

FROM WHERE WE STAND -

Soil - Retain Is Better Than Rebuild

Badly eroded soil can be brought back to full production with complete fertilizer.

The University of Missouri has proven this with tests on corn plots where the entire seven inches of topsoil had been removed by erosion.

Tests on the University farms showed that subsoil given a full fertilizer treatment produced as well during the ten year period as did the normal surrounding plots or even the plots where the eroded soil had built up to a depth of twice the original amount.

With the summer storm season at hand and with plenty of moisture in the soil already, farmers might well do some thinking on the problem of eroding slopes. Some persons might be tempted to take the view that since eroded soils can be brought back to productivity readily, the little extra effort required to prevent erosion in the first place is not worthwhile.

We feel that such a view is very dangerous for several reasons.

In the first place, the Missouri researchers concluded that while the productivity of the soil could be brought back with complete soil treatment and continued with the proper maintenance treatments, retaining the soil is much cheaper than trying to build it back.

Even if economic considerations were not included, the occurrence of

soil erosion by water should be prevented.

Soil in suspension travels downhill and downstream and it must be deposited somewhere. If it goes to the ocean it can never be regained, but it does relatively little harm. But if it stops on the neighbors farm it may do his farm a great deal of harm. There have been many court cases growing out of a situation where one farmer let flood waters deposit silt on the property of his neighbor.

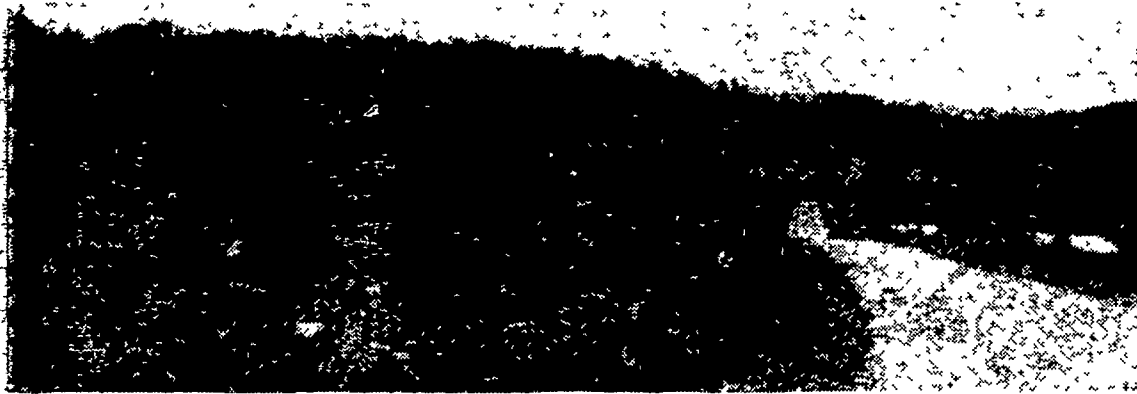
But if the soil is not deposited on its trip to the sea, it still does immeasurable damage in the streams carrying it on its route. If there is a question in anyone's mind why there are so few fish in many of the streams in farming communities, a look at the Conestoga creek during the rainy season this spring should give a pretty good answer.

By and large the red coloring matter in the streams does not come from the grasslands and wooded areas near the creek but from the cultivated fields farther up on the slopes.

Soil conservationists can not do the job alone. The Soil Conservation Districts can not do the whole job.

The soil belongs on the slopes where it formed. The only person who can keep it there is the man who farms the land.

At least that's how it looks from here we stand



PLANTING ROW CROPS THIS NEAR THE EDGE OF THE ROAD is false economy. The few extra plants the farmer manages to squeeze into the field will never repay him for the loss of soil he will have during heavy rains. The highway supervisor in the area of Martic Township where this picture was taken reports that the grader moved some of the plants during normal cleaning of the gutter. —L. F. PHOTO



Bible Material: Matthew 7 21-29, 21 28-32
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 3 10-15

On The Rock
Lesson for June 26, 1960

PLEASE NOTE the title of this column. It is On the Rock, not On the Rocks. The English language is peculiar. On the Rocks is a nautical expression referring to a ship cracking up on a rocky reef. On the Rock is a builder's expression, referring to solid foundations. You could mix the metaphors by saying "You'll never go on the rocks if you're on the Rock."

Bypassing Jesus

We are not surprised when people who make no claim to being Christians low-rate Jesus and refuse to consider him an authority. But it is surprising, and saddening besides, to find professing Christians bypassing Jesus as



Dr. Foreman

Number One authority in their lives. One way of doing this is to say that Jesus was not giving directions for this life, even for this world; but that he was telling us how we should live when the Kingdom of God comes on earth. In other words, that Jesus was giving directions for some future era, not for then and there in Palestine nor for here and now in America. Another way of bypassing Jesus is to take the opposite tack, and claim that Jesus was speaking only for the old dispensation or period of the Law, and that all his moral directions and ideals went out when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Still another way to bypass Jesus is to allege that his commands were impossible, and that he knew it; but he wanted to set the standard so high that people would give up trying to be good and rely on faith instead of works.

Taking Jesus seriously

Jesus himself gave no support to such lopsided caricatures of his teaching and intentions. Every-

thing he said indicates that he tended to be taken seriously. He speaks distinctly of some would one day call him Lord (not do what I tell you" (6:46); and he has nothing to say of such people Jesus talks of real people with real problems. What main-line Christians discovered down through the 19's, that what Jesus said to people he met face to face is good for our day and for all. It is nothing better than to talk to call Jesus "Lord" or "God" and refuse to pay attention to him when he gives directions for living.

Building on the rock

The exact word (in the Greek) is "on THE rock," not "on A rock." Anywhere in the world, if you go down far enough, you strike rock, and all the rock of the world is connected together by the forces God has created. So there is one Rock on which an earthly life can be founded. Christ and his teachings. But a question comes to mind: Human beings are of enormous variety. Their problems are innumerable. Jesus could and did not, give us his mind to many of the most difficult problems of our time. How then can we say that his teachings are the rock of all truly successful lives?

Jesus could say this, not because he was a new Moses, not because he was delivering rules for every occasion. He could say this because his teachings are the universal bedrock beneath all varieties of human personalities and situations. As we saw when we looked into the "Golden Rule," Jesus' principles rather than rules does not do our thinking for us; it furnishes the foundation, and it is up to us to build his own house.

Tested by storm

A house of cards will stand as long as no one breathes on it. A house with any flimsy underpinning, or none, will stand so long as the weather is good. The test of a house is not sunshine but storm. And if there is one thing we can be sure about every man's life, it is that the sun will not always shine. Bright days may be certain, but they are not the test. The dark days, the droughts and the floods and the hurricanes, are the times sure to come for each of us. Two houses that look just the same before the storm, how they look afterwards is the test.

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Now is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO REVIEW FIRE INSURANCE COVERAGE—All property owners are reminded of the need to review fire insurance policies in relation to the amount of coverage. Due to the increase in value and the higher replacement value of most buildings in many cases the amount of the policy should be increased. In arriving at this figure the replacement cost should be the guide rather than the original cost of the building. In addition, the average value of the grain, hay, supplies, and machinery kept in the building should be considered.

The time to review this coverage with your insurance agent is now rather than after you have had a serious loss.

TO REMOVE THOSE BLUEGILL SUNFISH—Farm pond owners are reminded of the need in removing sunfish from their ponds. With bass season at hand many ponds will be fished during the coming months; in many cases the fisherman will keep only the larger bass and return the sunfish to the pond. As a result, the pond becomes overstocked with sunfish with diminishing food supplies and all fish in the pond are stunted. Pond owners are urged to remove at least three times as many sunfish as bass and to realize the importance of a proper balance in the pond.

TO MOW THOSE THISTLES—All property owners are responsible for the control of Canada Thistles. In the state of Pennsylvania this weed is termed a "noxious weed" and one to be destroyed by all citizens. Control may be achieved by either spraying the thistles early in the season, and following by repeat sprays if re-growth is present, or by keeping the thistles mowed frequently to prevent seed formation. Owners of vacant lots, real estate developments, and farmer with their land in the soil bank are common offenders of thistle control. Thistles are now coming into blossom and all folks are urged to act at once.

TO ELIMINATE FLY BREEDING PLACES—Wet weather so far this spring has meant an increase in the fly hatch due to moist conditions around many buildings. All property owners are reminded that the first step in a fly control program is good sanitation and a thorough clean up program. Barnyards, box-stalls, steer pens, manure gutters and all places that collect filth should be cleaned frequently.

THIS WEEK
—In Washington
With Clinton Davidson
Farm Policy



Davidson

This column is a copy of identical letters we are writing to the chairmen of the Farm Policy Advisory Committees of the Republican and Democratic platform committees.

Gov. Herschel Loveless of Iowa, chairman of the Democratic advisory committee, and Charles Percy of Chicago, temporary chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, will be meeting with members of their respective committees early next month to draft "farm planks" for their parties.

Both have invited suggestions for a farm program which their parties will consider.

consider at the nominating conventions in Los Angeles and Chicago in July. We are accepting that invitation.

Dear Sirs:
The development and adoption of a sound and sensible farm program is one of the most critical and urgent matters before the nation today. It is not solely a farm problem, but rather is one of national concern.
Our Basic Industry

Approximately 40% of all people employed in this country earn their living from agriculture, either directly or indirectly, through producing, processing, transporting and marketing the products of our farms, or in producing and marketing goods and services used on farms.

Farming is our largest single industry. The total invested capital in farming far exceeds the combined investment of steel manufacturing, the automobile industry, and the railroads. Total farm assets, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, exceed \$200 billion.

Last year some 3½ million farmers sold almost \$40 billion worth of foods, fibers and forestry products. They paid about \$29 billion for such production items as fertilizer, gasoline, machinery and insecticides. The \$11 billion of "net" income was

what was left to pay family living expenses, interest on investment, taxes, depreciation and wages.

Had all of that \$11 billion been allocated to a fair return on investment, and none to living expenses, taxes, depreciation or wages, the return would have been 5½%. Most industries showed a higher return on investment. But, the \$11 billion fell \$2 billion short of meeting actual farm expenses, that being the amount by which farmers went deeper into debt in 1959.

Not a Partisan Issue

It seems obvious that farmers generally are not sharing equitably in our unprecedented national prosperity. The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that farmers' purchasing power—the goods and services they can buy with the dollars they earn—is the lowest in more than 20 years.

Since 1940 farmers have doubled their production per worker but in terms of what they can buy their income is down. What do you think organized labor would do if manufacturers reduced wages to the same purchasing power to Page

Rural Rhythms

YOUTH'S SUMMER DAY

By: Carol Dean Huber

Down in the meadow is a world;

And through it runs a stream.

I while away the afternoon

As I sit there and dream.

I lie there on the shady bank,

A book before me spread,

And build my castles in the air

For all the years ahead.

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