

# The Farmers' Forum

EDITED BY J. N. BIGHAM.

## The White Blackbird; Need Of Clean And Beautiful Thoughts

BY DR. FRANK CRANE.

The way to make life beautiful is to fill it with beautiful thoughts. Life is composed of two elements, one is the stream of events continually coming toward us, sweeping past us, the other is the stream of thought forever pouring out from us.

And the world of people is divided into two classes, those who are carried along by the event-stream, and those who move forward upon the thought-stream.

The former are like sailors in a ship with no rudder nor compass, who drift with every shifting wind and drive with every vagrant current. The latter are like captains of great ships who forge straight on through tide and fog and storm to the desired haven.

We Shape Our Own Career. The greatest moment in our career is when we awaken to the shining truth that our life, to make it wholly in our hands; that neither dark destiny nor grim fate, nor the stars, nor the degrees of the gods, nor the machinations of men or devils, can cheat us of that greatness of soul and serenity of mind which are the crown of real success.

The most terrible note in the despair of the despairing is the sound of helplessness. To feel that the universe is a huge machine to grind us at last to dust, that the odds of existence are against us, and that we are borne down by the tramp of irresistible forces, this is the salt taste of failure.

But when a man has discovered that he himself is master, and that no outside force can touch his inner triumph, that discovery is as of a new world, the America of the spirit, the opening vista of limitless opportunity. Then it is he is truly "converted" from an empty, futile struggle with worry and dullness and pettiness to a large and constant victory and peace.

The Housewife's Weapons. Suppose you are a housewife. Your home is small. Your means are limited. Your "things to do" list are meager. Your children are trying. Your work is hard and monotonous. You are unable to change the circumstances.

There you have a stream of events, bearing you down. If you yield you become nervous, irritable, discontented, perhaps eventually careless and slovenly, a physical wreck and a spiritual misery.

And now, suppose you make up your mind not to yield. Suppose you say to yourself, "I will think beautiful thoughts. I will make my surroundings cheerful. I will be happy and strong and brave and make my husband and children even as I am."

That you reply, is easier said than done. It is very hard. Wait! It may be hard, but it is any harder than going on down with the drift, and being at last a miserable, weak, wretched woman?

And it is not so hard as you imagine. Cease pitying yourself. Say when you awake in the morning, "The world is beautiful. The sky and the earth are wonderful. There are many great, noble, unconquerable souls. I am one of them. Today I shall make my children see I love them. My husband shall find me cheerful and contented. I shall make this house glow with peace and good will. I am not weak and sad and helpless. I am a tower of strength. If things go wrong, I shall go right. This shall be a beautiful day. Because I shall keep my soul beautiful."

If you put such a thought upon a day all the powers of heaven and earth will conspire to help you. For the thing you call fate is a cowardly thing and a bully; and if you stand bold and unafraid before it, it will hawn upon you.

Your Part of the Bargain. Married life often drops into sorrows. The romance tends to fade away. Prolonged intimacy brings out a hundred little spots of dissatisfaction. Nothing but persistent thoughts of beauty can remedy this.

Cover your husband with thoughts of beauty. Resist and put away all other thoughts.

Study to see his better nature, his admirable qualities. Dwell on these. Manifest them. Clothe him all day with beautiful appreciation. He can no more resist this than flowers can resist the sunshine.

How many an estrangement would cease if either one of the parties concerned would stop thinking about the things that estrange!

Think beautifully of your children. They are of mixed good and evil, like all the world. Steadily overlook what is ugly in them. Think, talk of and notice as little as possible their objectionable traits. Prevent, manage, use your brains; avoid reproach and punishment. Let the good be dominant in your family conversation.

Think beautifully of your neighbors, and you will do much toward reforming your community. Drown scandal in your greatness of spirit. Make gossip ashamed to come to you.

Have an All-Embracing Charity. Think beautifully of your church, of your pastor, of all your fellow communicants. Thus you will antidote that unpleasant feeling of discontent that so often afflicts churches.

Think beautifully of strangers. Let your mind be hospitable to those whose ways and views are opposite to your own.

Think beautifully of God. No matter what your religious faith, never allow yourself to conceive of God as anything less than the kindest, noblest, gentlest and most just and patient being you know.

The Open Door to Happiness. And think beautifully of the world. Have you heard of the white blackbird? Long, long ago it is said to have flown out of Eden.

The White Blackbird of the world is the Beautiful Thought.

Catch it and cage it in your heart. Its song and flutter will bring you wonder and joy and great peace. And the place where you are, you and your Beautiful Thought, will be as a bit of heaven in a restless and thought-spoiled world.

The White Thoughts. Look! Listen! Your Bible is open on the table. And over it is a very flock of White Blackbirds. It is open at the fourth chapter of Philippians; and there is that verse that sounds like birds among the trees of heaven:

Whatever things are true. Whatever things are honest. Whatever things are just. Whatever things are pure. Whatever things are lovely. Whatever things are of good report; If there be any virtue. If there be any praise. Think on these things!

And underneath this hover of White Thoughts, look at the heart that homes them. You find it pictured in the verse preceding:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds.

Surely, sisters and brothers of unrepentant we can pray:

"Come, little White Merles, fill all the boughs of my mind, until I be a singing tree, a shelter of rest and refreshment to all souls that live near or that pass by!"—Woman's World.

## JOINT OWNERSHIP OF TOOLS

Under certain conditions, the joint ownership of some of the farm implements is a plan that has much to commend it. In many neighborhoods, farmers do own a part of their implements in partnership with their neighbors, and they find that some farm tools can be owned jointly with entire satisfaction to both parties and that a considerable saving can be effected thereby.

It is to the small farmer especially that the plan of joint ownership appeals as offering a method of lessening the expense annually imposed by having to buy new tools. With the improved methods of farming that now prevail, the tools required to run even a small farm represent a large investment of money. It is on the small farmer that the greatest expense, proportionally, for machinery falls. The man with 100 acres needs but few more implements to carry on

his farming operations than does the man with only 50 acres. The former probably has an extra plow and cultivator, but otherwise he can get along all right with the tools needed to run an 80-acre place.

But to insure always getting his crops in on time and caring for them properly at the right time, the small farmer must have a complete set of farming tools, even though he himself does not use some of these tools more than two or three days in the year. The rest of the year they are either taking up barn room or, if left outdoors, are depreciating in value as rapidly as are the same tools of a neighbor who uses them several times as much.

Then, why not go into partnership with a neighbor who has about the same sized farm, and thus has about an equal amount of use for an implement, and make one implement serve two? Each can save some storage room thereby as well as money. The farmers situated side by side seldom want to plant their corn or harvest their grain at the same time and it is the same with other work.

Which implements are used. By planning together, each can generally so arrange his work as not to interfere with the other. Not only the corn planter and binder, but the mower, rake, hay loader, fanning mill, grain drill, manure spreader and butchering tools may be owned jointly between two men.

Always, however, in order that partnership of this nature may not prove unsatisfactory to one of the owners or lead to any ill feeling between the men, care must be used to choose the right kind of partner, and then we must resolve that we will endeavor to be the right kind of a partner for the other man.

Each joint owner of an implement should endeavor to take the best possible care of any tool while it is in his possession and, as even good machinists are generally unequal hard on the same machine, there should be an agreement as to whether repairs are to be paid for jointly or by the partner responsible for the breakage.

There should also be an agreement as to which one is to store the implement when it is not in use and also in regard to lending or renting it to others. Then all agreements made must be rigidly adhered to by both parties if pleasant relations are to be sustained.—W. F. P., in Farmers' Review.

## SEVENTY FIVE PER CENT BACTERIA

An aspirant for a federal office in connection with the dairy industry answered the question with regard to the properties of milk somewhat as follows: "Milk consists of 12 per cent solids not fat, 4 to 6 per cent fat and 75 per cent bacteria."

This is an enlightening definition to say the least. We have often heard of impure milk but this is the first time that anyone has advanced the theory that milk was as fertile in its bacterial life as the young man in question would have us believe. These are honest answers, the illustration was taken from an actual examination paper from one who considered himself entirely adapted to the work for which he was applying. It is surprising to see how much self assurance some of these young men have and further than this it is surprising to see how gifted they are in the knowledge that belongs especially to the line of work which they are about to follow.

Undoubtedly much of the milk that is used in this country is not pure. But at the same time it can hardly be said to be as rich in its development of germ life as the young man in question stated.

In this definition of milk the water content was entirely omitted. It would be a peculiar sort of milk that the applicant would serve up to us if he were given the opportunity to do so.—Kimble's Dairy Farmer.

WEATHER WISDOM. (Statesville Landmark.) "The old people used to say," remarked Mr. P. H. Collins from down Troutman way, when he came into The Landmark office this week to make his annual contribution to this Household Necessity, "that a covering of snow was worth as much to the land as a coating of manure, but if I had choice I would prefer the manure."

This year should be a fine crop year if the old people were correct in their views.

## RAISING HOGS CHEAPLY—HOW TO DO IT

It is doubtful if the farmers in the Coastal Plains region of North Carolina realize how cheaply pork can be made in that section. A very striking example of the advantage of eastern Carolina for pork production is the experience of Mr. G. A. Holderness, Tarboro, N. C. He made 20,750 lbs. of pork on waste peanuts. Here is how he did it.

The first week in October, Mr. Holderness bought 250 shoats, two carloads, in the eastern part of Tennessee. These pigs averaged 131 lbs. in weight and cost \$1.2c a pound, f. o. b. Morristown, or a total of \$2,782.64. The freight from Morristown to Tarboro was \$74 a car or \$148 for the lot. These pigs had a very bad run from Morristown to Tarboro, being on the road four or five days, which made the shrinkage excessively heavy. The average weight of the pigs when they reached the farm on October 7th, 1913, was only 112 lbs., which made the total delivered cost \$9.94 per 100 lbs. As an insurance against loss Mr. Holderness inoculated these pigs against cholera immediately after they reached the farm. The total cost of inoculation was \$104.10.

These pigs were first turned into a 40-acre field of volunteer peanuts after oats. There was a pretty good crop of these volunteer peanuts, though they had never been worked at all and cost nothing. When the pigs had cleaned up these peanuts fairly well, they were taken out and given the run of the general peanut fields after the crop had been harvested. They completely cleaned up the volunteer crop of peanuts, 60 odd sows and pigs of various ages were turned into the field behind the fattening hogs. The peanuts and nut grass in this field maintained them in fairly good condition until December 20th. The fattening pigs remained in the peanut fields cleaning up the waste until December 15th. During the 72 days these pigs were on peanuts—from Oct. 7 to Dec. 15—they gained 83 pounds each in weight, or a total of 20,750 lbs. It should be borne in mind that this gain was made entirely on waste peanuts—on peanuts that could not have been utilized in any other way, and on most farms would have been a total loss.

A great many farmers in the "peanut belt" of the South have been successful in raising hogs on peanuts. A car load of hogs on the peanuts left in the fields after harvesting.

No grain was fed during this period of 72 days. Mr. Holderness wished to finish these hogs on dry feeds before sending them to the market, and he kindly agreed to co-operate with the animal industry division in doing this work. The writer of this letter went to the farm, divided the hogs into ten lots, each lot receiving a different feed—the object being to determine the most profitable ration for finishing hogs. On December 18 the hogs were put up in 10 different lots and fed various combinations of corn, corn and cotton seed meal, and corn and tankage for 26 days to harden them. As is well known peanuts make a very soft oily carcass and the packers do not like to buy peanut-fed hogs on that account. Such hogs are discriminated against very sharply unless they have been finished on grain.

In spite of the adverse weather conditions that prevailed for the first two and a half weeks of this finishing period, the hogs made an average daily gain of 1.6 lbs.

The hogs were shipped to Richmond Jan. 14, 1914, and sold. The average weight on the farm was 239 lbs. and the average weight in Richmond was 228.4 lbs., or the shrinkage of 10.4 lbs. a head. A general financial statement follows:

Expenditures. Cost of 250 pigs, 32.737 lbs., at \$ 1-2c. . . . . \$2,782.64 Freight on 2 cars of pigs, Morristown to Tarboro . . . . . 148.00 Cost of inoculating 250 pigs. . . . . 104.10 618 lbs. of corn at 91c. . . . . 562.3 6,100 lbs. C. S. Meal at \$1.40 . . . . . 85.4 400 lbs. tankage at \$2.65 . . . . . 10.60 2,338 lbs. low grade peanuts at 2c. . . . . 46.70 Freight on 3 cars hogs: Tarboro to Richmond . . . . . 96.00 Yardage at Richmond . . . . . 9.00 Feed at Richmond . . . . . 15.00 Weighing at Richmond . . . . . 3.0

Total Cost . . . . . \$3,862.5

Receipts. 3 pigs dressed weight 216 lbs. at 12 1-2c. . . . . \$ 27.00 5 hogs dressed wt. 997 lbs. at 11c. . . . . 109.67 20 hogs live wt. 3,904 lbs. at \$8.50 . . . . . 331.84 184 hogs live weight 42,080 lbs. at \$3.85 . . . . . 3,518.88 3 sows at \$20 . . . . . 60.00 Total receipts . . . . . \$4,706.59 Total cost . . . . . 3,862.62 Net profit . . . . . \$ 843.71

## DR. H. Q. ALEXANDER ON FARMERS' RELATION TO CURRENCY

Editor Farmers' Forum: The economic crime of the century was perpetrated against the American people fifty years ago when congress delegated to private individuals and corporations (the national banks) the power to contract and expand at will the volume of the circulating money of the country.

Through combinations resulting in trust formation this power was gradually merged into a comparatively small number of the 7,500 national banks.

And thus it has been for many years that a few men have been able by contracting the volume of the circulating value, measuring medium to send prices of all commodities downward, only to be raised again by expansion of the currency afterward. Thus it was possible to buy the products of the people's labor at a low price and sell them at a high price.

The national bank act was a war measure conceived by Secretary Chase for the purpose of creating a compulsory market for national bonds during the civil war. All national banks at issue were required to deposit with the national treasury, on order of the government; and then bank notes to the volume of 90 per cent of the value of the bonds would be issued to the bank. These bank notes were taxed only one per cent, while the bonds were non-taxable and paid the banks 4 per cent. This meant almost double interest to the banks.

All subsequent legislation for many years, tended only to increase the power by extending and enlarging the privileges of the national banks. For instance, the limit originally imposed upon the circulation of the national banks was \$300,000,000; all limit was removed in 1875.

This compulsory market for United States bonds naturally raised the price until in 1889 4 per cent bonds sold at high as 129. This called for more bonds for the benefit of the bankers and resulted in new issues of bonds in 1894, 95, 96 and 98.

Next followed the gold standard law of 1900. This law permitted national banks to issue circulation to the full par value of the bonds deposited, and reduced the tax on the circulation, based on the new refunding 2 per cent bonds, to one half of one per cent. The purchase of silver for coinage purposes had been suspended in 1883, and this metal was now demonetized by the adoption of the single standard, thus again tending to make money dear, and making it easier for the national banks to control the volume of the money.

There now remained substantially only two methods of increasing the volume of money in the country to meet the growth of business; the increase of gold currency by importation and production of gold, and the increased bank notes in circulation. This made possible the formation of the greatest and most powerful of all trusts, the money trust.

Aside from the payment of salaries of government employees, there is only one way for money to pass from the source of money (the government mint and printing press), into the channels of trade, and that is the banks. And thus we see that the people are taxed with a double interest for all monies; indirectly to pay interest on the bonds on which bank notes are issued, and directly to the banks for the money when it passes into the channels of business. This applies to all classes and all businesses.

This was discrimination against all the people in favor of a small class that was able to purchase government bonds. Let us now consider how, in the administration of the national bank, the farming and laboring classes have been discriminated against, while the stock corporations and bond holding classes, bankers, manufacturers, transportation, industries and mercantile concerns, have been favored.

The stocks and bonds of these favored classes are negotiable collateral at the banks and can be used by the holder to obtain needed money. But the land and personal chattels of the farming and laboring classes will not serve for them the funds necessary to pay running expenses until they realize on the fruits of their labor.

This discrimination has resulted in If you are interested in additional details write me or the animal industry division.

Very truly yours, L. W. SHOOK, Assistant in Animal Industry.

Other crops, as cowpeas, soy beans etc., may be used for fattening hogs in other parts of the state. In this letter we want to call attention particularly to peanuts.

## March--A Lot Of Seasonable Comment

With rushing winds and gloomy skies; The dark and stubborn winter dies; Far off unseen spring faintly cries; Bidding her earliest child arise.

March, boisterous, rollicking March. Our forebears, away back, sometime we don't know when, or why, called him the god of war, unless it was his from his inherent devilry in seeing fat men running after their horse dates not at all bad, and one of these, he is he will become as mild and modest as a May morning. Mr. Dugger says in this week's Progressive Farmer that March is usually a month devoted chiefly to plowing in preparation for cotton and corn. It is a month, too, when farmers are laying in their supplies of fertilizers for the coming season and when you come to think about it there is a very close connection in the preparation of the soil for the growing crop and the use of the fertilizers that follow.

No matter how much or how little fertilizer you use, unless you have a fine seed bed, thoroughly prepared, you will never be able to get the best results. Land full of clods or badly plowed land will not hold moisture and a cloddy condition prevents the capillary connection and the power of

the furrow slice. This is important, as most of the plant food in a fertilizer is soluble in water and, of course, have moisture before they can be available. Another important fact in the purchase of a fertilizer is to see that the fertilizer is properly balanced, that is, that the right proportion of plant food in the right proportion to the needs of your crops and soil. As a rule, it is difficult to tell what a soil needs. However, it is preferable to use a sandy soil needs more phosphorus and a clay soil needs more potash and a clay soil needs more potash and a clay soil needs more potash.

Profits from use of acid and potash fertilizer depends very much on the amount used per acre. Here again the correlation. The depth of the plowing is a factor to be reckoned with, in to put heavy applications of fertilizer on land that has only been plowed 3 or 4 inches deep. Not only the depth of the plowing but the amount of vegetable matter in the soil is also a factor to be reckoned with. The deeper the plowing, the better applications pay the most profit. But these just a few March meditations.

the exploitation of the farmers by the more favored classes. He is forced to run his business "on time" and pay high prices for supplies. Then when marketing time comes he must sell regardless of prices to satisfy his creditors. Thus he gets it "in the neck" both a wine and a comin'.

Progressive broad-minded men of all classes have come to realize that something must be done for the promotion of agriculture and to make the business of farming more profitable. Agitation and education have resulted in a demand for a system of rural credits, or farmers' banks, that will enable farmers to get money at a reasonable rate of interest for short time loans, on any kind of safe collateral that he can put up; and where he can obtain money at a low rate of interest on long-time loans on real estate. Any system of rural credits that fails to provide money at 6 per cent interest, or less for the small farmer, secured by a mortgage on his stock, fixtures and crop, and to be used only in the production of the crop, will fail completely to meet the needs of a large per cent of our farming people.

The time of these loans should not exceed six, nine or twelve months, and the money should be held by the rural bank and paid to the borrower monthly as needed to pay running expenses in making a crop.

The long time loans should be made on real estate and for specific purposes only, and should be at a rate of interest not exceeding 4 per cent. These loans should be for paying off debt on the farm or home, or for the purchase (in part) of a farm or home, for the permanent improvement of farm or home, for the equipment of farm and for the education of children. Only bona-fide residents should have the benefit of these loans. Real estate speculators should be rigidly excluded. They ought to be taxed out of business, anyway.

The long time loans should be on the amortization plan, whereby the farmer could pay the 4 per cent interest, plus a small part of the principal every year until the whole was paid. The time should run from five to perhaps thirty years, with privilege of paying in part or in full at any interest bearing period without penalty.

In several bills on rural credits have been introduced into congress. The writer has carefully read six or eight of these bills. Not a single one of them has all of the good features, or all of the provisions necessary to meet the demands and do justice to the American farmer. But all the features and provisions necessary to make a perfect bill are found in the many bills before congress.

The question that naturally comes up in our mind is whether or not congress will take the good and necessary features of these various bills and combine them into one, or will our demand for bread be answered by giving us a stone? I believe congress will grant the demands of the farmers if they will all unite and let their demands be known at once.

In a general way the bill presented in the senate by Mr. Fletcher and in the house by Mr. Moss, is a good one, as it provides for the establishment of "National Farm Land Banks," and incorporates the co-operative plan, (which, however, is optional, it should be compulsory). But this bill lacks two provisions that are absolutely essential to any law that will give the farmer the relief he needs and needs and is justly entitled to, viz: short

time loans on any kind of safe collateral that he can furnish, as already explained in this article, and long time loans at not exceeding 4 per cent interest. This bill does not provide for loans secured by personal chattels, nor does it provide for cheap money, since the bulk of the money must be obtained by the sale of the open market of the bonds of the farm land banks, which bonds are backed by the mortgages or deeds of trust on land. This is a fatal weakness in this bill, because it makes the land banks dependent on the commercial banks for money to be loaned.

A bill by Mr. Thompson includes the provision for making loans on first mortgages on crops, stock, etc., for the purpose of making and harvesting crops.

A bill by Mr. Doolittle provides for cheap money by making the national government issue treasury certificates to be designated as government currency, the same to be retired when the land mortgage has been paid off.

Now then, if congress really want to help the farmers, regardless of how it may effect the profits of the national banks, it can be done and all the provisions necessary for the law need, can be found in the various bills before congress.

In my judgment a land loan law dependent on the commercial banks for the money to be loaned, would be a dangerous expedient. It could not provide cheap money, and many loans would be made for farm and home improvement that would not increase the revenue from the farm; such as a residence or barn, etc. Moreover the average annual profits of agriculture are less than five per cent, therefore the farmer would be able to get money at less than five per cent, if it is to be used in buying a home or in making permanent improvements on farm.

To that I would answer that the national banks get money from the government for nothing and are not even a producing class. Then the manufacturer, transportation and commercial interests are generally engaged in the banking business. Why not an equal privilege to the farmer?

H. Q. ALEXANDER.

DON'T PLANT WHEAT. (Siler City Girl.)

There is an old saying that if Ash Wednesday is fair a good wheat crop may be expected; but if cloudy, then it will be poor. As last Wednesday was the coldest day of the winter and cloudy, we may look for a poor wheat yield. Last year Ash Wednesday was bright and balmy, and our farmers had the biggest wheat crop in years. Of course, there is nothing in this, but when those who go by signs have stuck to this forecast for countless years.

