

From Where We Stand . . .

Animals Have Been, And Always Will Be Needed

With all the talk these days about imitation milk and meat, and the subsequent contemplation as to what part cows, swine, steers, chickens and sheep will play in the future farm, we came across a discourse seven years ago by a prominent clergyman that we think is relevant to the situation.

He said; "From our earliest years our thoughts have been colored by the presence of animals. There was Noah with his ark, saving the creatures of the earth as the seed of life for a rejuvenated world. There was Jacob with his cattle, and there was Moses pointing out the Promised Land to his people as a land of milk and honey, which at least says something of cows and beasts. We read of cattle on a thousand hills as the symbol of wealth. We counted up the riches of the Patriarchs in flocks and herds. Toy animals were our first playthings, and animal pets our first companions.

"Our forebears came to America years ago on a ship. But there would have been no America to beckon them, no urge to go could have moved them and no ship would have been there to carry them, had it not been for such a humble instrumentality as the fish. For it was the fish that first lured man upon the mysterious waters and started him on that long upward course that led to modern navigation.

"When man domesticated animals and planted vines and grains he found the possibility of a settled life, because thus he was afforded a localized food supply. From his comparatively settled abode, social life advanced and wealth increased.

"Cattle as every school boy knows, became chattel, property, wealth and their very name in our Latin lessons became a synonym for money.

"How many of the arts of life we have learned by observing and utilizing animals, even today when man navigates the sky. What gave him the impulse to take wings? Birds led him into the air, as fish led him to venture and trust himself on the surface of the sea.

"I doubt if any artist will ever paint a stream of tanks winding slowly over the sea at sunset, nor will the garage man folding his greasy and metallic flock at night have the romantic appeal of a mountain shepherd.

"The magi will still come riding their camels at Christmas. Paul Revere will still gallop through the April night astride his horse. The ox team and covered wagon will still symbolize the pioneer. Men and animals seem to belong together in nature, and nature without animal life is unthinkable to us."

And we would add to the minister's thoughts that the dairy cow with her magnetic personality and the ability to naturally produce food components so necessary to human livelihood will never become banished from the farm scene.

And all other farm animals — pigs, steers, sheep and chickens — will always keep their place in the farmer's heart and will always be needed to balance the synthetic foods dreamed up by human technology.

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

Obligation To Change Our Thinking

The face of America is rapidly changing, with the pace of physical alteration often exceeding the pace of planners. Man's manipulation and care of the soil and water resources has a far-reaching effect on each of us, whether urban or rural.

The people in Soil and Water Conservation work say, "In our constant quest to produce more with less for a greater profit, the view of things to come is often shadowed by today's results and lost in the cries of those who shout the loudest. The population explosion with its accompanying housing, recreational and transportation needs is causing a great change in our soil and water use. Unfortunately, this transition is not always preceded by planning with thought for future generations."

The old adage "A squeaking wheel gets the grease" may be used to describe the conditions prevalent today. Families need housing, schools, highways, a place to work. In short, they have a hunger which is being satisfied by a diet of new homes, factories and roads. But will the satisfaction of this hunger also consume the primary materials needed for future growth?

News media carry events of the day — stories their readers want to read. Good stories, although important, may easily be shunted aside for lack of space or because editors and broadcasters have news of immediate portent.

The challenge facing the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission and district directors throughout Pennsylvania's 64 Soil and Water Conservation Districts is immense. This is especially true in countries having large urban centers and news media geared to urban interests.

Ways must be found to present a program of sane land and water use to the people. We can no longer prepare newsworthy material and assume it will be brought to the attention of the public through newspapers, radio and television.

Our dwindling water supply might be a starting point, but we need to pinpoint conditions directly affecting the public now — facts that editors and broadcasters will recognize as being newsworthy for their readers and listeners. We must take advantage of local conditions and limitations to bring conservation into focus. A public faced with curtailment of water for lawn, garden and car washing is likely to be receptive to actions insuring a better water supply.

Air pollution, lack of play and recreational areas for urbanites and the evolution of asphalt jungles are some of the immediate problems which could lend themselves to local or regional application of conservation planning.

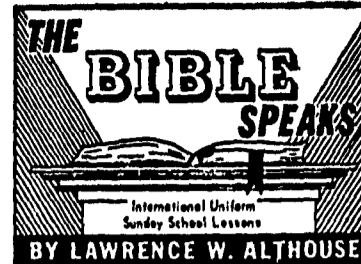
Those of us involved in soil and water use have an obligation to revise our thinking and make the necessary adjustments to present our case to insure the potential development of our resources.

Local Weather Forecast

(From the U. S. Weather Bureau at the Harrisburg State Airport)

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average near normal with daytime highs in the mid 80's and over-night lows in the mid 60's. Normal high-low for the period is 86-65.

Rain may total greater than one-half inch with showers during the latter half of the period.



THE ANNOINTED

Lesson for August 4, 1968

Background Scripture: Isaiah 45.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 47.

It seems strange to think of God working in the world through ungodly men. That he should use men like Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, etc., is entirely understandable. Though they were not perfect, they were still men who acknowledged and tried to serve the Lord. They were sometimes spoken of as "anointed," meaning that God had set them apart for some special task.



Rev. Althouse task.

Lord's instrument

How then could the writer of Isaiah 45 say, "Thus says the Lord to Cyrus his anointed, to Cyrus . . ." (Isaiah 45:1) For this Cyrus was a Gentile, an idolator. Not only was he not one of the people of God, but he neither tried to serve or believed in the Lord. How could such a man be called "God's anointed"?

Cyrus was the great emperor-general of Persia, the rising power that eventually toppled the Chaldean empire. From the far reaches of that empire, the Jews had heard of this man and his armies that were swiftly crumbling the Chaldean might. They need not fear this man, the prophet is saying, for he is actually the chosen or "anointed" instrument of the Lord.

Yet, shocking as this idea may have seemed to the Jews, it was not the first time that God has used an ungodly man or nation to accomplish his purpose. Even though the Pharaohs of Egypt had not acknowledged him, nevertheless, God used them to shelter his people in time of famine, and, later, to expel the Twelve Tribes and get them started on their way to the Promised Land. Though men and nations might not co-operate with him, God used even their evil to work out his will in the world.

Unfolding purpose

This would be the case with Cyrus. He did not know God, but the Lord saw in him the potentialities to accomplish his will. Cyrus worshipped Marduk, the Persian deity, and attributed his successes to him. This did not matter to the Lord so long as Cyrus performed his task. For a time, God had used the Assyrians, then the Chaldeans (Babylonians). Now he would use the rising Persian Empire for a while. Later it would be the Macedonians, the Romans, etc. None of these people acknowledged God, but he used them all the same. Nor did they survive, for when their usefulness was ended, their mighty empires crumbled and were replaced with others.

The prophet tries to explain precisely what God will do with this man whom he has chosen. He will subdue the nations, dethrone kings, and change the existing world order. (Isaiah 45:1) And the purpose of this upheaval is not to exalt or reward the Persians for their idolatry, but to bring out of captivity the people of God and move history toward the purposes of the Lord's master plan. Thus, the people of Israel were not to resist Cyrus's appointment, but accept it as the way God works in the world.

That men may know

Once again, you and I, with the advantage of time and hindsight, have no difficulty in appreciating what the prophet is saying to Israel. It does not bother us that God should use a pagan to accomplish his will. That is, it does not bother us until we face the prospect of God doing the very same thing in our world today.

It is not very pleasant to think of God "anointing" and using a man like Charles DeGaulle, Fidel Castro, Premier Kosygin, Chairman Mao, or Ho Chi Minh. Yet, as the Jews had learned repeatedly, that is how God works in the affairs of men and nations. He might just as easily say to the "villains" of today as he did to Cyrus: "I gird you, though you do not know me . . ." Why? So "that men may know, from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me; I am the Lord and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:6 RSV)

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Attend The Church Of Your Choice Sunday



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith

Lancaster County Agent

To Keep Records Of Pesticide Use

All farmers and especially dairymen should keep accurate record of all spray materials on both crops and livestock. Forms are available from our Extension Office and from many custom spray operators. These records could be very useful in the future as proof of spray practices.

To Remove Bluegills

Farm pond owners are urged to permit fishing by permission in order to prevent over-population of the fish in the pond. Many ponds contain too many bluegill sunfish because they are seldom fished out; many fishermen are only interested in the large bass and will not take the time to remove the bluegills. When this is the case, the bluegill population becomes so great that all fish are stunted and the reproduction of the bass is hindered.

To Control Muskrats

Several office calls regarding the management of farm ponds points out the value of the control of muskrats in the banks of the pond. Many ponds have been ruined by numerous holes and muskrat dens being made in the banks. Permission should be obtained from the local game warden to trap or kill these animals out of season; however, the pond owner has the right to protect this property under the supervision of the game warden. Holes should be filled with small stones and clay and the muskrat population controlled as much as possible. The placing of stones around the inside of the pond both above and below water level is giving good results in many ponds.

Most of city water in the U. S. costs about a nickel a ton (250 gallons).

Farm News This Week

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County Holstein Show — Page 1
Lolita Cow Wins First

LANCASTER FARMING

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