

From Where We Stand...

Now Credit Cards In The Food Store

Easier credit, a stimulant to other branches of retailing, is now being introduced in food stores. Would you believe it? In New York, a 48-store chain is reported to have begun accepting credit cards. They say business is booming but nothing is reported on the number of bad accounts.

Credit card companies are happy, of course, since they see a chance to crack the \$1 billion dollar cash-and-carry food store field. Other stores are experimenting with the idea across the country.

Some say that if the practice becomes widespread it could possibly have an effect on consumer attitudes about food prices. One reason homemakers are supposed to complain more about food prices than other prices is because food is one of the few "cash" items they must purchase in the current "charge-it" economy.

It may help clarify food prices in the homemaker's mind if the month-end statement showed how much of the bill was for food and how much was for the growing volume of non-food items she buys at the grocery store. That's true and if it is good for farmers — helps them get a more fair return for their labor and investment, we guess we're for it. It's just that credit buying always seems to make people spend more than they make and any savings that might be passed on to the buyer or the farmer always seems to end up in the credit company's pocket for bookkeeping and bad credit risks.

Maybe we're old fashioned, but it still seems better to buy perishables on a cash basis. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

A Step Toward Independence

Everyone kicks about big government. But, no one seems to be able to do anything about it. Government, like Topsy, just grows. And, as government grows, freedom diminishes. However, the near maxim that the trend toward bigger and bigger government is inevitable and irreversible could possibly turn out to be a fallacy. The largest farm organization in the country, the American Farm Bureau Federation, representing well over a million U.S. farm families, who have endured more than 30 years of government subsidies and controls, now supports federal legislation aimed at gradually unshackling agriculture from governmental domination.

Businesses, professions and other groups have been following the path of agriculture toward big government domination. One day look upon the present action of the Farm Bureau as both a turning point and a guide in the endless struggle to preserve independence. The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969, which is strongly supported by the Farm Bureau, is a carefully thought-out program that will gradually restore free market principles to agricultural operation. Under it, as Mr. Charles B. Shuman, president of the Farm Bureau, points out, "the transition to the market system would be gradual. Substantial payments would be made during the transition."

period to help farmers make needed adjustments. . . . At the end of the proposed phase-out of acreage allotments, marketing quotas, base acreages, certificates and government payments . . . each producer would be free to . . . make the best uses of his resources in the light of the market outlook. Thus, the way would be clear for farmers to earn and get higher incomes in the marketplace."

With this kind of citizen leadership, it may prove possible to live with relatively "big government" and preserve our liberties at the same time.

Across The Fence Row

One day through the primeval wood
A calf walked home, as good calves should
But made a trail all bent askew.
A crooked trail, as all calves do.
Since then 200 years have fled,
And, I infer, the calf is dead
But still he left behind his trail,
And thereby hangs my moral tale.
The trail was taken up next day
By a lone dog that passed that way;
And then a wise bellwether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,
And drew the flock behind him too.
As good bellwethers always do.

And from that day, o'er hill and glade,
Through those old woods a path was made.
And many men wound in and out,
And dodged and turned and bent about,
And uttered words of righteous wrath.
Because 'twas such a crooked path:
But still they followed—do not laugh—
The first migrations of that calf.
And through this winding wood-way stalked
Because he wobbled when he walked.
This forest path became a lane,
That bent and turned and turned again;
This crooked lane became a road,
Where many a poor horse, with his load,
Toiled on beneath the burning sun,
And traveled some three miles in one.
And thus a century and a half
They trod the footsteps of that calf.

The years passed on in swiftness fleet,
The road became a village street,
And this, before men were aware,
A city's crowded thoroughfare,
And soon the central street was this
Of a renowned metropolis.
And men two centuries and a half
Trod in the footsteps of that calf.
Each day a hundred thousand rout
Followed the zigzag calf about;
And o'er his crooked journey went
The traffic of a continent.
A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf near three centuries dead.
They followed still his crooked way,
And lost 100 years a day.
For thus such reverence is lent
To well-established precedent.

A moral lesson this might teach,
Were I ordained and called to preach.
For men are prone to go it blind
Along the calf-paths of the mind
And work away from sun to sun
To do what other men have done
They follow in the beaten track,
And out and in, and forth and back,
And still their devious course pursue,
To keep the path that others do

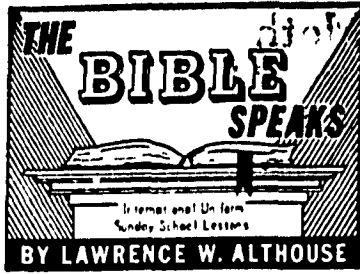
— The Calf-Path, by Samuel Foss,
Hoard's Dairyman

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 above normal with daytime highs in the 70's and over-night lows in the 50's. Seasonable at the beginning of the period with a slow warming trend thereafter.

Rain may total less than one-fourth inch as widely scattered showers near the end of the period.



IF ONLY, . . .

Lesson for October 5, 1969

Background Scripture: 1 Kings 12 through 16.

Devotional Reading: Proverbs 16:12-20.

Several years ago I stood in a Thuringian evergreen forest and looked across the Iron Curtain's "no-man's-land" into East Germany. In an inappropriately light-hearted mood, I and several other Americans waved smilingly at two East German border guards staring at us from a watchtower a hundred yards away. Encouraged that they had waved back, we turned from the border and, still laughing, started back through the forest.



Rev. Althouse

The dividing line

Minutes later, two shots rang out through the branches above us! In a moment, the apparent peace of the forest was broken again by excited West German border guards and U.S. Army patrols. In response to our incredulous questions, we were told that, just after we had turned from the border, two rifle shots had been fired in our direction from the East German side. As I looked back toward the minefields and barbed wire of the border, the dividing line between the two Germanys seemed much more ominous than it had a few moments before. It occurred to me that one ought not to be light-hearted in the presence of so terrible a barrier.

I have seen men and women gazing tearfully across the Iron Curtain and Berlin Wall. Realizing this division as the consequence of Nazi leadership, I have heard them curse the day the seeds of division were sown. Today, how many Germans think back to those days when the Fatherland was one nation and mutter: "If only, . . .!"

Ours is a divided world quite apart from Germany. A man-made line divides Korea into two hostile camps. Another line bisects

Viet Nam. What was once one land under British colonial rule has been gerrymandered into the hostile nations of India and Pakistan. On Formosa, Nationalist Chinese under Chiang Kai-shek look across the waters to the Chinese mainland under the Communist government of Peking. These people too are moved to muse: "If only, . . .!"

Changes to be made

There were times in the history of the Hebrew people when men looked at the divided kingdoms of Judah and Israel and brooded: "If only, . . ." The great united kingdom forged by the genius of King David barely survived the rule of his son, Solomon. At the death of Solomon the great Davidian kingdom was split apart, never to be united again.

What caused this terrible division? Picture the scene. The time is the year 922 B.C., almost a thousand years before the birth of Christ. The place is Shechem where Solomon's son, Rehoboam, is to meet with the leaders of the tribes of Israel and be crowned king to succeed his father. When he arrives there, however, he finds that the people want some changes to be made before they will commit themselves to his rule.

Your father made our yoke heavy. Now, therefore, lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke upon us, and we will serve you (1 Kings 12:4).

In order that Solomon might accomplish his egotistical building projects, he had heavily taxed his people and subjected many to slave labor. While the people suffered under this great burden, Solomon and his seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines lived in luxurious splendor!

Wrong advice!

The request which the people made on Rehoboam, then, seemed to be a reasonable one. Yet, after three days to think it over, Rehoboam followed the bad advice of those who told him to ignore these demands and violently assert his authority. The result: the united monarchy is split into two irreconcilable nations.

And the divisions of our world today — are not the causes much the same? If only, . . .!

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Attend The Church Of Your Choice Sunday

Read Lancaster Farming For Full Market Reports



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Apply Lime

Winter grain fields that are to be seeded to a legume next spring or summer should be limed this fall, if they need it. The practice of working the lime into the soil as the ground is being prepared for the grain seeding is a good one and will give the lime time to sweeten the soil. The practice of spreading the lime on top of the winter grain this fall or winter is not a good one and does not allow the maximum use of the lime. Allow time for the lime to function before the legume seeding is made.

To Improve Calf Raising Practices

The raising of a heifer calf for a herd replacement is a very important factor in the future of

the herd. These young calves need special quarters that are warm, dry, free of drafts, and provide a good chance for maximum development the first year. Individual calf pens and special care is needed to properly develop the calves from the many good cows in this area.

To Utilize Corn Fodder

Many livestock producers are short of bedding for their animals. Since we have a very rank corn crop, it is possible for corn that has been picked to be the source of many tons of good bedding. The stalks can be shredded, dried, and then baled for use later in the winter. Shredded corn fodder is one of the most absorbable of the many forms of bedding.

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