

From Where We Stand . . . Conserving The Sixth Resource

Fear was one of the prime movers of the early conservationists. Fear was one of the principal reasons conservation became such a widespread and going program.

Conservationists feared that soon the population would overtake the productive ability of the land unless something were done to bring about a halt to the destruction of the land.

Conservation caught on because the people began to fear that the conservationists might be right and soon famine might come upon the land.

This fear was based on experience and founded in truth. If landowners had gone on treating the soil as they did in the first few decades of the agricultural revolution, the productive ability of much of our soil might now be so low that it would now require extensive renovation by drastic and expensive means.

If conservation of our natural resources had not "caught on" with land owners, we might now be in a food situation where the fear of famine would be greater than the problem of surpluses.

But latest estimates now indicate that by 1980 we are likely to need about 50 million less acres than are now in production to feed a vastly expanded population. It now appears that technology in the business of farming is going ahead faster than the population is increasing.

Now does this mean that we have "oversold" conservation? Does this mean that there is no further need to conserve?

Not at all.

In the past most of us thought of conservation in terms of saving our natural resources.

We have had the "tree savers" who did not want to see any tree cut down, even if it were ripe and ready to rot.

We have had the "bird lovers" and the lovers of other wild animals who did not want to see any game laws that would allow killing of wildlife — even when that wildlife overpopulated its habitat and began to starve to death in great numbers.

We have had the "stream lovers" who did not want to see any change in the natural waterways even though some lands nearby could be made pro-

ductive and beautiful by the application of irrigation water.

We have even had those who have complained about plowing and tilling the soil because the "natural beauty" is disturbed thereby.

About the only natural resources we have not had fanatics screaming for us to save are the mineral deposits under the surface. We suppose this is so because it is rather difficult to wax romantic over a puddle of oil or a vein of iron ore.

But true conservation is not just saving natural resources. True conservation entails the wise and intelligent use of the resource in the best interest of the greatest number of people.

Now we believe it is way past time to begin thinking in terms of conservation of the sixth resource. We believe there is great need for us to continue to use wisely the five natural resources of soil, water, wildlife, timber, and mineral deposits, but of what value are all five if we fail to conserve our human resources.

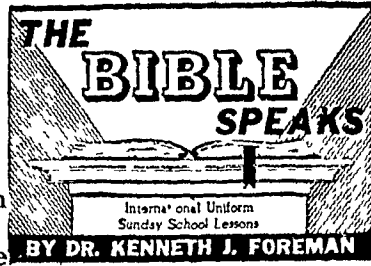
Within the past few years several new terms have come into our vocabulary. A generation ago we had never heard of "Urban Sprawl", "Suburbia", "Rurban", (or as it is sometimes written, Ruban) or "Megopolis".

Growing up in these areas is a generation of people who will never see wide open spaces and vast uninhabited areas on this planet. They may never sit beside a pure mountain stream, or walk through a tract of large timber, or learn to appreciate the life and habits of wildlife unless we begin to plan right now to conserve the natural resources for the human resources.

We must keep water supplies near centers of population pure and clean. We must preserve areas of trees and grass—not just in out-of-the-way places, and not just for the sake of saving them—but we must provide areas near the cities where people caught up in the fast pace of the space age can rejuvenate their tired bodies and minds. We know a nation must be healthy both bodily and emotionally in order to be a strong nation.

For this reason we must learn to USE every square inch of our land to the utmost of its potential for the conservation of our most precious resource—people.

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



Bible Material Exodus 20:15, Luke 19:1-27, Mark 11:15-19, Joshua 7:19-26, Matthew 22:15-22, Devotional Reading: Ephesians 4:25-32

No Stealing Lesson for March 4, 1962

"THIEF" is a bad word. Nobody wants to be called one. Even a thief himself will complain about other thieves. "I've been robbed!" is a common complaint uttered by those who habitually rob others. To be sure, there are twisted minds, busy in devising dishonest schemes, and proud of their success when they do work.



But then there are twisted minds, clever in all ways of crime and sin. What we can call normal people don't like to be called thieves. It is a fatal objection to a man that he is dishonest. Nothing else makes up for the lack of honesty. He is a generous, hard working man—but you have to watch him every minute. "He's a pleasant gentle man, but don't have any business dealings with him." Those are not "recommendations" any of us would enjoy over-hearing about ourselves.

But are we honest? Nevertheless, such is the strange nature of the self-deceiving human mind, that it is easy to "kid" ourselves into thinking we are more honest than we really are. One way we deceive ourselves is by taking refuge in what is undeniably a fact. It does make a difference where the money is taken from. It is worse to take money from a child than from a man big enough to fight, it is worse to take money from a poor man than from a rich one.

Of course, but stealing is still stealing, even if not all forms of stealing are equally bad, all forms are bad. It is not true, for example, that if the person from whom we withhold what is their rightful due is rich enough—maybe not a person at all but a corporation or a government, then it's all right to do them for

all we can get by with Jesus on one occasion gave a strong hint to the Pharisees that they were cheating the Roman government by not paying taxes. Saint Paul (Romans 13:7) found it necessary to instruct his fellow-Romans to pay their taxes. One of the commonest forms of theft in America is beating the government out of tax money. Business firms would even make a joke of it, expense accounts were known as "swindle sheets".

Another common form of stealing is to take money from people who are helpless. To be sure, few grown Americans would actually take money from a child; but some Americans have slow and creaky consciences when it comes to taking advantage of their position by charging much too much. Those price-fixing cases we all read about were like that. A city would have to pay enormous sums for electrical equipment, because the bids were "rigged" and not competitive. A landlord will charge exorbitant rent for his property, all because he knows the tenant has nowhere to go. A union will charge its members, or a surgeon his patients, or a plumber his customers, with a bill that is all out of reason, just because the workman or patient or customer has no choice but to pay.

'n good cause

The incident of the money-changers in the Temple (Mark 11:15-19) illustrates two forms of stealing at once. The temple taxes had to be paid in a special currency. These money-men would exchange (say) Roman money into temple money, charging a very high fee for the service. Now they were cheating the public on sacred premises, but stealing is stealing no matter where it's done. In America uncounted sums are lost every year in gambling devices in certain church "festivals" and "picnics" and the like, not to mention double priced white elephants at church bazaars. It's all for a good cause, we are told, and even prominent public leaders set a bad example of gambling even if it is for the benefit of a cancer fund or some charitable organization. But it's still stealing, more is lost than won. Or to make a different example. How many churches pay their janitors and other servants even the minimum standard wages? A church has no more right to underpay employees than any individual has. Keeping what belongs to people out of their hands is still stealing.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

War Against Waste

(Continued from Page 1)

ation program. The story which began with stopping subsidies in the South in 1833 and eventually led to the creation

Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly
P. O. Box 1524
Lancaster, Penna.
P. O. Box 266 - Lutz, Pa.
Offices:
22 E. Main St.
Lutz, Pa.
Phone - Lancaster
Express 1-3047 or
Lutz MA 6-2191
Jack Owen, Editor
Robert G. Campbell
Advertising Director
Established November 1,
1955. Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lutz, Pa.
Entered as 2nd class matter
at Lutz, Pa. under Act of Oct.
3, 1879.
Subscription Rates: \$2 per
year, three years \$5. Single
copy price 5 cents.
Member, Pa. Newspapers Pub-
lishers Association, National
Editorial Association.

of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation District is a dramatic one. One interesting fact is clear: soil conservation no longer begins and ends on the farm. It reaches out into the economic life of every urban and suburban community as well.

Why Soil Conservation?

The plundering of America's natural resources is a familiar story. Our forefathers saw on this continent an inexhaustible source of wealth. They cut and burned the forest and cleared the land for farms. In place of the blanket of trees and grass that sponged up rainfall they created a patchwork of raw earthen fields, ignoring the lay of the land.

Farmers mined the soil with little thought for the future. Single-cropping and soil exhaustion caused by ignoring crop rotation are sad chapters in the history of the American agriculture. At the same time plowing square fields up and down hill built a tradition of soil erosion into the farming system. Every plow furrow and cultivator mark channeled a mixture of rain and soil swiftly down the slopes.

In Pennsylvania farming up and down hill has cost up to 75 per cent of our topsoil through sheet and gully erosion by water. The silt washed from farms has filled countless stream channels, clogged city water intakes, buried fish spawning beds and filled up reservoirs. Hugh Bennett was right. The squandering of our soil resources has truly been a national disgrace.

Every farmer didn't allow uncontrolled runoff to carry his soil seed and fertilizer away. In fact some of the earliest efforts to fight erosion with strip cropping were made in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania over 100 years ago. Educational agencies encouraged changes in farming practices. But farming habits and the ruggedly individualistic thinking of farmers proved to be tough obstacles. It became obvious that a concentrated fight would have to be waged against soil erosion.

The first major step was the organization of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Operating first in the Interior Department and later the Department of Agriculture, its

(Continued on page 5)

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Beware Of Baggam Seeds

Spring is approaching rapidly and many seed purchases will be made. All growers are urged to buy the best of all types of seeds in order to obtain good yields of a quality crop. Many unknown seeds that seem to be bargains at the start may turn out to be disappointing and very expensive.

To Mark Wet Spots

Early spring is a good time to identify the source of many wet spots. These seepage spots will be

year and should be marked. This will enable the proper placing of a ditch or drain tile later in the year. If this is not done now the exact area may be more difficult to locate and correct. Ground that is low and soggy is poorly aerated and will not usually give good crop yields. Farm drainage will pay dividends in this type of soil.

To Establish Contour Strips

Spring is one of the best times to start a system of contour strip-cropping on a slope or hillside. There is little excuse for the continued loss of soil from a slope if it is still being farmed in one large field. Alternate strips of row crops and sod crops are

strongly recommended and have proven their merits many times. Free assistance is available to all those who need it.

To Permit Cattle Outside Exercise

Cattle feeders are urged to provide outside exercise for their fattening steers. Close confinement usually means warm, stuffy air conditions and less steer comfort. For efficient gains, cattle should have their choice of inside and outside.

To Keep Livestock Off Of Pasture Area

Early spring when the ground is very wet and soft

(Continued on page 5)