

FROM WHERE WE STAND -

It's An Ill Wind That Blows No Good

It's an old saw but still sharp. "It's an ill wind that blows no good".

We don't have much sympathy for the people who find time to complain about their misfortunes, but we have less compassion for those who can find occasion to complain about their good luck.

It reminds us of the complicated tale we heard as a boy about the old farmer who had more hay than his barn would hold. Instead of rejoicing in his good fortune, he sat down and bemoaned the fact that his barn was too small. He finally prayed for a storm to come along to ruin the crop. Well he got the storm, but the rain just made the grass grow that much more. Finally in desperation he said, "Oh well, maybe I'll die before harvest time anyway."

Perhaps this is just another example of the old contrast of the optimist and the pessimist, but we have seen so many examples of this thing recently, we feel farmers ought to stop and consider their situation.

During the past few weeks we heard a poultryman complaining about the commission he had to pay for selling his birds through an auction sale. He admitted on questioning that the increase in price over what he normally get more than covered the cost of marketing, and in addition he got a guaranteed payment from bonded buyers.

It seems to us that this is an example of complaining about the crop being too large.

We heard also of a farmer who complained about the high cost of ma-

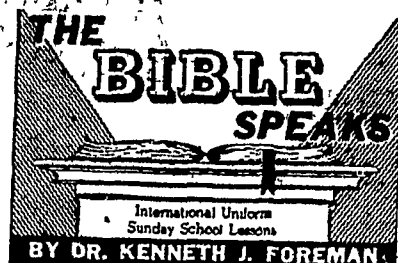
chinery he had to buy. Now everyone knows that machinery is high, and everyone knows that capital investment in farming is going higher and higher, but we are convinced that a farmer could eke out a living without the use of a great amount of machinery. He would have to be willing to work hard for long hours every day and be satisfied with a standard of living below that considered essential by most of us, but he would save the cost of high priced machinery.

We believe that even though prices are high and we sometimes get the feeling that we are on a financial treadmill, farmers today are living with more conveniences and luxuries than ever before. We do not mean to be painting a rosy picture to cover up some of the difficult phases of agriculture, but we would like to suggest a little more satisfaction with the productiveness of the crop and a little less complaining about the small size of the barn.

We often hear farmers say, people couldn't live very long without food or clothing, and this is very true, but by the same token, if all manufacturing plants were to close down, rural families would have to do without many things too. Even many manufactured food products on the farm wife's cupboard shelves would disappear.

The standard of living we enjoy today is costly, but the economy of each tied up with another. The rain that spoils one picnic is helping produce food for another.

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



Bible Material: Matthew 5 10-16 13 31-35.
Devotional Reading: Philippians 1 21-30.

Welcome, All

Lesson for May 15, 1960

"IT TAKES all kinds of people to make a world," but sometimes we wish it didn't. Even good people get us down, sometimes, and as for the people who are not good—the robots and the rats, the hypocrites and the hoodlums—it would be wonderful if we knew we didn't have to worry with a one of them any more.

But here they are and here we are, all in one world. If you want to keep clear away from no-account people, you will just have to get out of this world. At least Paul found it so in his time (1 Corinthians 5:9, 10), and it is still true. Christians do live in "society," that is, in the great gathering of mankind. The whole human race are our cousins, and they seem to be on our doorstep—or we on theirs—most of the time.



Dr. Foreman

Christians Are Different

Christians have always been outnumbered in this world. Even including all the nominal Christians we make up scarcely more than half the population of the U.S.A. (A nominal Christian has been defined as one who goes to church, or more precisely is dragged there, three times in his life; once to be sprinkled with water, a second time to be sprinkled with rice, and the last time to be sprinkled with ashes.) Real Christians are so scarce as to be noticeable. And when you do see a real Christian, there is one thing sure: he is different. He just doesn't see things the way most people do. He doesn't treat people as most others do. He has a rather special approach to the problems of living. He is so rare, the real Christian, that the advertising men, aiming at "mass man," never appeal to Christians. The motives appealed to by most advertising—judging by what this

writer has seen—are not Christian motives. A real Christian, in (meaning one who has a close resemblance to Jesus Christ, he has the mind of Christ, Christ lives in him), will be no off as peculiar.

Once there was a little boy in a Kentucky village who was different from all other little boys there. He wore glasses and he played the fiddle. (You were supposed to indulge in either these till you were old and fat. So all the other boys would mock this boy live hard, "Hit him" would yell as a dozen or more on him at once. "Hit him" He played the fiddle!"

This is not only a true story, a parable of life in this world. People fear and hate what is different. Not all people show this fear, and not all feel it. But many of the people in Jerusalem did, and feared Jesus, who was standingly different from them. They bitterly that they could say, "Crucify him!" Ever since then, Christians have been unwelcome in a non-Christian society. "Welcome you when ALL men speak to you," Jesus said (Luke 6:26). Everybody speaks well of you shows you have no real charm; you appeal to too many opposite kinds of people! Suppose our had tried to please every one

Christians Are Welcome

All the same, and you can call it a paradox if you like,—all the Christians are welcome, among those who can't see the point of view. Jesus called his followers "salt" and "light." Salt light operated by contact, and do Christians. Jesus assumed his people would make direct contact with the human world around them, even as he did. Now people are seldom actively grateful for salt or light. But they complain when they are left in the dark, without salt. Perhaps "Christians are welcome" is saying strongly "Christians are needed." Would come closer to the bull's eye. Towns without Christians must interest TV fans, but who want to live in one? No business firm going to send its best men to in the worst towns. Indeed, parents want to send their children to school in the least Christian parts of town. Even people never darken the doors of a church would not like to live where churches are.

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Davidson

THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

The Family Farm

Congressional farm experts this week are re-writing a long-range farm program which observers rate as the favorite to replace present programs within the next two or three years.

The program was first offered in February by a group of 20 Democratic congressmen representing every section of the country. They called it "The Farm Family Income Act of 1960."

Public hearings before the House Agriculture Committee in March brought out a majority of farm experts generally favorable to the bills, although there was enough criticism to cause the Committee to order them re-written.

The bills, all identical, place the emphasis just where the title implies on improving the net income of family-owned and -operated farms. These make up four out of every five of the three and a half million farms producing for markets.

Farmers' Choice

The big departure from present programs is that the new program would be de-

veloped by farmers themselves and then submitted to Washington for approval. If approved by Congress it would be submitted to growers for approval of rejection in a referendum.

The first step would be election of program drafting committees by growers of each commodity, such as wheat, corn and cotton growers, dairymen, hog producers, etc. Each such committee would work out a program for its particular commodity, then submit it to the Senate and House agriculture committees.

It would then go through the usual congressional procedures of hearings and, finally, to the Senate and House for debate. If approved, the Secretary of Agriculture would submit it to growers in a referendum.

A big advantage claimed is that such a program, if adopted, would immediately end the costly and ineffective price support programs. Each farmer would assume responsibility for any surplus he might produce.

Bargaining Power

A major purpose of the proposed legislation is to give farmers through their own organizations, bargaining power in the market comparable to that of organized labor.

One way of accomplishing that might be through marketing agreements, such as those now in effect in many milk, fruit, and vegetable producing areas, which permits producers to adjust their production and sales to demand at prices found to be "fair and reasonable" by joint farmer-government boards.

Justification for bargaining power to increase farm income is argued on the basis of government reports showing the

average-income of farm families, including allowances for housing and home-produced foods, is only about half the national non-farm average.

The objective would be "parity prices" for each commodity. Parity is a price considered fair to farmers in relation to prices they pay for the things they buy, such as automobiles, refrigerators, tractors, etc. Latest USDA figures show farm prices now average 80% of parity.

Congress isn't expected to pass the bills this year, but backers think they have a good chance of passage in 1961 or 1962.

Use of Lime Increases in Pa.

Lime use in Pennsylvania increased 7.7 per cent during 1959, the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry of the State Department of Agriculture reports.

Total lime tonnage in 1959 was 878,211 compared with 815,415 tons in 1958. These tonnages were compiled from affidavits received by the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry from lime dealers.

Agricultural limestone use accounted for 815,326 tons; hydrated lime for 39, 758 tons; burned lime, 17,573 tons; slag, 2,826 tons; and gypsum, marl and by-products, 2,728 tons.

Limestone adds calcium to the soil. High protein plants are heavy users of calcium.

Rural Rhythms

A FARM LIFE

By Carol Dean Huber

He wanted a chance to be on his own,

On his own to rise or fall.

She wanted a home where everyone

Could work for the good of all.

How could these two dreams blend

In a life they both could share?

They bought a farm and made a home

That was good beyond compare.

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO CLIP PASTURES—The practice of clipping the pasture area several times during the summer is one that will return good dividends. The first clipping should be when the grasses start to shoot heads and when the weeds begin to bloom, usually this will be the latter part of May. This clipping will help control weeds and encourage new growth.

TO MAKE GRASS SILAGE—Two of the most common faults in making quality grass silage is harvesting at too late a maturity and putting it into the silo at too high a moisture content. With poor hay-making weather when the crop is ready to cut, the plan of putting part or all of it into the silo has some merit. Wilting of the new-cut forage will assist in reducing the seepage and help make a better quality feed. Many preservatives may be used with the crop in order to insure proper fermentation.

TO PLANT SOYBEANS—Livestock producers that are planning to make soybean hay should attempt to get the beans in the ground during middle or late May; usually when the weather and ground is warm enough to plant corn it is also time to sow soybeans. The plan is to get the beans to be ready to harvest in August or early September when good curing conditions still prevail.

TO USE PRE-EMERGENCE SPRAYING OF CORN—The control of grasses and weeds on the row is difficult with mechanical cultivation; however, with the use of Atrazine or Simazine, at planting time and the use of Amine form of 2, 4-D in the spike stage at least over the row will give good results. The recent rains have given sufficient moisture to make these chemicals useful in the coming 2 weeks of corn planting. Contrary to an earlier report it is recommended that corn may be sprayed with the amine form of 2, 4-D after emerging providing it is not to be fed or grazed for at least 30 days after treatment.

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