From Where We Stand . . . **Out Through The Bottom?**

The squeeze continues.

A report from the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture published recently shows that the average income of the Nation's farmers during the first half of 1963 was about as high as a year earlier. Aggregate net farm income realized from faming from January to June was down about three per cent, but the decline in numbers of farms over the past year was at about the same rate as the decline in aggregate income.

On the next page the report says, Production expenses through June this year were above those of a year earlier, more than offsetting the gain in realized farm income.

A few years ago, just after the war years when almost anyone could make money on the farm, there was a general tightening of the purse strings as the demand for products was cut back and production costs began to eat up most of the profit on small unit production. For a few years we have heard less about the "cost-price squeeze", but it is still with us. The only difference is the rapidity with which it is overtaking the færmer.

Now we could all set up a howl that we are being pushed into a corner with no way out except through the bottom, but who would listen; who would care.

Consumers could care less that the farmer is forced to work on a slimmer and slimmer margin. Too many consumers already think all farmers are Cadıllac-driving millionaires and screaming about costs of production would just focus more attention on the farmer.

We can just sit idly by until the situation gets so bad that all the small farmers are forced to quit and demand again catches up with supply, but this would create a situation ripe for big money to take over so much of the agricultural production that prices and production could be manipulated at will.

We could ask for government controls to put a ceiling on production, but the Nation's farmers have shown that they consider this a breach of their freedom to farm.

What then, can farmers do?

They can do very little as long as they are price takers instead of price setters They will be forced to produce more and more on a slimmer and slimmer margin in order to earn a living wage.

Farmers must find a way to limit their own output to the volume the market will absorb at a reasonable price. This can not be done by individual farmers, but if the cooperatives now organized, or new ones in the talking stage, really want to do a service to the farmer, they will help him regulate his marketings.

turn on his investment and labor.

Perhaps we are dreaming of Utopia when we talk about farmers regulating themselves, but this appears to be the only alternative to getting out of the corner through the bottom.

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

Live an Enlightened Life! — Dr. Calvin E. Gross, New York City's new \star superintendent of schools, calling for "intellectual development" in the schools made this perceptive observation: "Every citizen of this country, whether ligions, Jewish, Mohammedan and he pounds nails, raises corn, designs rockets or writes poetry, should be taught to know and love his American heritage; to use the language well; to understand the physical universe, and to enjoy the arts. The dollars he gains in absence of enlightenment like this will be earned in drudgery and spent in ignorance."

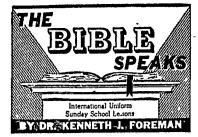
*** * * * * Dr. Foreman** Abraham is much Sleeping Sickness — "Since the general civilization of mankind I believe and a post-mortem saint. The there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by respectfully remembered? He was gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." So wrote James Madison, one of the architects of the American Republic, long ago. History since things. The word that should pop has vindicated his view. There have been bloody revolutions, it is true. But far greater numbers of despotisms have been created while the people slept.

* * Top Money Earners — Male doctors, dentists, and lawyers were the top earners in the U.S. during 1959, a recent Bureau of the Census report revealed, averaging in excess of \$10,000 for the fidence. But these are slight matnext year. Next in income came salaried managers in general manufacturing plants, at \$9,156. Median income for all 44 million men in the "experienced civilian labor force" was placed at \$4,621.

* *

"Going Whole Hog" might make a dent in your food budget, but the expression does not have its origin in food, says the American Meat Institute. Long ago a ten-cent piece was called a hog So a sport who was willing to squander a dime was said to "go the whole hog".

× Watch Those Poisons! — To stem the rising tide of accidental poisonings of small children, the American Red Cross urges parents to take the utmost precautions to keep poisonous substances beyond their children's reach. It is estimated that there are 500,000 accidental poisonings a year among children five years old and younger, of which 500 prove fatal.



Venture of Faith Lesson for August 4, 1963

Bible Material: Genesis 12 through Devotional Reading: Romans 5:1-5.

14

S URELY it would be a very extraordinary mortal who would be remembered with pride nearly four thousand years after his lifetime. Such a man was Abraham, honored as a saint in three re-

Christian. There is a Mohammedan mosque over the cave where it is said Abraham was buried; and pious Jews used to write out pravers and drop them in, presumably 2 over his tomb. But

point is, Why is he so long and so a rich man for his times; he was a stout desert fighter; he was a great family man; he was on equal terms with kings. But he is not best remembered for these into any one's mind if asked what Abraham was noted for, is Faith.

The faith that says, "I believe" Faith has various meanings. We can select three of these and find that Abraham had all three. Now Abraham's faith, of whatever sort, was centered in God. This man had some faith in his family, a little in people outside his family, and no doubt some self-conters, and he is not remembered for his faith in man. He put his faith in God. How he came to know about God when his ances-tors were worshippers of "other Gods" as Joshua said (Joshua 24:2), we do not know. What experiences led him to the God forgotten or never known by his fathers before him, the Bible does not say. But he believed in God, and God counted it to his credit. He believed in God in three ways which are closely related. First he believed that what God said was true. God gave him a threepart promise: first that he should

have a son and many descended ants; second that these descende ants would "inherit" a place in the sun, to grow to a nation; and third (stranger than all) that in some way he, Abraham, would be one who would bring a blessing to the whole world.-

The faith that says, "I will" The reader can think for himself why all these promises were hard to believe. But Abraham believed them because he believed that it was God, and not some trick of his own imagination, who had put the thought, the conviction, into: his mind. How did God speak to Abraham? Did Abraham hear God just as you hear voices on the radio? Did God speak in the Sumerian language? (Abraham lived where Sumerian was spoken, and the Hebrew language had not then been born.) We don't know about this. What is really important is that what God wanted Abraham to believe, he believed. It was not only a matter of believing that God's promises were true. He could have believed that with his eyes shut, dozing over his supper, without the least danger in the world. But God called him into uncertainty and danger. GO! God said; and Abraham went. He had faith that said "You are right" in the face of improbabilities; he also had the faith that said "I will" when faced with

had a going faith. The faith that says, "I believe what you are"

hardship and risk. He had a sit-

still consenting faith but he also

Abraham believed what God said, and he was willing to do as God commanded him, because he believed in God. Again we do not know how he came to this faith. Perhaps gradually, perhaps all of a sudden. At any rate we all know what it is to believe in a person. You know this person will not lie to you, you know this person will not try to use you for selfish advantage. You know that this kind of person is just not capable of doing a mean thing. If some one told you a scandalous story about him you would know at once it couldn't be true. Now Abraham had that kind of faith. The number one thing with him was not, after all, believing in God's promises and God's commands. He believed in God, period. Believing that God exists is thought by some people to be the essence of religion, but it is not. I believe that pipe organs exist but that does not put one in my house and it does not make me a musician. Religion begins to be religion when we no longer merely believe something about God, but personally believe in Him.

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

Now Is The Time. BY MAX SMITH



To Recognize The Value, Of Alfalfa Pounds of feed nutrients per acre is the

We saw recently what a temporary shortage did to the price of sugar. Consumers continued to buy sugar even though the price sky-rocketed.

We would certainly hate to see the price of milk or meat or eggs go up in proportion as much as sugar did, but we do feel that the consumer should be expected to pay enough for his groceries to furnish the farmer a reasonable re-

Clothes-Saving Tip

To keep ments with lines, hang o en contour the shoulder gests Berni State extens cialist. If yo ough wooden wire hangers match the each garmen ment as you gert Count

 \star ★

That'll Be the Day --- The morning after Charles Lindburgh flew the Atlantic nonstop from New York to Paris, an associate of Charles Kettering rushed into the research expert's laboratory in Dayton, Ohio, shouting: "He made it! Lindburgh landed safely in Paris!" . . . "He did it all by himself!" Kettering looked up from his work momentarily and remarked quietly: "When he flies hay crops are permitted to it with a committee, let me know."

and a second starts		
ep the shape of gar- ith sloped shoulder	}	~~~~~~~~~~~
g on padded or wood- ur hangers and ease ders into place, sug- rnice Tharp, Penn	Lancaster Farming Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly	Jack Owen, Editor Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director
ension clothing spe- you don't have en- den hangers, tape two eers together. Bend to be shoulder line of nent Button the gar- you put it on a han- the should a ser-		Established November 1955. Published every Satu day by Lancaster-Farming, Li itz, Pa. Entered as 2nd class matt at Lititz Pa. under Act of Ma 8, 1879.

age and hay crops alfalfa ranks at the top of the list. In the last decade alfalfa has grown in popularity and continues to give large yields of quality hay, silage, or pasture; it may be used in all types of livestock production and can contribute valuable proteins and minerals to various rations. Livestock producers are urged to make additional seedings of alfalfa by mid-August or next spring.

To Harvest At Peak of Maturity

The most important factor in cutting

MAX M. SMITH most forage crops for hay or silage is to get them at the proper stage of maturity Many

To Use Purebred Sires In any type of livestock drop in feed nutrients when breeding the sire has considerleft in the field too long, while able influence on the progeny many corn crops are cut too and upon the future of the soon for quality silage. Grasses herd. As we approach the fall **\$** and legumes are just opposite breeding season for sheep and of corn in the cutting periods swine, local breeders are urged for top quality slage. As the to select their sires carefully forage crops reach early bud and be willing to pay the ad-4, stage or head out, they de- ditional dollars for the best crease in feed value as they that is available. A good suc uritmature; corn increased in will increase the value of each value from the milk stage, of his offspring under good ter through the dough stage and feeding and management, and ar. to full dent period at which will not cost more money u time it should be cut for sil- the end - he will increase