

It's Official. Farm Income Has Jumped, And the Rest of the Year Should Be Good

FARM INCOME is running well above last year, according to the most recent figures released by the federal government. Prices of farm products are well above last year and are expected to average higher for the year than in 1957.

As the new harvest approaches, with prospects that supplies of some farm products will increase, notably vegetables, hogs, fed cattle and eggs, current levels of prices and incomes may move toward the levels of 1957.

But even if prices do slump, farm operators' realized net income in 1958 is expected to be from five to 10 per cent above the 11-1/2 billion realized in 1957.

This increase will reflect somewhat higher cash receipts from the products that farmers sell combined with cash income from Soil Bank payments. This increased income will, however, be partially offset by increased production costs, notably feeder cattle, interest and taxes.

During the first quarter of this year, the annual rate of farm operators' realized net incomes appeared to be about \$13 billion, compared with a rate of \$11.7 billion in the same quarter of 1957. The 11.7 billion prediction proved to be nearly accurate last year as the total for the year proved to be \$11.5 billion in realized net income.

Pennsylvania farmers have marketed \$119,109,000 worth of products in the first three months of this year, an increase

of nearly \$6 million over last year during the same period.

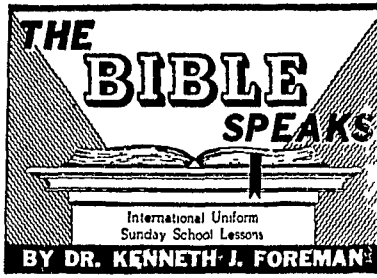
While production expenses have risen about three per cent nationally, and perhaps even more in Pennsylvania due to the need to buy feed and hay which were locally in short supply, this still leaves a good rise in net income in the state.

This rise in income on the farm in the face of a national recession is somewhat of a paradox. Usually farm prices are the first to fall in a recession. They fall faster, farther and stall there longer than any other segment of the economy.

But in the current recession, the farm income situation is apparently unaffected by the softness of the market in other areas.

There are several reasons that have been brought forward to explain away this phenomena. Some economists say that the farmer has been suffering his own private recession for the past two or three years and that this general economic recession has tended to bring things back into better balance again.

Add to this the money in the economy from Soil Bank payments, unemployment compensation, and the "rolling" layoffs that have typified this recession, it would seem the total purchasing power of the nation has not suffered too greatly insofar as food purchases are concerned.



Bible Material: Exodus 19-20; Deuteronomy 5
Devotional Reading: Psalm 119:137-144

Laws of God

Lesson for May 4, 1958

THE moving picture, "The Ten Commandments," will probably still be going strong at the time this column appears in print. Some of our readers will have seen it and liked it; some will feel that the Bible should never be made into a movie at all. Now there have been innumerable stories and novels based on the Bible, and if these are in order, then a movie is in order. But if a picture or a book uses Bible material it should use it and not mis-use it. It may serve to bring out some truths about the real Ten Commandments if we take this opportunity to point out some of the wrong angles of that famous picture.



Dr. Foreman

The Wrong Title

In the first place, the title is misleading. The picture is not about the Ten Commandments. Approximately ten minutes out of three hours and 50 minutes are devoted to the Ten Commandments, and then they are neither explained nor applied except in a superficial way. The picture tells the story, mostly imaginary, of the unknown years of Moses as an Egyptian prince. Some of it is in line with the Bible, for instance, one gets a good idea of what it was to live as an aristocrat in ancient Egypt, as Moses did. Some of it is out of line with the Bible altogether, such as the story of the killing which led to Moses' flight from Egypt. Most of it casts no light on the Bible at all, but is the producer's idea of how it might have happened.— Ideas ranging from the probable to the highly improbable.

No Piece of Fireworks

And this brings us to our point. What exactly is wrong with the Ten Commandments part of this

moving picture? It's a small fraction of the whole colossal spectacle; but it is an important fraction. Three misleading notions which viewers who are not familiar with the Bible might take away can be mentioned. One: In the picture, the Ten Commandments are a piece of celestial fireworks. They do not come to Moses' mind nor through it. A fiery thing looking like something out of a Disney comedy streaks down and carves the Commandments, one by one, on a polished mountain side, while Moses cowers in helpless fear. Later on Moses (in the picture, not the Bible) "throws the book"—the two tombstone-size tablets—at Dathan, and in a terrific explosion the earth opens and swallows him up. Thus the Law of God is shown as something altogether out of this world, a sort of celestial magic, a sort of superhydrogen bomb. This is a long way from the truth about God's law as Paul saw it (Romans 1:14, 15), written on the hearts of men.

No One-way Religion

In the second place, this picture leaves out, where it ought by all means to be, the Bible story (Exodus 24) which shows that the people accepted this Law or these Laws, and covenanted to keep them. Religion is not a one-way street. Religion is not God making a fireworks-law and throwing it at people's heads. Religion as the Bible presents it is always covenant religion, that is to say two-way religion. Light might as well be darkness unless it is seen. Revelation reveals nothing until men respond to it.

Can One Love Such a God?

And this brings up perhaps the most serious point of all in the Bible, every law of God comes from His Grace; that is to say, His Will is not an arbitrary set of orders imposed on us by a hostile, still less an impersonal Power, but comes from a loving, personal God. If God were really nothing else but the terrifying, fiery, unpredictable, indescribable being of this picture, what possible meaning could there be in the commandment (Deut. 6:5) to love God with all our hearts? Love may be less spectacular than a whirling pillar of fire,—less useful for a "colossal" show. But when God finally revealed his real Self, it was not in a perfect flame, but in a perfect Person. Only as we know and love God personally can we appreciate and love his Law.

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BY JACK REICHARD

75 Years Ago

"How Longfellow Wrote His Poems" was the title of an interesting article back in 1883. According to an anonymous writer "The Psalm of Life" came into existence on a bright summer morn in July, 1830, at Cambridge, as the poet sat between two windows, at a small table, in the corner of his chamber. At that time he expressed his feelings, when recovering from a deep affliction, and kept it unpublished for some time.

One of the best known of all Longfellow's shorter poems is "Excelsior." That one word happened to catch his eye on an autumn evening in 1841, on a torn piece of newspaper, which immediately set fire to his imagination. Picking up a letter received that day from Charles Sumner, he crowded the verses of the poem upon the back of it.

"The Story of Evangeline" was suggested to Hawthorn by a friend who wished him to do a romance based on the suggestion. Hawthorne did not quite coincide with the idea and turned it over to Longfellow, who saw in it all the elements of a deep and tender idyl.

Seventy-five years ago fire destroyed every building on the grounds of Pennsylvania's Dauphin County Alms House except the laundry and school house. The blaze fanned by strong wind, was first discovered in the large frame stable located near the three story main building.

When the dwelling house caught fire the steward and his assistants to the insane department, forcing the excited inmates including 21 females and 17 males from their quarters. All were saved, but a number of them put up a desperate fight. One of the patients was severely burned when her clothing caught fire from sparks after she was out of the building.

The fire was accidentally started when one of the employees lit a pipe or cigar in the stable, igniting the hay. The loss was estimated at more than \$200,000.

Tents were procured and erected near the ruins as temporary

This Week in Lancaster Farming

quarters for the inmates. The insane were removed to the State Asylum near Harrisburg. The sick and injured were taken to a hospital.

50 Years Ago

For half a century Pennsylvania's public school system has been subjected to debate and criticism. Back in May, 1908, Dr. Frank Woodbury, in addressing the Pennsylvania State Association of Hospitals for the Insane, declared a large number of children then being educated in the public schools of Philadelphia would be fit subjects for asylums for the insane in their mature years.

Dr. Woodbury stated that under the Philadelphia mode of education the brains of children were "being filled with rot." He scored the school system saying that it failed to meet the needs of juveniles training and also failed to develop intellectual qualities in the children.

He asserted that the children in the public schools of Philadelphia were being educated in a series of technicalities which were entirely impractical. These technicalities, he maintained, were filling the brains of children with a lot of useless facts.

William Kuhl, a State Fish Warden from York, Pa., had two men arrested and convicted of fishing for shad within a quarter of a mile of the dam under construction across the Susquehanna River at McCall Ferry. At that time a State Law provided "that no one shall catch shad within a quarter of a mile below the dam."

Feminine Headgear Creates Problem For Telephone Co. Officials

Fifty years ago this week the "Merry Widow" hat caused considerable trouble at the new \$50,000 exchange of the Pennsylvania Telephone Co. at York, Pa.

The designers of the new building prided themselves upon their careful anticipation of all feminine needs while fitting out the apartments of the ladies. Their chief source of pride was a steel locker room, where every girl

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might place her belongings under lock and key.

It appears that all the girls wearing apparel could be placed in the locker except their "Merry Widow" hats. As a result, the hat had to be either worn or piled on top of the locker. The girls refused to allow the latter and the company balked at the former. Meantime an expert trouble adjuster had been employed by the company to solve the problem.

Little Max Crockett, Jr., fifteen-months old, died at Lewisburg Tenn., of wounds inflicted by a rooster. The boy fell in the yard and the rooster attacked him sinking its spurs deeply into the child's head.

25 Years Ago

Mamie M. N. Spotts, 38, of Morgantown, Berks County, Pa. tipped the scales at 395 pounds. She had received offers to join circuses and vaudeville troupes.

She was a graduate from the Philadelphia School of Nurses. In 1925 she traveled with a medicine show in Canada. In 1933 she planned to visit the Chicago World's Fair either as a fat lady or just a visitor.

In Lancaster County, fifty years ago this week, Howard Mowery, West Willow R1, went on a visit to an unoccupied two and one-half story farmhouse he owned near Smithville, when he discovered that someone had tried to burn the building. He found straw piled under a stairway leading into the basement. The stairway and joists were scorched, but had failed to ignite. Mowery notified State Police who investigated.

When C. H. Wilcox, Baraboo Wis. took a ride in his automobile that day, a wheel broke loose and rolled a half mile, hurdling over two fences and a woodpile, before it stopped.



Max Smith

spreading rabies, also, stray dogs should be regarded as dangerous. These animals, when infected, will attack both humans and domestic animals. There is little cure or treatment for rabies. Caution and prevention is very important. Farmers and residents of the rural areas can help eliminate this disease by destroying foxes and stray dogs.

TO ADJUST CORN POPULATION — Corn planting time is approaching and growers are urged to observe their plant population; the trend is toward thicker stands in order to get higher yields. Populations of 16 to 18 thousand plants per acre should be the goal on heavy fertile soils. With normal rainfall and with modern fertilizer applications the grower should get more corn than the usual 12 thousand population. The use of a complete fertilizer at planting time (300 pounds of 5-10-10) is highly recommended.

TO PLAN FOR TEMPORARY FORAGE CROPS — Many livestock producers have need for more pasture during the hot summer months. Sweet Sudan Grass (Piper variety) at the rate of 45 pounds per acre is one of the most productive for this area. Seed early in May until July 1 and it will be ready to graze in about six weeks time. The use of soybeans and forage sorghum at the rate of 1 1/2 bushel of beans and 25 pounds of sorghum (Hegari or Black Amber variety) per acre will make liberal amounts of good quality silage this fall. Plan to base your feeding program on good forage crops this season and next winter.