

# Economist Believes Co-ops Should Lead In Growing Trend to Vertical Integration

THIS week in Washington two officials had words to say about the implications of agricultural integration and how the farmer is likely to fare as integration gains a greater foothold.

Orlin J. Scoville, head of the farming efficiency section of the Agricultural Research Service said that the farmer who now operates at a high level of efficiency may be worse off if integration increases output and lowers prices, although he still will retain some bargaining power and still will be an efficient operator. Better off—due to integration—he said, will be the farmer who has not kept up with technological improvements and who has had limited capital.

Thus truly is a gloomy picture. The farmer who now is looked to as the man who makes agriculture a business is slated to become pinched by the farmer who never cared enough to keep up with what is going on in the business.

But another speaker for the USDA, Martin A. Abrahamsen, director of the purchasing division of the Farmer Cooperative Service, gave some suggestions that may help the farmer out of this dilemma.

He suggests that cooperatives put their houses in order, sharpen up their business practices and go out and integrate with the farm operator.

This, we know, is sacrilege. Co-ops, in this area, are against integration in all shapes and forms.

Or are they? Let's take a look.

In his off-the-farm operations the

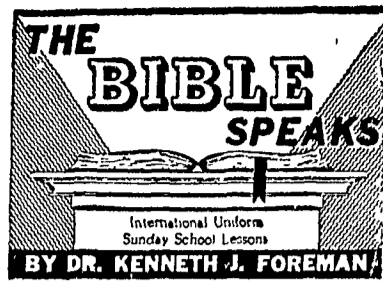
farmer, either through his cooperative or as an individual operator, has done quite a bit of integrating in marketing his products, in buying a wide variety of farm supplies and in providing himself with a growing list of farm business and production services.

Abrahamsen says that it is generally recognized that an important motivating force back of integration is the desire to make more money. It is this same objective that prompts the farmer to use his cooperative to further integrate his operations.

Cooperatives, if they are going to meet their new responsibilities in the age of integration are going to have to meet new needs of the farmer, develop broader horizons, provide better management, build better industrial relations and assume business risks.

If the cooperatives will remove their heads from the sand and start to integrate, Abrahamsen predicts that farmers will receive greater savings from an expanded operation; receive improved service because the cooperative will be able to employ superior practices, and will have greater bargaining power due to larger volume of marketings and purchases.

Already integrating are several southern poultry co-ops, fruit growers co-ops, nut growers, milk producers and grain growers. Most of the organizations are in the West, although there has been some interest and action by East Coast poultry cooperatives.



Bible Material: Numbers 13:17-14:45 Devotional Reading: Hebrews 3:5-19

## Minority Report

Lesson for May 18, 1958

"SUCH popularity must be deserved." "Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong." "The voice of the people is the voice of God." They aren't necessarily so, such slogans as these. Popularity may be no more than the effect of clever but dishonest advertising. Fifty million Frenchmen, or Americans or what have you, can be and sometimes have been as wrong as sin. The voice of the people can be the voice of the devil.



Dr. Foreman

To be sure, the majority may be right some of the time, even most of the time. But it is no infallible guide, and it's a wise man that knows when the minority report is the right one.

### God's Examination Day

Indeed, the ability to detect the truth, even when it is in a minority report, has sometimes been God's way of sifting, of testing, his people. There is an interesting Old Testament story which tells of one of these examination days of God sets for men now and then. The people of Israel, set free from Egypt, had been in the wilderness a little over a year. They had been given the Law, they had what we would call an organized church, they had a military organization. All was set now for the actual march into Canaan, the promised land. Under God's inspiration, Moses takes precautions first. He sends twelve leading men in to "spy out the land," perhaps the first "intelligence" section of any army recorded in history. They stayed in Canaan for nearly six weeks, without any secrecy (Passing as Egyptians they would attract no attention in the Canaan of that era.) They came back with one unanimous report: Canaan was a country well worth the conquest, and the conquest would not be easy. At that point the unanimity stopped. The tricky part of any

report is the recommendations. The majority recommended: Don't attempt to enter Canaan. Too much fighting, certain defeat. A little minority of two, two against ten, recommended: We can do it by God's help, if we will; so let it be done! Choosing between those two reports was God's examination for the whole people—and they failed. For they thought the majority report was right.

### The Wisdom of Faith

A majority report nearly always sounds right, and this one did. It was a shrewd analysis of an obvious risky situation. But it was wrong. For the minority report brought in by Joshua and Caleb had a different kind of wisdom, the wisdom of faith. Now it takes faith to see the wisdom of faith; and that is why, to those without it, faith so often looks like sheer foolishness and even idiocy. It is a test of faith, to begin with, to see that a minority can ever be right. Left to our natural selves, we make wisdom a matter of arithmetic, right and wrong a matter of counting noses. We wait, before making up our minds, till we see which way the bandwagon is headed, and then we jump aboard. True faith asks first, What is right? What does God say? and not What do people say? What does the biggest crowd think?

### Counting God In

The wisdom of faith, now in our time as in the time of Joshua, has confidence enough in God always to count him in. Most Americans believe in God, so the polls say. But most Americans make plans, large or small, without any thought of God, precisely as if he did not exist. That majority report of the ten timid spies never mentioned God at all. Maybe they just forgot him entirely. Maybe they thought he had worn himself out getting the people out of Egypt. Anyway, their plans and recommendations had no room for him. The minority report, with the wisdom of faith, included five little words (in our English translation) that made all the difference: "The LORD is with us." The people could not believe that—and so they died without ever setting foot on Canaan's soil. It takes faith to count God in to your plans and your hopes. It takes faith to believe that what God wants done, can be done. The test of faith is not the sure thing, the project that can't miss. The test of faith is not the bright day but the dark one. Jesus himself once spoke of a time when men would faint with fear and foreboding of what is coming on the world. Then, he said, then, lift up your heads!

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## Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly  
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Bird authorities were summoned who pronounced it an American Eagle which was the size of a large turkey. An examination found the bird was uninjured, as only one shot had struck the wing, paralyzing it for a few moments.

Smith placed the eagle in a large box, and the following day being Sunday, several hundred persons visited the farm to see the bird.

### 25 Years Ago

In a letter from U. S. Post Office Department to Pennsylvania's Secretary of Highways, Samuel S. Lewis, the department praised the state for its good rural roads.

Good rural roads, the post-office officials pointed out, enabled the rural free delivery mail carriers to cover their routes in a fraction of the time formerly required. By retiring the horse drawn equipment for the faster motor vehicle, two or more of the old slow routes were consolidated at a substantial saving in operation costs.

Between 1923 and 1933 the post-office department made 128 rural routes consolidations in Pennsylvania effecting a total annual saving of \$138,075. In addition rural Pennsylvania was getting earlier mail deliveries.

Postmaster Thomas J. Langfitt at Washington, Pa., stated his office served more than 10,000 rural mail patrons who received their mail before noon each day the year round.

Back in May 1933 at the annual convention of the Knights and Ladies of the Golden Eagle held at Easton it was decided the 1934 gathering would take place at York, Pa.

Twenty five years ago this week a great six-day bazaar was held at 131 North Queen Street Lancaster where articles made by the blind of the county were placed on display for sale.

## This Week in Lancaster Farming



BY JACK REICHARD

with the loss estimated at \$350,000

### 75 Years Ago

The Indian papoose tied to its board is not unfamiliar to Americans but it seems that many babies not born in this country were subjected to similar treatment.

Seventy five years ago babies born in Germany were not allowed the same freedom as those in America. For the most part of their first year of earthly pilgrimage German babies were tightly wound up in swaddling clothes with both arms and legs pinioned and carried about on pillows especially made for the purpose.

After they escaped from their wrappings a bag of feathers was tied on their backs so when they tumbled over they had something to fall upon. Those of the poorer classes were laid in a basket with a little bag of sugar in their mouths and were expected to behave themselves without much further attention from mother or nurse. The nurses on the streets carried the babies in their arms on a pillow tied to it by pink ribbons, laying as still and motionless as if they were little mummies.

In the case of Ex-Treasurer Marshall J. Polk, the jury turned in a verdict of embezzlement fixing the penalty at imprisonment for twenty years and imposing a fine of \$400,000, the full amount of the embezzlement. Polk was a nephew and the adopted son of the late Ex-President James Knox Polk.

State Senator Lovell of Trenton, N. J. brought suit against the Western Union Telegraph Co. for the amount of \$10,000 for the delay of a telegram three days in a distance of thirty miles in a relay loss in a large poll transmission.

W. K. Van derbilt of New York had ordered a Russian troika which was a two-wheeled carriage drawn by three horses harnessed abreast.

The extensive plants of the Howe Sewing Machine Co. Bridgeport, Conn. were destroyed by fire seventy five years ago.

A pet pigeon saved the life of James Myers, a youngster residing on a farm near Hanover, Pa. when the boy met with a peculiar accident while climbing over a fence in the meadow.

The lad slipped and tumbled among some tangled vines, which caught his feet and left him hanging head downward over a rocky ravine about six feet deep. The boy made a struggle but was unable to free himself. The pigeon which was raised by the youngster and always accompanied him about the farm flew back to the barn, flapping its wings and cooing in such unusual manner it attracted the youth's father, who followed the bird to the ravine in time to save his son who was found in an unconscious condition.

During that same week in May back in 1908 John Ford, of Hanover, Pa., tried to frighten his brother Harry by playing ghost and was confined to his home with a bullet wound in the thigh. On his way home from a neighbor's house that night Harry passed a cemetery which his brother had told him was haunted. He saw a white figure standing on the tallest tombstone and giving a pistol shot at it.

After the shooting Harry ran home without investigating and did not know he had shot his brother until John came limping into the house. His injury was not serious.

William Smith, a Lancaster County farmer residing near Akron, had an exciting experience that Saturday morning 50 years ago this week. There was a lot of commotion among the cows along the edge of the woods adjoining his property and Smith took his gun and went to investigate. He found the cause of the noise to be an unusual large bird which had taken perch on the top of a high tree. In an effort to save the bird Smith aimed at its wing and brought the bird fluttering to the ground where he succeeded in capturing it after a hard fight.