

Current Farm Price Boom Works Against Drouth-Stricken Western Stockmen

EVERY COIN has two faces. This is true with the current agricultural boom. Here, reproduced in part, is an editorial from the Farmer's Exchange, published in Indiana. It sums up very well some of the views from the other side of the fence.

"Statistics dealing with farm prices and incomes may be enlightening and they may be cruelly deceptive. An example may be found in a typical headline, 'Reports show farmers getting higher prices'.

"This is true for only a portion of our farm population, for some who produce vegetables and citrus fruits or livestock for market. But good price per unit means good income only when the volume for sale is sufficient. It is small consolation to thousands of vegetable and citrus growers of the south to know that prices are high for the crops they tried to grow, when all or most of their crops have been destroyed by frost and rains. Where one grower profits by high prices, many more will lose their season's work and possibly ownership of the very land they planted, or be forced by losses to cease operations on leased land. They are obliged to join the ranks of the unemployed when jobs are scarce and through no fault of their own.

"Much of the same thing is true of the good livestock prices. The benefits seem, at first thought, to be widely distributed. But just a little analysis of the entire field reveals that this is not correct.

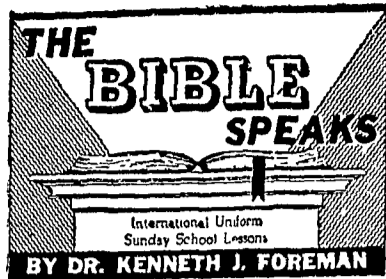
"A five-year drouth over the Great

Plains, which is the heart of the cattle region, had forced many to reduce their herds and others out of business. It is cruelly deceptive to assume that these farmers are profiting by high prices of cattle when they are obliged to buy to replenish herds with the coming of the rains, and have few, if any cattle to sell. The result is—stock that would normally go to market are held for breeding which reduces market receipts enough to create a strong market for others.

"The woes of the cattleman of the plains do not end here. By the time he can raise young stock for sale, the market price will be down again, according to the law of the cattle cycle.

"It would seem here that the misfortune of one group of farmers serves to make another group prosperous, under a system where the farmer has only partial control of both production and marketing.

"The free use of statistical averages in reporting farm yields, prices and incomes is legitimate, but may carry wrong implications. Plenty of illustrations can be found. Here is one top level source: 'No recession in farming.' It is based on the mere fact that the average farm price has advanced 5 per cent in the last two months. But even with this price advance the price level is only 87 per cent of parity. Any other group of our population would regard themselves in a real depression if prices were only 87 per cent of an admitted fair price—that's what parity is.



Bible Material: Deuteronomy 6:11. Devotional Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20.

Life, Law and God

Lesson for May 25, 1958

THERE are three kinds of law in the Old Testament. Christians are sometimes confused about them because of not stopping to consider just what these kinds of law are. The Ten Commandments come first of all. They are the key to all the other laws. From that day to this—or for that matter, long before that time—all particular laws in human society, so far as they are good, will be seen to be particular cases or applications of some one or another of the Ten Commandments. These are universal, they are God's laws for all, they are still the basic pattern of right living.



Dr. Foreman

Second are the "statutes" as they are sometimes called, the special laws for ancient Israel, embedded in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, in various legal codes. These are like the laws of any country or city that no longer exists. The law died when the country died. What is still living in the statutes is their principles, and these are as good as new. The third class of laws is the great mass of regulations governing the rituals and the sacrifices. These have no binding effect whatever today, because the Tabernacle and Temple are no more, and "Christ our Passover" has been once and for all sacrificed for us.

God's Law No Barbed-Wire Fence

What is said about the Law of God in Deuteronomy 6 and 11, not to mention elsewhere, supports three propositions. If we put each of these propositions negatively, it is because the opposite proposition is positive, but positively wrong. First it must be said, against a chorus of croakers, that God's Law is no barbed-wire or any other sort of fence. It is not a chain, hand cuffs, nor a prison wall. It does

not repress, it releases. Note how often in these chapters, and in the Bible, God's will and law are connected with life. Religion has been called (falsely) a "set of scruples,"—that is to say, all that religion can do for a man is to make him dreadfully uncomfortable in the region of the conscience. That is, definitely not the idea of Deuteronomy. The law of God sets man free. It no more hinders him than a railway track hinders the train.

God's Law Not Superfluous

Another proposition suggested by Deuteronomy is that the law of God is not superfluous. Some people think that because we live under grace, as Christians do, the law is not needed any more. A remark made by the great Saint Augustine is often quoted and enlarged on: Love God, said he, and then you can do as you please. Any act done out of love is right, therefore all you need is love, and the law will take care of itself. Now it is not true that all acts done from love are right. A good many really vicious things have been perpetrated in the name of God by men who loved God with all their might. There have been some quite benevolent tyrants. The New Testament does not suggest that we have grown beyond the law of God now that we know the new law of Love. Rather, love shows us ways in which we may fulfill God's laws. You will find "Love God with all your heart" in Deuteronomy (6:5) and "Love your neighbor as yourself" in Leviticus (19:18). But no writer or user of the Old Testament has supposed that all the other laws but those two could be erased.

God's Law Not God's Whim

An important third point about the Law of God is suggested in these chapters from Deuteronomy. It is the right answer to an old question: Could God have turned the Ten Commandments upside down, so to speak, if he had wanted to? Could he just as well have said, Thou shalt have others Gods before me . . . Thou shalt kill, thou shalt commit adultery, dishonor thy parents, lie and steal? Did he draw these laws, so to speak, out of a cloud, as tickets are drawn at a raffle? In short, are the laws of God arbitrary, a matter of divine caprice? Is all we can say about "right" and "wrong" only "He wants it that way, so shut up!" Absolutely not. God made man, he made man in his own image. With man, and in man, God created and implanted the laws of man's existence. God's will for man is rooted in his love for us his children.

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BY JACK REICHARD

75 Years Ago

An article appearing in Appleton's Journal, 1883 gives some interesting facts relative to the transportation of mails in this country. In spite of the numerous railroads and steamboats, three quarters of a century ago the mails were still carried three miles by horses to one mile by railroads.

But the mails in general were increasing in weight and delivery. In the early 1800's mails for the South left the New York post-office carried by one man, who rowed a boat across the ferry then placed the mail in a waiting stage coach.

Away back in 1783 Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin had increased the speed of letters between Philadelphia and Boston by reducing the time from six to three weeks.

Seventy-five years ago Jenny Lind the famed Swedish soprano was living at South Kensington, England in a mansion surrounded by spacious lawns. She was sixty-three then and wore a wig. She sang only occasionally in the Bach Choir founded by her husband and at royal request. She had two married daughters and a son who was an officer in the British Army.

George W. Dixon of Bethlehem Pa. had given \$20,000 to the Lincoln Hall Female Seminary at Lititz, Lancaster County. The money was to be used for the erection of a Gothic Chapel as a memorial to his daughter, Mary Dixon who had graduated from the school.

Senor Barta, Spanish Minister to the United States shot and killed himself in his rooms at the Albermarle Hotel, N. Y. The reason was blamed on business troubles.

Bernard G. Schig, Assistant Surgeon U. S. A. was found dead in his bedroom at the Occidental Hotel, San Francisco with a bottle labeled poison by his side.

The cottage at Fordham, New York where Edgar Allan Poe had written "Bells" and "Annabel Lee" was sold at auction. Poes

initials which he cut on an apple tree in the orchard behind the cottage were still legible, seventy-five years ago.

50 Years Ago

Ella Reist, a Lancaster farmer near Manheim, had for several years grown Ginseng in a small way. Back in 1908 he sold his first crop to a Philadelphia wholesale drug company, receiving \$5 per pound for a crop of fifteen pounds of the dried roots which was taken from a bed 16 x 24 feet in size.

Fifty years ago the root of Ginseng was highly valued as a medicine among the Chinese, and was an item of export from United States to China.

Up to 1873 not more than \$25,000 was invested in the growing of oranges in California. But as a result of the introduction of the navel orange during that year the industry had grown into an investment in the cultivation of the orange amounting to over \$100,000,000 in California alone in 1908.

Fifty years ago this week farmers from all parts of Lancaster and York Counties were making trips daily to the Susquehanna River to procure the toothsome "Susquehanna Shad" which were being caught in unusual large numbers.

Apathy and enmity between the Irish and Dutch was quite evident in Lancaster County's Mt. Joy Township, back in 1908. Christ Shoemaker, a supervisor, was saying things to his horses in Dutch. An Irish hobo not understanding the dialect thought he was being gayed. The Irishman became furious and used all the adjectives at his command in giving Shoemaker a pedigree. This was too much for the Dutchman, and when the Irishman showed fight Shoemaker gave him a punching resulting in a pair of black eyes and a swollen nose.

Elsewhere in Lancaster County that week a Warwick teenage girl had a horrifying experience. She had returned from the cellar with a pan of potatoes. While peeling the tubers the girl was almost frightened out of her wits to see

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a snake, eighteen inches long, raise its slimy form in the dishpan. All preparations ended abruptly, and a hired man was called in to dispose of the reptile.

25 Years Ago

In the merry month of May, 1933, work at the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's new trout raising and stream improvement development on Spring Creek, near Bellefonte, was being pushed steadily to completion. A crew of fourteen workmen had already raised the level of the giant spring that fed the nursery ponds and installed aerators.

Other work well underway was the completion of a drainage canal and temporary ponds fed directly by water from Spring Creek. Small trout were to be placed in these ponds for experimental purposes, to determine rate of growth and reactions to the water supply from the stream.

At the upper tip of the project, which covered some ninety acres, a side channel had been constructed to divert the water of Spring Creek into a dam newly constructed. The first unit included sixty-four trout retaining ponds below the springs. Each of the ponds measured 100 feet in length and eight feet in width.

Twenty-five years ago this week a timely reminder from the Pennsylvania State College School of Agricultural cautioned all persons, farmers in particular to be especially vigilant in keeping a close check on blasting caps kept on their premises. It was pointed out that when warmer weather and school vacations lure youngsters out of doors accidents to children from exploding blasting caps increase. The authorities said the explosives and caps should be stored separately.

Morgan Cuttiss, of New York City, provided in his will for a hotel banquet for mourners who attended his funeral which took place 25 years ago this week.



Max Smith

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH
County Agricultural Agent

TO SPRAY CORN PRE-EMERGENCE — Spraying the corn field after planting and before the corn gets any true leaves for the control of grasses and weeds is recommended. The use of 1 to 1½ pounds per acre of the amine or the low-volatile ester form of 2,4-D per acre is the dosage. This method is very good for the control of grasses on the row especially in case of wet weather following the planting. The application of this spray when the corn is coming through the ground (spike stage) has given excellent results.

TO KILL CANADA THISTLES — All land owners are responsible for the control of Canada Thistles on their property, this is true in cities, small towns, or in the open country. These thistles are listed as one of the noxious weeds in Pennsylvania and laws state their compulsory control. Spraying with 2,4-D or with Amino Triazole during periods of rapid growth will give good results, allow ten days to two weeks time for the chemical to get down into the root system before plowing or cultivating.

TO BE CAREFUL OF TOBACCO BEDS — The weed spray chemical, 2,4-D is very dangerous on or near tobacco beds. The drift or fumes from near-by fields will often cause some damage to the young plants. Sprayers used on tobacco beds should be free from all 2,4-D residues, thorough soaking and washing of the sprayer with household ammonia will help reduce the danger. This residue will last for several years in a sprayer.

TO SIDE-DRESS CORN WITH NITROGEN — If side-dressing is to be done on a field of corn, it should be made at the first or second cultivation when the corn is under 10 inches tall, the earlier the better. After the corn is up extra nitrogen at this time should increase yields especially where a legume sod and manure was not plowed down. The nitrogen should be applied as deeply and as closely to the plant without cutting any side roots.

TO SOW TEMPORARY FORAGE CROPS — Mixtures of soybeans, sudan grass, and forage sorghums should be seeded during late May or early June for best results. If these crops are to be made into hay the curing conditions will usually be better during late August or September than later in the fall. The value of sweet sudan grass for grazing must be realized prior to time of killing frosts. Fertilizer should not be applied at the same time or come in direct contact with any of these seeds. Drill the fertilizer separately and prior to the seeding operation.