

From Where We Stand . . . Nothing New Under The Sun

"There is nothing new under the sun," says the ancient proverb.

But with the coming of the agricultural revolution, so many changes have been developed in farm methods and products that the farmer has been conditioned to expect almost anything.

One thing that does not change is the oldest of all schemes. "Sell the sucker a bill of goods and move on," is as old as history itself.

And those who ply the ancient trade have made capital out of the farmer's penchant for expecting an easier way.

Every few years some organization will come along with a new method or product that seems just too good to be true — and usually it is.

Before the age of reason, the fast buck artists played on the superstition of the victim. Witch doctors collected hard-earned money to drive away evil spirits, or make it rain, or make the cattle more prolific, or any number of other things men thought were desirable. In most cases, the victim got no more than he expected. Often he got nothing, but if the witch doctor was a good-enough salesman, the victim was convinced that it was his own fault that the charm did not work.

Now the search for security, or an easier way of doing a job, or higher yields, has taken the place of superstition, but the "something for nothing" boys still find victims.

A few years ago when pest control was just catching on, many schemes were foisted on the farmer with no result except added weight in the con man's pocket. These schemes were sold not because the pest control systems failed to work, but because they did work. The farmers knew pests could be controlled but it cost a lot of money.

One outfit used an electronic box and aerial pictures. All the farmer had to do was pay for the picture and fork over a specified sum every time he wanted the bugs killed on his farm. The company would put the picture in the box and turn on the juice. Mysteriously all the bugs on the pictured area would die.

Fantastic as it sounds, many farmers in Pennsylvania paid out good money on this scheme, and many well educated and influential citizens were taken in by the hoax.

We know many legitimate technological advances are showing up every year, and we certainly do not want to discredit any of them, but there are other "questionable" products and services on the market which are of little value and almost always grossly overpriced.

But how can the farmer tell the difference between the genuine article and the junk?

This is difficult since some of the worst offenders are products that are not absolutely worthless they are just overpriced.

But almost all these so-called advances will have one or more telltale signs in their promotion. If you spot

any one of the following symptoms, be sure to check carefully before parting with any of your hard-earned cash.

If the salesman claims that the product operates on a whole new approach not yet tested by soil or animal scientists, and goes into some quasi-scientific jargon about atoms or ions promising fantastic yields, it is well to beware.

If the salesman claims some secret ingredient such as SXL-15, but says he can not divulge the formula and asks you to "Just take my word for it," his word may not be worth any more than the secret ingredient.

If the salesman runs down scientific research and makes excuses for his product by saying the researchers were biased or did not use the product according to directions, or if he claims the scientists are resentful of everything they didn't invent themselves, you can be pretty sure the product was a failure in a fair test.

If the salesman tells you that many farmers have used the product or method and are pleased with results, ask him for names. If he has names, but they are all in other states, go slow. If the names are local, try to find out what kind of farmers are endorsing the product. It is easy to convince some people that any success they have had was entirely attributed to one product or service while the real reason might have been something entirely different. Just because one poor farmer gets hooked on a piece of junk is no guarantee that it will do anything for your farming operation.

The unfortunate part of the whole thing is that so many of the spurious products are being sold locally by sincere, reputable local men who have themselves swallowed a sales talk.

If you are offered a product that "you just spray a little of it on your crops and — poof — instant bumper crops," look deeper than the promotion literature. Don't be fooled by so-called facts and figures. Figures don't lie, but liars sure can figure.

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

★ ★ ★ ★ Stress and Strain Mean Colds

Farmers and ranchers who are under stress and strain are more prone to have colds than those not under them, says the American Medical Association. A good year on the farm means fewer colds. When you get a cold take something — anything — the psychological effect can reduce a cold's effect by 30 to 50 percent in some cases.

★ ★ ★ ★ Dairyman's Nightmare

Pipe fitters dream can be a dairyman's nightmare warns Warren A. Dodge, Vermont University dairy specialist, who points out that too many elbows and nipples in milking machine lines can hamper vacuum pressure.

★ ★ ★ ★ Canadian Farm Income

Canadian average farm income is only \$2,149 per year. Of the Dominion's 481,000 farms, nearly 133,000 sell less than \$1,200 in produce each year.

HIGH PRODUCERS

A seven year old Ayrshire cow in the herd of Eli N. Martin Stevens named Cocalico Signet's Viola, completed an official milk production record of 76,260 pounds of milk with 683 pounds of butterfat in a 305-day testing period. Also high producers in the herd are Cocalico Signet's Lucy, 13,610 pounds milk, 544 pounds butterfat, and Cocalico Signet's Wolly, 13,200 pounds milk, and 537 pounds butterfat.

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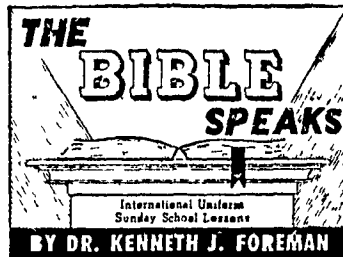
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Family Tensions

Lesson for April 19, 1964

Background Scripture: Matthew 10:34-39; Ephesians 5:21 through 6:4; Devotional Reading: I John 4:7-12.

A GREAT DEAL of sentimental twaddle is written, preached or sung, about the family. People talk about the family and the home as if it were (if American, of course!) a bit of heaven on earth. But a family can be a bit



Dr. Foreman anything perfect.

Again, a lot of scientific twaddle is spouted off, as wrong in its way as the sentimental twaddle. Scientists,—sociologists, psychologists, economists and such,—talk about the family as cold-bloodedly as if it were a purely scientific phenomenon, like an earthquake or the hiving of bees. They look at it as if it were a human institution (which is the truth) and nothing more—which is far from true.

Where the problems are

Now the Bible is not something written in a vacuum or a monastery. Its writers were mostly married men (some of them happy, some unhappily); and they were not silent about marriage. As an example of Christian truth about marriage, consider the passage in Ephesians, 5:21 through 6:4. Here we have the Christian home spoken of in thirteen sentences, filled with wisdom on this problem. Saint Paul shows first that he knows where the trouble-spots are. Today we call them tensions, a word suggesting that if two people are pulling against each other, "something's gotta give."

What we're after

Paul not only knew where the

tensions are, he knew what the ideal of marriage. Now it would be impossible for Paul either to state a problem or to suggest how to solve one, without a reference to Christ. That is the trouble with so much modern analysis of the marriage problem. It never gets within range of religion. But Paul comes to the One who for him and for us too (if we live up to our professions) is the Center, no matter what the thought or the action is. The ideal family life, we are here told, is a life of harmony. The relation between Christ and the church is the model for the relation of the various parts of the family to one another. Harmony, not identity, is the aim. No one person runs the family; that is dictatorship. There is organization; a good home is not a place where every one does as he pleases without caring what any one else thinks or does. But good organization, with a head who is really a head and not just a Sunday looker-on, organization which has as its aim not uniformity but harmony in love.

The cure for what ails us

There are thirteen sentences (as we noted) in this short passage; yet Christ is mentioned not less than nine times. Christ in the home lessens the tensions, and even all but destroys them. (No home is so good that it is forever free from the danger of tensions.) Out of the many ways in which this is true, consider one that is highlighted by St. Paul, the relation — which can be pretty tense! — between husband and wife. He tells the wife to be subject to her husband, and many a man has taken this to mean that he is the sergeant and the family is the squad; so when he barks they should all jump. Not at all! Paul goes on to say something, even stronger to the husband, "You must love your wife as Christ loved the church, giving himself in sacrifice. The model for the husband-father is not taken from the rules of a cavalry regiment; but from Calvary. Indeed Paul says that not only the wife but each member of the family should be "in subjection" to the others. Each for all and all for each—if each and all are for Christ as He is for them, tensions will disappear.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

To Place Fertilizer Properly

With the heavier use of higher analysis fertilizer on many crops, it is very important to refrain from permitting the seed and the fertilizer to come close together. Fertilizers containing any nitrogen or potash have the power to burn seeds or plant roots. In many cases it might be best to apply the complete fertilizer prior to seeding with the crops seeds. With corn it is advised to plow down most of the nitrogen and then apply a complete fertilizer in the row, but be sure it is about two inches to the side and two inches below the corn seeds. Complete fertilizers should not be allowed to touch any roots or seed.



MAX SMITH

To Have Fertilizer Balance

For best yield performance on any crop it is necessary to have the proper balance in the various soil elements. Any one of the major three elements (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash) can limit the yield of a crop. In many soils here in the southeast it is either the nitrogen or the phosphorus that limits greater yields. The lack of either of these will reduce yields in spite of liberal amounts of the others. Complete soil tests are urged to find the answers.

To Prune Shrubs and Trees

The months of March and April are ideal times to prune and shape many shrubs and shade trees—as well as fruit trees. Many authorities may say that the time to prune is when your knife is sharp, but it seems logical to do the major pruning before the new leaves appear and before the plant makes any new growth. Evergreens are not included in this recommendation because their pruning times vary according to variety.

To Plow Down Corn Stalks

The European Corn Borer is a crop reducer in many Pennsylvania corn fields. Growers are urged to get the old stalks under by May 1st in order to prevent new broods from hatching. This insect will harbor over the winter in corn stalks or any other pithy weed or plant. The prevention of a new hatch of the insects will reduce the population and problem.