the flock is essential to a profitable lamb crop. The ewe flock should be fed small amounts of a laxative grain ration daily, ample quantities of good legume hay, and be allowed daily outside exercise. These practices will largely prevent the "paralysis" condition quite common among sheep producers.

House of Representatives, to divert any portion of these funds would mean that thousands of workmen would be thrown out of employment, he added. He said it was on this theory that the Federal Government in its 1933 public program, had recognized work as one of the most effective and economical means of creating employment relieving distress, and at the same time obtaining an adequate return for the public's dollar.