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Farm Debt In North Carolina Not On Increase, Says Thompson

Despite Milloins Spent For Farm Improvements, North Carolina Farm Debt Has Not Increased Substantially, County Banker Says

While North Carolina farmers have spent millions of dollars for improvements, soil conservation, and the purchase of new equipment since the war's end, farm debt has made no significant increase; and holdings in cash, bank deposits, and U. S. Savings Bonds are at record levels, according to J. C. Thompson, Vice President of Branch Banking and Trust Co., who represents the N. C. Bankers Association as a county key banker.

"North Carolina farmers are going through these final months of adjustment from a war to a peacetime economy with very little disturbance," Mr. Thompson said. "They are maintaining a sound financial position; and while they are using more credit for improvements and new equipment, their obligations are being paid off in a relatively short time and they are adding to their already substantial financial reserves."

In 1949, the last full year of operation, the 213 N. C. banks serving agricultural communities loaned $61,210,000 to 53,652 farmers. This represents a total of 18.7% of the farmers in the state. Of the total amount, 43,543 farmers borrowed from the banks to finance production in an aggregate amount of $44,083,000. Of these loans, only $11,176,000 remained outstanding at the beginning of 1949. During the year, there were 10,109 farmers, representing only 3.5% of the farmers in the state, who made farm real estate loans in an aggregate amount of $17,127,000. The prosperity of the farmers is shown by the fact that, of these long term debts, only $19,196,000 were outstanding at the beginning of this year. The total bank-held farm debt on January 1, 1849, was $30,372,000.

Mr. Thompson stated that farm borrowings are usually a reliable indicator of the economic condition of agriculture and that one of the brightest aspects of the present situation is the fact that the average loan per borrower during 1948 for production purposes was only $1,012, and the average loan made on farm real estate was only $1,69.

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SCRIPTURE: Psalms 23; 43; 46; 90; 121, 148.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 63:1-6.

The Psalms We Sing

Lesson for September 25, 1949

IT WOULD be a most unusual person who on his dying bed would turn to the 23rd chapter of I Chronicles and not to the 23rd Psalm. If the reader will think of his own favorite passage of Scripture, and then look them up in some edition which prints the Bible in a modern format, he will discover that his favorite passages are probably all poetry.

Dr. Foreman

• • •

Poetry's Power

WHY the appeal of poetry? For one thing, it is vivid. It is in colors, not severe black and white. It lives and breathes, at times it shouts, and it always sings.

It is true to say "The providential oversight of the Creator is continuous and unremitting;" but it is more effective to say, "The Lord is my shepherd." It would be true to say, "The evidences of creative and beneficent purpose can be seen throughout all the orders of nature;" but how much more vivid is the 148th Psalm, calling on hail and fire, sun and moon and stars of light, to praise the Lord!

Another secret of poetry's power is that it is the language of emotion. Professors and theologians may be saying the same things as the poet, and maybe even saying them more completely and accurately; but what they say is less easy to remember.

So these emotional Psalms will always appeal, even to the professor when off duty, because they make us feel religion and not merely think it.

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Pictures of God

SO IT IS no wonder the Psalms have been loved and sung all over the world. We are perhaps the only religion that has made so much use of another religion's hymn book. Different though our faiths may be, Jews and Christians can sing from the Psalter with one voice and heart.

For centuries it was the hymnal of the Christian church. Indeed, up to recent years some large denominations would allow in public worship the singing of no other songs than the Psalms.

Many of our best hymns and popular gospel songs, as we have already seen, are based on Psalms. "Rock of Ages, cleft for me," "A Shelter in the Time of Storm," "Hiding in Thee," — they all go back to the Psalmist's picture of God as a Rock (Ps. 42:9). The Psalmist was not thinking of a little rock in a cornfield. He was thinking of some tall crag in the fierce hot landscape of his country.

A rock there is a landmark, it is a shelter against the blazing sun, people could live under its overhanging height.

So God is the landmark of life, he gives direction to our ways; he is the shelter on life's weary journey, he is our safe dwelling.

So with the many other pictures of God in the Psalms—he is light, he is shade, he is the guard on duty at night watching over the sleeping city (Ps. 121); he is a shepherd, he is water for the thirsting soul (Ps. 42.)

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A Model Hymnal

IT IS true that few Christians today can use in worship all of the Psalms, without omissions or changes. It is also true that practically all Christian churches finds that the Psalms, by themselves, are inadequate to express all there is in Christian experience, faith and ideals.

The Christian hymn, entirely independent of the Psalms, has long since come into its own. And yet the Psalms remain the model hymnal. For in them beauty and truth are blended.

This should be the ideal of all Christian hymn and song books. Some of our modern "hymns" as well as some older ones, are bad because they are no better than jingles, —doggerel, not poetry, and often sung to tunes better suited to a juke box; and some are bad because they convey either nonsense or downright falsehood.

But the great hymns, and the best hymnals, are those which like the Psalms of old, combine profound truths about God and man, duty and destiny, with stately, stirring and singable music, aglow with the beauty and power of words.

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ASTHMA

DUPLIN COUNTY BUSH GROWERS

To stimulate interest within the county and to advertise "The Duplin Story" throughout the state, an organization known as "The Bush Growers League" has sprung up in the vicinity of Kenansville. No member is permitted to shave until after the pageant under penalty of a $2.50 fine. Members of the league, pictured above, back row, left to right, are G. E. Alphin, Jr., president of the Duplin Historical Association; Albert Outlaw; Patrolman Earl Whitaker; Patrolman Joseph T. Coker, Jr.; Ralph Langston; Emory Sadler. Front row same order, Kelly Maxwell; Murray Byrd; Harold Kornegay; Amos Q. Brinson, Kenansville Mayor; Herbert Summerlin; and J. Robert Grady, editor of the Duplin Times.

NOTICE OF EXECUTOR

The undersigned, having qqualified as the executor of the last will and testament of Tena Cooper, and having qualified before the Clerk of Superior Court of Duplin County, this is to notify all persons who have claim against said estate to present their claims to the undersigned executor, on or before the 22nd day of August, 1950, or this notice will be plead in bar to their recovery. All persons who are indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned executor or his attorney.

This the 2nd day of August, 1949.
601 44th St. N. W.
Libby Cooper,
Washington, D. C.

H. E. Phillips, Atty.
Kenansville.
9-30-6t. HEP

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