

Eastern Farmer in Added Price Squeeze Brought on by Higher Farm Land Costs

COTTON IS NO longer king in the South and farmers in other parts of the nation are becoming more and more aware of this. Here in Lancaster County, the impact of the South on the broiler industry has been felt for several years and is getting stronger all the time.

Midwest cattlemen and feeders, too, are feeling a slight pinch being put on by the Southern farmer. Recent figures show that the Cornbelt is getting a definite bulge to the south and the trend is increasing.

Now comes word that large scale vegetable operations have been introduced into several areas of the South. While this does not seem, on the face of it, like much news, we are not referring to the age old winter vegetable producing areas of Florida and Texas, but to states like the Carolinas and Georgia where vegetable production was limited to the family garden.

Last year, for example, Robenson County, North Carolina, produced 120,000 bags of dry onions and plans even larger acreages for the coming season.

In the Western States things are happening too. Kansas, long hampered by a one-crop economy, which made for a boom or bust type of income depending on how well the wheat crop did, now has found that added income can be made from such crops as late onions and cantaloupes.

And around Kearney, Neb., commercial tomato production is being given a good field test. Early reports indicate that tomatoes may prove to be very successful there.

These changes point up a fact that has been hurting the Eastern farmer more and

more: As soon as costs of production here become high, farmers in the South or West are quick to jump in and produce that product about as well and at less cost. Transportation costs are becoming less a factor.

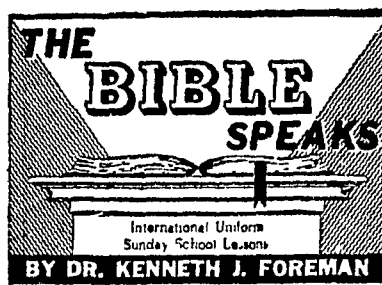
Therefore, it seems, it requires the Eastern farmer to produce a quality product at a low cost. When this cannot be done, the market is soon lost to other producers.

To do that, farms here are going to have to become more mechanized to keep down labor costs. Cultural practices will have to be adjusted to get the maximum return per acre of land. And, in many cases, it will mean operation of more acres of land.

With land prices as high as they are in this area, the farmer operates under the handicap of having such a tremendous part of his capital tied up in only one of the three means of production.

The economists tell us that the average farm will have the farm inventory divided almost equally in land, machinery and livestock. Here in Lancaster County, and in Southeastern Pennsylvania generally, the land cost will be about half the total assets of the farm.

Therefore we believe that a general decline in land prices is due in the not too distant future. No doubt land values here will always remain well above the national average because of the pressure for land for living brought about by the general industrialization of the area. But farmers will not long be able to farm, especially the young man just starting, if most of their money is tied up in land.



Bible Material: Luke 6:42-43, 5:1-3, Romans 10:14-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Ephesians 3:7-19
Devotional Reading: Mark 1:14-20

Faith By Ear

Lesson for February 16, 1958

WHY IS there so much talking in church? By the preacher, that is. There are denominations that don't take much stock in preaching—and in consequence are not famous for good sermons. But the churches supporting this column are all preaching churches. They make a great deal of it. When you attend a "worship service" at 11 A.M. on Sunday in one of these churches, out of an hour's time you will be expected to listen to a man talking at least half that time. Couldn't you get what the preacher is trying to say, faster, if he just passed out leaflets containing his sermon, all printed out?



Dr. Foreman

The Christian custom of preaching arose because this religion took its start among illiterate people. Those who could really read and write, beyond a few words, were far more rare than they now are in the civilized lands of the world. Furthermore, since all the first Christians were Jews, they were already used to the synagogue service, where from childhood they had been brought up to expect some one to read aloud and to explain the Scriptures.

Person to Person

If the Christian church had depended, when it began, on written literature, it would hardly have got a start. All through the New Testament one finds expressions like "faith comes by what is heard". Not by what is read! The very word "preaching" means proclaiming, and seldom refers to written proclamations. The question may occur to a modern Christian: "Isn't this out of date? Don't we live in an age of public schools and literacy? Are we expected always to have faith by ear, as it were, and not by eye?"

There are many good reasons

why even the most progressive churches have no intention of giving up preaching, or to put it on one side. It is quite true (and has always been true) that there are other ways of "hearing" the Gospel than by ear. Nevertheless preaching is still blessed by God. This does not mean that every so-called sermon enjoys God's blessing. Some "preaching" is no better than a lot of unlovely noise. But preaching is blessed; that is, by it men are aroused from indifference to God, they are converted, growing Christians are helped to grow, and suffering Christians are helped to take their burdens in a Christ-like way. Why is this? One of the reasons is that good preaching is person-to-person. It has a this-means-you overtone in it. A written thing can be ignored, thrown into a wastebasket, but it is harder to ignore a sincere man who is talking to you about God and you. Congregations could help themselves, and the preacher, if they would do something about this. Try to make out what the subject is, What's He Driving At?

The common expression, "What's he driving at?" really means, What is he trying to say, in a nutshell? What is the theme, the topic, the subject, of his remarks? A poor preacher may not even know, or he may know what he is trying to talk about, but his actual sermon may cast no light whatever on his subject. But in a good sermon everything the preacher says comes out of his central theme or idea. And—a most important point: his central theme or idea ought to be drawn from God's Word. If not, then the so-called preacher is actually only reading an essay or giving a rambling talk on some of his own notions.

What's He Driving For?

If a minister really preaches the Word of God, if he takes the whole Bible for his base-line, he will not lack for vital and thrilling subjects. But one of America's most famous preachers, whose wife used to ask him regularly every Friday night, "Darling, what's your subject for next Sunday?" was thrown into a tailspin by a different question from her, one night: "Darling, what's your object?" Preaching, when it is good, is persuasive. The object is to take people from where they are at least a little nearer to where they ought to be. Ministers are often taught to "preach for a verdict." If a minister is really preaching the Word, he will be proclaiming the Way of Life. He will be making the way to God real, simple, and the life in God real. Like Paul, he wants by all means "to win some"—to Christ.

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BY JACK REICHARD 75 Years Ago

A writer on the subject of Communism pointed out that the opinions and purposes of communists were regarded by most Americans as very dangerous in character because if carried out they would lead to the destruction of the existing order of society. The writer stated:

In America it is held that every man has the right to honestly earn and to hold property without any limit and to be protected in his possessions by the law. Communism in its extreme form denies the right to acquire property at all and announces its content principal in the brief sentence: Property is theft—every man who holds possession for his own use of any thing, however he may have acquired it, is guilty of stealing what belongs to the whole human race.

According to the writer the Communists of America in 1883 consisted chiefly of Frenchmen and Germans with a sprinkling of Poles, Spaniards, Italians and Irishmen and were not of the violent class.

Baltimore Claimed Best Butter Producing Cow

Back in 1883 Baltimore claimed it had the best butter producing cow in the United States which produced milk sufficient to make 25 pounds of butter in one week. She was bred in New Jersey and cost the owner \$2,000.

A group of benevolent men who established a coffee house in Boston with no pecuniary interest in mind were clearing on an average of \$1,000 per month. The establishment had elegant fixtures, billiard tables, a cigar stand and every accessory of a well furnished saloon of the mid 1800's except intoxicating drinks.

Seventy-five years ago devotion to public was evinced by a lady aged eighty who married a man of about the same age. She explained: "He came to my house so much if I didn't marry him people would talk

That same week, in 1883, the editor of the Waynesboro Record told his readers "that the report that he was father of eighteen children was not correct, as he had only fifteen."

50 Years Ago

An entertaining woman living in the State of Washington raised some 2,000 turkeys on her forty acre farm in the 1907 season. She devoted her energies almost exclusively to turkey raising, in which she had the assistance of three sons. She received an average of \$3.43 apiece, cleaning up about \$5,000 from the year's operations, a lot of money fifty years ago.

The woman claimed that the mild and dry climate of the Pacific slope was especially adapted to bringing the young turkeys through the critical first six weeks of their life. In hatching her large flock she used incubators and hens.

Top Price For Hogs Up To 1908

The highest price ever received for a hog in this or any other country up to 1908 was paid in January of that year to a hog raiser of Danville, Iowa, by a Missourian for the four-year old Poland-China boar Impudence, with a price tag of \$10,000. The hog was bought by the Iowa owner for \$4,000.

Farmers in general were interested in the rural parcels post measure introduced in Congress by Senator Burnham of New Hampshire in 1908. The bill provided for rural delivering of parcels containing merchandise and other articles weighing up to 11 pounds and not more than three feet six inches in length.

Japan Mushroom Growing Unique

In sections of Japan a regular business a half century ago was the growing of mushrooms and the method of cultivation was unique.

Oak trees six inches in diameter were felled and cut in lengths of six feet and the bark scarred in numerous places with knives. After laying on the ground for

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three years the logs were stacked in rows in a shady place. In a short time the fungous growth appeared and at the proper time it was cut and marketed. Following this piles of logs were scattered and the bark pounded with a heavy mallet. This treatment seemed to superinduce the growth of a second crop when the logs were restacked.

25 Years Ago

Total receipts collected from motorists using the Columbia-Wrightsville bridge across the Susquehanna River in January, 1933, were \$8,367.20 less than was required for the annual pay of the fourteen regular toll collectors employed according to figures made public by the Keystone Automobile Club.

Garrison P. Knox, manager of the club's York County Division, stated the first month's collection in 1933 amounted to \$19,832.80. The annual payroll of the toll collectors was \$28,200. This large sum was necessary because of the double set of toll collectors employed one to sell and the other to collect the tickets.

Knox recommended that the County Commissioners responsible for the operations of the bridge adopt the hand register system employed on other bridges which would reduce the number of toll collectors to seven instead of fourteen.

Of 265 motor vehicles stolen from Pennsylvania residents in January, 1933 the Bureau of Motor Vehicles reported that 181 were recovered.

In a report release for that same month the bureau of fire protection Pennsylvania State Police, announced that 67 cases of incendiary and suspicious fires were assigned to them for investigation.

Twenty-five years ago this week was "Fineless Week" at

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO FILE INCOME TAX REPORT — Farmers who did not file a tax estimate in January have until February 15 to file and pay their income tax. If an estimate was filed, then farmers have until April 15 to file the final return. These deadlines are for farmers ending their year on December 31.

TO USE CARE IN HAY BUYING — Be careful about the hay that is bought, it may contain undesirable weed seeds that will infest your farm. There are laws to prevent the sale of noxious weed seeds in crops, but none to prevent the spread of weed seeds in hay. Inspect it closely and do not buy additional weed problems for the future.

TO PRACTICE LIVESTOCK ISOLATION — Extreme caution should be used when new animals are purchased into the herd, many herds of breeding beef and dairy cattle have been re-infected from purchased animals. Imported animals should be isolated for 30 days and then blood tested. Cases of shipping fever will also be reduced with this sound management practice.

TO PLAN SPLIT LEGUME SEEDINGS — Farmers who are planning to broadcast alfalfa or clover seeds in the winter grain might use the method of broadcasting half of the amount late in February and the other half 19 days to two weeks later. By this method better coverage is attained and a thicker stand is realized. With the broadcast method early spring seedings are more successful, than those of late March and April.

the Public Library in Cambridge, Mass., resulting in the return by John McIntosh of a book, "The Story of Scotland" 38 years overdue.

When Cornelius C. Matthews applied for a license to wed Miss Mary B. Hayes at Manhattan, Kan., he handed the judge 350 pennies.

Instead of a honeymoon, Herbert Pierce of Springfield, Mo., went to prison for two years after stealing a shirt for his wedding.

A watermelon of the Tom Watson variety, weighing 65 pounds, was produced on the J. J. Simpson ranch, near Maryville, California, in 1933.