

From Where We Stand . . .

Spring — The Hope Eternal

(Reprinted By Special Request)

A slender V, pointing north, silhouetted; itself against the leaden sky the eerie honk of the wild goose, on the long-awaited journey to his ancestral nesting ground, echoed in the first faint grey of dawn, and Spring slipped North on slender wings.

Knee-deep frogs peeped their awakening chorus; cat tails and skunk cabbage thrust exploring fingers through the surface mud of the swamp, so recently thawed, and Spring sneaked North on quiet feet.

Mosquitos buzzed and hummed around the old apple tree stump in the backyard orchard; the honeybee ventured forth in search of the blossoms which will nourish the bodies of his brothers long after, he has gone back to the earth from which he came, and Spring wended her way North on gossamer wings.

Robins hopped hopefully along the frozen lawn and flew back to the apple tree to squawk at the impertinent black-birds already carrying the winter-dried weeds to their nesting sites, and Spring swung North on a magnolia-scented zephyr.

All across America millions of snow shovels gave way to garden spades in the show windows and the minds of suburbanites, and Spring swung North with a vengeance, on stout legs and nimble feet.

And all across America, on farms and ranches, thoughts turned from frozen water pipes and drifted lanes to newborn lambs and newsown seeds; thoughts turned from the brightly colored seed catalogs to the brown earth with the wake-up smell behind the plow, and Spring came on with a bound.

"Spring", whispered the swelling bud on the cherry tree

"Spring", answered the grass from beneath the snowdrift.

"Spring", insisted the catkin on the Pussy Willow.

"Spring", grumbled the mud in the lane

"Spring", cried the bluejay in the walnut tree.

"Spring", screamed the weasel as she traded her white coat for brown.

"Spring", shouted a million noisy and silent voices in chorus and in discord — all at once and, all of a sudden.

"Spring", said the farmer. "Thank God for another seed time and the promise of another harvest"

In spring it is somehow hard to worry overmuch about the woes of mankind and his self-inflicted suffering. His war-mongering and incessant wranglings over the material possessions of the world seem somehow to pale into insignificance alongside the orderly awakenings of Mother Nature's children.

We feel proud, but humble, to have witnessed this awakening, and we feel sorry for those who have never had the opportunity to witness it. But we feel more sorry for those who have lived in the midst of it all their lives, and have never yet, had the time to see or feel it.

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

★ ★ ★ ★

Above normal relative humidity associated with above normal temperatures greatly increases the transit death rate in market-bound hogs, unless precautionary measures are taken, emphasizes Livestock Conservation, Inc. A relative humidity reading of 50 per cent or above when temperatures are 75 to 80 degrees or more is a "danger" signal.

Lancaster Farming
Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly
P. O. Box 1524
Lancaster, Penna.
P. O. Box 266 - Lititz, Pa.
Offices:
22 E. Main St.
Lititz, Pa.
Phone - Lancaster
EXpress 4-3047 or
Lititz MA 6-2191

Jack Owen, Editor
Robert G. Campbell,
Advertising Director
Established November 4,
1955. Published every Satur-
day by Lancaster-Farming, Lit-
itz, Pa.
Entered as 2nd class matter
at Lititz, Pa. under Act of Mar.
8, 1879.

Beef Cattle Prices

Cattle prices are taking a beating. You don't need to talk to many cattle feeders to find this out pretty quick.

A lot of reasons for the low prices are being offered, but the one most often heard is that there are too many cattle.

The annual survey by the United States Department of Agriculture shows that the number of cattle and hogs is climbing, but not a dangerous rate, and sheep numbers are actually down.

Compared with last year cattle numbers increased four per cent — up from 100,002,000 in 1962 to 103,754,000 head this year. Hog numbers increased from 57,000,000 to 58,695,000 head for a three per cent increase.

This is a small increase in itself, but when you remember that we need a two per cent growth just to keep up with the population increase and sheep numbers during the same time went down by four per cent, the total increase becomes quite small.

Cattle on feed are up 12 per cent, and this will probably push the price of finished cattle still lower, but based on the total figures, the breeding herds must be smaller. While cattle feeders have some rough sledding ahead for the next few months, long range prospects are bright. People still like beef and the cattle herds have not built up as fast in this cycle as they did in the last one.

With most Lancaster County cattle feeders, and we presume, others in the country selling at lighter weights than they did a few years ago, it will take more cattle to put the same amount of beef on the market.

We have reason to believe that the livestock business is still on very firm ground.

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

★ ★ ★ ★

For highest milk production

Vermont Experiment Station research shows the best time to breed dairy cows for highest milk production is within 50-90 days after freshening.

★ ★ ★ ★

Farm Workers Decline — The largest drop in farm workers ever reported for a 10-year period, was announced 41 percent, according to Labor Secretary for 1950 through 1960 with a decline of W. Willard Wirtz. He noted that "the technological revolution in agriculture which led to decreased requirements of labor contributed to about two-thirds increase in farm output per man-hour during the last decade."

★ ★ ★ ★

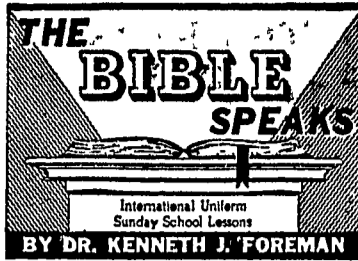
Going to Sell Machinery?

Persons planning to enter the retail farm machinery business should have at least \$20,000 to \$25,000 of their own money to invest, according to the Small Business Administration.

★ ★ ★ ★

Go Forth

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said it and it's still as true today: "Look not mournfully into the past, it returns no more; wisely improve the present, and go forth into the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart."



The Torn Veil

Lesson for April 7, 1963

Bible Material: Mark 14:10 through 15:41
Devotional Reading: II Timothy 3:1-5, 14-15.

ONCE upon a time Gethsemane and Calvary were only names. People in Jerusalem knew where they were. Gethsemane was in one kind of suburb; it was an orchard, much like a park, a good place to go for quiet and rest in the fresh air.



Dr. Foreman Calvary was altogether a different place. The air was not fresh, it smelled of death. For that place (Skull Place they called it) was the Roman army's place of execution. The place reeked with blood and the flies were everywhere. Nowadays these names have a different sound. They are beloved names, poems have been written and hymns sung about them.

The Torn Veil

What sort of place would be best suited for the God of heaven and earth? In contrast to the jeweled shrines which enclosed the images of the pagan gods, the God of the Jews lived in a dark chamber into which even His priests were forbidden to enter. Of course those who thought much about such matters knew that God was not in there. Yet if you asked them, "Where is the house of God?" they would have pointed to the Temple. It was resplendent in marble and gold, to be sure; but in that Temple, as in its model the little tabernacle or tent in the wilderness 12 centuries before, God Himself did not sit among the lights; His own chamber was dark, silent and bare, empty of all but Himself, invisible and terrible.

Between that chamber and the rest of the Temple hung an immense veil. It was a symbol of the mystery and the barrier between man and his God. Now on the afternoon in April when Jesus died, a strange thing happened. That great veil was found to be

torn in two.

What does Gethsemane mean? We may be bold to say that the torn veil let in light upon what otherwise would have remained dark forever. The tearing of the veil may symbolize the light shed by God's Spirit, as Christians believe, on the dark events we call Gethsemane and Calvary. What would Gethsemane have meant to you if you had been there? In the shadows of the great spreading trees hiding the full moon, you might have seen four men, three of them asleep but one of them praying. You could not have heard all that he said, but you might have been close enough to have heard the words wrung from him, "Let this cup pass from me . . . Nevertheless, not as I will but as Thou wilt." You could see that he dreaded something. Yet you could not see what it was he dreaded. Certainly not death, nor failure; for he had faced death and failure before this, and he knew how to take them. What was this "something" worse than death? One of the men sleeping here would one day write: "Christ suffered for you . . . He committed no sin . . . He bore our sins . . ." (I Peter 2.) By the light the Spirit pours through the opened veil, we can see what Gethsemane means: that Christ took on His own heart the sins of mankind.

What does Calvary mean?

Through that same rending of the mystic veil, a light is shed also on Calvary. If at Gethsemane Christ felt the shame of our sins, on Calvary He felt the dire result of our sins. For the nature and the result of sin is to separate the sinner from God. Again without the light that the Spirit shed (in various ways through the New Testament) we could make very little of Calvary. What could you have seen? Three men being tortured to death, Roman style, by being nailed to crosses. You might not have known—for certainly his executioners did not know—that the few words spoken by the man on the middle cross, in all the hours He hung there, would be immortal. Even if you had known, you could hardly have understood. Yet in the light that pours through the torn veil we can see even a meaning in the darkest of Calvary's sayings: Why hast Thou forsaken me? The meaning, part of the meaning, of Calvary is that Christ underwent, for our sake and taking our place,—being shut out of the presence of God. Our shame, our sentence, He took on Himself!

(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.)

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX M. SMITH

To Shear Sheep

There is little to be gained by waiting until hot weather to remove the fleece from sheep, in fact some animals will begin to lose their wool when warm weather arrives. In addition, ewes nursing a lamb or two will milk better out of the fleece, also, a shorn ewe will be more sensitive to rain and cool winds and bring their lambs into shelter quicker than one with heavy wool.

To Make Straight Legume Seedings

New stands of alfalfa or clover may be made in the spring without any nurse crop, providing the seeding is made during late March or early April and also, some special effort is made to control the weeds. We recommend either Eptam just prior to the seeding time, or the use of 4 (2,4-D-B) after seeding and when the weeds are from one to two inches high. Additional details available.

To Manage The Milking Herd Carefully

All dairymen look forward to the pasture season for fresh forage and reduced barn charges; however, this is the season when very careful management is required. The herd should be gradually accustomed to fresh grass to eliminate bloating, and grazed only after the milking period; being removed to the barn or dry lot at least 4 to 5 hours prior to the next milking period; if this is not done, off-flavored milk may result. The milking herd should not be permitted

to lie down on the cold ground until warmer temperatures are here to stay.

To Handle Packed Manure

Many steer barns and livestock pens are being cleaned at this time of the year. The front-end loader is a big labor saver but these large sections of packed manure are very hard on manure spreaders unless the section is broken up by handling one or more times. Piling the manure and then re-loading the same day is suggested in order to relieve the spreader of this wear and tear.