

From Where We Stand . . .

Restrictions On Farm Youth Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor has entered a new field of regulation — the determination of hazardous jobs for youth employed in agriculture. The determination of such jobs is followed up with prohibitions against the hiring of youngsters to perform them.

As with many such regulatory functions, the motive is good even though regulation is not. As Mr. Wirtz said in his special order, "the death rate for agricultural workers is exceeded only by those for miners and construction workers." He added that "today the farm has many, if not more, hazards than industry." Indeed, from the day when man learned to hitch his one-bottom plow to an ox rather than his wife, it has been a hazardous job.

Mr. Wirtz estimated that there are about 800,000 paid farm workers under 16, and that the group comprises about one quarter of the total farm work force. He said further that a study of farm accidents showed nearly 4,000 injuries in two years to farm workers 10 to 17 years old.

The result of the study is to declare such jobs as these off-limits to the 16-and-under set: Handling or applying anhydrous ammonia and certain other pesticides and chemicals, handling or using explosives, serving as flagman for aircraft engaged in spraying, working as a bus or truck driver, operating or driving or riding on a tractor with over 20 belt horsepower, operating or riding such things as self-unloading bunk feeders or auger wagons or earth moving equipment, operating or unclogging combines, balers or corn pickers. Those are examples.

Such regulations will not apply to the young farm people working for their parents. It also leaves some jobs such as milking cows, raising chickens and operating garden-type tractors in the exempt category. This is fortunate, for the man in agriculture enterprises has enough trouble without having to look in the Federal Register to find out if he is prohibited from asking his son to go on the range to help him work some cattle. At the moment, he is not. But don't bet he won't be some day.

Meanwhile, back in the city streets, the 14 and 15-year-olds are dodging cars, looking for something, anything, to do to pass the time and maybe even earn a little money at a job which would keep them out of trouble during the idle days of summer. About the only thing they are really safe from, however, is the chance to learn at an early age the value of working and earning. City jobs have been denied them for a long time

— Livestock Market Digest

Farm News This Week

\$1350 Heifer Tops Mumma Guernsey Sale — Page 1

Wheat Farmers Favor Acreage Reductions — Page 1

ASCS Grain Bins To Be Sold At Auction — Page 1

Good Morning: 3,336 People Starved Last Night — Page 12

F & H Scholarships Awarded — Page 1

Headway Being Made

Those who are familiar with the technology of present-day agriculture have no illusions about what it takes to produce the food crops needed by mankind today. Dr. Warren C. Shaw of the Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, expressed himself in no uncertain terms on the matter of pesticides. "The use of pesticides," he reports, "has accounted for 10 to 15 per cent of the increase in farm output since 1940. They also are responsible for \$2 to \$2.5 billion of the annual saving in production resources. We should also consider the consequences of the complete withdrawal of pesticides now used in agricultural production. Sound unreasonable? Yes. But there are some who advocate such action! Total output of crops and livestock combined would be reduced by about 30 percent. Farm exports would be eliminated and the price of farm products would likely increase by 50 to 75 per cent. . . .

"The world need for food will require utilization of all available technology to produce and protect high value food crops. Pest control, including the use of pesticides, is an essential part of this total technology. . . . On the one hand, we must protect our health and comfort, and our capacity for producing food and fiber, from the devastating hazard of pests. And on the other hand, we must protect all the important values in our environment against the potential hazards of pesticides."

As has been pointed out time and again, by spokesmen for the chemical industry, government and agriculture, the question is not whether or not to use pesticides — they are a necessity — the question — and this involves a necessity also — is how to educate all elements of the public in the proper handling and use of pesticides.

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

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They Don't Like Abundance

Strange as it may seem, there are those who believe there is too much competition in the marketplace. They believe there is too much choice on the store counters. They believe that all of our abundance merely confuses consumers, and steps should be taken to relieve this confusion by limiting the choice, regulating competition and decreasing the display of fewer products. This dissatisfaction with abundance is truly amazing.

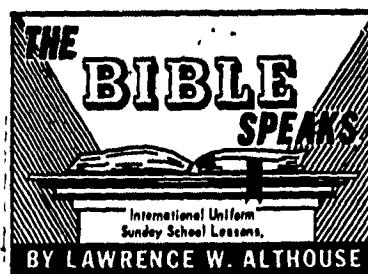
The exponents of economic retrogression may want to go back to the good old days, but, they will have a hard time talking the rest of the country into following them. As an advertisement of the Magazine Publishers Association points out, "In the 'good old days' grandpa worked twelve hours for the price of an 18-pound turkey. Today, he works only 3.2 hours. He worked forty minutes for a loaf of bread. Now it takes only five minutes."

Who is to say that 8,000 items on the shelves of a supermarket are too many, or too few — or that the price is too high or too low? No one can answer these questions better than the consumer exercising the unrestricted right of free choice in the marketplace.

Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday, calls for temperatures to average below normal with daytime highs in the 60's and overnight lows mostly in the 40's. Generally cool throughout most of the period. The normal high-low for the period is 78-55.

Rain may total one-fourth inch in most sections with showers likely Monday or Tuesday.



SKIN FOR SKIN?

Lesson for May 26, 1968

Background Scriptures: Job 1: 2; 29; 32:1-5; 42. Devotional Reading: Job 19: 23-29.

Why does God allow good men to suffer? There seems to be no question more frequently asked or implied to clergymen than this one. It seems to find its source in the assumption that God should allow only un-



Rev. Althouse

righteous men to suffer, that the righteous man should be spared all such misfortune. Thus, when a man who believes himself to be righteous is afflicted with hardship, misfortune, or suffering, his question, "What did I do to deserve this?" rises like an indignant complaint. His sins, if there are any, have been "small sins," certainly nothing that would justify the misfortune that has come upon him. Either he has not been as good as he has assumed, or God is being unjust.

No guarantee

Perhaps, however, there is another alternative. Perhaps we err in assuming that suffering and misfortune are necessarily God's means of punishing us for our sins. Maybe we are equally wrong in believing that righteousness will always be rewarded by good fortune, that it will guarantee us against difficulty. If so, then not only the sinner suffers in this life, but the righteous man as well.

This is the question which we find running through the book of Job. The Hebrews, not unlike many moderns, assumed that the righteous were rewarded with prosperity and well-being in this life, that the unrighteous would fall victim to sickness, misfortune, and suffering. The writer of Job, however, sets himself to demonstrate the fallacy of this interpretation.

In the first scene of this drama, we find God and Satan conversing. Satan is pictured here, not

so much as God's adversary, as his chief officer in charge of testing the motives of God's people. He has come to the conclusion that people practice religion only in order to get from God what they can in material blessings.

He points out, for example, that Job is faithful only because he has received so much from God. He is eminently prosperous and successful; why shouldn't he be faithful? Look how profitable it has been for him, sneers Satan. Let him experience deprivation of some kind. Then see how faithful he remains! Then measure his loyalty!

A good man suffers

It is for this reason, then, that God permits Job to be tested. He is certain of Job's loyalty and allows Satan to use one affliction after another to try to break this man's spirit. Thus, the writer is indicating that righteous men may suffer just as unrighteous men do. If a man so unbelievably good as Job can suffer, then any man may.

God makes but one condition with Satan: "Behold, he is in your power; only spare his life". (Job 2:6 RSV) Satan takes him at his word and spares nothing short of Job's life. His affliction is almost as unbelievable as his goodness: his children tragically killed, his wealth, health, and most friends gone. Then to "rub salt in his wounds," Job is left with a wife and a few "friends" who taunt him and harass him to confess his "sin" and be freed of his suffering.

What good's integrity?

"Do you still hold fast your integrity?" asks Job's wife. "Curse God and die." If his integrity doesn't keep him from suffering, says his wife, why should he try to remain faithful? This was the same argument which Satan had advanced: "Skin for skin!"

Job, however, refutes this point of view. A man's relationship with God should not be dependent upon the favors the Deity bestows or withholds from him. It needs to go much more deeply than that. He will remain faithful in the bad times as well as the good.

There is more to Job's faith than "skin for skin." So much for him, but what of us?

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For Full Market Reports Read Lancaster Farming



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith

Lancaster County Agent

To Treat Alfalfa . . .

Many fields of alfalfa will be cut for hay or for silage in the next few weeks. Two treatments may be needed immediately after the removal of the first cutting. If the field was not sprayed for alfalfa weevil this spring, then spraying the stubble to kill weevil is needed, in most cases sufficient weevil will be present to prevent a normal second growth. In addition, the application of a phosphorus-potash fertilizer is strongly recommended within a few days after the removal of the first crop.

To Prepare for Hot Weather . . .

Livestock producers should make every effort to keep their animals as comfortable as possible in hot weather: exhaust fans or cross ventilation will

help keep the air moving. Windows should be opened and animals permitted outside exercise if possible. Hog producers may want to wet down pens or install sprinklers to keep the animals from suffering too much from the heat. Shade should be provided for animals on pasture or outside lots.

To Inspect Lightning Rods . . .

The thunder-storm season is at hand and Lancaster County is densely populated with buildings of all sizes and shapes. Lightning rods should give protection if they are properly connected and grounded into moist earth. All property owners are urged to make this rod inspection without delay in order to get maximum protection.

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