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Going Back to Joseph

THE agricultural experimenters in Washington, with their plan for storing crop surpluses and providing for an "ever normal granary," have gone back quite a number of years—in fact, back to Joseph and the land of Egypt, though it is doubtful if any of them are aware of that fact.

Here is the story of Joseph's plan as told in extracts from the forty-first and forty-seventh chapters of Genesis, beginning with Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream:

... "Behold there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt.

"And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all of the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land; and the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.

... "Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

"Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years.

"And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

"And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine."

The plan of Joseph looked good to Pharaoh, and he appointed Joseph to rule the land under the king. Joseph took his job seriously and went about it at once:

... And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went throughout the land of Egypt.

"And in the seven plentiful years the earth brought forth by handfuls.

"And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering, for it was without number.

... And the seven years of plenty that was in the land of Egypt were ended.

"And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said; and the dearth was in all lands; but in the land of Egypt there was bread.

"And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, 'Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.'

... "And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt."

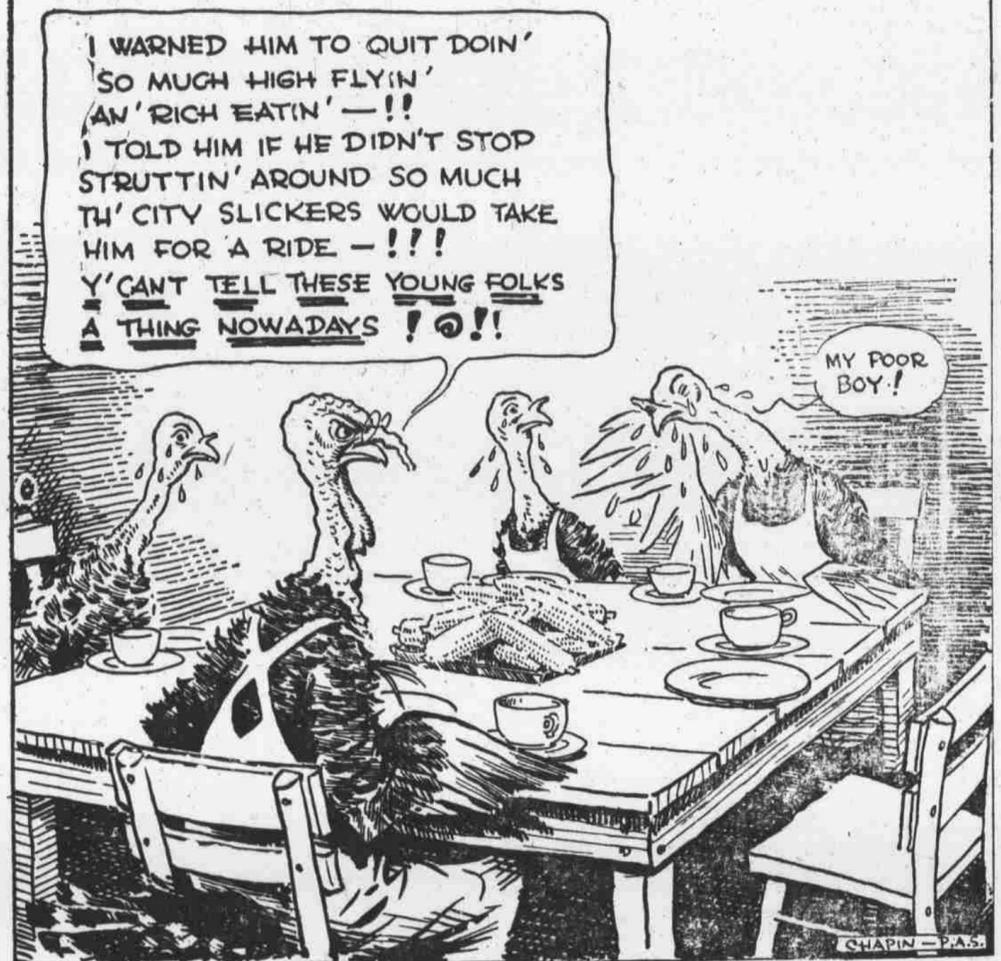
And going on to chapter 47, here is the final result:

"And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

"And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, 'Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth.'

The Vacant Chair

by A. B. CHAPIN



"And Joseph said, 'Give your cattle; and I will give you bread for your cattle if money fail.'

"And they brought their cattle unto Joseph; and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses; and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.

"When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, 'We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not aught left but our bodies and our lands.'

"Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our lands? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land be not desolate.

"And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's.

... Then Joseph said unto the people, 'Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you and ye shall sow the land.

"And it shall become to pass in the increase that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones."

Joseph's plan saved the lives of the Egyptians, but in the end the farmers had no land, no cattle and no money, and everybody was working for the government.

The "ever normal granary" sounds good, and the plan may work, but the agricultural experimenters ought to give Joseph a break. They could at the least credit him with an assist.—P. F. C.

Farm Program Needed By Grower and Buyer

The consumer, whether he lives in town or on the farm, has a three-fold interest in the agricultural conservation program.

First, he wants adequate supplies of food and fiber to supply his needs, said E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer at State college.

Second, he wants these supplies to remain stable year after year, avoiding as far as possible drastic shortages such as drought years bring.

Third, he wants to know that the ability of agriculture to produce adequate supplies in the future is

being conserved through wise use of the nation's land resources.

Achievement of these goals, Floyd said, is not only in the consumer's interest, but it is also in harmony with the objectives of a sound farm program.

Production cannot be stabilized completely, however, due to variations in weather and growing conditions that cause yield per acre to be greater in some years than in others.

Consequently, Floyd said, for the consumer's protection, there should be a carry-over of adequate reserve supplies from one year to the next.

But if this protection is going

to mean depressed prices, then agriculture cannot afford to give the consumer this kind of insurance.

For this reason, something in addition to the regular 1938 agricultural program is considered necessary to provide consumers with the protection adequate carry-overs give without making the farmer run the risk of ruinous prices. The ever normal granary plan is a proposed solution for this problem.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

Q. What can I do to stop "pick-outs" in my flock of Leghorn hens?

A. This condition is undoubtedly related to intensity of production, and as yet no practical method of control has been advanced. If any change in diet is made to slow up production, it is very probable that this would result in a neck moult which is undesirable. The most practical method of approach is to observe the birds frequently and immediately remove those showing a prolapse. These birds should be used for table purposes.

Q. How much plant bed space should I seed to plant an acre of tobacco?

A. A plant bed that is 10 yards square will normally produce from 10,000 to 15,000 plants which is enough plants to cover two acres. In planning the beds, however, it is well to seed extra space so as to insure an adequate supply of plants. Where a larger acreage is to be planted it is better to have several small beds widely separated on the farm rather than one large bed. This lessens the hazards of blue mold infection and other tobacco diseases.

Q. What do you recommend for curing young calves of indigestion?

A. When the first symptoms appear the calf should be isolated and its milk feed reduced at least one-half. If legume hay is being fed this should be replaced with grass hay until the trouble disappears. A dose of one to three tablespoonfuls of castor oil, depending upon the age of the calf, should be given in one pint of fresh milk. Following the action of the oil, a teaspoonful of a mixture composed of one part salol and two parts each of bismuth and bicarbonate of soda should be given. This can be repeated at intervals of about six hours until the diarrhea is stopped. The trouble is usually caused by improper feeding and this cause should be located and removed before the calf is put back on full feed.