

Editorial

Sitting in on the December meeting of Lancaster County Soil Conservation District's board of directors this week, we had an unusual opportunity to again witness the distinctive dedication and mutual respect which exists among ardent conservationists.

Following the regular business meeting, "County Conservation Commissioner" Charles Pierce, who served the board as temporary chairman for their elections, disgressed from regular actions for a moment to pay tribute to long-time board chairman, Amos Funk. He recalled the years of effort the Millersville farmer has devoted to conservation work and his quiet, natural skill in conducting district affairs.

Funk in turn, upon returning to the "chair", dismissed the compliments paid him as definitely unfounded and turned the light of recognition upon Pierce. He pointed out that it was upon "Charlie's" arrival on the board of county commissioners that the Soil District appropriation from this board was increased from \$85 to \$500 annually.

Pierce replied that he felt the previous allowance from the commissioner's had been for a "short-pants" organization and the district was deserving of better.

At any rate, the quiet, sincere appraisals of the district's various officers continued for several minutes, including particularly, as we recall, Wayne B. Rentschler, secretary-treasurer of the district board since organization in 1950 — and Henry Hackman, vice-chairman of the district and President of the Pennsylvania Soil District Directors' association.

What was said is not of particular import at the moment.

The important thing is the feeling of mutual regard which prevailed. It is an atmosphere common where dedicated, practical conservationists gather.

This is because "practical" conservationists are concerned with the future of mankind, of civilization and of the vital natural resources necessary to their existence. Theirs is the goal of maintaining, even improving the soil and water resources of this earth.

The practical conservationist is not opposed to change. He often is directly concerned with development. BUT, orderly, thrifty development of resources which cannot be replaced.

Nature requires 100 years to build

one inch of topsoil. A pasture fire, heavy rainstorm or windstorm can remove that century of building overnight.

A careful farmer can take virgin soil and actually improve its crop producing abilities, and even with care increase the topsoil depth over a period of time.

The men who candidly discussed each other's work in conservation Tuesday evening at the courthouse know all these things. In their self-sacrificing work, there can be little conflict over goals or methods. The goal is to save every possible particle of soil and randrop within the confines of Lancaster County.

We have heard SCD directors termed the "most important body of men in any and all rural counties of the United States." Another person terms the district boards and their co-workers, "Men who thought deeds as well as ideology practice the highest form of Christmas principals and devotion to the soil. Men who daily earn the highest respect of their fellow Americans and the entire brotherhood of man."

During meetings of SCD directors across the nation, we have witnessed this respect as given by one board member to others, almost without exception.

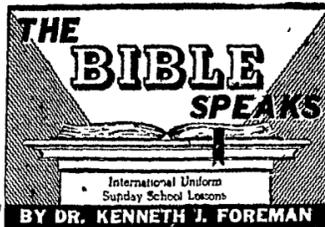
Again, rarely are the individuals involved conscious of deserving any personal recognition for their work. Each insists that others are doing much more for the "cause" and besides, the important thing is the work itself and success in it — not the individual workers.

Certainly these attitudes are most commendable and typical of the self-effacing approach of the "practical" conservationist.

Certainly the goal of conservation farming on every acre of Lancaster County farmland; Conservation as applied for crops, pasture and woodland; Conservation to prevent flooding, erosion and loss of beneficial wildlife are worthy of maximum efforts of every farmer.

May we suggest as Number One resolution for 1959:

Sharing of efforts to conserve and improve those resources which have earned the Garden Spot title for Lancaster County and surrounding areas. Encouragement of others to pause in their routine long enough to evaluate the need for conservation and the role they might play. Preparation to take a greater part in 1960.



Bible Material: Mark 8 27-9 1.
Devotional Reading: Acts 2 29-36.

Is Jesus Lord?

Lesson for December 28, 1958

ONE SUMMER day at a resort town then called Caesarea Philippi, the great words were spoken. It was a turning point in the history of Jesus; it was a central point in the history of the world. A small group of obscure men were asked a simple question by their leader, then almost as obscure as they were. "Who do you say that I am?" An odd question, at first hearing. Who should he be, who could he be, but what he was? Jesus was his name, a village called Nazareth once his home, more recently Capernaum. His occupation? Teacher, preacher, healer. A friend (it was said) of the lowest classes; at any rate he always seemed to have time for them.



Dr. Foreman

"You are the Christ?" These shabbily dressed friends of his, remember had never been to a Christian church in their lives. None then existed. They had never heard or sung a hymn to Christ, never heard a benediction in his name. They had not even heard the expression "Jesus Christ." Humanly speaking, they had no help in their answer. Humanly speaking, they could only have said,—"Who are you? Why, Jesus, of course, our friend and teacher, yes a prophet!"

But one of those men spoke with more than human insight that day. "You are the Christ," he said. A simple sentence; but so profound, so filled with meaning that Peter himself did not then fully realize what he was saying, and all the volumes that have been written about it cannot say the last word. For those were the words on which the Christian church is built. Those are the words which are the key to the future of mankind. That "confession" or affirmation of the fisherman Simon Peter contains in

germ the Christian creed: it sets Jesus apart as unique in the human race; it proclaims "him King of kings and Lord of all."

Is Jesus Lord?

"Christ" and "Lord" are very high titles for Jesus. Jesus himself knew that some people spoke and would speak of him in this way without meaning a word of it. He made somewhat bitter fun of people who would come around calling him "Lord, Lord," but never listened to what he taught and never did what he said to do. And that illustrates a curious point about the proposition "Jesus is the Christ" or "Jesus is Lord,"—they mean about the same thing—namely that in a sense they are true, in a sense not true. It is true that Jesus is Lord by right, by Gods design and destiny. It is true that he will reign. But is it true that he does reign? He is the Lord by right; but are his wishes respected, his commands obeyed, is he welcome in his own realm?

How the World Moves

At this time of the year, it is good to ask the old question. Is the world growing better or worse? Such a question cannot be answered unless there is some kind of a standard, some point of reference. The world may be growing more to suit you, or less so; that is not the point. The world is more comfortable than it used to be, more literate; but if every one on earth owned a college diploma, would that mean the world was growing better by that much? A preacher would be inclined to take his church as a point of reference. If he has taken in lots of new members, that's a sign the world is growing better fast. But no, a church could be taking in members by the powerful, and still actually be blocking the way to a better world.

The point of reference here suggested is this proposition, Jesus is Lord, meant sincerely, and lived by seriously. The world is growing better in so far as, and as fast as, the Lordship of Christ (which is always total by right) becomes total in fact. Is the world coming anywhere to recognize him as Lord of life? If the answer anywhere is Yes, more so than ever, then the world at that point is growing better; if the answer is No, there the world is growing worse. Every man can well begin the questioning with himself; for each person is the one part of the world for which—be it better or worse—he alone will be called to account.

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Davidson

THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson ARE TAXES HIGH

Congressmen returning to Washington this week for opening of the 86th Congress face a grim warning that all thought of a general tax reduction in 1959 must now be abandoned.

President Eisenhower, it now seems certain, will send to Congress a Federal budget calling for somewhere between three and five billion dollars more than presently estimated revenues for fiscal 1960.

That will put the burden on Democratic-controlled Congress to (1) slice the budget, (2) approve an increase in the federal debt, or (3) find ways of increasing tax revenues.

There is very little in prospect either in the international or national situation to encourage expectation that Federal spending will be substantially reduced anytime soon. Despite all the economy talk Congress isn't likely to cut Federal spending appreciably.

Tax Revision Due

There is strong resistance in Congress and among Administration fiscal experts to a continuing increase in a Federal debt that already is nearing \$290 billion. Congress will be concentrating on ways to increase income from

taxes. Some indication of what congressional tax experts will be considering is given by Rep. Wilbur D. Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee which has the job of developing "ways" and "means" of financing the Federal government. Rep. Mills, considered by many to be the nation's top tax expert, says he will favor a revision of taxing methods rather than an across-the-board increase in present tax rates. Tax income, he thinks, can be increased with out an increase in everybody's taxes.

His thinking on taxes is worth close consideration. The job of revamping the nation's Federal tax structure is long overdue. It should be based, as Rep. Mills points out, on ability to pay without stressing a "soak the rich approach".

Broadening the Base

One of the things that Rep. Mills will be aiming at is increased emphasis on direct rather than indirect taxes. He is against hidden taxes. "Taxes should be imposed in such a way that the taxpayer is aware of them at the time he pays them," Rep. Mills said.

He says he is not ready to

propose a Federal sales tax, but he thinks the way should be left open for that method if it becomes necessary sometime in the future.

"A great deal of revenue could be provided," he said, "by a broadening of the tax base, removal of some special deductions and preferences and an increase in rates on some specially favored income."

He favors a "flexible" system of taxes that would raise them during periods of national prosperity and lower them during business recessions. "The tax system would be geared to collect proportionately more taxes in good times and proportionately less in bad times," he said.

Rep. Mills' recommendations make sense and, although tax increases are never popular, they deserve the careful consideration of all congressmen.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



Max Smith

TO CHECK HUNTING EQUIPMENT — For many hunters the season is about over for this year. The most important item is to be sure that all guns are empty and put away from small children. Powder solvents may be used to clean the inside of the barrels, a coating of gun oil for all metal parts, and then store in a cool, dry place. Proper care will double the life of this important equipment.

TO REDUCE BARN ODORS — During the winter months many dairy barns become stuffy and loaded with foul, moist air, this means some difficulty in producing odor-free milk and in providing comfort for the milking herd. The use of the electric fan exhaust system is very important and practical in nearly all barns. This removes air gradually and improves the conditions. Also, the use of barn snow, ground limestone, or super-phosphate on the floors and gutters of the barn will improve the appearance as well as sanitary conditions.

TO PROVIDE OUTSIDE EXERCISE FOR CATTLE—The feeding of steers is more successful when the animals have a chance to get outside daily; if given the chance, they will spend more time out than in—even in very cold weather. This means they are more comfortable outside and will do better for their owner. The practice of housing steers in a tight, poorly-ventilated barn during the winter months is to be discouraged.

TO UTILIZE SMALL POTATOES—Livestock producers may use small potatoes in feeding steers, hogs and dairy cattle. When normal market demands are weak livestock will make use of this crop. Normally it requires about four pounds of potatoes to equal the feeding value of one pound of corn. Caution should be used in starting slowly to prevent digestive troubles. For hogs it is strongly recommended that the potatoes be cooked and the water discarded rather than fed.