

From Where We Stand . . .

High-Classed Responsibility

A recent report with respect to the goals of one of the many poverty programs said, "This is almost the only opportunity for many to get a foothold in something better than farm work or day labor".

Well, now! You don't say?

Just what's wrong with day labor or farm work? We know, that being a white collar "flunkey" supposedly carries more prestige in the mind of many Washington Bureaucrats. And we even hear neatly dressed men who, in answer to a query about occupation say in a soft and almost apologetic voice, "I'm just a farmer."

Now we know the cost-price squeeze is a very real factor in Lancaster County farming enterprises. And we know there isn't enough land and capital to let every young man wishing to be an actual farmer be a farmer.

But that doesn't make farming a lower classed occupation. We're convinced that farming is one of the most forward-looking, honest and business-like professions in today's world. And anyone who thinks he is 'just a farmer' had better take a look at his elevated place in today's society.

The farmer is producing more corn and potatoes, more hay and wheat, more meat and milk per acre than we have ever produced before. This is one of the reasons that America is the best fed and best-clothed nation in the world. And this is the reason that the American consumer spends a smaller portion of his pay check for food than ever before. This point is underscored by the fact that whereas families in the United States spent 22.6 percent of their income for food in 1955, by now the figure has dropped sharply to an estimated 18.5 percent. And all this, because dedicated farmers accept the high-classed responsibility of feeding the nation and the world.

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

Autumn

Autumn is here. The cooler nights and the football games on TV prove that. To some autumn means a journey to the mountains to view the red, gold and yellow colors that no artist can quite catch in all their glory, or a looking forward to the hunting season. For farmers it means picking corn and the finishing of harvesting and planting.

Each season has its attractions, and autumn has its full share. So whether you are a football fan, an artist, a hunter or a farmer who enjoys the smell of the cool fall air, there is something in autumn for you.

Farm News This Week

Two Lancaster 4-H Members
Named State Award Winners — Page 19

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Steer Show In First Try — Page 1

Later Cutting Alfalfa
Wins At New Holland — Page 1

Ruoss Wins Third Championship At
New Holland Swine Show — Page 1

Poultrymen To Tour York
And Adams Counties — Page 1

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Nobody's Business

According to the Constitution, a census is supposed to be taken every 10 years. The original idea was to find out how many people lived in the United States. There was no intention to probe into their private affairs. Now the Census Bureau is going far beyond this and wants the answers to such questions as: whether you have a home freezer, if you have been married before, how many people use your bathroom or kitchen and many other things that are really nobody's business.

The next census is due in 1970. Legislation that deserves unanimous support has been introduced to prohibit the federal government from using this occasion as a means of invading the privacy of American citizens. After all, the purpose of the census is to count people — not the number of gold fillings in their teeth.

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

Monetary Policeman

One of the strongest arguments put forth in support of the 10 per cent surtax recently passed by Congress was the need to put our financial house in order so that foreign nations would regain confidence in the dollar and thus slow the rush to convert foreign-held dollars to gold. There is a puzzling contradiction in all this. For years we have been told that gold is an anachronism that should be done away with in today's monetary picture. U.S. citizens, in fact, were separated from their gold coins many years ago, and the gold backing of money has gradually disappeared.

The educational process of convincing everyone that gold as a medium of exchange is as dead as the Latin language is very nearly complete. That is why it is disconcerting at this late date to find that gold is playing an impressive part in forcing fiscal responsibility on our own government which, so far as the ordinary person is concerned, has been off the gold standard all these years. Apparently, gold is still a monetary policeman which governments have failed to rid themselves of as yet.

Across The Fence Row

It had been a blistering hot day, and the lady of the house finally had her guests seated around the table for dinner, and as she seated herself at the table, she asked her four-year-old son to ask the blessing. "Oh, mom, I don't know what to say," he protested, somewhat embarrassed before all the guests. "Well, just say what you have heard me say . . . remember?" Obediently he bowed his little head and repeated, "Oh, Lord, why did I invite these people here on a hot day like this one."

People who are busy rowing a boat, seldom have time to rock it

The very idle and the very busy seem to have the same problem — what to do next.

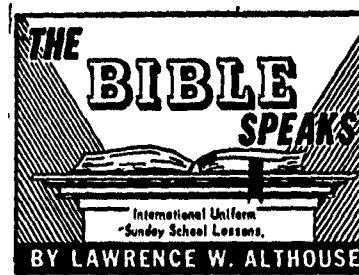
Banks have been known to refuse loans, because 1) they do not know you, and 2) they do know you.

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 below normal with daytime highs in the 60's and over-night lows in the 40's to 50's. It is expected to be generally cooler throughout the period. Normal high-low for the period is 70-48.

Rain may total greater than one-half inch as showers in the mountains Saturday and general rain the beginning of next week.



LISTENING?

Lesson for October 6, 1968

Background Scriptures: Hebrews 1 through 3.
Devotional Reading: Hebrews 2:4-10.

Some time ago I saw a skit in which there is a man who is wailing: "I've lost God! I can't find him!" But a friend takes the distraught man by the arm and says: "Don't get excited; just sit down, be calm, and try to remember where you had him last."



This little skit is illustrative of the situation in which many people find themselves today. While a small contingent of the theologians has proposed that God is dead, others have countered, saying, in effect, "No, it's just that he has been temporarily misplaced!" Whereas in other times men have seemed preoccupied with the experience of his presence, it is the sense of his absence that troubles many today. As some have put it, "Currently, God is conspicuous by his absence!"

The elusive one

Before you write this off as simply some new twist of contemporary theology, remember that this is a very ancient emotion. The Psalms are full of exasperated cries for God. At one point, the Prophet Isaiah cries out: "Truly, thou art a God who hidest thyself" (Isaiah 45:15). But nowhere is the theme more poignantly stated than in Job 23 where the tormented man cries: "Oh that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat." No matter where he has looked, God has seemed to elude him: "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him; on the left hand I seek him, but I cannot behold him; I turn to the right

hand, but I cannot see him." Even Jesus reached out for the assurance of God's presence when on the cross he repeated the ancient words of the Psalmist: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

That's God, all right!

In C. E. Montagu's novel, *Rough Justice*, (Doubleday, Page and Company, 1926) a father has asked his son whether he believes in God. The boy replies uncertainly that sometimes he feels "Something" stirring within him, some unexplainable, yet undeniable presence. When he finishes, his father exclaims: "That's God all right!" His son had discovered that one doesn't have to search to the ends of the earth, memorize the right creed, join the correct church, practice the right ritual, or express his experience in the right words. He didn't have to search for God at all, because God, it turned out, was the one who did the searching.

We do not find him, but from time to time we allow him to find us. It is not God who has been misplaced, but we. We are the elusive, slippery ones. We are the ones who, like the Prodigal Son, leave the Father's house, break off all communication and go into the far country.

The relentless God

Yet it is a relentless God who pursues us. When Adam hid himself in the Garden, it was God who came looking for him. When Jonah fled to escape him, God followed wherever he went. Like a shepherd, says Isaiah, he tends his flock and moves heaven and earth to bring back the lost.

As the writer of Hebrews makes clear, then, it is not God who breaks off the dialogue. "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son . . ." (Hebrews 1:1,2 RSV) God continues to speak now as always. This is what Dag Hammarskjöld meant when he wrote:

"How can you expect to keep your powers of hearing when you never want to listen? That God should have time for you, granted as that you cannot have time for Him."

God still speaks. Are you listening?

*Dag Hammarskjöld, *Markings*, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1964.

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith

Lancaster County Agent

To Handle Sorghums Carefully

Growers of sudan grass or the sudan-sorghums hybrids are reminded of the possible danger of prussic acid poisoning in these forage crops immediately following a killing frost. There is less danger in the sudan grass plant. After a killing frost neither of these forage crops should be used in a fresh state of condition, the plants should be allowed to stand for a week until they are dry and then they may be used, or if they are made into silage, and allowed to ferment for a month, they will be safe to use. When stunted or partly killed by frost, the new growth is dangerous and should not be used fresh.

To Seal Trench Silos

With the second good corn crop in two years many livestock producers will be using some type of horizontal or trench silo to store extra corn silage. The success of this type of silo is how good a packing

and sealing job is done, because of the great amount of surface exposed. Within 48 hours after the filling is completed the surface should be sealed with plastic, earth, sawdust, or some other type of material. Many growers are using plastic, but the problem is to keep the plastic down tight on the surface and not permit air to enter; this may take some adjustment during the first week in order to keep the surface airtight.

To Adjust Insurance Coverage

This is a good suggestion at any time of the year providing the insurance coverage has not been increased in the past several years. Due to the increase in replacement costs, some structures may not be properly insured if they are based upon purchase price or upon construction costs of a decade or more ago. Farmers are urged to consult with their insurance agents in order to have proper protection.