

From Where We Stand . . .

Drought Relief Programs

For the third successive year Lancaster County farmers are hurt by drought. The type of soil a farm may have and how the farmer may have managed that soil are undoubtedly factors that effect the degree of his crop damage. But the fact that faces him at the moment is that he is hurt badly. What can he do about it?

So far the county has not been certified as a drought disaster area, as it was during the past two years. We are not suggesting that it should or should not be so declared at this time. There are some benefits to be had under such a program, principally lower-priced corn through Commodity Credit Committee, and perhaps reduced freight rates on hay brought into the county.

For the county to obtain disaster status farmers must petition ASCS, Farmers Home Administration, and the County Agent's Office. It is then up to these groups, if they feel the evidence is sufficient, to apply to Governor Scranton for drought disaster status for Lancaster County. The Governor has declared 11 counties so far as drought emergency areas, making them eligible for any benefits of the Federal government livestock feed program.

Short of being certified for such disaster relief there is another government program which is administered through FHA. This is the drought emergency loan program, and it is already available in Lancaster as well as in 54 other counties in Pennsylvania.

This emergency loan is designated for production loss due to lack of rainfall, hail, frost and wind. Any established farm owner or operator who is primarily engaged in farming is eligible if:

- (1) He has suffered a substantial loss.
- (2) He is unable to obtain from other lenders the credit required to continue his normal operations.
- (3) He has reasonable prospects for success in the farming operations he plans to carry on, including the retirement of his debts.

These loans may be made for the purchase of feed, seed, fertilizer, insecticides and farm supplies, the repair of equipment, payment of one year's taxes, rent, insurance and other essential farm and home operating expenses. Loans may not be made to refinance existing debts, or to compensate applicants for their losses.

The loans carry interest rates of three per cent on the unpaid balance, and repayment schedules depend upon purposes for which the funds are advanced, and upon the estimated income of the applicant. As with most operating loans, they should be repaid in the operating year.

If further information is desired on the particulars of this loan program, we suggest you get in touch with your county FHA office — Room 222, P.O. Bldg., Lancaster

There is no question that these programs will be lifesavers for many farmers. But we wonder seriously how many years a farmer can continue piling loan on top of loan. Somewhere along the line he has to have a few good years if he is to ever get caught up financially. We're not suggesting

that all the farmers who will need to borrow money this year to continue to operate should get out of farming. There are many good farmers who have been seriously hurt by the accumulated burden of three years of drought. Given half a chance, many of these farmers will pull out of this crisis. We do think that the farmer who has gone year after year without making any money should give some serious thought to another way to support his family. The Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service showed recently that there are 12,000 fewer farms in the Commonwealth this year than there were in 1960. So there must be some good alternatives that the man who just can't make it in farming should consider.

What Do YOU Think?

A Meat Substitute?

We saw an ad the other day in a leading national magazine that made us think of Jimmy Durante's old line—"Everybody wants to get into de act!" The ad was for a meatless-meat to replace meat! Now a little competition is a healthy thing, but this is getting ridiculous. The meat industry is already suffering from foreign imports, low prices, diet fads, cholesterol scares, and now it's competition from meatless meat.

The ad said, "it looks like meat, it tastes like meat." It comes in the form of simulated beef, ham, sausage, chicken and turkey. This edible protein product is made from spun soybean fibers. The soy fiber is produced under a process similar to that used in making synthetic fibers for textile use. After processing, it can be cut, rolled, chopped or twisted. It is then colored and flavored, or mixed with other food ingredients. Now doesn't that sound delicious?

This meatless wonder is being promoted presently for consumption by those on fat-free diets or with cholesterol problems, for institutional markets, and for those who, for religious reasons, do not eat meat. With the possible exception of the institutional uses we have no real argument with this approach, but when the promoters go on to list among the advantages of this ersatz meat such things as texture, flavor and aroma, we feel they just have to be kidding—and that's a more charitable expression than we'd like to use.

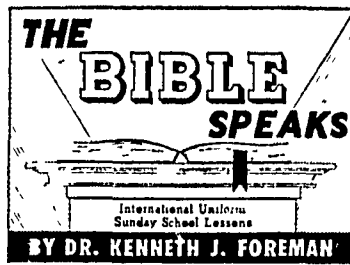
At least the manufacturers of these new products are having some of the same problems that the quality meat industry has had for years—consumer resistance to price, in particular. These items sell for over \$1 per pound at the moment. However, the promoters are looking beyond these pioneer days for meatless meat, and they feel that once they are able to reduce their production costs through increased efficiencies they will be able to expand their market considerably.

If we hadn't already seen the inroads made by oleomargarine into the butter market, and by vegetable oils into the lard market, we might shrug off this new threat to our meat markets. We can't visualize anyone preferring soybean fibers to steak, but then neither can we visualize anyone preferring oleo to butter.

What Do YOU Think

FULTON GRANGE ELECTS OFFICERS

Fulton Grange #66 met September 14 in their hall at Oaklyn, Pa. Master, Gyles H. Brown conducted election of officers which resulted as follows: Master, Gyles H. Brown, Overseer, David Wissler, Jr., Lecturer, Miss Rebecca Kirk, Steward, Ambrose Giffing, Assistant Steward, Chester Todd, Jr., Chaplain, Paul Uibel, Treasurer, Walter Wood, Secretary, Miss Charles McSparran, Gatekeeper, Robert Black, Ceres, Lois Tindall, Pomona, Lynda Schonvisky; Flora, Mrs. Ambrose Giffing, Lady Assistant Steward, Mrs. Stanley Stauffer, Jr., Pianist, Miss Adaline Edwards, Librarian, Mrs. Susan Fite, Flower Committee, Miss Ralph Armstrong and Miss Philip Giffing, Purchasing Agent, C. G. McSparran, Executive Committee member, J. Robert Reed, Finance Committee member, Norman Wood, Juvenile Motion, Mrs. Charles Tindall, Sr., Hospitalization Secretary, Miss Marie Murphy, Trustees, E. Maurice Gregg and Philip Giffing.



Give Us A King

Lesson for September 20, 1964

Background Scripture: I Samuel 8 through 11
Devotional Reading: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19.

THERE USED to be a comic character named Popeye. He once got to be king of some imaginary country, and wore the biggest crown the cartoonist could invent for him. Then one day there was a revolution. The streets were filled with people yelling, "Down with King Popeye!" Old Popeye had a fast cure for the revolution. (This was back in the days when revolutions could sound funny.) He came



Dr. Foreman out on the balcony, took off his crown and threw it to the mob. Then an attendant handed him a derby hat, which he put on. So everybody began to shout, "Long live President Popeye!" This little tale illustrates a point: leadership there must always be. What name the leader has is not important, it's how and where he leads that is the question.

Power in the people

Now the little "nation" of Israel wanted a king. (We put "nation" in quotes because in the time of Saul it was hardly more than a confederation of tribes.) They had had great leadership from Samuel, but as he grew old the people began to worry about what would happen next. So they demanded: Give us a King! If you read the story it may raise in your mind an old and yet quite modern question: Where is the root of power in a nation?

The United States has the same answer the ancient Hebrews had: The people choose their leaders, the people's power is delegated to those leaders. What the people give the people can take. Mussolini, "Il Duce," Leader of

Italy, once operated Italy as if it belonged to him. But there came a time when the people no longer supported him; and they raised him in a public place. Power rises and resides with the people. They can misuse it, they may neglect it and let someone steal it; but the Hebrew nation, and our own, believed and believes that government can be only by consent of the governed.

Power corrupts

Give us a King! the populace shouted; and when they got one, named Saul, and had vowed loyalty to him, they all went home. Now we have a King our troubles are over, they thought, and half-drunk with delight they tramped away through the dust. But there was one sober man there present, the prophet Samuel. He had in God's name selected and anointed this new king. But he could see the dangers in having a king at all. Saul's power to be king was conferred on him by choice of the people and of Samuel too. But as someone would say more than a thousand years afterwards, power corrupts; and it would corrupt Saul. This new king would forget that his power had been given to him, not born with him; Samuel realized this and drew a bitter word-picture of what a king would be. In describing the king, any future monarch, the verb Samuel uses is mostly "he will take . . ."

Rights and duties

Is this inevitable? Does all power always corrupt? Not always; but the danger is that possessors of power are in constant danger of being corrupted by it. Samuel must have thought the future was not loaded against the nation, for he wrote a document (a "white paper" as we might call it today) giving the "rights and the duties of the kingship." This, in germ at least, was a Constitution. A truly democratic system was there in essence. One of the original thirteen colonies, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, wrote into its constitution the phrase "that this may be a government of laws, not of men . . ." In dictatorships of all kinds the law is what the dictator says it is—"I AM the State!" Monarchs have lived above the law; yet, when they have done so, they have forgotten the first law of all, the law of God. What became of Samuel's book? Destroyed perhaps by some greedy king. But the laws of God are not so easy to destroy.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO MANAGE FROSTED CROPS

Scattered frost in some sections this past week reminds me that sudan grass and sorghum crops (or the sorghum hybrids) could be poisonous to livestock after a killing frost; that is, if consumed in a fresh state. These crops should not be grazed or green shopped after a killing frost. If needed, they may be made into hay or silage providing they are permitted to cure or ferment at least two weeks in storage before feeding.

TO KEEP GOOD FARM RECORDS

It's a bit late in the year to begin keeping farm records; but we merely mention the value of accurate records at this time in order to stress the importance of them. These records are not only needed at income tax time but should be used for farm planning and for the basis of making decisions. Records are the best guide to success or failure of certain farm enterprises.

TO FEED NEW CORN CAUTIOUSLY

We've noticed some early corn crops already being picked; this corn is still high in moisture and should be handled carefully, it will surely mold if cribbed in any quantity unless exposed to mechanical drying. If it is to be ground for livestock feeding, then it should be done daily in order to prevent heating and molding. Heated or moldy corn may cause bloating or breeding problems in the herd or flock.

TO DISCOURAGE RODENTS

The fall season is approaching and weather conditions

will drive field rodents to the buildings. Rats and mice do millions of dollars worth of damage each year in this country. One of the best means of preventing heavy infestation is to eliminate their breeding and harboring places. Floors and feed alleys of building should be concreted, stone walls pointed with concrete, junk piles eliminated, and good sanitary conditions maintained. Don't give them a place to hide and breed and the problem is partly controlled. A variety of poison baits may be used to eliminate a few rodents, but are very ineffective on a heavy infestation.

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