

## From Where We Stand . . .

# Contracts - Blessing Or Bugaboo?

Contract farming, vertical integration, or whatever other name it is called, has come in for its share of bouquets — or brickbats, depending on who has been doing the talking — during the past few years.

Many people in the poultry industry, which probably has had more business conducted on a contract basis than any other segment of the farming community, believe that most of the woes of that business have been brought about because outside money has come into the industry.

Of course there are many others who will disclaim this contention and say that it has been the so-called outside money that has made it possible for the industry to weather the price storms.

The dairy industry, too, has had a certain amount of contracting in some sections of the country. Beef and hogs have been financed by industries in the corn belt states.

However, up to this time, crop farming has been relatively free of contracts.

But in a recent speech, the president of a giant canning firm hailed contract farming as having become the most satisfactory method for orderly marketing of many food crops.

W. B. Murphy, president of Campbell Soup Company, said, "Many crops could be contracted at a tremendous saving to the taxpayers, to the benefit of crop quality, to the benefit of the country's balance of trade, and to the over-all health of American agriculture."

Contrasting the advantages of marketing agricultural products through the free market or crop contracting as opposed to production control under marketing orders or land limitations, Murphy called crop contracting "the most satisfactory method for the farmer, the processor and the consumer", because "over supply is largely eliminated, price speculation is largely eliminated, and crop service work has an ideal atmosphere to take hold. The incentive for high quality is maximized."

Murphy went on to contrast supply control through the use of contracts or government regulations. He cited the machinery needed to police control policies from the government, the difficulty of making regulations fair to all segments of the economy, and the possibility of placing dictatorial powers in the hands of a few officials.

Then using Pennsylvania's most widely contracted crop, tomatoes, as an example, Murphy pointed to what he called "the enormous strides" that have been made in the past decade in improved yields per acre and greater net income to the farmer.

He pointed to the fact that total output of tomatoes in the past ten years has increased by 65 per cent. With this we have no quarrel.

But if the total NET income per acre has more than tripled as he contends, why are fewer and fewer farmers in this county growing the red fruit.

We believe some contracts serve a very useful purpose in guaranteeing the farmer a market for specialty items, but we can not agree that all the improvement in the tomato growing business, or in any other phase of agriculture, has come about because some company offers a farmer a guaranteed price.

Contracting companies necessarily have to assume some of the risks of production, and they have to allow themselves a margin to offset possible losses.

Farmers will do well to check carefully any contract for production offered them by any company. We do not mean to imply that the long-standing contracts with reliable companies should automatically be suspect, but no business concern offers a farmer a guaranteed market because of a compassion for the farmer.

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

## Farm Your Best

There is an old story about the agriculture book salesman who told the mountaineer, "With these books you could farm twice as good as you do now." To this the old farmer replied, "Heck son, I don't farm half as good as I know how, now."

This story came to mind this week when we read the report from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry stating that a large percentage of the seed going into the ground on Keystone state farms is of sub-standard quality.

We believe there is no excuse for using poor quality seed when it represents such a small portion of the total cost of production. In these days of enlightened farmers and high wages, it is an absolute waste to plant anything but the best seed available.

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

## GARBAGE INTO CHEESE

Although rigid control and sanitation regulations bar a similar occurrence in this country, Italy is rocking from a million-dollar cheese scandle. It seems the cheese was made from garbage. An Italian food inspector was quoted as saying the cheese had "an ugly green color. The binder is a plastic normally used to manufacture buttons. . ."

## PRETTY FEATHERS

Feathers are for the birds in more ways than one. The latest is in transforming broiler and turkey feathers into a high-protein meal useful in feeds and valued at \$100 a ton.

## AMAZING IF TRUE

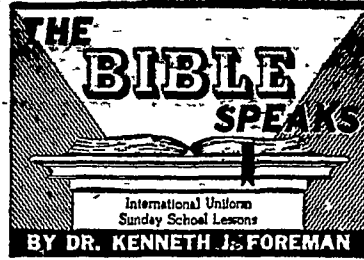
A startling report from Denmark claims that scientists in that country have developed a process for keeping fresh milk at room temperatures for up to three or four weeks.

### Help Keep Pipelines From Freezing

Repairing the door to the pump house and replacing broken window panes helps keep the water pump from freezing on cold nights. A socket for a heat lamp just over the pump is helpful on extremely cold nights when the temperature drops very quickly, says Henry Wooding, J., Penn State extension agricultural engineer.

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## New Kind of Love

Lesson for December 16, 1962

THERE are three ways of knowing what a thing is. First is by looking the word up in the dictionary, or to have some one tell us about it. Second comes the knowing which comes by looking at the thing itself.



Best way of all is to have it, so to speak, as part of yourself. For instance, take "strength." Any dictionary will tell you what strength is, in carefully chosen words. You could then tell someone else what strength means, only your telling would be just a matter of remembering the right words. A better way would be harder to forget. Suppose you nearly drowned at a bathing beach, and a lifeguard rescued you. Then you would know what strength is, and you would always remember it, even if you forgot what the dictionary said. But the best way of all is to grow strong yourself. Then even if you lost your memory entirely, you would know what strength is.

### "Is your heart true to my heart?"

All this is specially true of the much-talked-about thing called, in our language, Love. The Bible has much to say about it. But let no reader of the Bible think that because he has read about it, even on these inspired pages, he now knows love. Every writer of the Bible would agree that to know love truly, we have to be loved, and to love. Nevertheless, the words the Bible writers use are not unimportant. They give us a clue to how we may recognize love, genuine love, from imitations. The Apostle John gives us a rather horrible example of what hate is; and expects us to understand that love is its opposite. Love is NOT like what Cain the murderer felt for his brother Abel. Why did he murder him? John

asks. Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. In other words, because he was bad and his brother good. Hate comes from lack of unity, love comes from unity of spirit.

Saint John is fond of explaining a thing by naming its opposite. Love, we have seen, is the opposite of hate. It is also the opposite of death. Most people would say off-hand that the opposite of death is life. John would warn that life without love is death. Not to love means remaining in death.—Any yet, love may lead to death, literally, and it must lead (or marked counterfeit) to devotedness of life. How would you like to shut up for hours on end, day after day, with subnormal children who can hardly even talk cannot hold a pencil, cannot play or move like normal children. Most of us would think that a perfectly horrible existence; but there is a little lady some seventy years of age, who does just that. . . because she loves children like that. And if you think, well, that an old lady, she can do this, but a young woman, no—if you think that, you evidently have not met a young woman this writer's members, one of the happiest young women he ever met, who finds her happiness in helping these helpless children. There more than one way to lay down one's life.

### Not in talk but in truth

Saint John is called the Apostle of Love, but he has no exclusive right to that honorable title. One can read what Paul said I Corinthians 13 for example, Peter in I Peter 3:8, 9, or our Lord Himself in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5), to mention only a few of the places (warding careful study) without seeing that all agree on this: Love is real when it becomes living acts, something more than word. In fact, John contrasts love "in word or speech" with love "in deed and truth." As we were saying about strength, so with love. We know it a little from reading or hearing about it. We know better when some one loves us. We know it best of all, not when we become eloquent about it, but when what we do every day, the way we habitually move and act, and the way we live, speaks so plainly no one can miss.

And now if someone complains that this is too high for us, let freely confess: This kind of love is so rare as to be a new surprise every time we find it. But let us do; for it is the signature of God.

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

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX M. SMITH

### To Get Your 1963 Agronomy Guide

This is one of the very best—Extension Service publications from Penn State University, it covers all types of information relating to all farm crops; every farmer should secure and be guided by this important booklet.

### To Keep Accurate Farm Records

This practice becomes more important each year and every farmer is urged to recognize the importance of keeping accurate records of his business. Farm account books are available from our Extension Office at all times. A Correspondence Course from the University is available in eight lessons (course #117 - cost \$2.00).

### To Provide Cattle Outside Exercise

Many steer feeders keep their cattle too closely confined during the winter months; the open shed or barn is most ideal for local feeding operations. Steers that are confined to a warm, poorly ventilated barn will not eat as good, will require more bedding, and will not utilize their feed as well as those having the freedom of outside exercise and fresh air. Steer comfort requires more hours outside than indoors.

### To Protect Trees From Rodents

Rodent injury to young fruit trees and ornamental trees may be very severe during periods of continued heavy snow cover; these trees may be protected by wrapping with fine wire mesh or with aluminum foil; start the material about two inches below the soil line and go about two feet above the ground level. This should give protection from both field mice and rabbits.