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Tighter Gasoline Control

The gasoline rationing plan, which has been tested in the Eastern States and found wanting, is now being revamped to get rid of objectionable loopholes.

Immediately after the present rationing plan went into effect it was apparent to motorists in the East that it wouldn't work as it was meant to work because it depended too much on voluntary co-operation instead of enforceable regulations.

In the first place, ration boards, which decided how much gasoline each motorist was entitled to, showed wide differences in judgment. In some cases people who were in real need of more gasoline were unable to convince an over-strict rationing board of that need. In other cases, the rationers were over-generous with their friends and some were known to give pretty girls an extra helping of gasoline "on their face value."

Under the new rationing plan, the boards will be subject to more careful checking. Everyone will be given an A book, entitling him to a minimum supply of gasoline, and iwll then have to prove in writing the need for any extra supply. The ration boards, in turn, will realize that those requests will be subject to inspection and won't take the chance of playing favorites.

The other major problem in the present set-up is that there is no control over the gasoline stations. They may punch ration cards or not punch them, as they wish. They are not apt to get in trouble if they give extra gasoline to their friends.

Under the new system, the gasoline station owners will collect coupons from the automobile owners and will only be able to get gasoline for their stations by turning in these coupons. Thus, if they give any gasoline without collecting a coupon they will reduce the amount they will be able to obtain in the future.

These changes indicate that the government is rapidly learning this lesson: mandatory regulations are more acceptable to the people than voluntary methods, when the voluntary methods offer an opportunity for the selfish minority to take advantage of the co-operative majority.

Father's Day

Fathers are being urged these days to help care for their children when they are little in order to have a front seat during those delectable years when the baby almost every day surprises his parents with some new, wonderful sign of growth and development. We heartily agree with this plan, but we'd like to warn fathers that handling an infant deftly does take special skill and practice, so don't be discouraged if the baby doesn't seem to enjoy your tending as much as he does his mother's.

But your time is coming! For in the vital business of character education and intellectual stimulation you play the more exciting role. I do not say the more important one, for there is no denying the day-by-day influence which a mother exerts on the character and the mind of a child. But often something which has been slowly growing in a child's consciousness through his mother's example and teachings comes suddenly to have meaning for him when Father, who is never taken so much for granted as Mother, dramatizes it.

I'll never forget, for instance, the time I proudly displayed a nickel carfare which the conductor had failed to collect, and my father's words on the special need for honesty when there was little chance of your being found out. Mother could have pointed out the error of keeping the nickel, but Father's talk somehow illuminated the necessity for being honest with oneself as well as with others.

Then in urging a child to mental exploration fathers are indeed tops. What mother teaches is often through necessity of the "must" variety—things the child knows he has to learn. Nor are children as fascinated by their mother's away-from-home activities, such as club or war work, as they are with their father's. It is he who lifts the curtain on the real, solid, sometimes awe-inspiring adult world. Even the way a father carries his head and the freedom and fearlessness of his stride as he starts off in the mornings for this strange world can have a reassuring effect on a child.

Fathers have a special role to play for daughters, just as mothers have for sons. That is, much of a girl's attitude toward men and marriage will depend on whether or not her father brought harmony or discord into the house with him. Fathers can give their daughters confidence, too, in their ability to make themselves interesting to men. One extremely shy young girl of my acquaintance, though she had been given every social training by her mother, finally overcame her diffidence through her father's assurances that she could be attractive to men if only she would make it easier for them to know her.

Yes, it is fathers, more than the mothers, who can make children willing to leave the safe, dependent realm of childhood and take pride in the perilous, but thrilling, adventure of growing up!

A Motto Helped Them

The most unusual desk motto I ever saw was on the desk of a president of the New York Stock Exchange. Strictly speaking it was not a motto, but it served the same purpose. It was an Aztec calendar made of stone, and covered with their ancient hieroglyphics. Mr. McChesney said that when he is troubled he picks up this old relic, holds it in his hand, and looks at it thinking how eternal time is, and how fleeting is trouble. He claims that it always relieves the strain and cheers him.

One of the finest of mottoes was that of Admiral Peary, discoverer of the North Pole. Once when attacking the North, he was beaten by the ice. His feet were so badly frozen that he had to be carried by his men. They took him into a room at Fort Cresson and laid him tenderly on a rough bed, and turned away, fearing he would never be able to walk again. He slept heavily for hours. When he awoke, he was refreshed and his mind clear. He inched himself over to the wall, called for a pencil, and wrote his motto—"I will find a way, or make one."

Cecil Rhodes, who did so much to win Africa for England, had a down-to-earth motto that will help everyone who will apply it. It deals with that tremendously important subject—handling people: "Never quarrel with people you are eager to persuade." He employed this simple principle when he went to see the king of the Matabele, the war-like fighting tribe that meant to kill him; and he won the king over to his way of thinking by employing those nine words.

The same theory was practiced by President Theodore Roosevelt, who used to say: "The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is the knack of getting along with people."

Judge Elbert H. Gary, steel magnate, had the shortest motto I know. Three words. "Organize, Deputize, Supervise."

Here is a humorous one by the first man to fly, Wilbur Wright: "A parrot talks much, but flies little."

Joseph P. Day, the only man in the world who has ever sold a billion dollars' worth of real estate, has a motto under the glass on his desk. He has six children; their pictures are under the glass with the motto: "Eternal vigilance is the price of success, as well as of freedom."

Robert Ingersoll who, a generation ago, flashed across the country like a flaming, challenging meteor, chose the following: "The greatest test of courage on this earth is to bear defeat without losing heart." Who could want a finer guide.?

It might be a good idea to cut out this column, place it under the glass top of your desk, and study these mottoes when things go wrong.

Destroying The Helper

It is reported that Congress is being flooded with communications from retailers throughout the country, requesting that the general price freeze order be reopened to public hearing to review the disastrous situation facing thousands of stores. On top of that, it is reported further, manufacturers are tremendously concerned over the probable loss of distributive outlets.

One can sympathize with the point of view of government officials who believe that the most stringent possible measures are necessary to prevent a ruinous price inflation. But it is becoming evident that the price freeze will literally dislocate and destroy a large part of the retail businesses of this country unless adjustments are made to take care of the very wide lag that has long existed between wholesale and retail prices.

The merchants who are writing Congress and the OPA are not asking for big profits and a chance to profiteer. They are simply asking the chance to price their goods at a level which will return them sufficient profit to stay in business. If the current order stands as issued, merchants will have to replace stocks at present wholesale price levels and sell them at the prevailing March retail levels. That means that the sale of many items would be made with no profit—and that the sale of some other items would have to be made at an actual loss. The public-spirited merchant who cooperated with the OPA and priced his wares on the basis of original cost, not replacement cost, would take the worst beating.

It is difficult to exaggerate the potential effect of this on the country. The small store will be hit hardest and will go to the wall first — large retail organizations, with capital behind them, can last longer and can better adjust themselves to changing conditions. The tens of thousands of little retail businesses which are the backbone of the American private enterprise system are in danger of extinction. That is the immensely grave situation which confronts Congress and the OPA today.

HEALTH REPORT FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY

Cases of communicable diseases reported in Dorchester County for the week ending June 16, were as follows:

Pneumonia—1, Cambridge.

E. A. Jones, M. D.
Deputy State Health Officer

Navy etiquette says that "a courtesy visit should last ten minutes,, unless the caller is requested to stay longer."

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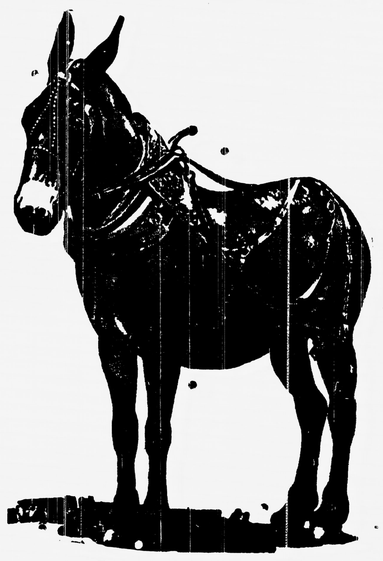

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6 Check and Adjust Voltage Regulator
7 Check Battery and Fill with Water
8 Adjust Distributor Points
9 Adjust Ignition Timing and Set Octane Selector
10 Check Ignition Coil
11 Check Condenser
12 Clean and Adjust Spark Plugs
13 Check Vacuum Control
14 Check and Adjust Heat Control
15 Overhaul and Adjust Carburetor
16 Adjust Valve Tappets
17 Adjust Fan Belt
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19 Check Tire Pressure
20 Check Brakes
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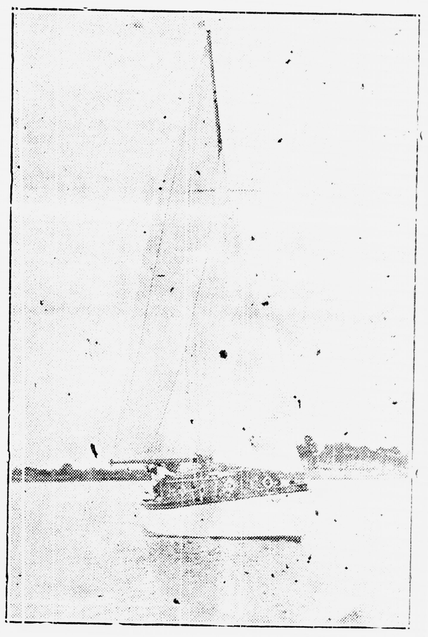

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