

## From Where We Stand . . .

### Farm Bill To End Farm Bills

There is some legislative hope at the moment that a new farm bill recently introduced into Congress may free farmers forever from federal shackles.

The new legislation put before Congress by Representative Thomas B. Curtis (R.) of Missouri is, in fact, a bill to end farm bills. It proposes to wipe out federal subsidies and acreage control programs.

The fact that the Curtis bill has a fair chance of passage, according to those on the Washington scene, is further evidence of the declining political importance of the American farmer.

Once represented by the mighty Farm Bloc — the most powerful lobbying unit in Washington — farm groups were able to get most of what they wanted from Congress. Those days are gone, and that fact may be the best thing that ever happened to American agriculture.

It took the population explosion and declining farm numbers to lick the surpluses that thirty years of federal farm programs were only able to perpetuate. With the period of critical food shortages that is predicted for the U. S. and the rest of the world, farmers will have to operate unhampered — and for profit, not just for fun — if famine is to be beaten.

The primary federal help farmers will need in the immediate future will be restrictions on cheap imports which come into this country under foreign subsidization. As time goes on, the increasing world population will keep those "paper surpluses" off the market, and the efficient American farmer will, finally, be able to function as only he can.

The best thing Congress could do for the farmer — and for the country — would be to liberate him from federal "help". Like the fella once said to a would-be helper who unintentionally kept getting him into problem after problem — "Look, do me a favor — don't do me any more favors!"

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### Coming Up The Road

At the turn of the century people used to be amazed when they'd see, coming up the road, a snorting, popping horseless carriage. They'd gawk and sometimes they'd snicker or yell "Get a horse!"

Nowadays with more than 80,000,000 of the contraptions crowding us humans off the streets and great open spaces of the United States, the gas buggy is no longer a curiosity. But some of its by-products, such as air pollution, are decidedly unpleasant, so humans are starting to take another look at the Frankenstein monster they've created.

Now, coming up the road, there is a new kind of horseless carriage — the electric car. However, it isn't exactly new. A half-century ago rich people rode around in glass-enclosed living rooms that were propelled by storage batteries, and while these electrics are now rare there are a lot of trucks in our big cities that never have to stop at a gas station, unless they need free air.

But something new is being added to electrics and that is a lot of concentrated research. It's an old saw that "necessity is the mother of invention," and there's increasing pressure for a practical electric automobile. And when big outfits such as the automobile manufacturers push on a project you're likely to see results. The big push is on.

General Motors has developed an electric called the "Electrovair" which does a pretty good job. The drawback is, the batteries for it cost \$15,000, which some of us might find too expensive, even with a small down payment and easy terms over a three-year period. Another manufacturer is tackling the prob-

lem differently. It has developed a new kind of battery that's a lot cheaper, and now is working on improving the battery and hooking it up to the best possible motor.

We're going to have to leave it in the hands of the research people, but we don't think we're going too far out on a limb when we predict that not many years from now you're likely to be driving an electric. But don't throw away your gasoline credit cards. You're likely to need them to plug into "pumps" at service stations that will dispense kilowatts instead of the hi-octane stuff.

One additional caution: in the quiet of an electric the voice of the back-seat driver will come through loud and clear.

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### After 100 Years

Nobody calls it "Seward's Folly," anymore. As a matter of fact, the travel reservations already booked indicate that as many as 175,000 people will head northward this year to inspect the real-estate bargain Secretary of State Seward negotiated with Imperial Russia 100 years ago this month. March 30 is the anniversary.

And they're saying that Centennial season tourists will spend \$8 million in Fairbanks alone this year. That's \$800,000 more than the United States paid for Alaska.

Of course, 1967 is the centennial of Canada's confederation, and that country's giant world's fair in Montreal, Expo 67, has been getting a lot of publicity. But Fairbanks is also readying an exposition, and more than \$5 million has been spent on it already. It opens May 27 and runs until September 30. Other communities are spending a similar amount, with no less than 41 communities readying special events for the tourists who come to whoop it up. For anglers, there will be \$65,000 in salmon derby prizes. For hunters there will be goose, duck, deer, goat and bear. Tokyo is sending a baseball team. The Don Cossack Chorus is coming. Of course there's activity for skiers, and 320 million acres of picturesque scenery to inspect.

"Come early and stay late," is the way the Alaskans put it. "We've got plenty of daylight, so don't worry about the clock."

And it appears they mean it, insisting that there will be no housing shortage. "We have 10,000 hotel and motel rooms, with 17,000 beds, available in the state. That is about twice what we had before statehood."

Perhaps unknown to many is the fact that Alaska is the mid-point stop-over for polar-route jet travel between Europe and Asia. As a result, Alaska is coming to be known as a tourist spot by many Europeans.

All this activity makes it appropriate to resurrect a quote from one distinguished lawmaker who greeted President Andrew Johnson's request for an appropriation to pay for Alaska with this description of it: "A tract of country that we did not need, that nobody wanted, and, so far as is known, is utterly worthless."

If only he could be around to see it 100 years later

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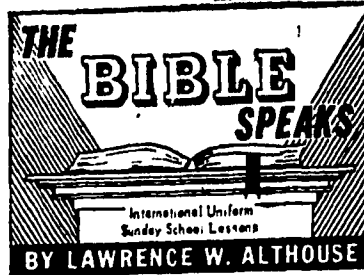
### That's Life

A puzzled mother asked the clerk: "Isn't this toy complicated for a small child?"

The clerk replied: "Madam, this educational toy will help your child adjust himself to our modern world. Anyway he puts it together will be wrong."

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"I have discontinued long talks on account of my throat," the speaker remarked. "Several members have threatened to cut it."



## The Third Book

Lesson for April 2, 1967

Background Scripture: Acts 1.  
Devotional Reading: Ephesians 4:4-16.

Someone has said that the first chapter of Acts might just as rightly be called the 25th chapter of Luke. Of course there are only 24 chapters in Luke, but when we read the first chapter of Acts it is apparent that this is but a continuation of the story of the third gospel. It is part two of the same theme.



The writer of Acts, presumably Luke, actually begins his book with this introduction: "In the first book . . . I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up . . ." (Acts 1:1,2 RSV) In the first book, Luke, we follow the life and ministry of Jesus, the man sent by God as his incarnate Son and the fulfillment of the Jewish expectations for a Messiah. We see God at work in his world as a Man among men.

### Beyond Resurrection

Acts, however, follows the continuing ministry of Christ through the Holy Spirit. God is experienced now, not as Jesus in the flesh, but in power that is appropriated into the lives of receptive men. Whereas Luke's gospel brings us up to the resurrection, Acts is the story of how the resurrection victory continued to affect the lives of people and bring into being the Church of Jesus Christ.

Without this "second book," then, we might very well conclude that the resurrection was a victory for Jesus alone. God vindicated him by freeing him from the power of death. But what does that have to do with the disciples apart from indicating that they had thrown their lot with the right man?

The answer that comes to us in Acts is quite clear. The power by which Jesus was raised from the tomb and scored his great victory was to be the very same power that would be given them for their God-given mission. His victory would also be their victory.

### In God's Own Time

How excited the disciples must have been! But then Jesus gave them instructions that must have seemed quite strange. Instead of launching into an immediate campaign to enlist more disciples for their cause, instead of making some pronouncements or staging a mass demonstration, they were told to go back to Jerusalem and wait. In God's own good time he would send them power and when that day came, not before, they would go forth in power to herald the gospel.

That order must have seemed disappointing. They were excited and ready to begin. But Jesus did not want them to go ahead. He said "wait." Most of us find it hard to wait. We are anxious to be off to the fray, even if we are not sure of the direction of the battlefield.

### Swiftly To Nowhere

We must always be on guard against rushing off to nowhere. Fritz Chrysler, former Michigan football coach, is reputed to have ended a half-time oration with the dramatic challenge "Boys, go out that door to victory!" His obedient team nearly drowned in the adjoining swimming pool. The great mentor had thrown open the wrong door!

Lest we also rush off swiftly to nowhere, sometimes we are called upon to wait patiently until in God's good time we are given both the signal and the power to go ahead. Waiting does not necessarily mean we are doing nothing. When it is Christ upon whom we wait, it may be the highest form of doing.

The disciples did as Jesus instructed them and Acts is the record of what happened because they were obedient. This second volume is necessary if the first one is to have any meaning for us. But there must also be a third book, a sequel that is written even today as we continue in obedience and power to be witnesses to the risen Lord. You and I are responsible for the chapters being written. What episode will your life write today?

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## Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

### To Control Weeds In Alfalfa

Straight seedings of alfalfa being planted this spring without any ruse crop should prove successful providing we get average rainfall, and providing the weeds are controlled. The use of Eptam just a few days before seeding, or spraying with 2,4-D-B when the weeds are 1 to 2 inches high is a must to keep down weed growth and competition. The Eptam should be worked into the ground immediately (not more than 10 to 15 minutes) after application and should not be used as a grass is to be seeded with the alfalfa.

### To Plant Silage Corn Thicker

Many dairy and livestock producers are placing greater importance on adequate sup-



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should be checked for trash and removed before the animals are turned out. Grasslands near the highway where the forage is to be chopped for silage or for green feeding, should be carefully inspected; broken glass or metal in the chopped forage will cause heavy losses.

### To Remove Trash From Pastures

The amount of trash thrown from the highway into privately owned fields is disgraceful. A number of farmers have experienced serious losses from damage to machinery, and from the poisoning of their livestock. Since the grazing season is approaching, pasture land bordering the highway

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