



MAPLE LEAF W I

**Farming In Biblical Days**

F. H. MacArthur

The cereal crops most often mentioned in the Bible are wheat and barley, though rye and millet were not unknown. Of the two former, together with the vetch, olive and fig, the use of irrigation, the plough and the harrow, mention is made in the book of Job (XXXI 40; XV 3; XXIV 6; XXIX 19; XXXIX 10. In Isa XXVIII 27 you may read of fitches, beans and lentils. So these later writers add a great variety of garden plants, such as kidney beans, peas, lettuce, leek, garlic, onions, cucumbers, cabbages etc. The produce which earned Jacob's present was of such a kind as would keep, and had been stored during the great famine (Gen. XLIII 11). Ploughing and sowing was done then as now, only the ancients used a wooden plough drawn by oxen. New ground was cleared of stones and trees early in the year. Sowing or gathering from among thorns, probably referred to slovenly farming. Virgin land was ploughed a second time and the seed was scattered broadcast. The soil was then run over with a light harrow in the same manner as was followed by the early settlers in P.E.I.

In highly irrigated spots, the seed was scattered over the earth and then trampled in by cattle (Isa. XXXII 20) as in Egypt by goats. Sometimes, however, the sowing was confined to manured patches, and where the soil was heavy the plough was allowed to glide through the soil lightly. Scarcely days before the Passover was considered the ideal time for ploughing, this being after the rainy season.

Two persons usually followed the plough, one to drive the furrow, the other to goad the oxen on by using a spear-like stick (See Job. III 8).

That there were thieves in those days ready to carry off the grain of their neighbors may be verified by this passage of scripture, "Boaz slept on the floor (Ruth III 4, 7). Barley ripened a week or ten days before wheat. The yield in those days must have been fairly heavy, a hundred fold is mentioned, but in such a way as to suggest that it was a limit rarely attained (Gen. XXVI 12).

Rotation crops were not unknown to the Hebrews, though they did not follow this practice to the same extent as did the Egyptians.

The harvest was reaped by means of a sickle, or sometimes pulled up by the roots. It was bound in sheaves, a process often described in Scripture. Cattle test by Mrs. Fred Waite and Mrs. George Gunning. Meeting closed with the King.

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were often used to trample out the grain, though a threshing sledges was sometimes employed. This crude gadget consisted of three rollers ridged with iron, which, aided by the driver's weight, crushed out the grain and broke up the straw, thus making it more suitable for fodder. Lighter grains were sometimes threshed by means of a stick. The use of animal manure as a means of enriching the earth is referred to in several books, namely: the Psalms, Kings, Jer. etc. Mud was also used for the same purpose.

With regard to occupancy, a tenant might pay a fixed money rent (Cant. VIII 11) or a share of the crops, an arrangement still in use in the Prairies and in most of the southern States. Every third year a 2nd tithe beside the priests was paid for the poor.

WEYBURN, Sask. — (CP) — The R.C.M.P. radio transmitter here is outdoing itself. With a normal range of 75 miles, operators recently talked with Montreal, Sherbrooke, Sutton and Rock Island, all in Quebec.

**Dorothy Dix Says —**

(Continued from page 2)

while. Neglect her. There won't be a bit of fun in raising Cain if she is left to do it by her lonesome.

Evidently you and the little girl need to be parted for a while. Send her to a good summer camp. I have seen that work wonders in a child. And when she comes back treat her as if she was a grown-up. That will put it up to her to act like one.

DEAR MISS DIX: What do you think of a wife who has always put her family before her husband, who has kept him from taking advantage of opportunities for advancement because she would have to leave the place where her people lived? She leaves him to get his own meals after working hard all day if she thinks any of her family need her, and she spends nearly all of the money he makes on her family.

JACK  
ANSWER: There are a great many women whose ability to be good daughters and sisters seems to crowd out their ability to be good wives. They are so obsessed with family affection that they have no love left to give to their husbands. They offer themselves up as willing sacrifices to their own people and think it unreasonable that their husbands protest at also becoming victims.

Of course, the remedy is obvious. It is for the man to refuse to let his wife rob him for her people. She has a right to ask some help from him because if she were not married she would give them her earnings, but she certainly has no right to make him support them.

DEAR MISS DIX: I am planning to marry a man who is egotistical, self-centered, incapable of loving any one but himself. I am doing this to get away from home. I have been brought up in an atmosphere of hate, bitterness, spitefulness and cruelty. Marriage is my only solution.

UNHAPPY JANE  
ANSWER: You haven't tried being married to a selfish man, Jane. Nor a loveless marriage. When you do, you will find out that

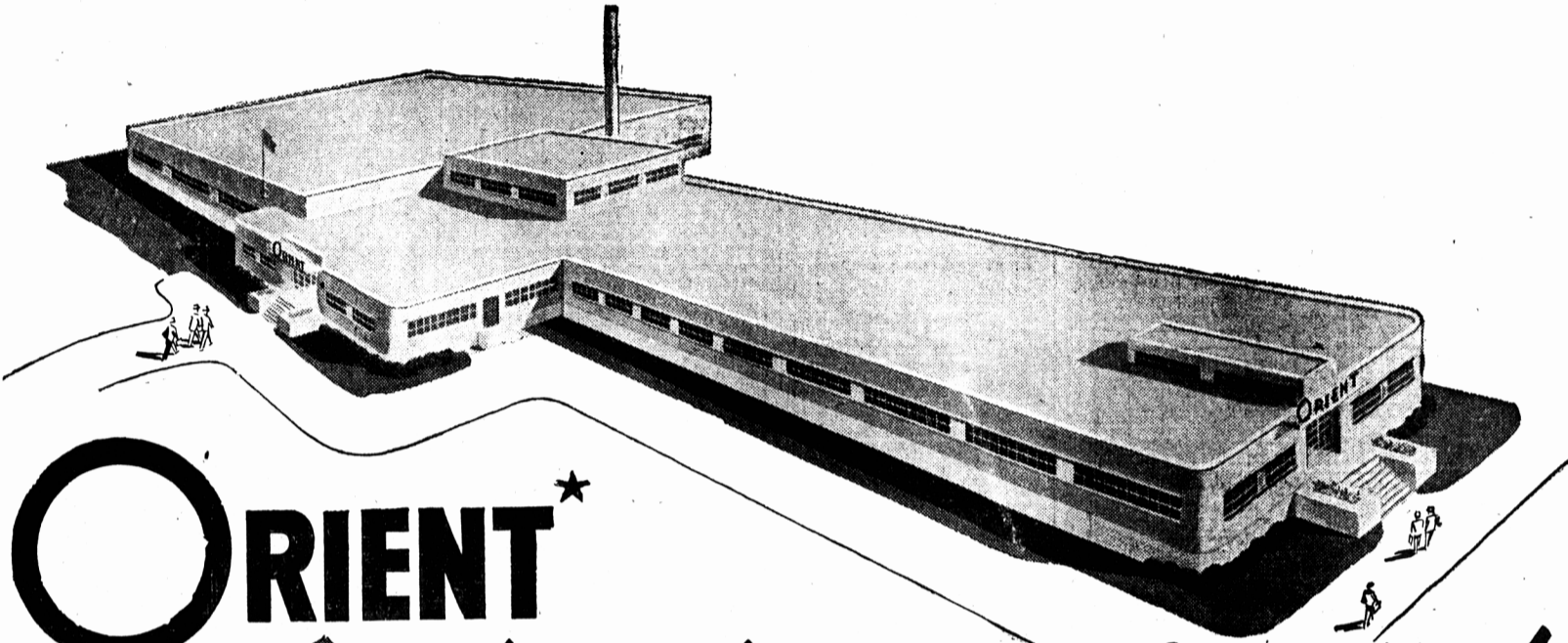
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you jumped out of the frying pan into the fire, because you will have left hope behind. There is always a chance of getting away from your parents, but you are tied to your husband.

DOROTHY DIX cannot reply personally to readers, but will answer problems of general interest through her column.



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