

Editorial

Included in the morning's mail, was the USDA report, "The World Agricultural Situation - 1959", which opens on page one with this summarization of the subject matter.

"World agricultural production, after dropping slightly last year, will reach a new high in 1958 - 59. Present forecasts restore per capita production to the record reached two years earlier — three per cent above prewar.

Large stocks on hand add materially to the supplies available for consumption. Prices on world markets declined in 1957 - 58, and there was some decrease in world trade in farm products, reflecting a decline in demand for raw materials of farm origin, and an increased production and heavy stocks of some foods.

Though world agricultural trade may be maintained in 1958 - 59, stocks of several important commodities, including wheat, rice, feed grains, cotton and coffee, are likely to be larger at the end than at the beginning of the season."

The report then continues to a regional summary which informs us that:

Canada's production was higher in 1958 than 1957 in contrast to the gross national output, which remained steady. Feeder cattle exports increased, and pork supplies rose. Export programs were designed to reduce dairy surpluses. High level exports of wheat continued.

Latin America's output in '58 and '59 is forecast at 3.5 per cent above the '57-'58 growing season. (Southern Hemisphere summers extend through two years — opposed to northern winters.) Brazil may require 1.5 million tons of wheat imports due to frost in the early growing season. Argentina's grain output is expected to remain about the same, but meat production should decline.

U. S. imports to the northern Latin American countries will remain about the same, although their farm output is rising.

The economy of Western Europe was only mildly affected by the U. S. recession. However, individual commodity factors are expected to produce a decline in imports of the U. S. farm products. The region's agricultural production is expected to reach a record level and is forecast eight per cent above the 1952 - 55 average.

Wheat for milling purposes is the only major commodity of which produc-

tion is expected to decline — due to excessive rains, yields and quality will be off. Fruit and grape production will be up, especially fruit. Livestock production in Western Europe is climbing.

Eastern Europe's farm output is showing a rising trend under the influence of a number of incentives. Consumption is also rising, but the area is a net importer of food, whereas in prewar times it was net exporter.

Collective and state farms now include about one-third of Eastern Europe's farmland, with great regional variations in the degree of socialism—Czechoslovakia, three-fourths, in Yugoslavia, one-tenth.

Indications are that Soviet Union production of wheat and other small grains will not be far from the 1956 record level. Larger production of corn, sugar beets, potatoes and sunflower seed (a prime Soviet vegetable-oil source) is also expected. Increased stockpiling, livestock feeding and exporting may be expected from Russia in 1958 - 59.

Favorable weather, irrigation, fertilization and other practices account for much of this increase.

Production in northeast and southeast Asia increased three per cent over the previous year, with all countries except Malaya and the Philippines showing increases. South Asian levels remained static.

Drought conditions in western Asia hit several countries and reduced their total output, after high levels in 1957-58. The area as a whole will require larger imports of grains, but exports of cotton, tobacco, fruits, nuts and citrus will be normal.

Egypt continues as the only major chronic agricultural area of north Africa as all other countries of the region are enjoying excellent harvests.

The high cost of economic development programs and the low cost of mineral exports have placed some south African nations in a difficult financial position. The region is advancing agriculturally, but will again require imports of wheat and flour. Specialty export crops of cocoa, coffee, palm products, peanuts, rubber, tobacco and citrus will be large.

Australian and New Zealand farm production is expected to increase. Australia in crops, dairy and wool. New Zealand in meat, dairy and wool.



Call for Faith
Lesson for January 4, 1959

THE TOP and the bottom of a mountain often have quite different climates. In one case known to us, this difference in climate was not a matter of weather alone. You might say it reversed the weather. The particular mountain where these events are believed to have taken place, is so high that it bears snow even in the height of summer. But on the particular occasion of our story, the summer was at the top, the winter at the bottom. At the summit was a scene



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of glory and of peace; at the bottom was a scene of hustle, bustle, struggle . . . anything but glory. At the top was everything to encourage faith; at the bottom everything to discourage it.

Three Questions

Nevertheless it was at the bottom of the mountain that faith was most needed. The reader is invited to picture the story for himself. A crowd of bystanders . . . most of the incidents recorded in Jesus' life had this background of the gawking crowd. The disciples, red-faced, hot and flustered, trying to do a miracle and falling flat. The boy and man who were the center of the crowd; the boy an epileptic perhaps even then in a convulsion, and his distracted father, begging for help but getting none.

Epilepsy is a disease of the nervous system which is always embarrassing and sometimes dangerous. In those days (and in these too, without special medical help) attacks would come on without warning. The patient falls unconscious; if near water, he may drown, or if by a fireside, he may burn to death without help. Epileptics are not crazy, indeed they are often brighter than "normal" people. But they cannot often hold well-paid jobs, and in superstitious

communities no one will give jobs at all.

Can Faith Cure Everything?

Aside from all other questions, what faith can do, take this: Can faith cure everything? You know now (that is, doctors know) that faith goes a long way in the healing process of any disease, may be a major force in cures. It has been reliably stated that more than half the patients in American hospitals at given time would be discharged once, if their attitude were changed; in other words more people hospitalized for basically psychological reasons than for physical reasons. The physical troubles there, but it's the mental slant, causes the physical spill. But faith cure everything? Can it ward off everything? If a small epidemic were threatened, should Christians refuse vaccination, rely only on his faith? Most Christians would say No; all health departments would say No. And Christians agree that some troubles are not curable by faith. You cannot pray a broken, torn arm back into existence. Destroyed brain cells never grow again, saint or for sinner. The very child that believes most in miracle, the one most famous for its miracles.

Can Your Faith Help Me?

Another question: Can one man help another man? In the story it was the father's faith helped his boy. Is this always the case? Again we have to say sometimes yes, sometimes no. Jesus himself performed more than a cure, on the faith, not of the persons but of their families and friends. Christians should of course pray for their sick loved ones, for doctors and nurses and dentists too, without inquiring, "much faith can this patient self have?" Yet there are limits to this. Saving faith, the faith as a turning from darkness to light from evil to God, always has its own's own.

What is Faith's Power

The third question can be answered in very few words. What is the secret of faith's power? It's right in the story. The disciples were powerless, for their trust in themselves. They had forgotten to pray. Jesus connects faith with prayer. Faith alone is nothing, works, only if and because it holds on the power of the mighty God.

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THIS WEEK
—In Washington
With Clinton Davidson
WORK CUT OUT

The 86th Congress convening this next week in Washington has its work cut out for it

No Congress since the first Continental Congress convened 180 years ago, has faced more complex and difficult problems involving not only this nation but all of the world.

Democracy was a struggling infant in a hostile world when the first Congress met. The threat to its survival is no less serious today than it was almost two centuries ago.

The entire Free World is looking to the United States for leadership and support in making democracy the strong hope of keeping men free from oppressions of communism.

The Verge of War
We are so close to total war that one false step, by either leaders of democracy or communism, could plunge civilization back into the Dark Ages. This places a terrible responsibility on Congress as well as on the President.

What price must we be willing to pay for peace? In the coming year we will spend more than \$40 billion for defense weapons, plus another \$5 to \$6 billion in

foreign aid, to keep democracy strong throughout the Free World.

Even that does not assure continuing peace. The enemies of democracy must know that we will be willing to spend everything, even our lives if need be, to keep democracy alive in the world.

The problem of keeping the United States and our allies free overshadows everything else which will come before the 86th Congress. We can maintain our freedom, without war, only if we are strong enough to discourage any aggressor.

High-Caliber Leaders
We are fortunate in that we have capable and experienced men on the Congressional Committees which will be directly concerned with military and foreign affairs. They are men who always place national welfare above partisan politics.

In the Senate the chairman of the Armed Services Committee is Richard B. Russell of Georgia, a highly-regarded member of the Senate for more than 25 years. The ranking Republican member is Sen. Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts, a member of the Senate since 1944.

The House Armed Services Committee is chaired by Rep. Carl Vinson of Georgia, one of the real veterans of the House with 45 years of service. He probably knows as much about military affairs as any man in Washington. The ranking Republican is Leslie Arends of Illinois, a member of Congress since 1934.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is headed by that grand old man of Congress, Sen. Theodore Francis Green of Rhode Island, who was first elected in 1936. Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin, with 21 years in the Senate, is the ranking minority member.

The equally able House Foreign Affairs Committee is chaired by Rep. Thomas S. Gordon of Illinois, 17 years in Congress. The ranking Republican member is Robert Chipperfield, also of Illinois, member since 1938.

It is reassuring to know we have men of their caliber in responsible positions in Congress.

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1,000 4-H'ers May Join Tractor Clubs

University Park, Pa.—A record high enrollment of more than 1,000 Pennsylvania farm boys in 4-H tractor maintenance projects was anticipated today by 4-H leaders at Pennsylvania State University following the 7th annual 4-H Tractor Clinic held in the Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.

E. A. Mintmier, assistant 4-H leader, reported some 7,000 boys trained in safe and efficient tractor operation and care since this program was started in 1951.

He gave credit for success of the program to some 500 volunteer local leaders and to county agricultural agents who have charge of this and all other 4-H agricultural activities in the counties.

Clubs are now forming or reorganizing throughout the State. Boys interested in adopting this project for the first time are advised to contact Mintmier to see their county agent.

Originally limited to work on farm tractors, the project has branched out to include other farm machinery. Proper operation is taught for safety and efficient use and correct maintenance to longer machine life and less expense in repairs.

Renewal Of Contracts Major Soil Bank Goal

The Soil and Water Conservation Advisory Committee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture recently concluded its annual review of progress and problems in current U. S. DA conservation programs.

The committee expressed concern that conservation gains made on lands under contract in the Conservation Reserve and Great Plains Conservation Programs may be lost at expiration of the contracts. Strengthened educational programs to develop "a tradition of good land use" and increased participation by State and local gov-

ernments were seen as ways the public investment in such programs may be protected.

The committee agreed that conservation should not be solely a Federal government responsibility. It commended State governments for the increased participation in local conservation activities and urged extension of the trend.