

# From Where We Stand . . .

## The Thanksgiving Feast Is Truly American!

Thanksgiving Day is a purely American feast, begun traditionally by the Pilgrims, and continued through the centuries as a national day of religious and gastronomic significance.

Even today when all the foods of the world are available to enrich our daily diet, the Thanksgiving menu of the average household is still predominantly American in origin and production. A sumptuous feast can be spread with only the kinds of food that the pre-Columbian Indians knew and taught the white men how to raise and use. An All-American Thanksgiving menu is tempting to a gourmet's taste and satisfying to a hungry, growing boy.

Turkey, cranberries, both white and sweet potatoes, numerous sorts of beans, squash, pumpkin, tapioca, corn, including sweet corn and popcorn, peppers, avocado, cocoa and chocolate, oysters, pineapple, chestnuts, peanuts, brazil nuts, cashew nuts, and while not strictly a food, the tobacco of the after-dinner cigaret, cigar or pipe. All of these are of strictly American origin.

Even without excluding non-American dishes, the usual Thanksgiving dinner, with roast turkey, cranberry sauce, string beans, corn bread, pumpkin pie on the menu, is American enough. Those who wish can easily build in their kitchens a strictly made-in-America Thanksgiving bill of fare.

The turkey that is the center of the usual Thanksgiving feast has a dual claim to the 100 per cent citizenship. It is as native to the American continent as the Indians. Yet the turkey also has a record of early immigration from Europe.

Cranberry sauce is as American as the roast turkey that it accompanies to the relish of the feast. Cranberries are found only on the American continent. The cranberry bogs of New Jersey are famous the world over.

"Fixin's" are indispensable to the turkey, and sweet potatoes are indispensable to the "fixin's." Sweet potatoes, as well as the white potatoes, misnamed Irish, are American in origin.

The sweet potatoes, "taters" south of the Mason and Dixon line, are probably of tropical origin. At any rate, they thrive best now in the warmer parts of the country.

The white potato is not Irish but Peruvian in origin. It got its misnomer because it was so widely grown there and Irish immigrants in the early 1700's brought large quantities of them to the United States.

For the salad course, there may be avocados, also called alligator pears, for these are native to this hemisphere.

The bread should be corn bread, of course.

Corn is the greatest of the agricultural gifts of America to the world. When the first settlers from England found this grain being cultivated by the Indians they called it Indian corn to

distinguish it from the use of the word corn to mean in British usage all kinds of grain, wheat, barley, rye and all the rest.

Corn probably originated in the South American highlands but by the time the white men came its cultivation had spread as far north on this continent as the climate permitted.

In the fields of Indian corn found by the early colonists, there were orange-yellow pumpkins growing much as they are grown today.

Pumpkin pie is as Thanksgiving as turkey, yet just 50 years after Columbus the American pumpkin had been so adopted in Europe that it was being called the Turkish cucumber.

Beans of many varieties deserve a place in the American Thanksgiving table, for they were extensively cultivated by all the native populations of the New World.

Nuts give Thanksgiving a double dessert.

America is a land of rich and varied food supplies, capable of sharing its bounty with other areas of the world and willing to aid other countries to raise larger crops of food, often of western hemisphere origin. We are thankful for this at this Thanksgiving as it may help bring peace to the future of a less hungry world.



## Farm-City Interdependence

Once each year farmers and city folk officially take time out for a good look at each other. Theoretically, this aids understanding between these two segments of society, so Farm-City Week is proclaimed throughout the land. This year it will be celebrated November 19-25.

In reality, the position of the American farmer has shifted considerably over the years — his shrinking number, his greater production, his dwindling political importance are all well-known facts. But what image of the farmer must the city and suburban dweller have? From what he sees in his daily paper and gathers through other news media, he may even believe the farmer is a federal employee!

Governor Scranton has said that as farmers prosper the Commonwealth's whole economy benefits. Unfortunately, this does not always work both ways.

Farmers make a real contribution to the standard of living of the average consumer and to the total economy. Perhaps this point can be made most effectively during Farm-City Week while the consumer's attention is directed farmward, and while his mind is on plans for the Thanksgiving feast.

According to Russell Larson, Dean of the College of Agriculture at Penn State University, agriculture and its related businesses in Pennsylvania pump \$15 billion a year into the economy. Total farm production expenses in 1963 accounted for \$700 million of this. Agriculture continues to be one of the leading industries in Pennsylvania.

The team, coached by M M Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent will compete in the 4-H judging events at the International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago on November 26. In last year's national competition the county team placed second nationally in over-all judging.

## Grading Fees

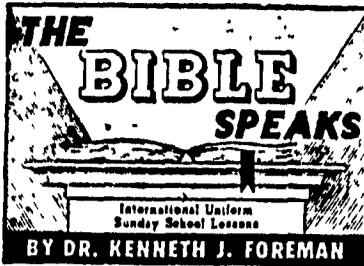
(Continued from Page 1) ance with this cost, C&MS officials said. Minimum fee and hours charged on weekly contracts will be \$312 for 40 hours. Regulations governing the meat grading service are being amended to permit the fee increase.

## 4-H Judges

(Continued from Page 1) Fred Heis with 559. The courtans defeated teams from Virginia, Georgia, Maryland, Indiana, and Kentucky.

## Weather Forecast

Temperatures for the five-day period, Saturday through Wednesday, are expected to average below normal. It will be colder over the weekend and milder about mid-week. Precipitation for the period may amount to 1-1.2 inch occurring as rain Sunday night and again Wednesday.



## A Soldier's Faith

Lesson for November 21, 1965

Background Scripture: II Kings 5:1-27. Devotional Reading: Psalm 103:1-12.

ARMY MEN and religion are not ordinarily thought of together. But some soldiers have been famed for their religious faith. It would interest the reader to run through the Bible and note the many soldiers mentioned there who were as religious as they were brave. In modern times it is the same. One of the first things General Eisenhower did on becoming president was to



Dr. Foreman be baptized and join the church. An American seminary recently had in its student body a retired British Major-general. And so it goes. One of the most dedicated Christians this writer ever knew was a regular army captain.

## Faith and humility

It is humbling experience for a man with the habit of command and used to giving orders to enter the Kingdom of God like a child, as Jesus expressed it. But the bravest can also be the humblest. The story of Commander Naaman in II Kings 5 is a very interesting case in point. This man was a servant of God without perhaps knowing it. At any rate the writer of II Kings gives God the credit for Naaman's victories over Israel. For that was what he was, conqueror of Israel. In his time he was commander of all the Syrian army, and by his victorious campaigns had reduced Israel to an unimportant and impoverished province of the Syrian Empire. An Israelite girl at the time of this story was serving as lady's maid to the Commander's wife. Now you would not expect a great commander to pay much attention to the ideas of a little slave girl.

## Faith and healing

The Commander may have been in desperation, for he was

suffering from a disease for which at that time there was no known cure: the dreaded affliction of leprosy. To be a leper was to live under the visible shadow of death. The little maid had said there was a prophet in Israel who by God's help could cure even lepers; so off Naaman rode, with bags full of silver and other gifts fit for a King. Now the story tells itself how the Commander wanted the cure to be done in noble style, like a magic spell, and was angry when he was given the simple command, "Go wash in the Jordan seven times," how he was persuaded to try it, and how he was healed. But this raises many questions today. Does God today ever cure persons without treatment? Are miracles of healing things of the past? God used Naaman to punish Israel though Naaman did not realize it, so now God works miracles of healing through the genius and skills of professional physicians. God is in the hospital just as surely as he is in the Jordan.

## Faith and the halfway house

Naaman was sure that God had cured him. But he was not about to come out and live with the Israelites. Instead he was going to keep on going to the "Home of Rimmon," the temple where the Syrian God Rimmon was worshipped. The startling thing here is that the prophet Elisha did not object to this but gave his blessing. "Go in peace," he said, in farewell. You would have expected that Elisha would roundly rebuke the Commander, perhaps saying, "Come all-out for the true God, the God of the prophets, Elisha's God, and don't stay in the halfway-house of a pagan temple." But Elisha did not take this intolerant attitude. Naaman was coming as far as his situation allowed. Full faith might have drawn him clear away from his heathen homeland, would have made an Israelite of him, would have made him in fact a traitor to his own king. Elisha recognized that this would have been asking too much. Better a faith that stops in the halfway house of Rimmon than no faith at all. Better a faith unconfessed than no faith. God could see Naaman's heart.

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## Go To Church Sunday

## Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent To Meet Phosphorus Needs

One of the most lacking soil elements throughout the county and the state is phosphorus. This is true in many parts of the county and in a recent New York study it was concluded that farms with a high phosphorus level had higher labor incomes. The amount of money left for labor rose along with phosphorus levels in the soil. This reflects greater production per acre on land that is treated to meet the fertilizer needs. Complete soil tests can be secured now before the ground freezes and will give time for planning the 1966 crop program.



SMITH

## To Care For Batteries

Cold weather is hard on batteries in service or in storage. At this time of the season it would be timely to clean the top of the battery by removing the white deposit with baking soda and water, then treat the terminals with grease or petroleum jelly. Be sure the cells are kept filled with water at all times and carry the maximum amount of charge.

## To Cull Cows

Dairymen are urged to make an effort to have every stall occupied with a high producing cow. In past years it might be said that some stalls were used by cows merely to help keep the barn warm so that the water pipes didn't freeze. With high overhead costs and high production costs, those days are over and every cow must pay her way. Only high producing cows will pay for this large investment in the dairy business. Dairy herd testing is the

best way to learn of the actual production and return on each cow.

## To Protect Evergreens

One of the main reasons for winter loss among evergreens is the lack of sufficient soil moisture. With a short supply of the moisture in the ground after it freezes, it is impossible for the plant roots to draw the needed moisture to replace the amount of water lost through transpiration. This means that the plant dries out and dies. (Continued on Page 14)

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