

Spring Comes Again

"When Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil," wrote Reginald Heber, a wonderful thing happens: the Earth bursts forth in a vibrant splash of color, and the air is sweet with the scent of growing things. This year March 20 marks the official beginning of Spring. The crippling snowstorms and floods which accentuated a harsh winter are fast disappearing. In their place will come light, gentle days filled with flourishing crops and home gardens, children's laughter echoing from playgrounds and trips to the serenity of the countryside, mountains or

beach "to get away from it all."

Spring is the eternal symbol of renewed life and happiness, with a lesson to teach if man will but listen. In essence, the message is that man's world will be only as good as he makes it. He can follow nature's lead and channel his energies into constructive directions - or he can destroy this planet. As this new season dawns, let us hope that it brings greater freedom, peace and understanding to a troubled world, and inspiration to the human race to rededicate itself to creating a better way of life.

The Spark of Progress

There have always been a few among us—the inventors—who have been capable, not only of recognizing the need for something better, but of drawing upon their knowledge and creativity to produce, often after years of dedicated effort, a device or whole new technology to fill that need. The U.S. patent system has been the bulwark of protection for these creators of new things. By granting them an exclusive right to use their inventions for 17 years, the system has encouraged early disclosure of patentable inventions, virtually eliminated the concealment of technological advances and provided incentive for commercial development of inventions and their introduction on as broad a scale as possible in the marketplace.

In recent years, the patent system, which has served us so well, has been weakened materially by congressional action, antitrust activity and adverse court decisions. In 1966, a congressionally-appointed commission recommended legislative clarification of patent rights. Although a proposal was introduced in the 92nd

Congress, no action was completed. As time passes, the urgency of strengthening the patent system increases. The U.S. balance of trade deficit ran at an annual rate of \$7 billion in 1972 as compared with \$27 billion in 1971—the first such trade deficit since 1893. The fundamental weakness in our trade position is the fact that we are losing out as the world's number one supplier of high-technology products. This situation must be corrected if the U.S. is to continue to import essential supplies of oil, natural gas and raw materials from other nations.

Throughout our history, the patent system has sparked the creation of new products and better uses for old ones—not to mention the formation of whole new industries employing millions of people. It has given impetus to our development from a frontier agricultural society to the greatest industrial power on Earth. The human qualities of innovation and creativity were never more crucial to the progress and even the survival of the United States. It is time steps were taken to make certain that these qualities are protected and encouraged.

Giant Awakening

Nineteen hundred and seventy-two could, in retrospect, prove to be a history-making turning point for the United States—and for the world. It was the year in which the prospect of trade as a road to peace became more than a nebulous vision. It was also a year in which America as a maritime nation made impressive gains.

Mr. James J. Reynolds, former U.S. Under Secretary of Labor, and currently a key spokesman for the American Institute of Merchant Shipping has reviewed U.S. maritime progress with specific emphasis on the merchant marine. He observed, "The value of the American Merchant Marine as a creator of jobs, as an instrument to better our balance of payments situation, as a goodwill ambassador to help create world peace, as a builder of foreign trade between our country and foreign nations, as a developer of new markets overseas, and as a more versatile logistical arm of the military were strikingly apparent in the year just ended." Mr. Reynolds pointed out that since passage of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970 contracts have been signed for 49 vessels with three to five times the capacity of older conventional ships. Included in this construction program are 36 new vessels and conversion of 13 others into fast efficient container ships. In addition the expanding merchant fleet is to include liquefied natural gas carriers and oil tankers to meet the rising needs for sea transport of petroleum and natural gas.

In brief 1972 as Mr. Reynolds expresses it, was "a year that marked the largest peacetime backlog of merchant

ship construction since this country's beginnings. Eighty versatile ships, exceeding 45 million tons, were on order." These ships, as they slide down the ways and take to the seas, will offer the best evidence that America, the sleeping giant, has awakened to its opportunities and obligations as a maritime power in a changing world.

Grassroots Opinions

BENNETTSVILLE, S.C., MARLBORO HEARLD-ADVOCATE "Stop worrying about your competitors and start worrying about your customers. You've got a lot more customers than competitors, and your competitors never gave you a nickel's worth of business and never will."

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HOUSTON TEXAS, TRIBUNE "Perhaps we pay too much attention to the things that are wrong with our country, and too little to the things that are right about it. We might well pause to reflect now and then upon two facts. In recent years between 300,000 and 450,000 persons have immigrated into the U.S. yearly (besides a large number who entered illegally). They came here to better themselves, and because there were more things wrong with their native lands than with ours. And, on the other side of the coin can you think of anyone who is keen on leaving this country to live anywhere else?"

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
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To Control Garlic

Pastures infested with wild garlic should be sprayed during March with a herbicide to kill the plants. The use of the ester form of 2, 4-D before the pasture legumes begin to grow is suggested; if this is done each spring for several years, the garlic plants will be eliminated; some farmers may also spray again late in the fall. Garlic infested pastures grazed by milking cows will yield onion-flavored milk which is very objectionable to the consumer. Attention should now be given to garlic control.

To Transfer Silage Now

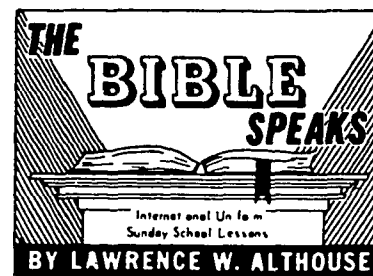
Silage producers that need to move silage from a trench or bunker silo to an upright silo should do this work as soon as possible and during cool weather. There will be less heating of the silage when moved before warm weather. The transfer should be made as rapidly as possible in order to press out the air pockets promptly. The adding of commercial preservatives is not recommended. Many producers store surplus silage in temporary storages and then move it into the main silo for automatic feeding.

To Control Alfalfa Weeds

The need for greater yields of high quality alfalfa has never been greater. Weed control has been reducing both stands and yields. There are many herbicides that may be used under various conditions — some on established stands only — some on strait alfalfa stands without a grass companion. Most of them for fall and winter application for the control of winter weeds. When the plants begin to grow in the spring (early this year) — then caution needs to be practiced. Growers should consult custom sprayers on their Extension Agent for details. Don't tolerate the weeds.

To Be Alert for Termites

The season is approaching when swarms of insects may be collecting on warm, sunny window sills. Some of these may be winged ants, others may be termites. The ants will do little harm but the termites will ruin wooden structures. Identification of the insect is the first step; the winged ant has a two-section body with two large wings and two smaller wings. The termite will have a one-section body and four large wings about equal in size. Property owners are urged to be alert for termites and obtain the help of commercial exterminators or insect specialists.



THE OTHER SIDE

Lesson for March 18, 1973

Background Scripture: Genesis 3:1-19, Psalms 14:1-3, Jeremiah 10:23, 17:9, 10, Romans 1:28 through 2:24
Deviotional Reading: Psalms 51:1-12

Two men were arguing vigorously over what the Bible says about the nature of man. The one man maintained that, according to the Bible, man is essentially good. The other, just as adamantly, argued that the Biblical view of

man is basic depravity. Both men were partly right and partly wrong.

"In God's image"

On the one hand, the Bible tells us that man is created "in the image of God," (Genesis 1:27). The Psalmist of old raised this question about man: "... what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?" (Psalms 8:4). The answer that came to him was exciting: "... thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor. Thou hast given him dominion over all the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet..." (8:5).

Man's basic nature, it would seem, is basically good.

Yet, there's another side to man and this is a dark side. Just as in the eighth psalm we see man as made "a little less than God," so in the fourteenth psalm we get

another view: "They have all gone astray, they are all alike corrupt; there is none that does good, no, not one" (14:2,3). The prophet Jeremiah searched the heart of man and was discouraged with what he found: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

Nor does the Apostle Paul seem much more hopeful about man: "Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity, they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, faithless, heartless, ruthless" (Romans 1:29, 30).

"They have all gone astray..."

The Christian view of man is two-fold, therefore. Man is created for goodness, but he has much native capacity for evil. Uniquely endowed by God above all other creatures, man is always finding himself pulled in the other direction. And this is true, not just of some men, but all of us. There is both good and evil in all of us.

This is essential for us to remember, because we sometimes are tempted to divide mankind into the "good guys" and the "bad guys." We tend to forget that there is evil in all of us. A man, angry at his neighbor, once prayed "O Lord, let this evil man suffer your wrath!" God politely replied: "Which evil man?" When we speak with God of "sinful men," let us remember what Isaiah said "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6).

There is both a grandeur and a misery about the nature of man. Whether we personally think of man as essentially good or evil, let us always remember that there is another side.

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