

# County Zoning Law Coupled with New Assessment Might Save Farmers Money

COUNTY zoning is a subject that is getting a considerable bit of attention here in Pennsylvania and elsewhere these days. One big reason for many farmers wanting such a set-up is that they believe that it will tend to reduce their tax load.

An investigation made in Illinois by the state university showed that while farmers were only about 10 per cent of the population of the state, and that they owned only some 30 per cent of the real estate, farmers were presented with a whopping tax bill that represented over 50 per cent of the real estate taxes in the state.

Now we are not saying that the situation is true here in such a degree, but people are people wherever you find them. It's easy for the tax man to see the 120 or however many acres you have on the farm. A house that cost \$50,000 often doesn't look much different from one that cost \$25,000.

And then there is this business of saving to the farmer living near an urban area. "Look here, your farm has more value because it may sometime be used for building lots. We are going to tax you more because of it."

This, in our mind, is one of the most inequitable situations that a farmer can face.

But to get back to the zoning business, proponents claim that by having the county rigidly zoned as to land use, a farmer in an agricultural zone need never have a worry about such a situation developing.

The administrators of the new tax re-

assessment project now going on in the county have assured us that land now in use as farm land, regardless of the proximity to choice building sites, will be assessed as farm land. One of the men pointed out the complexities of a situation of this sort of allowed to get out of hand.

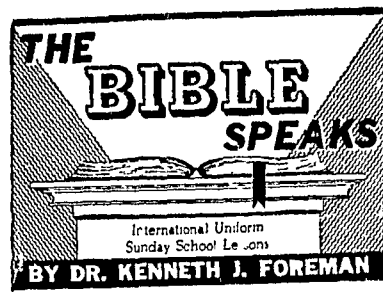
In one northern Pennsylvania town, the city fathers wanted all the land next to the main roads leading in and out of the town for a distance of one mile assessed as prospective building sites although they had been planted and were still planted to crops.

When the assessment teams looked at their maps, they saw that there were six main roads leading in and out of the town. This meant that 12 miles of farm land would be assessed at an inflated value. It also meant that the town would have to quadruple in size before all this land could be used. Needless to say, the city fathers were over-ruled.

Lancaster County farmers are, when the re-assessment program is completed, going to have a real and clearly defined tax base structure. A county zoning law would help protect that base. It would also help stabilize real estate values.

The legal problems and work in setting up such a system would be hard. But in such a highly populated county as Lancaster, or any of the other southeastern counties for that matter, we believe that the farmer would reap real benefits.

Some of the townships have done the job already, but a full and comprehensive program for the county as a whole would be much better.



Bible Material: Matthew 5:1-2, 13-16, Acts 19:21-41, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8, James 2:14-17, 1 Peter 1:13-16, 22  
Devotional Reading: Mark 4:26-32

## Church's Voice

Lesson for March 9, 1958

DOES society have a conscience? We all know what we mean by a "conscienceless" individual. He is a man who does whatever occurs to him, whatever he feels like doing. He can murder his own mother and regret only that he was caught. A man without a conscience does not see things as right and wrong, only as practical and impractical, what he can get by with and what he can't. Nobody loves a conscienceless man. Nobody wants to live with him, because he is dangerous, a human rattlesnake.



Dr. Foreman

If society has no conscience, then society, — social groups such as whole communities or even nations, — can become one vast rattlesnake. But where can society get a conscience? More important: Where can society get a conscience that is right? A faulty compass can lose a man. A faulty conscience can ruin him, and so it is with society.

### How God's Voice Is Heard

"The voice of conscience is the voice of God," it is sometimes said. This is true only in so far as conscience is in line with the Word of God. So if society is to have a conscience, it can only come from God's Word. But who will speak the Word to society? The mere existence of the Bible will not do it. The Bible no more teaches itself than books of mathematics do. The Church of God is expected to bring the Word of God to society; to insist that it be heard, to explain it, interpret it, to confront men with God's ideals and God's demands.

Conscience is sharpest — that is to say, it hurts most, when there is resistance to it. In fact, the more violent the resistance, the more the stabs of conscience are hurting.

### What Stifles the Voice?

As with individuals, so with the community. The voice of conscience can be stifled and smothered and finally silenced. One way to do it is the simple way: just refuse to listen. Another way is to borrow a trick from children who don't want to hear their mother asking for help in the kitchen: turn the radio higher, make such a racket nobody can be heard through it. The world around us, the ordinary ungodly world, is like an immense radio shouting to us in tones quite unlike the Word of God. If a person, or a community listens to the world's voices more than to the "still small voice" of God they will presently be unable to hear God at all. Put it as a plain question: Who is to tell us what is right and what is wrong? If we listen to what "everybody" says if we count noses and see what the majority says if we take our ideas from the world we shall end by being no different from the world. Like the church of Sardis we may have the name of being alive, but we shall be dead.

### Words and Deeds

The church itself let it be repeated ought to be the world's conscience, not the other way around. Every congregation ought to be a conscience in that community. It should never surrender that right and duty. But the church must be more than a voice. Its deeds must match its words. The church calls for unity among men; but how can it do this with a straight face if itself is all torn with factions and fights? The church calls for "economic justice", but how can it be taken seriously if it does not pay its own employees a decent wage? The church speaks for Christian education; but not convincingly when it will not support its own church colleges. The church speaks for temperance, but with what a feeble voice, when its own officers set an example of drinking, and its members mostly vote wet? What church people do speak even louder than what "the church" preaches.

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BY JACK REICHARD

## 75 Years Ago

People have always made embarrassing blunders in judging others by the clothes they wore. Some seventy years ago a dispatch out of Boston told of a prominent lawyer by the name of Whitman who appeared in that city dressed in a homespun suit and was quizzed by a number of fashionable guests at the public house.

As the lawyer entered the parlor of the house he noted several ladies and two gentlemen seated in the room, and overheard the remark from one of them "well here comes a countryman of the real home-spun genus." Whitman stared at the group and then sat down.

Say my friend you are from the country, remarked one of the gentlemen.

Yaas, answered the lawyer with a ludicrous twist of his face. The ladies giggled.

Many people where you came from?

Wal some. Plenty of ladies I suppose?

Yaas a fair sprinklin. I suppose you are quite a beau among them?

Yaas I beaus em home -- few meetin and singin schwel.

Perhaps the gentlemen from the country will take a glass of wine?

Thankcc. Dont keet if I do. The wine was brought.

You must drink a toast. O' er out! I eats toast.

I never heard of such a thing as drinkin it. But I can give ye a sentiment.

The ladies clapped their hands and received the following response.

Ladies and gentlemen permit me to wish you health and happiness with every other blessing which can afford and may you grow better and wiser with advancing years bearing in mind that outward appearances are oftentimes deceiving. You mistook me from my dress for a country boob, while I from the same superficial cause thought you were ladies and gentlemen. The mistake has

been mutual."

Just then Caleb Strong, Governor of the state entered and inquired for Mr. Whitman.

"Ah, here I am Governor. Glad to see you." Then turning to the dumb-founded company Whitman said:

I wish you a very good evening."

Seventy five years ago, "Metallic Red" was selected by the Postmaster General as the color for the new two cent postage stamps. The vignette used on the stamps was copied from the life cast from Houndin's statue of Washington.

## 50 Years Ago

A serious problem confronted Pennsylvania farmers who fattened cattle during the winter months for butchering purposes. The 1907 corn crop which was fed mainly to steers had turned out badly much of it spoiled in the cribs. The ears became very tough and the cattle refused to eat much of it. The corn also lacked fattening qualities requiring nearly twice the amount used in previous years to produce 100 pounds of meat. Many farmers were compelled to buy Western corn which was high in price and cut down profits.

## LANCASTER CO. TOBACCO LEADLOCK BROKEN

In Lancaster County where tobacco growers had held back their 1907 crop from the market because of a disagreement with dealers selling got into full swing during the early part of March 1908 with long line of wagons winding their way to the warehouses to unload their leaf.

The break in the deadlock was not only a great boom to the farmers but also provided employment to a large number of idle men. The large warehouses started packing operations and took on additional workmen to help handle the work.

## BEST COW IN THE WORLD

Dairymen of the country were

## Lancaster Farming

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watching with keen interest the test of a Holstein cow Colantha I V's Johanna which was being conducted by dairy officials of the Wisconsin experiment station. Achievements both along the line of yield of milk and butter fat showed the animal to be the best dairy cow on record, with a butter record for the best week of 28 17 pounds for the best month 110 83 pounds.

The cow's milk yield over a twelve month period was 27,432 7 pounds, nearly fourteen tons, with the milk testing 3.64 per cent butterfat.

A popcorn grower in central Iowa, where a large portion of the product was raised in this county a half century ago, had a yield of 2,000 bushels from 33 acres. The grower received \$1 per bushel.

## 25 Years Ago

Owners of pet shops in Pennsylvania which were offering native birds for sale under the guise of foreign species were warned they would be subject to heavy fines unless the practice was stopped. It was pointed out that under the game laws no one may sell or possess any protected birds which belongs to the same family as those in a wild state in the Commonwealth.

The warning was issued after a game protector noticed an advertisement offering blue hennets for sale. He visited the pet shop and identified the birds as indigo buntings.

Further investigation revealed that the cardinal or red bird as it is commonly called, also were being sold in the guise of a foreign resident.

## FARMS SERVED WITH ELECTRICITY AT RECORD

Government figures released in 1933 showed a gain of 90,800 in the number of farms served



Max Smith

## Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent

**TO CONTROL WILD GARLIC** — Early to mid-March depending upon weather conditions, is the time to spray wild garlic for best results. This perennial weed is usually one of the first to start growing in the spring and should be sprayed when four to six inches tall. The chemical to use is the ester form of 2,4-D at the rate of three pints per acre. When sprayed early in the spring very little damage is done to legumes in the pasture mixture.

**TO TOP-DRESS FORAGE CROPS** — Legumes are heavy feeders of both phosphorus and potash. Unless these elements are returned to the soil each year the fertility level of the soil will be reduced as well as the yield. In the case of alfalfa

it is best to apply the fertilizer after the last cutting in the fall, however, fields that are not treated last fall should be top-dressed during early March. The recommendation is 400 pounds per acre of 0-20-20 or 15-30.

**TO PLAN FOR LARGER CORN YIELDS** — With normal rainfall no doubt many corn yields will be broken in the next decade. The trend is toward thicker stands and heavier fertilizer applications, a plant population of 16 to 18 thousand stalks per acre should give good yields on heavy, fertile soil. The use of extra nitrogen especially where a grass-legume sod is not plowed down, either plowed down or side-dressed at the first cultivation should give results.

**TO KEEP CATTLE OFF PASTURE LAND** — The practice of allowing cattle to run over the main pasture area this early in the spring may do far more harm than good. The ground is so soft they will destroy many places and make the pasture rough. A small lot should be constructed to confine them until the grass gets some growth and the ground becomes more firm. Even with winter grains it is best not to graze the cattle immediately after heavy rains.

with electricity in 1931 the largest annual increase on record up to that time. The report stated:

"The American farm has taken to electric service with remarkable enthusiasm. At the moment almost a million farm homes have power — and 650,000 of

these obtain it from high tension lines owned by large utilities the cheapest and most efficient kind of service."

Before shooting himself Wilbur Lindsay, of Fort Worth, Tex., wrote "All women are chislers of one sort or another, they are gold diggers."