

EDITORIAL

The recent development of the "watershed-meeting concept" for promotion of conservation among Lancaster County farmers is having a definite result in increasing the number of farms enrolled as District cooperators. For District officials and others responsible for the official promotion of conservation, this is indeed an encouraging outcome for their efforts.

The important thing to remember of course, is that SCD, CVA andboro officials who donate their time and efforts for these programs, do so with the full knowledge that a feeling of satisfaction will be their only reward. The farmers they sell on conservation are the ones who profit.

Over the years, from Pacific slope vineyards to Lancaster County tobacco patches; Montana wheat lands to Texas cotton fields, we've heard many excuses for farmers refusing or neglecting to adopt even the simplest conservation practices on their land. We have as yet to hear one worthy of consideration.

Someone has said that four inches of topsoil is all that stands between the human race and starvation. Four inches — this is what research indicates for average topsoil depth around the entire earth.

Four inches — the width of a man's hand. Take it away and as far as the human race is concerned, what lies beneath is nothing. Because it cannot support higher life and man perishes without it.

Civilizations have grown from rich river valleys and plains where the land provided great bounty. Great cities rose and dynasties flourished—and fell; when the "sophisticated" populace neglected the mother of their civilization, the land

The globe is decorated with "colorful" tributes to man's stupidity in caring for the soil. For nearly one-half century, "Muddy Mo" was the nickname for the silt-laden Missouri River, until construction of big dams slowed the current and cleared the river "too thick to drink and too thin to plow."

The Mississippi Delta, extending leagues beyond its boundaries when the white man discovered this continent, is rich testimony to the farming skill of mid-west land owners. Farmers who annually ship millions of tons of their best soil to deposits below New Orleans.

The Yellow Sea is a landmark off China's coast, created by the erosion of

that civilization's topsoil. For centuries, while millions starved in famine after famine, China shipped her life-giving soil to sea.

How often does the Lancaster County farmer—famed for his production skill—neglectfully plant corn rows up and down a steep slope in the rush of spring work. How many do it without thinking of the soil they are exposing to the unimpeded rush of heavy rainfall.

We have been told that nearly all Lancaster County farmers farm with conservation practices throughout.

We have reason to doubt.

Less than 2,000 county farmers are cooperating members of the Soil Conservation District. There are too many roads in the county where topsoil from adjoining fields pours over the asphalt after every heavy rain. There are too many gullies visible along hillsides. There are too many streams that are "too thick to drink and too thin to plow."

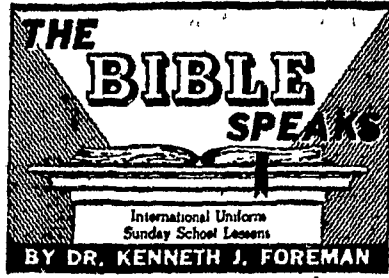
Erosion of soil and water resources doesn't show as fast in Lancaster County as in Frontier County, Nebraska, where this writer was covering cloudburst damage last year. You would hardly expect to see a gully, 20 feet wide and 10 to 15 feet deep, washed in one of the hillsides here from a 45-minute rain. But it happens in that High Plains country.

It happens on land where farmers have neglected to protect their most precious resource. We found the gully mentioned above, where it had completely cut through a road. But on the other side of that road was another field. It was being farmed on the same rotation, lying fallow one year to produce wheat the next. The only difference being — it didn't erode heavily after that cloudburst.

There were some small washouts through that field, but they were very minor. Conservation farming, with terraces, contour stripping and a stubble mulch cover, had not only saved the land; but absorbed nearly four inches of rainfall. That farmer had no worry of plowing around a canyon in his wheat field, or having his wheat "dust-out."

He had his crop insurance paid in full—through conservation. And when the Mississippi completed 1958's shipment of silt to the Delta; his farm had a very small freight bill.

How much will your 1959 water freight for soil cost?



One Plus God
Lesson for April 5, 1959

"ONE PLUS GOD" is a slogan that might fit many a strong life. It is not only the secret of such men as were the prophets of old, not only for Saint Paul and Saint Augustine and Martin Luther, and

other famous persons admired by Christians. The reader should realize that this can be true of every one who puts his trust in God. The price of admission to the goodly company of the saints is not cheap, but it is in every one's reach: Faith.



Dr. Foreman

Loyalty

This was true of the famous Old Testament hero named Samuel. He was what in football language is called a triple-threat man. He was a priest, prophet, judge, military advisor; and tradition even says he was a writer, though of course he did not live long enough to have written the books that bear his name in the Old Testament. (They do not claim to have been written by him.) Before his time there had been no kings, and indeed not very much unity among the tribes of Israel. Under his leadership the tribes were better united, and it would not be much exaggeration to say that Samuel "licked the tribes into shape"—the shape of a kingdom which he turned over to the first king-by-title, Saul. It is true that King Saul did not pay attention to Samuel's wisdom; but all the same, after the old prophet was dead, Saul thought so much of his advice that he actually tried to conjure him out of his grave just to hear him again.

What was the secret of Samuel's power over Israel? First of all it was a contagious loyalty to the one true God. It was a time when most men worshipped many gods. Even the Israelites did this. Samuel ran the risk of being looked at as

a crank or a fanatic, his known loyalty when he challenged away their idols, must have been a life that made even men sure that one greatness.

Prayer

Another mark Samuel's life was to have on record the first prayer. It was a request, not a "Gimme all. It was "Speak, servant heareth" he would rather hear to say than to pour before God. How self people in praying chance to speak! There has much to say to assist on talking

Another feature prayer life was that others, even when they turned their backs, did his best to persuade, not to have a that "power corrupted accurately the tyranny which they would show. But making all the same, leave of them a bitter. "Far be it should sin against ceasing to pray for

Wisdom

Samuel was an example we nowadays call. He held court in including his home town is remarkable. He (one hand) the kind of son who retires to a spends his life in a man of affairs, trust low. He was not (hand) the kind of who keeps his religious hymnbook—in church takes it out and happy over it once. Samuel on the a man whose religion the foundation of his religion did not lift his world;" it gave him the problems of the one-plus-God life was self alone; God in to be a help to other strong reason why more persons who "One-plus-God" desire too many of us want by the hand to see rather than others

(Based on outlines the Division of Christian National Council of Christ in the U. S. Community Press Series



THIS WEEK
—In Washington
With Clinton Davidson
NEW DRAFT LAW

The new military draft law passed recently by Congress makes an additional 5,000,000 young men subject to induction into the armed forces within the next four years.

That is the number which Selective Service estimates will become 18½ years of age and thus subject to the draft, between next July 1 and mid-1963, the next date on which the draft law is due to expire.

We asked Selective Service who and how many it expects to call for military duty and how they will be chosen. Here are some of their answers.

Draft calls so far this year are running at around 8,000 a month. Barring world-wide disarmament or a big shooting war, neither of which is expected, that rate will probably continue. The rate is at about 100,000 a year.

One In Twelve
Only about one out of every twelve young men who become of draft age actually will be called, Selective Service figures indicate. How, we asked, will those to be called be selected?

Only those in excellent physical condition and above average mentally will be chosen. The tests on both

physical and mental conditions will be more strict than in the past we are told.

In the past only about 2 out of every 10 called have been rejected, but, Selective Service says the rejection rate will be about 3 out of every 10 under the new law.

The President, it was explained, has broad powers to change the number as well as the physical and mental standards of those to be called. Selective Service officials, however, know of no plans for changes.

The law fixes the age for draft at between 18½ and 25 years, but for those who have been deferred the law makes them subject to draft up to the age of 35. As a matter of practice, most of the draft calls are for the 22 and 23 year olds.

Deferments
The law does not provide for deferments to permit the youths to continue through high school and college, but Selective Service officials say that unless there is a national emergency the present practice on deferments will be continued.

The present practice, which could, however, be changed by a presidential order, is to defer fathers and expectant fathers, providing they keep

their draft board informed of their status.

The law also provides another way to avoid active duty in the military forces. A young man can sign up with one of the military reserve units, including the National Guard, for six months active duty training.

After that he must attend weekly drills and a two weeks annual training period. This would continue for several years, in most cases until he reaches the age of 36 and thus become exempt from the draft.

CARE FOR PLANTS

If you got some flowering plants for Easter, you can keep them and they will flower again, provided you take care of them. Ask your county agent for a copy of Penn State Circular 488, "Your Holiday Plants."

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



TO PLOW DOWN NITROGEN CORN—The corn crop is one of the fier feeders of nitrogen; in many cases best to plow down part or all of the gen in order to get it deep enough ground that goes back into corn should receive from 75 to 100 pounds actual nitrogen depending upon the of manure applied. The decomposition actually tie up nitrogen from the corn crop.

TO START FLY CONTROL—Early to be talking about house and stable flies but the best treatments is to prevent their reproduction all barns, stables, and box-stalls frequently, remove piles, trash, or other breeding places. The concrete barnyards and manure pits will also help. Preventing fly populations is better than to try to kill them.

TO PLOW COVER CROPS AT PROPER STAGES—good farmers have recognized the value of winter crops for soil improvement. However, in many cases crop is allowed to get too large for best results. If grass and field brome-grass it is recommended crops be turned when 6 to 10 inches high. Winter should not be more than 12 to 18 inches. If these are allowed to get several feet tall and then the weather dry, it is very hard to plow down and also, the crop is too bulky to decompose rapidly. The results in cases are poor due to the large amount of green matter in the topsoil. When plowing down cover crops it is best to apply 40 to 50 pounds of actual nitrogen on the cover crop, disc it in with the crop and then plow. This allows quicker decomposition.

TO SEED BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL IN SPRING—If a trefoil seeding is to be made this season, we think that it be made during late March or early April. Spring oats as a nurse crop. Seed only one bushel per acre and use six pounds of trefoil and four pounds either timothy or S-37 Orchard grass. It is best to plow one grass with the trefoil and no other legume. Trefoil seed should be inoculated very heavily in order to give the trefoil a better chance.