

## FROM WHERE WE STAND - Only Six Inches From Starvation

Lancaster County is just eight inches away from a desert, and the world is only six inches from starvation.

That statement sounds pretty startling, but it is, nevertheless true. There are only about eight inches of top soil keeping Lancaster County from being a desert, and all the food on all the tables of the world is dependent upon less than six inches of topsoil on all the land area of the world.

In the days when Rome was in her glory, food production became a problem. To solve the problem, the Roman empire expanded to encompass more territory. Land was plentiful and human life was cheap. And so life was exchanged for land, and food production for those left, struggled on.

When northern and middle Europe began to become crowded, explorers set out to find new areas and new products for food. They found a whole new world of food producing potential in the new continent.

The history of the United States has been based on the philosophy that this country has almost limitless resources. Because the settlers found such bounty, there grew up the feeling that care and wise use of the resources were not important since we could never use all the materials available for the taking.

The country held such vast untapped potential for food production that it was easier to wear out the soil and just move on. In many areas of the country, farmers did just that and the poor farmers made poor farms which in turn made poorer farmers.

Fortunately for their grandchildren, the early settlers of Lancaster county had come here from an area of frugal peoples. The soil of the Garden Spot was not desecrated entirely, but even this place of beauty has come in for its share of abuse.

Where once trees and grasses held the life-giving topsoil on the slopes, the eager pioneers lay waste to the forest and broke the virgin sod with the plow. Food for the families of settlers and the aromatic weed for the pipes of European aristocrats crowded the deep rooted trees from the hillocks and valleys and opened the way for the ravages of wind and water.

When man had removed the cover with which Nature had protected her resources from herself, he took on the responsibility of protecting those resources.

In Lancaster County, farmers early learned the value of replacing the plant food removed by crops taken off the land. The soils were not "mined" of all chemical plant foods as they were in some areas, but because the virgin soil was so productive, the urge to plow up more was too great to resist.

The development of agricultural machinery made possible the cultivation of larger tracts and the larger tracts laid bare to rain and wind more of the top soil.

Today, even with our advanced technology, it is estimated that the equivalent of one 40 acre farm goes down the Mississippi River and out into the Gulf of Mexico every day of every year.

But should you think the Mississippi River has a monopoly on the business of carrying away farms, we invite you to stand on the banks of the Conestoga for several hours after a heavy midsummer rain. Lancaster County is not immune to the dangers of erosion. It is, in fact, one of the prime targets of water erosion because of the intensive type of farming done here.

Agricultural Research magazine for February asks the questions; will U. S. farmers in 1975 be able to provide food, feed and fibre for a third greater population than today's?; can they meet bigger domestic needs and also provide exports to other nations?

A probable yes to both questions is given by U.S.D.A. Economists, but they qualify their answers.

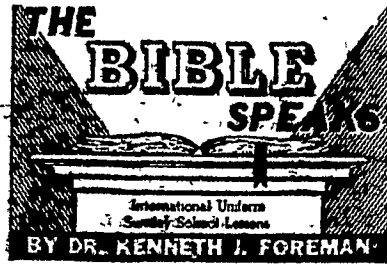
The challenge to farmers in 1875 will not be lack of resources, but how best to use them to achieve better production and a balance between production and demand.

If farmers adopted all proven technological advances, the food production needs of 1975 could be met on 27 million fewer acres than are now under cultivation, the economists estimate.

Everyone likes to eat. Everyone must eat. And until science devises a way to produce food in a test tube, everyone is dependent upon the scant six inches of topsoil.

No farmer should have to be sold on a program to conserve, to use wisely, that which is the only six inches of insulation between him and certain starvation.

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



Bible Material: John 7 through 9.  
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 59:2-7 through 60:2.

### Light of the World

Lesson for February 12, 1961.

TIMID Christians, especially nowadays, sometimes wonder if we haven't set our sights too high. Missionaries have had to leave China and parts of Africa; they have had a hard time in sections of India, and elsewhere. Are we meddling where we ought not to be?



Dr. Foreman

(in the eyes of millions of Japanese) to be unpatriotic.

Wouldn't it be better, some American church members say, if we just recognized that the Japanese are right, Christianity is a western religion, it suits America and maybe Europe, so let's cultivate it here and leave Asia to the Asiatics?

#### Bold From Birth

The cure for such timid Christians is a good look at the New Testament, and at history. Take the history first. The Christian religion did not start as a western religion; it began in Asia. It had its roots in the Jewish religion, and that also was a religion of Asia. One of the big questions that stirred the early church was: Can the Christian religion take in non-Jews? In other words, can the Christian religion be acceptable in Rome, Spain, Germany, Britain? Nobody thought about Britain at first, to be sure; and when Christian missionaries first went there it was dangerous in the extreme. But they went. There were timid Christians then as now, satisfied with Christianity as a home-town religion. But there were also bold Christians, far-sighted Christians, and with or without the backing of the whole church they went, in

time, over the wide world of Christianity today is the one world religion. Our nearest rival has more than half the number of adherents that Christianity has.

#### Light of the World

All this was not an accident, an after-thought. Jesus himself, though a loyal Jew had a vision. He called himself the Light of the World. This was a divine audacity. It didn't look like it in his lifetime. There he was in a very obscure corner of the world, without one single follower who could have been called "tingulated." The intellectual, economic and political centers of the world were elsewhere. There was no religious vacuum for a religion to fill. There was no competition at the world's front when Christianity began to be. But Jesus called himself, all the same, the Light of the World. Jesus could rightly say, "The light he came to bring, light he personally was, is diffused from all other lights. It is a light from God and also a light on Jesus is God-making-himself-known. A well-known atheist would believe in God on one condition: "Trot him out and let me see him do something." We call "god" who could be trotted out would not be God at all; but if he is doing something, Christ as God has done, he is what God said.

#### How He Shines

Jesus said, also, to his followers: You are the light of the world. This is no contradiction. He shines through those who have his spirit and his service. Through the gradual Christianizing of the world, through the freedom and democracy that has come to those who have entered the Christian world through every school and hospital and orphanage, through his name and spirit, through the preaching of the gospel in the languages of the world, through the day-by-day lives of genuine Christians, the light of Christ shines every day around the world. "Christianity is not only in a nation of Christians," as the famous non-Christian, G. B. Shaw said, "it is more right than he is." It is precisely the "nabobs of Christ" that is our aim, where Lights in small corners do good so far as they go; but the world is out to be the Light of the World.

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

**TO CHECK FORAGE QUALITY**—If the production in the dairy herd has been lagging in recent weeks, perhaps the quality of hay is not as good. The amount and contents of the grain ration fed should be based upon the kind of hay and silage being fed to the herd. When the hay quality changes so should the grain ration be adjusted. The best guide as to what change to make is to have the samples of hay and silage tested. Forage Testing Service is still operating.

**TO BEWARE OF MOLDY CORN**—When warmer weather arrives corn that has been stored high in moisture may show sweating or a moldy condition. Extreme care should be used in feeding this moldy corn and hogs are about the only kind of livestock that should have access to it. The herd of growing or fattening hogs will utilize it best and the breeding herd should not get it. The moldy corn may be fed to the fattening hogs as long as it is not mixed with any other feeds; the hogs will eat some of it but not enough to cause toxicity or digestive upsets. Moldy corn is not suitable for other kinds of livestock or poultry.

**TO PREPARE FOR LAMBING TIME**—The new lamb crop is now arriving on many sheep farms and is a very important time for close supervision and careful handling. Heat lamps may be used in cold weather to get the lambs started faster. Several hurdles to use in separating the ewe about to lamb will save many new-born lambs; this isolation of the ewe and the lamb for about two days from the rest of the flock will pay dividends. At lambing time the good shepherd will check his flock every few hours during both day and night.

**TO BROADCAST LEGUME SEEDS EARLY**—For those who plan to establish a clover or alfalfa seeding in winter grain by broadcasting this spring, it is important that the seeding be made by the middle of March. Both experience and research has shown that these early seedings will usually bring better stands than seedings made later in March or during April or May.



Davidson

## THIS WEEK —In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

### The Farm Job

The question we have been asked most frequently since early this year is: "What will Orville Freeman do about the farm situation?"

The man best qualified to answer that question is, of course, Mr. Freeman, a former Governor of Minnesota and the new Secretary of Agriculture. So we asked

him. "The first thing I want to do is get all the facts I can on the situation in all parts of the country," he said.

"I want to talk to as many people as possible with as many viewpoints as I can."

"What I have done that I want to develop a program which I think would help farmers get a fair income. I will then ask Congress to give me the legislative authority to put that program into effect."

**Income Priority**  
Secretary Freeman has some rather definite ideas on

how he would like to go about raising farmers' income but he is cautious on expressing them in terms of specific programs, until, as he says, "I get my feet on the ground firmly."

The first thing to be done, he has told farm leaders with whom he has conferred, is to reduce burdensome surpluses. Next he will try to get production adjusted to demand so that surpluses will not again be accumulated.

The first step, he hopes, toward reducing surpluses will be distribution of foods to the needy and unemployed in this country, particularly in the economically distressed areas where unemployment is now high.

The next move will be expansion of shipment of surplus foods to nations where the food supply is low.

"I can't defend our hoarding huge quantities of foods in this country while there

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## RURAL RHYTHMS

LONG CROOKED RIVER  
By: Carol Dean Huber

This old river—Susquehanna—rolls on its merry way. It takes two hundred thousand tons of topsoil every day. And carries it on to the sea as sediment and sand. As it goes by farm and village, town and forest land

In every twelve hours in spring—high water time—It takes an eighty acre farm; this is no made up rhyme. But according to the experts This is their estimation. Now who could question our county's need for conservation.

### Lancaster Farming

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