

# FROM WHERE WE STAND A Time To Pull And A Time To Let Go

In Egypt over 3,000 years ago a wise man observed, "The boatman reaches the landing partly by pulling and partly by letting go. The bowman hits the target part by pulling and partly by letting go."

Alexander Pope said it in a different way. "Be not the first by whom the new is tried, not yet the last to lay the old aside."

One of our young neighbors last week was expressing doubt that man would ever travel to other planets, or even to the moon. His comment was, "If God had meant us to go to other planets, he would have given us a way to get there."

Dad will be 81 years old next week. His rejoinder was, "I have been convinced for a long time, if you can think of anything, someone will eventually produce it."

This, then, is a tribute to Dad, who through 81 summers and winters in fat years and thin, has learned when to pull and when to let go. He has learned to respect tradition and appreciate it, but he will not let tradition stand in the way of progress.

Coming into the world at a time and place where civilization, as measured by mechanical achievements, was quite primitive, and living into an era and place where civilization has become gadget laden, Dad was in a position to know whereof he spoke. Most of the things barely dreamed of in his youth, and many things never dreamed of his highest flights of fancy have come to be commonplace.

Dad has seen the mechanical revolution on the farm. He has seeded grain by hand and harvested it with a cradle. He has drilled it with a modern grain drill and harvested it with a modern tractor and combine. He has traveled to work away from home when the fastest mode of travel was horseback, and he has had the opportunity to fly in a modern plane. (And he can remember when to talk of flying was tantamount to asking for ridi-

cule). Dad has used, in earning his everyday livelihood, most of the tools of farming exhibited at the Landis Valley Farm Museum. Many of the tools with which he is so familiar have to be explained to the farmers of this later generation.

Many of the tools served a good purpose, he will tell you, and many of them were well made and ingeniously contrived, but would he return to life as he knew it as a youth?

Of course we are all nostalgic about certain things, but when we once asked dad, "What about the Good Old Days?" he replied, "The only thing good about them was that we were young."

Dad, with more help than can be measured from Mother, raised a brood of a dozen children and imparted to them the values of traditions and the things that are truly lasting. He knew, with his children, too, there is a time for pulling and a time for letting go. Not one of the family felt unwanted, and not one was constrained when it was time to start a new family.

Recently a former student of vocational agriculture in the county planned to move off the home farm to a job in the city. He was the last of the children in the family and he was needed on the home farm. The father knowing what it means to pull had kept possession of all assets on the farm and paid the son a wage.

With the help of the present teacher of vocational agriculture, the father saw that there is a time to let go. The son was given an agreement pleasing to all concerned and plans to stay on the farm. The father kept him by letting him go.

But Dad is human like all the rest of us. He will enjoy reading this piece, but then he will smile out of one corner of his mouth and say, "Well he spread it on a little thick, 'At least that's how it looks from where we stand'."



## THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson A City Problem?

The millions of Americans who battle traffic jams into and out of cities these days know that our urban transportation problem needs immediate attention.

The problem is the result of failure of public transportation to keep pace with the tremendous migration of city residents to suburban residential districts within the past two decades.

We were inclined to regard the problem, however, as the exclusive concern of city and suburban residents, until we talked with Sen Harrison A. Williams Jr. of New Jersey about it. It is far greater than just "a problem," he told us.

"Every day, he said, "you and other citizens throughout the nation face inconvenience or economic loss be-

cause of poor or failing commuter transportation. Even if you're not stalled in a traffic jam or crowded into a bus or train every day, you help pay billions of dollars that urban traffic congestion costs us each year."

### Mass Transit Plan

Sen Williams has re-introduced a bill this session to create a Federal, low-cost revolving loan fund under which cities could borrow a total of \$250 million for metropolitan area transit development. A Senate Banking & Currency sub-committee has held hearings on the bill.

Sen Williams emphasized that the number of automobiles in use, and the millions more being built, already exceed the capacity of our streets and roads. We are unable to build roads, even at very high costs, fast enough to keep up with the increase in automobile traffic.

He has also introduced an "open spaces" bill to authorize the Home Finance Agency to lend up to \$100 million a year to help cities finance purchase of land for recreational, conservation, historical, and esthetic uses in and around urban areas.

### Rural Interests

The spread of cities has not been well planned, Sen-Williams told us. Frequently suburban developments have engulfed small towns and rural communities. Those developments along highways have added to the growing traffic congestion, he said.

"We ignore the fact," he said, that urban sprawl is gobbling up our farms and pastures and woodland at a rate of more than a million acres a year. If we have any real hope of achieving sufficient open space to meet our rapidly mounting recreational and conservation needs, we must of necessity turn our attention to promoting more orderly and economic forms of suburban development."

The problem Sen. Williams is attacking so vigorously is not exclusively a city problem, but one that constantly involves more people, in the small towns and on farms, as well as in big cities.

### MOLES USUALLY HELPFUL

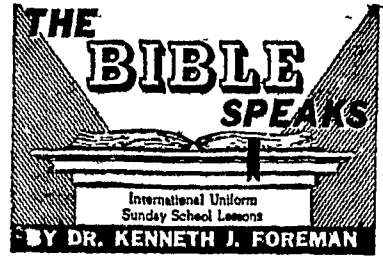
Generally moles are beneficial little animals because they destroy many injurious insects. That's why Stanley Gesell, Penn State extension entomologist, suggests control measures only when moles invade lawns and cultivated ground. Even then the choice may be insect control, instead of a mole killing program.

### CREEP FEED CALVES

Producers of feeder calves can increase both weight and grade of calves at weaning time by creep feeding, says Ben Morgan, Penn State extension livestock specialist. Creep feeder plans can be obtained from the local county agent.

### BUILD BARBECUE PIT

Outdoor barbecuing is one of the joys of summer for many, and Carl Dossin, Penn State extension poultry specialist, explains that barbecue pits can be inexpensive and at the same time do a satisfactory job. All you need are 18 center building blocks and a piece of half inch mesh wire 3 by 4 feet.



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

## Diligence Lesson for May 21, 1961

"DILIGENCE! what a dull word!" Yes, it has certainly come to be dull-sounding. It's like a coin that hasn't been used much, it just gradually gets tarnished even if kept in a glass case. Yet we know what it means and we admire what it stands for even if we personally leave being diligent to other people. "On the job," "on the ball," "on his toes," "in there pitching," "always after it," "never lets grass grow under his feet,"—we have all heard such expressions and we know they are intended to be compliments. So let us not shy away from that word "diligence." It is simply a somewhat more formal way to say what all those expressions like "on the ball" are trying to say.

Ants  
To save questions, let us agree, right at the start, that diligence by itself is not necessarily a good thing. Let us take for instance, out of the book of Proverbs, the example of ants. Lazy people (sluggards) are told to go study the ant—"consider her way and be wise." In other words, it is hinted that even those little insects have more sense than some people. Most animals are diligent, especially when it comes to gathering food, but ants are known everywhere. It would have made just as good sense to say, "Consider the ichneumon wasp, and be wise." But more people know what ants are than could tell you about ichneumon wasps. Ants are always working. They do attend our picnics, to be sure, but to work, not to play. Every picnic is Harvest Day for the ants that live around there. Ants, furthermore, seldom work alone. They work in gangs, in



Dr. Foreman

es. They do a great deal of work that solitary ants cannot get done. There is no rest for them in doing things the way they do. Even ants know better. Now, most ants are busy. But all through the new invader is spreading. Insect world the fire-ant is constructive, and more painful, dangerous too, than any other in this country. Victims of insect only wish he were not so diligent! So the Devil (now called, perhaps) is the hardest worker in the universe. But that is not gloomy thought. For diligence is diligent only in evil.

"L'Amour Means 'Love'"  
The English word "diligence" comes from the Latin word "diligere" and that comes from the verb "diligere" which in the Bible is used to translate the strongest Hebrew and Greek words for "love." This something, doesn't it? Diligence isn't mere hard work, it is diligence done in a diligent way. It is not forced labor. Diligence is work lovingly done for the joy of it. The word of Ecclesiastes speaks of diligent work. And why not? A diligent one day was talking with an old friend, while driving on a bus route. They got to talking about retirement. "What are you going to do when you retire?" asked the driver. "Don't know," said the friend. "I'd like to get to you with a 6-month vacation again." What would you like to do? The driver answered promptly. "I'd like to do nothing." "This." The friend finished. "You don't mean to tell me you LIKE your work?" But like it he did. That's diligence. That's the root of it.

The Slacker  
The opposite of diligence is doing something else, it's doing nothing at all. He that is slack in his work, an Old Testament proverb says, is brother to him that is a destroyer. The slacker in a man is a traitor. The slacker in a man is a traitor likewise. What do you do to let a farm go down? You do it have to scatter rocks in the fields, set fire to the woods, and blow-weed in the pastures and scatter the cattle. All you have to do is nothing. Let everything stay as it is. Do today what you can do. Do it till tomorrow, never finish your job, just don't care. A farm does not have to be pushed downhill. It runs down if you just leave it alone.

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH  
TO RECONIZE STAGE OF MATURITY  
Forage Crops decrease in feed value as they reach maturity; research work has shown that little is to be gained and much is lost by permitting a crop to get too old. This means that the grasses should be cut at heading time, at the time the cover is the bud to early blossom stage, and before the small grains (except rye) in the pastures to milk stage. The proper stage of cutting is the same if the crop is to be used for hay or for silage.



MAX SMITH

TO UTILIZE SILAGE FEEDING—Local livestock producers are urged to realize the value of all kinds of silage. It is a very economical feed; in most cases as much or more than other feeds. It will be preserved by making a crop into silage as early as possible. Some good silage on hand is good insurance against drought later in the summer.

TO WILT GRASS SILAGE—The wilting method is a good way to make better quality grass silage; this is done by mowing forage to stay in the field for several hours before chopping to reduce the moisture content to the 65-70% range. Forage with this reduced moisture content will cause less seepage from the silo, better fermentation and higher quality feed. Many good grass silage producers have turned to this method in recent years and dropped the direct-cut system. This works well with all grasses except the small grains such as oats, wheat, rye, and barley; they should be chopped and ensiled without wilting.

TO CLIP PASTURES—For good pasture management, producers are urged to clip their grazing areas at least once a month, or as soon as the grasses have shot seedheads. By clipping at the above time, new growth will be encouraged and weeds will not get into seed heads.

TO SPRAY FOR CUTWORMS AND WIREWORMS—The amount of soil moisture present this spring is likely to be the indication of both cutworms and wireworms. It will be heavy; prevention is much better than cure so we recommend that the entire field be sprayed in advance of planting. Further details available if desired.

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