

FROM WHERE WE STAND -

Don't Be The First Or The Last

One of Alexander Pope's quatrains cautions, "Be not the first by whom the new is tried, nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

In the mail this week we received an article from a Midwestern University extolling the virtues of a chemical weed killer. The article entitled "2, 4-D is Still a Good Weed Killer" explained that while some of the newer chemicals will give better control of specific plants in specific situations, the old standbys which have stood the test of time are still capable of doing a good job.

A farmer told us recently, "We have a practical farm here. We don't do too much experimenting, but we try to keep up with the proven advances."

Sometimes we are so impressed with the advances of modern science, we are tempted to experiment with any new product or process that comes down the road. We see the improved new chemicals and varieties of crops and we realize what a giant step in agricultural production has been accomplished in the past few years. So many new and improved things are available that we sometimes get the idea that everything new must be better than the thing that preceded it.

This is not always true. Many of the old strains of field crops have been around for many years. New varieties and strains have come upon the horizon and looked excellent in pilot studies and the first few years of general production. After several years, however, some of the strains begin to show weaknesses that were not readily apparent in the experimental plots.

As with crops, new ideas in methods sometimes do not work out as well as first performances would indicate. One poultryman of our acquaintance has what he calls his "Museum of Mistakes". Whenever a new method or piece of equipment is proposed, he goes to a shed on his farm where he has a piece of all the discarded equipment that has come and gone in his operation over a great many years. "Most of the time," he says, "I have

tried some variation of the equipment and found it does not work in my operation."

Recently a researcher told a group of dairymen they had been wrong in following the advice of researchers on the feeding of dry cows. He said recent tests indicate what dry cows need is not higher energy feed, as all nutritionists were saying until only recently, but a higher protein feed. Feeding a high energy fitting ration to dry cows has been an accepted practice for several years. Now University researchers are saying we were wrong all along.

Most of us can remember when the national magazines were predicting the day (not too far distant) when the United States would be free of the house fly forever. That was in the first days of DDT—before the house fly built up an immunity to the chemical.

Most intelligent people now believe that it is almost an impossibility to completely destroy a species, but not many years ago well-meaning writers were predicting the eradication of several pests in very short order.

On the other side of the question are the people who do not accept anything that looks like an advancement or improvement.

We believe that we in America could not now enjoy the standard of living to which we have accustomed ourselves without the aid of the modern chemicals and labor saving devices provided by science. Most of us would be unwilling to accept produce and products of the quality offered by the farmer of 50 or even 25 years ago.

An entomologist from The Pennsylvania State University said, recently, "Only 20 years ago we thought that we were doing pretty well if not more than 30 per cent of the apples in a pack were wormy. Now you couldn't sell apples that bad."

To paraphrase Pope, there are two ideas we can get along without. One says, "This is new; it must be good." The other says, "This is old, therefore it must be good."

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.



THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson Migratory Workers

Across the country from Florida to California some 200,000 families have begun their annual trek northward in search of seasonal employment on farms. They are American nomads who "follow the crops."

Their advance agents have gone ahead to bargain with farmers on wages and to contract for their employment. Most of them will work in orchards and on truck farms where the pay will depend on the number of bushels or pounds of fruit or vegetables they harvest.

Earnings will vary from a

few dollars to as much as \$15 or \$20 a day, depending on the effort and skill of the worker. Housing accommodations, too, will vary from shacks to temporary homes with all modern conveniences.

Because the amount of work, and their skill, varies so widely Congress has never seen fit to set a minimum wage for migratory farm workers. It has, in fact, exempted them from the minimum wage and hours laws that apply to industrial workers.

Administrative Ruling

For many years the labor unions have sought unsuccessfully to organize the migratory workers into unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO and other industrial organizations.

Equally unsuccessful have been union efforts to persuade Congress to pass minimum wages and maximum hour laws for migratory farm workers. Then, last fall, Secretary of Labor James Mitchell issued an "executive ruling" giving his department jurisdiction over wages, housing and payment of transportation of migratory farm workers placed through the U S Employment Service.

Over the protest of most

farm organizations and many congressmen the order became effective this year. They charged that it established a precedent of usurpation of congressional prerogatives by an administrative agency.

Secretary Mitchell claimed, and the U. S. Attorney General supported him, that the 1933 law creating the U. S. Employment Service gave the Secretary of Labor authority "to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary" to protect the interest of workers.

Constitutional Question

The order states that farmers who obtain workers through the USES must "pay prevailing wages as determined by the USES, provide minimum standards of housing, and pay workers' transportation from and back to their homes whenever that is the common practice in the area."

Mitchell claims that the 1933 law gives him power "by inference" to regulate wages and other farm employment conditions, al-

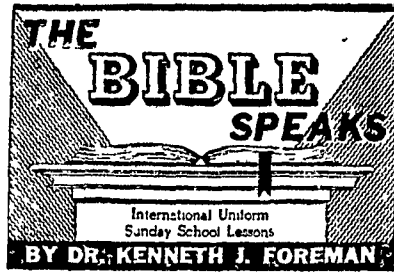
(Turn to page 5)

Rural Rhythms

HOME COOKING

By: Carol Dean Huber
Mother's can cupboard was always full
Of vegetables, fruit and meat,
And on her table was lots and lots
of all good things to eat.

No TV dinners of precooked foods
Were ever on her table,
But good home cooking, and we ate
As much as we were able.



International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Peacemakers

Lesson for May 8, 1960

WAR OR PEACE? The issue cannot be debated any more as it used to be. Once upon a time statesmen of great nations, and boys and girls in school, and country people in town of a Saturday night, could talk it over: Is war, or is peace, the best way out of our troubles? Nowadays those who know the facts of this atomic age know that the next war is the last war, that any war means suicide for both sides. War is the death-way out of our troubles.



Dr. Foreman
Corpses have no further worries. Their quarrels are over. Peace may not, and will not, put an end to our troubles; but it will leave us alive to struggle with them.

What About Our Enemies

"Blessed are the peacemakers" sounded wonderful in the ears of those who heard Jesus say it; it sounds wonderful today. We wish we knew where the peacemakers are, so that we could give them welcome. We wish we knew how they do it—it often looks so hopeless to us. For "peacemaker" in the year One was thought to mean one who could think out a better way of living than by war. In this dreadful year Nineteen Sixty a peacemaker, if such can be found, is one who can show us how to keep on living at all.

Let us say only one thing about international peace or war. About the least we could hope for would be that the church would not beat the state's drums; that the church would speak up as clearly as scientists and others outside the church have spoken, about the extraordinary danger and folly of depending on H-bombs for safety; and that the church would not let it continue to appear that peace is talked-up, and wished for, only by those on the far side of the iron

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO INSPECT THOSE LIGHTNING RODS—The thunder storm season is at hand and real estate owners are urged to inspect the lightning rods now early in the season. Owners should be sure that rods and ground cables are properly connected at all points and that the ground pipe or wire is down into moist soil. Rods are of little value unless properly grounded.

TO UTILIZE EXCESS PASTURE—Many livestock producers have an excess pasture at this time of the year; it is suggested that the excess area be fenced off and the forage cut either for silage or made into hay. This crop may do far more good this summer in dry weather than to permit the cattle to tramp it down now.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH SPRAY MATERIALS—All spray materials should be regarded with great care and used to identify each material if not returned to the original container. When used on the wrong crop, or in the wrong condition, most spray materials will damage if not ruin crops. Empty containers should be handled carefully and kept away from children and all livestock.

TO USE CHEMICAL WEED CONTROL IN CORN—Corn planting time is at hand and most weeds may be controlled by using chemicals as a pre-emergence spray, that is, providing sufficient soil moisture is present. At planting time both Atrazine or Simazine are recommended as good pre-emergence weed sprays; in the spike stage the use of the amine form of 2,4-D (1 to 1½ pounds per acre) will give pretty good results. Corn should not be sprayed post-emergence this year.

Lancaster Farming
Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly
P. O. Box 1524
Lancaster, Penna.
Office:
53 North Duke St
Lancaster, Penna.
Phone: Lancaster
EXpress 4-2947
Back Cover Editor
Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director & Business Manager
Established November 4, 1955
Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lancaster, Pa.
Entered as 2nd class matter at Jan. 27, 1959, under Act of Mar. 3, 1879, additional entry at Mount Airy, N.C.
Subscription Rates: \$2 per year, the single copy price 5 cents.
Members Pa. Newspaper Publishers' Association, National Editorial Association.