

From Where We Stand . . .

Land Does Not Breed

What good is a supermarket if it sits on ground that should be used to raise the food to stock its shelves? This is a question we may be asking ourselves with increasing frequency as more and more of our best land is buried under concrete.

A Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court warns of the evil of a tax system that drives farmers out of business in favor of the developer. He said this taxation system "is one of the causes of the eventual destruction of our ability to feed ourselves. . . . Soon we will be farming our rocky foothills and wondering what happened to our bottom-land. No matter how much our country may someday wish we had more carrot patches and beanfields, the farmer cannot afford to save his land for future food production if the land is being taxed according to what it is worth for a shopping center."

It may be that one of the principal reasons the farmer is receiving very little consideration is that so few people any longer have the slightest notion of what it takes to put the food on our tables. One farmer today under present modern agricultural practices feeds scores of people whose knowledge of food production ends at the checkout counter. Farmers and the land are an irreplaceable resource that must be encouraged and preserved, or our high-rise developments are going to be mighty uncomfortable places to live.

It has been estimated that you might expect to pay \$3000 to \$6000 in land taxes per year if the day comes when you are taxed on the basis of what your land is worth to sell it rather than what it is worth to farm it. We think all farmers should be concerned. Many urban people think you should be taxed at the industrial rate.

Just over a year ago, Governor Raymond Shafer appointed a committee to get the opinions and suggestions from farmers as to how agriculture land can be kept in food production. Members of this committee are coming to the New Holland Fire Hall next Friday, February 21 at 1 p.m.

We think it is absolutely right that this committee should bring a meeting to Lancaster County since we are the Number 1 farm county in Pennsylvania. We also think, however, that every farmer in this county should attend this meeting (the committee assures Lancaster Farming it will be informal) and either express himself as to ways local agriculture land can be preserved or simply by his presence show to the powers in Harrisburg that he wants farm land in Lancaster County to remain in a taxable position where it can continue to be farmed and need not be sold to pay the taxes. Let us always keep in mind that unlike animals, fish or even people, land does not reproduce it's kind for future generations. The only way to have it is to keep it. This we must do. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

Farm News This Week

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Miller Announces Republican Break With Gov. Shafer On Tax Issue At Co. Extension Meet — Page 1
Sugar Beet Acreage In Co. Is Uncertain — Page 1

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Old-Fashioned?

An interesting little pamphlet, issued by one of the country's larger life insurance companies, tells the story of the flag of the United States. In describing the birth of the Stars and Stripes, it quotes George Washington: "We take the star from Heaven, the red from our Mother Country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."

According to the pamphlet, nearly a year passed after the signing of the Declaration of Independence before anything was done relative to the establishment of a national flag. But on June 14, 1777, the American Congress adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." There is a story that the American flag was first flown on July 4, 1777, when it was hoisted by Captain John Paul Jones over the war vessel Ranger. In the years since then, the original thirteen stars have been added to many times as new states joined the Union.

In commenting on this growth, the pamphlet says, "Now it waves majestically over forty-eight States, extending across the continent; and flies over islands of the Atlantic and Pacific, and other outlying possessions. More than one hundred and thirty million people owe it allegiance, a vast assemblage composed of nearly every race in the world, but all united by one bond of loyalty and devotion to the Flag which symbolizes Liberty."

Yes, the figures are a little out of date! The pamphlet was written more than forty years ago. In these days of strife and defamation of the flag, it is a wonder that we do not see the story of the American flag in print more often — or is it too old-fashioned?

Catch The Thieves

The head of a firm specializing in management engineering and investigation states, "Crime in the streets is being overshadowed by white collar thieves in business, not just in dollars and cents, but in the number of participants too." It is pointed out that white collar employees steal more than \$5 million in cash and merchandise alone from their employers every working day — more than a billion dollars a year. Many of these "thieves" can be found within the ranks of supervisory and executive personnel. In addition to outright theft, this authority on employee ethics states that " . . . even larger sums go down the drain as a result of malingering on the job, falsification of labor vouchers, improper disposition of scrap and damaged material. . . ." All these losses are finally reflected in higher price tags on everything we buy.

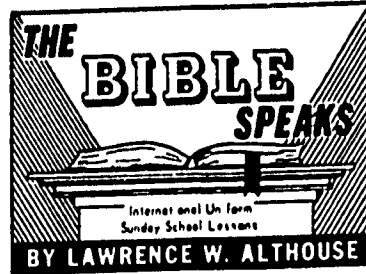
From the standpoint of helping strengthen the moral standards of our society, not to mention the cost of the things we buy, everyone of us has a stake in helping in whatever way we can to halt the rising tide of thievery in the nation's business enterprises.

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 upper 30's and overnight lows in the low 20's. Generally cold throughout the period. Normal high-low is 42-24.

Precipitation may total one-fourth inch or less as snow showers Tuesday or Wednesday, mostly over the north portions.



THE SECOND DUTY

Lesson for February 16, 1969

Background Scriptures: Mark 6:7-56.
Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17 through 6:10.

As a boy I never was successful in building model airplanes. My problem was that I always wanted to start building them without taking the time to read the instructions which, at a glance, seemed too long and involved. Consequently, I finished few of them and those I finished were something less than what was intended by the manufacturer.



Rev. Althouse

This desire for shortcuts is common to many of us. We want to cross home plate before we have touched first base. We all would like the finished product, but few of us are willing to take the preliminary steps the product requires. We desire to be powerful, effective disciples of Jesus Christ, yet we shun the necessary first steps that must be taken along the way to that goal. We all would like to be graduates of the school of Christian living, but without having gone through the elementary grades of growth and development.

Passion for shortcuts

A number of years ago a young stranger came to my study door. He told me that he had recently received a call into the Christian ministry. He had spoken to his pastor and the official body of his church, but when he learned that his denomination required four years of college and three years of seminary, he decided that he would have to look elsewhere. "I still believe God wants me to be a preacher," he told me, "but I can't see going through all that education when I'm ready to begin now. As he was driving by our church, the thought had occurred to him that perhaps our denomination was less demanding in its requirements. "Isn't there some easier

way?", he wanted to know. When I assured him there was not, he thanked me and left, never to return.

Delayed fishing trip

The disciples of Jesus might have experienced similar feelings. He had begun by calling them to "Follow me and I will make you to become fishers of men". (Mark 1:17 RSV) By the time we came to Mark 6, much has happened, but they still have not been sent out on their own. Now, at least, he is going to send them on their first "fishing trip."

Let us note, however, that he sends them forth only after they have completed a certain amount of training and preparation with him. They have spent many days listening to his preaching and teaching, witnessing his miracles, talking privately with him, praying and worshipping with him. They are not finished in their total preparation, but they are now ready to go forth for their first "solo" mission.

Duty close at hand

Often we lack that kind of patience. We become discouraged if we cannot reap the fruits of that which comes only after much practice, perseverance, and discipline. Shortly after writer Thomas Carlyle died, two friends met on a foggy London street. "So Carlyle is dead," said one. "Yes," replied the other, "he is gone, but he did me a very good turn once." "Did you ever see him or hear him?" his friend wanted to know. "No," replied the other, "but once when I was younger I became utterly discouraged and did not care whether I lived or died. One gloomy night, feeling I could stand my distress no longer, I wandered into a library where I found one of Carlyle's books, Sartor Resartus, lying open. My eye fell upon one marked sentence: Do the duty which lies nearest thee; which thou knowest to be a duty. The second duty will already become clearer. That sentence was a flash of lightning in my dark soul." All of us would do well to heed that admonition, "Do the duty which lies nearest thee. . . ." Instead of looking for more attractive advanced steps, let us take the first step before us and trust God in his own good time and way to provide the second. In living the Christian life as in building model airplanes, there are important first steps that must be taken before we can pass on to those that lie beyond.

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Lancaster Farming Ads Pay



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Order Wheat Fertilizer
The practice of top-dressing winter wheat about the middle of March with nitrogen fertilizer has given good results. Growers that are not planning to under-seed the wheat with alfalfa or clover are urged to make this application for increased yields. Sand, shale, or gravel soils usually respond the best because of more leaching of the nitrogen from the soil. The time of application will vary with weather condition but should be made about the time vegetative growth is starting.

To Transfer Silage
Livestock producers that have silage stored in a temporary silo and who plan to move the

silage into an upright silo, should make this transfer during cool weather. When outside temperatures are from 30 to 50 degrees there will be less chance of heating and molding. The transfer should be made as rapidly as possible.

To Consider Hi-Moisture Corn
We're aware of growing interest in making hi-moisture corn for both dairy and fattening cattle. This corn can be stored in any good upright silo and lends itself to automatic feeding. Cultural practices do not differ from growing any good corn crop. This subject will get complete coverage at the Feb. 28 cattle feeding meeting in the Farm and Home Center.