EDITORIAL

The idea of snow and 30-degree weather on April 13 in Lancaster County has about as little appeal as any conditions your imagination can produce in an unwanted nightmare. But it happened.

Some much-needed spring moisture resulted from the snow; therefore letting it come under the heading of "totally unexpected hazards and mixed-blessings of farming."

For those who are directly connected with the unpredictable business of Food and Fiber production: the unseasonable snowfall again served to emphasize one of the prime considerations in a "farm program" or any counterpart.

In a business where the most important single factor is totally uncontrollable the farmer is doing a better than adequate job by providing sufficient production to feed his countrymen, without the occasional appearance of famine.

Why, therefore, should the American farmer be subjected to substandard economic returns for his efforts in overcoming the hazards of nature.

Why should farmers see their fair share of the nation's income depressed by one-fifth, and their net profit pared even more in proportion; because of farm "surpluses", as small as fractions of one per cent of the annual product.

The excessive effect of these small "surpluses" in price depression is more than ample proof that economics are a ruthless battle on "dog-eat-dog" principles.

This recalls the story of the small boy, who ran up to a dog-fight and began enthusiastic cheering for one of the participants. A larger boy promptly chased the little lad from the vicinity with the notice to, "Go get your own dog if you want in this fight."

This is the farmer's position in present-day economic struggles where big business, big labor, big finance, big government and big organization are mixed in the general melee. If the farmer wants in or expects to stay in the fight, he had better get himself a "dog" — or end up on the outside, without even being able to look in.

* * *

Another very-close-to-home instance of need for organization by farmers has appeared with the suggestion that Pennsylvania impose a 25 per cent tax on cigars to help meet the state budget.

Inasmuch as Lancaster County farmers produce more cigar tobacco than growers of any state, this proposal does not just come close—it sits down at the dinner table and helps itself.

The reason for the proposal is fairly obvious. In the search for new tax revenues, state officials are deterred from imposing any tax whatsoever on many products, because the businesses which would be effected are well organized and can bring powerful pressure to bear in Harrisburg. Since most industry is fairly well dispersed throughout the state, this pressure is quickly translated to legislative votes.

In the case of the cigar industry however, it is relatively minor in most of the state. At the same time, it is important among farmers who have traditionally avoided organization. Prevention of this tax's enactment may require immediate action, which is not likely to be forthcoming from the farm end of the state's cigar industry.

The manufacturers are, of course, being quite vocal in their resistance. We already have received "news releases" from the Lancaster Leaf Tobacco Board of Trade.

Their spokesmen decry the proposed 25 percent levy, first of all on the grounds that passage "can irreparably damage the future of thousands of Penna. tobacco growers," then for the harm to the processing industry.

Since we possess a natural skepticism for crys of "Spare the farmer" from those who profit directly from buying his products at the lowest possible price, consistant with maintaining the supply of raw material; we feel this approach is selected as the best means of preventing passage of the proposal.

If the "dealer-processors" can see the value of protesting in the farmers' name, they probably expect to obtain the best results through this.

How much greater results could be realized if the farmers were able set their own "dog" into the fight?

Davidson

THIS WEEK
—In Washington
With Clinton Davidson

STORK VS SCIENTISTS

The dispute over whether to increase or decrease government regulation of farmers currently is one of the hottest in Washington. Congress is being pressed to make a decision this year.

What makes the debate unusual is the fact that two government departments — Agriculture and Labor—are working in exactly opposite directions on the issue of government regulation.

While Agriculture Secretary Benson pleads with Congress to give farmers more freedom from production, marketing and other controls Labor Secretary Mitchell is asking that farmers be put under strict control on the employment of farm labor

Oddly enough, Congress seems not to be taking kindly toward either of the suggestions It has refused so far, to give Mr. Benson authority to lower price supports and ease up on production controls

Mr Mitchell, likewise has been slow in getting support for his proposal to place hired farm workers under the law covering minimum wages and maximum hours of work

Farm Wage Legislation

Bills have been introduced in Congress to establish a basic 40 hours a week for hired farm labor, with added pay for overtime, and for a minimum wage starting at 75c an hour the first year and increasing to $1 25 an hour in the fourth year.

Agricultural workers now are exempt from the minimum wage and maximum hours law which applies to most industrial workers. The aim is to put farm workers on an equal footing with those working in mines, factories, and stores.

Latest Department of Agriculture reports show the little more than one million farm workers employed earlier this year earned an average of $1 03 per hour. It is the record-keeping rather than the wage minimum that most farmers object to.

The wage rate for farm workers has been going up faster than for industrial workers in recent years. During the past two years the average farm wage has increased by 25% comparedwith a 10% increase for non-agriclutural workers

Executive Order

Secretary Mitchell recently issued a tentative executive order, subject to public hearings to be held about June 1, that would give the Labor Department authority to impose regulations on all farm employers who get workers through the U S. Employment Service.

The regulations, if put into force, would require that if any farmer in the area paid transportation for workers he hired, then all farmers who hire through USES would also be required to pay workers' transportation.

Further, it would provide that all farmers in an area would have to pay the same wage for similar work and that if one employer voluntarily raised wages then all farmers using USES-recruited labor would have to increase wages by the same amount.

Protesting that such regulations could raise farm labor costs by many millions of dollars, the Farm Bureau is opposing the proposed order on the ground that this "constitutes legislation by executive order" and that "Congress has specifically rejected similar proposals in the past."

Vary the amount of meat you buy according to the amount of bone in it, suggests Mrs. Elsie Keeney Penn State extension consumer education specialist For each serving, allow one-third lb. of boneless, one-half lb. of bone-in, and three-fourths of a pound of bony meat.

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P O Box 1524
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53 North Duke St
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Phone — Lancaster
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D[illegible] McGrew, Editor

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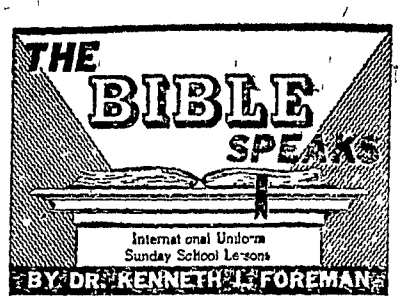

Bible Material: I Samuel 14 through 15, 31.
Devotional Reading: II Samuel 1 17-27.

Tragic Failure

Lesson for April 19, 1959

KING SAUL had the makings of success; but he failed We must not exaggerate his failure, for there were some who remembered him with pride, and even named sons after him. The great Christian apostle Paul had been named Saul by his family, for example Nevertheless, as kings went, and especially when compared with the great King David, Saul missed the mark. As we were saying last week, he was like a man with a good hand who plays badly and loses the game after all. What went wrong with him?

Dr. Foreman

Voice of God

At a time in his life when a throne would have seemed a fanciful dream, the prophet Samuel had taken Saul secretly, and solemnly poured oil on his head, thus anointing him to be the future king of Israel. This was before the great battle of Jabesh that gave Saul his national reputation. Saul himself may not have taken Samuel's prediction seriously, because he went on back to his farming. But after the people voted him in as the first king, Saul would of course remember Samuel and the secret anointing and prophecy. There is no doubt that Saul was convinced that Samuel was a true prophet, that he spoke with the authority of God himself.

Samuel was the one link with God that Saul had. He had no Bible to study, no church to help him, and he himself was anything but a religious genius. David and others seem to have been able to understand God's will by direct revelation; but for Saul, God's voice and will had to come to him through the prophet.

The most serious element in Saul's failure was right here: he stopped caring [illegible] God said He fl[illegible] since God hau[illegible] he would be [illegible] whatever he d[illegible] more mistaken [illegible] vants to succeed [illegible] the wrong, [illegible] they adopt which [illegible] ing good [illegible] support God [illegible] for and against [illegible] same time, and [illegible] age men to co[illegible]

Voice of Self

Saul made an[illegible] made by strong [illegible] than an old n[illegible] calamitous c[illegible] a man to pieces [illegible] sin of listening [illegible] and ambitions [illegible] want it, it must [illegible] silly remark Y[illegible] people could be [illegible] make it. You w[illegible] any one would [illegible] judgment above [illegible] many do The [illegible] works is familiar [illegible] cause we have [illegible] other argued to [illegible] same way "Look [illegible] selves; "of cour[illegible] voice of God, and [illegible] speaking in the [illegible] Church But later [illegible] believe that the [illegible] Church don't e[illegible] needs. I believe [illegible] me in my own [illegible] more of the same [illegible] this does it eit[illegible] own thoughts as [illegible] or else it iden[illegible] thoughts with G[illegible]

Voice of the Crowd

The third mis[illegible] made was perhaps [illegible] common, in our d[illegible] was letting the [illegible] speak for God [illegible] mistake, and [illegible] others. But you [illegible] wrong figured o[illegible] What is right to [illegible] found out by co[illegible] yet people keep [illegible] foolish blunder [illegible] Kinsey Report th[illegible] are widely prac[illegible] people interviewed [illegible] and leap to the [illegible] what so many p[illegible] right. And so th[illegible] what so many p[illegible] wrong. They n[illegible] question: What d[illegible] say?

(Based on outline [illegible] the Division of Christ[illegible] National Council of [illegible] Christ in the U S. [illegible] Community Press S[illegible])

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

Max Smith

TO PLOW DOWN CORN S[illegible] Most economical way to reduce [illegible] Corn Borers in 1959 is to plow [illegible] corn stalks and weeds, covering [illegible] completely as possible, by May [illegible] corn growers should assume th[illegible] sibility; it requires everyone [illegible] gether in this respect in order to [illegible] job of control.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH INSEC[illegible] —The spraying season is approa[illegible] many of the common insecticides [illegible] only kill bugs but will harm all forms of living [illegible] including human beings. All containers sh[illegible] well marked and kept away from children Ex[illegible] should be used in not polluting streams or farm [illegible] sulting in a fish kill. With the more liberal use [illegible] everyone should be very careful because they are [illegible] ous.

TO START GRAZING GRADUALLY—The pe[illegible] son is at hand and animals and caretakers are [illegible] the summer season. All flocks and herds should b[illegible] ed on the new pasture for only a short time (30 m[illegible] utes) for the first few times; and then feed after [illegible] received a feed of grain and hay. Too much new [illegible] first will cause scouring and perhaps severe bloat[illegible]

TO MANAGE DAIRY HERDS CAREFULLY—[illegible] son of off-flavored milk is approaching and proper [illegible] of the herd is essential. The milking cows should b[illegible] ed to graze at first only after the milking hours a[illegible] allowed to remain out on the pasture until the [illegible] milking. It is recommended that the herd be b[illegible] from the grazing area at least three to four hours [illegible] milking; this should be a longer period if much w[illegible] is in the area. The dairy barn should be well ve[illegible] all times.