

Could This Happen Here?

WE ARE ONE of the very few nations who have not suffered from lack of food. Through the life of most now living we have produced more than producers were able to sell at a fair price.

Recently we have been paying farmers for not raising crops. While some agronomists see no early end to our so-called surpluses, others tell us that the end of surplus farm production may lie in the not very distant future.

The National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, which is generally not given to alarmist attitudes on this matter, in a recent leaflet calls attention to forces at work that could easily result in a permanent food shortage. They warn us that we can not depend too much or too long on scientific soil management or known technological advances to continually increase our food output. There are powerful forces at work that tend to counteract these. Our crop land per capita has been decreasing rapidly.

For instance, the per capita acreage of crop land available for food production in the United States was 3.1 acres in 1950. A pamphlet issued by Oklahoma State University a few years ago stated that 3 acres of good crop land per capita were necessary to supply each person with adequate nutrition.

When our acreage per capita falls below this it will be necessary for us to shift from a high protein diet centering largely in animal proteins consisting largely of meat to a diet consisting largely of cereals.

THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION, far from being spent, is just beginning. The past 50 years have seen hand and horse labor disappearing from the fields; trends today indicate that the future will bring complete mechanization and precision control of nearly all farmstead operations.

This forecast comes from Earl D. Anderson, President of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. As he sees it, four major trends are now in being: mechanization of farm chores and materials handling, providing proper environmental conditions for livestock, storing and processing crops for a marketing profit, and strong emphasis on quality control of farm products.

Of these four he considers the first is

Nations where the per capita acreage available for food production is an acre or less—the largest Asiatic nations have only a minor fraction of an acre—live almost entirely on cereals.

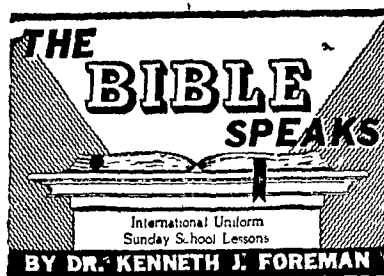
If present trends in our country continue, by 1975 we will have 228,000,000 people and only 2.2 acres per capita. As population increases the acreage per capita will steadily decrease—if available acreage nationally remains approximately constant. But it is not remaining constant. It is becoming less year by year.

The amount of productive land used for food is being rapidly cut down around nearly all major cities by subdivisions in suburban areas. Similarly, the creation of parks, airports, reservoirs, highways and other special uses is using up land faster than new and is being brought into cultivation by drainage or irrigation. By the year 2000—less than half a century away—at the present rate of growth we shall have 335,000,000 people and only 1.6 acre of crop land per person. Before we reach that point we will have to change from a predominantly meat diet to one consisting largely of cereals.

There are some who believe that Congress ought to take steps to guard what remains of our once limitless heritage of crop land. Those who hold to this view strongly urge a land-use survey to accurately determine just where we are now, and what should be our course to prevent us from becoming a have-not nation in the vital matter of soil resources sufficient for our needs. —The Farmer's Exchange

probably the most important. In his words: "The farmer who steps down from his tractor equipped with finger-tip control of the hydraulic mechanism is loathe to feed his cattle with a bushel basket." And this farmer no longer needs to do his chores the old hard way. The engineers have developed all manner of highly efficient machines to take the place of human muscle and more are coming.

Farm productivity has actually doubled since 1940 and this increase is as great as the total increase between 1820 and 1940. Mechanized equipment, electricity, improved fertilizers and pesticides—these are forces that have transformed farming to an almost miraculous degree. And new miracles are still coming. —The Farmer's Exchange



Bible Material: Exodus 20 9, 10; Nehemiah 3-4, Ecclesiastes 9 10; Ephesians 4 28, Colossians 3 22-4 1; Thesalonians 3 6-12.

Devotional Reading: Psalm 90 1-6, 13-17.

The Day's Work

Lesson for September 7, 1958

CAN WE talk of social justice and our jobs at the same time? If we can't we must admit that social justice will not work where perhaps it is more needed than in most places; it won't work where we spend most of our waking time, in that area of life that means so much to us: namely our jobs. Take away a man's job and you have destroyed the basis of his self-respect. Take his job and you leave him rootless, a drifter, unhappy and without meaning in a world that can find no use for him.



Dr. Foreman

"Work, or don't eat!"

When we turn to the Bible we should expect to find that the book which says so much about social justice (remember, the name is not important but the thing is!), would give some hints about how this principle of all-around fairness affects the day's work of men and women. And such is the case. The Apostle Paul, one of the "work-est" men that ever lived, had a problem church at Thessalonica. The Christians there had somehow got the notion that the end of this world was right around the corner. They were like people working in a field when a tornado is moving across the prairie; they take a lot more interest in the tornado than in finishing the job. So these people had quit their jobs and were living, it seems, on their good-natured and still working friends. Paul moved right into that situation with a sharp order, "If any one will not work, let him not eat." Work, in short, is part of a Christian's duty. The world does not owe anybody a living, no matter how pious he is.

What's wrong here?

The Sabbath Commandment does not start with the Sabbath. It starts with the other six days. "Six days you shall labor..." Old Testament and New alike set up work as part of the "whole duty of man."

But—here is where trouble begins. In our society as at present organized, it often happens that a man who wants to work, can't. Farmers sometimes have a hard time understanding that this is so. A farmer can find more to be done than he can do, year in year out. But the factory worker, the professional man, doesn't always find it so simple. The factory has a lay-off, or merges with another one, or just closes down. Thousands of men and women in a distant state can be thrown out of work by one decision in a New York office. As for the professional man, in hard times he does not have the clients he used to have. His expenses go on, his debts pile up, but his patients (if he is a doctor, for example) don't pay, they can't pay because they are out of work. So it may come about that literally millions of people, the highly educated and trained as well as countless unskilled workers, find themselves either working for nothing or not having a chance to work at all.

"Do it with your might!"

The wise reader will reflect on many other ways in which social justice and the day's work are related. But lest we forget, we must call to mind another important side to this. Suppose I get what the world really owes me—not a living, but the chance to make a living; suppose I have a job, then what? Society has fulfilled its part by making work possible for me. What is my part now? One thing surely is that I should give the job everything I've got. Social justice means seeing that no man is jobless. Social justice also means that no man with a job lies down on it.

There are certain industries where the "workers" have things so well sewn up that it is almost impossible to fire a man unless he actually gets drunk on the job. It is surely social injustice to demand a job, and at the same time demand to hold it whether one really works at it or not. Social justice, applied to the day's work, isn't all the responsibility of society—it is the responsibility of the workers as well. A Christian, especially, shows the genuineness of his Christianity by the way he goes about his day's work.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)



THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

FOUR BIG MEN

In Washington this week there is time and quiet, to reflect on some of the events and personalities which were the distinguishing marks of the 85th Congress.

We who write from Washington tend too often to place great emphasis on the events without adequately reporting on the men and frequently the women who influence and guide the nation and decisions of the government.

There are two types of officials in Washington. First the men whose names are mentioned in the headlines and second the men who make those headlines possible. The latter are at least as important as the former.

The men in the headlines were President Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, Defense Secretary Neil McElroy, and Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams. All of them did important jobs well.

Cool Heads In A Crisis

For each man in the headlines there were dozens whose hard work and devotion to duty in times of crisis made those headlines possible. Some of those were members of the 85th Congress.

The four named above are in the Administrative branch of government. Few of their decisions or actions which made headlines were taken without having consulted with the important leaders of Congress.

Congress is made up of both Democrats and Republicans and the two frequently have their

differences. That can be especially true when we have a Republican President and a Democratic majority in Congress, and it is almost inevitable in an election year.

Congressional unity on important national and international problems was a remarkable accomplishment of the 85th Congress. The credit for that unity belongs in a large measure to four leaders: two from each party, Johnson, Rayburn, Knowland & Martin.

Those are names familiar to most Americans but they seldom were in the headlines. Few even in Washington know the extent to which they put aside their political differences to close party rank on issues of great national importance.

Sen Lyndon Johnson the Majority Leader worked closely with Minority Leader Sen William Knowland on legislation vitally affecting the national interest. The same was true of Speaker Sam Rayburn and Minority Leader Joseph Martin in the House.

All four brushed aside both party and personal interests where the national interest was involved. And they did it without claiming or expecting personal gain or credit. Without that unity the 85th Congress would have been far less successful in maintaining national unity at a critical time.

Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly
Alfred C. Alspach, Publisher, Jack H. Owen, Editor, Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director, Robert J. Wiggins, Circulation Director

Established November 4, 1955

Published every Friday by OCTOBER NEWSPAPERS, Quarryville, Pa. Phone STerling 6-2132 or Lancaster, EXpress 4-3047

Entered as Second-Class matter at the Post Office, Quarryville, Pa., under Act of March 3, 1879

Subscription Rates: \$2 per year, three years \$5, Single copy Price 5 cents.

This year's crop harvest points up another tribute to the ingenuity and proved ability of the American farmer. Crop production in 1958 may equal the highest ever recorded in this country on a record low planted acreage.

For four straight years farm production has kept an even pace at the highest point in history. Only 330 million acres were planted this year but crop yields per acre have been climbing steadily since the early 1930's and they are just about double what they were in the drought year of 1936.

In the price picture the net income realized by farm operators the first half of this year is almost 5% more than the previous record set the first half of 1952. It was 11% more than in the first half of 1957.

However 1958 total net income is not expected to exceed 1957 by as much as it has the first half of the year. Predictions are that unusually high meat prices may come to an end this fall.

Prospects are that hog prices will be working lower in the next few months to the \$18 mark with the greatest price decline expected this month. Months of weak cattle prices

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO MAKE SILAGE CROPS — The month of September is most active for those making both corn and other temporary silage crops. Research work shows this type of preserving to be most efficient in getting the maximum of feed nutrients. Corn in the early dent stage is best for most livestock, steer feeders may want the kernels to be well dented for more fattening value. If frost hits the silage crop, while still in the field, it should be cut within a few days, in order to prevent the loss of leaves and becoming too dry.

TO CARE FOR DRY COWS — The total lactation production of most cows depends a great deal on her condition at freshening time, some may be fleshy but many are too thin in order to do their best. Pasture alone will seldom provide sufficient nutrients for proper condition. This is especially true for the last week or ten days prior to freshening. Many cows will respond well to 6 to 8 pounds of a fitting ration during this final resting period. Cows starting a lactation in good flesh will usually pay big dividends for this extra feed and care.

TO CONSIDER GLASS BLOCK IN DAIRY BARNs — Dairy men who are planning to remodel or expand their barns or milk houses might consider glass block as modern and recommended building material. They have insulating value, allow more light, are easy to keep clean, prevent condensation and are attractive. Are highly recommended in milk houses.

TO CONTINUE WEED CONTROL FOR NEXT YEAR — One of the best ways to have a good crop of weeds next year is to allow the mature plants to go to seed this fall. The fight against weeds must be every land owner at all times in order to make any progress. Too many weed patches are allowed to mature and broadcast seeds over the neighborhood. If weeds have matured at this time they should be cut and burned on the spot only to cut them at maturity will not give good results.

are predicted although feeder cattle demand is expected to remain strong.

Nonetheless, 1958 appears to be headed for the improvement category for the farmer.