

# Phenomenal Rise in Farm Income Takes Some Venom from Farm Program Attack

THE STEADY rise in the average of farm prices in recent months to the highest level in almost five years is giving agriculture secretary Ezra Benson a defense that neither he nor his attackers had counted on.

The price increase of seven per cent since December and 11 per cent over a year ago won't, however, stop the debate over whether the present farm program should or should not be continued. Only a few think it should be.

President Eisenhower says he hasn't changed his opinion that new farm legislation is needed. Most congressmen disagree with him only as to what changes should be made. The odds are that no changes will be made this year.

The farm battle throughout the remainder of this year, including the election campaigning, will be a war of words more than action. A continued rise in farm prices could, however, take the edge off farm programs as a political issue.

The chances of adopting sound farm legislation have been lessened by the propaganda war that would do the Russians credit for half-truths and outright misrepresentation of the facts. The result has been to whip up anti-farmer resentments among consumers.

It's interesting to follow a dollar spent by a city housewife for food or clothing. Sixty cents are taken out for "services" before the remaining 40 cents reaches the producer.

Out of this must come 31 cents for hired labor, equipment, gasoline, fertilizer,

interest on debt, taxes and other operating costs. He has only 9 cents left for his labor, out of which he must pay family living costs. His average wage is less than 50 cents an hour.

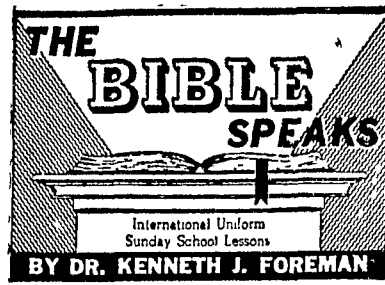
Consumers are told they pay for their food twice—once in higher prices and again when they pay their taxes. Any housewife will tell you that food costs a lot of money and that prices have been going up and up.

The other fact is that the average wage earner in 1957 could buy more and better food with a smaller percentage of his income than at any time in more than 40 years. From 1947 to 1957 factory wages increased 67 per cent, but food costs rose only 31 per cent.

Prices paid farmers for raw products have gone down by an average of 20 per cent in the past 10 years. All, and more, of the increased food costs are the result of higher processing and distribution costs.

In 1948 the farm price of wheat was \$2.81 a bushel and the average price for a pound loaf of bread was 13.8 cents. Last year the average price of wheat was \$2.05 a bushel and the average price of a loaf of bread was 19 cents. Wheat went down by 27 per cent and the price of bread went up 29 per cent.

In 1952 the government supported milk at 90 per cent of parity and the average price of milk was 22.3 cents a quart. In 1947 the government supported milk at 83 per cent of parity and the retail price of milk averaged 24.3 cents a quart.



Bible Material: Exodus 11:1-15:15  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 105:23-42

## God Sets Men Free

Lesson for April 27, 1958

THE thought of God should be the happiest thought in the world, but often it isn't. On business contracts the words "Act of God" always mean "catastrophe," something dire and dreadful. Just mention God, in a serious way, at some party or in private conversation, and people will stop smiling and look at you in a suspicious, almost resentful way. It is plain that some people don't like to think about God. They think of Him as the Eye in the Sky, sleeplessly watching. They think of Him as a Cosmic Calculator, forever at work adding up the good deeds and the misdeeds of all human beings, waiting for a slip, a big mistake, a sudden sin, to give Him the excuse to pounce. They think of Him as the Judge, all-knowing, un-forgiving, to whom and from whom there is no appeal.



Dr. Foreman

laws as they may about certain state or national laws; they comply, but with a sour face and a slow heart. Sometimes they spell it out: "I don't like this law, but it's the law and I'm obliged to carry it out. I have no choice." God's law, like man's, seem (to some people) like so many prison bars. But His laws are laws of freedom, not restraint, because He is the freedom-loving God. It is written into the Preface of the Ten Commandments: "I (the Giver of these laws) am the Lord thy God, that brought thee up . . . out of the house of bondage."

### A Movie's Mistake

The well-advertised and much-seen picture, "The Ten Commandments," devotes only ten minutes of its nearly four hours to the Ten Commandments. Most of the story is concerned (the narrator says) with the story of freedom against tyranny, of free men under God as against the slavery of life under a dictator. That is quite right about the Exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt. It was the birth of a free people. By intention, the picture hit the nail on the head. But the picture itself didn't hit that nail at all. Freedom, in the picture, is just getting away, breaking loose, drowning your enemies and leaving your masters behind. But the Bible's idea of freedom is always attached to a question: What will you do with it? Freedom-from is not enough. There has to be freedom-for. The generation that left Egypt were not condemned to long wanderings, as the picture suggested, for that riotous night at Sinai. They were made to die in the wilderness because at a critical moment they refused to fight for the land of promise. (See Numbers 13, 14.)

### God's Free Men

God sets men free today—he has always done it—in a more profound sense than changing their status from slaves to citizens. God sets men free in their souls. He creates a free heart as well as a clean one. God's men are not ordinary men carrying an extra load of Must's and Mustn't's. God's people are set free from the "law of sin and death," not free to do as they please, but free to serve God and man. God's free men discover that freedom under God does not mean freedom from responsibility to God. Quite the contrary. No man can stand in the liberty of faith and at the same time reject his responsibility to the God in whom he says he believes. Freedom as a child sees it means having everything his own way. Freedom for the mature means seeking always God's way.

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### God the Deliverer

When people think of God in such ways, religion becomes a very unhappy and even wretched form of slow self-torture. It is like living in a prison or a concentration camp, under the guard's constantly watching eye. Now this is the very opposite of Bible religion. The keynote of the Bible from beginning to end is Salvation, which means Deliverance, which means to be set free. God is not a God who enjoys getting people into trouble, he takes delight in getting them out of it. The root of a man's feeling toward God should not be fear, but loving gratitude.

### God and the Ten Commandments

Look at this from another angle again. How do people react to the Law of God, especially as we find His will in the Ten Commandments? Some people, not Christians of course, think of these

## Lancaster Farming

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door open for minimum term required by law, only through special state aid from the \$1,250,000 emergency fund provided by the Legislature in 1931, according to Dr. James N. Rule, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

If special aid had not been given to North Union Township school district in Fayette County, its schools would have been closed. With an allocation from the State Council of Education, and renewed efforts to collect outstanding taxes, this third class district was able to continue its schools for the nine month term. Hundreds of other districts were aided by the Council, and all Commonwealth schools were expected to complete their minimum terms required by law.

Dr. Rule warned that a much larger emergency fund for use of financially distressed school districts would be needed for the 1933-35 terms.

Of all the emergency legislation sponsored by Pres. F. D. Roosevelt it appears that the new farm relief bill had caused the greatest misgivings as to its ultimate results. President Roosevelt reminded the critics that the measure was only an experiment.

Twenty five years ago this week the state forest tree nurseries were in the midst of their spring shipments of forest tree seedlings. More than seven million young trees were being shipped to individuals in every county in Pennsylvania.

Nine of the 56 children attending the Martus School, Lapeer, Mich. were sons and daughters of John Sworsha, a member of the school board.

Arthur Boorl, who had served out a fine for obtaining money under false pretenses, walked out of jail at Mansfield, Ohio, to learn he had inherited \$6,000 and a garage at Fort Wayne, Indiana.



## This Week in Lancaster Farming

BY JACK REICHARD

### 50 Years Ago

Tornadoes swept sections of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama April 24, 1908, leaving a trail of dead and injured among a mass of ruins. The number killed was placed at about 350 and the number of painfully or seriously injured at 1,200, with several thousands left homeless.

Most of the dead were Negroes. Their number was not known because many were buried without careful records made.

In many towns whole blocks of little homes and cabins lay spread over the ground. Under this mass of wreckage hundreds died.

Fred Chaser, a farmer residing at Spring Road and Chestnut Avenue, Vineland, N. J., hit upon a novel idea of burying the eggs in the sand of his sweet potato hotbed when his incubator broke down. The result had proved most gratifying, for the eggs hatched and the chicks were as lively and strong as those hatched by a mother hen.

Fifty years ago this week women wearing "Merry Widow" or cartwheel hats were requested to leave their headgear at the door if they attended the opening services of the Men's Church in Atlantic City, was announced by the pastor, the Rev. Sydney Goodman.

Women will be welcome to these services, but they will not be permitted to interfere with the comfort of the masculine worshippers, said the associate pastor.

Men were permitted to smoke and remove their coats if they desired.

In Lancaster County the largest plantation of tobacco in 1908 was planned on the J. Donald Cameron farms near Marietta, where 90 acres were prepared for the leaf. Cameron had 88 acres planted in 1907 with a yield of 117,834 pounds, which he sold at \$2.20 per hundredweight.

### 25 Years Ago

Most public schools in Pennsylvania had been able to keep their

A news dispatch to the Philadelphia Times from the Reading section reported that Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart, the wife of a well-to-do farmer, was arrested on the charge of cruelty to Rosa Strause, 12, who was employed in the home.

The girl claimed she was made to work in the hay fields doing a man's job and never received a full night's rest being compelled to rise at 1 a. m. to begin her wretched work.

She stated that one morning she was told to remove some dead chickens out of the garden and in doing it was obliged to cross a foot bridge and fell in the water. When she returned to the house it was alleged that Mrs. Stewart beat the girl in a terrible manner.

The authorities who investigated found the girl with her legs and feet swathed in dirty clothes. She had large sores on her feet with thorns and splinters festering in the flesh of her ankles and claws.

Mrs. Stewart was sick when arrested.

### CONGRESS REDUCED

### POSTAGE RATE

A bill to reduce letter postage from three to two cents was passed by both houses of Congress. The Postoffice Department announced the new law would go into effect Oct. 1, 1883.

The old three-cent stamp was to be abolished. The new two-cent stamp contained a tablet upon which was a profile of Washington. Surrounding the profile was an oval band with the words "United States Postage at the top. Beneath the band was a large '2' and at the extreme bottom the words "Two Cents."

Back in 1883 more than 9,000 commercial telegraph operators in 200 cities of the United States and Canada struck for higher wages and shorter hours.