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A SAFETY YARDSTICK

We do not profess to be expert in the field of traffic safety. There are those whose business it is to study the causes and cures of the automobile malady that takes a toll of some 40,000 ilves a year.

But, inexpert as we may be, the proposal of the American Legion in Maryland and the district of Columbia to create in the Baltimore-Washington Highway a National Laboratory of Traffic Safety strikes us as being simple, direct and eminently sensible procedure. Most important because it would serve as a medium through which to impress on the taxpayer, on you and me, our responsibility in demanding the type of highways which would give us at least an even chance. After all, the motorist isn't completely to blame.

The trouble, today, is that too many people know too little about too many national problems, and that includes the traffic problem. The public has no opinion as to what it should expect or demand in return for the huge gasoline and motor-vehicle tax it pays—what is practical and what isn't.

All sorts of remedies have been suggested. But what we need is a more complete understanding of the simple why, when and where. For example, every on knows that adequate visibility is essential to safety. But we realize, too, that the lighting of a great proportion of our highways would be impossible. What we want to know what is what type highway, under what conditions, can be practically and economically lighted.

What the American public needs is some standard by which to judge what they are getting; some measurement of what can be done in this modern day to make highways safer than they are. Whether such a safety model, or yardstick, is located in this state or another is of no importance. The important thing is that we do need a national precedent and example for all to follow. From that point of view, there could be no more fortunate choice than the highway leading to and from the country's capital. And the idea, as Commander Bair of Maryland, points out, is so fundamental that every state might well develop a model safety highway or highways.

Why not have one of our own?

RISING MARKET FORECAST FOR EDUCATION

Government officials forecast a "rising market" in education at the start of the new school year for 33,000,000 children and adults.

Miss Bess Goodykoontz, assistant federal commissioner of education, said the "rising market" was evidenced by the public's growing confidence in education in contrast to the confusion of the first post-depression years.

"There's a feeling that the schools can do something' about many serious economic and social problems," she said. "The public is demanding that the schools be adequate, and at every age level, school systems are widening their programs to fit community needs."

She said high schools were trying to provide programs to hold older boys and girls in school and to provide part-time or evening schools for those who already have dropped out.

Miss Goodykoontz said increases in enrollment were expected in high school, college, vocational and adult classes.

On the other hand, enrollments in the first six grades have been decreasing slightly for several years because of the declining birthrate and restricted immigration. About 2,000,000 six-year-olds will enter scholl for the first time this month.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week will be observed throughout the nation from October 9 to 15, inclusive.

"The principal object of this occasion is to direct attention to the unnecessary civic loss caused by fire and to inspire public activity against such losses which annually destroy permanently so much material wealth and resources. Destruction of property by fire constitutes one of the greastest economic wastes, and injuries and loss of life therefrom become an inexcusable evil.

"Statistics reveal that 80 per cent. of all fires occurring are preventable, thus creating an unwarranted and needless waste which every citizen should fell it his duty to aid in reducing.

SEEN IN THE RAINBOW

J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., Sept. 12.—There is a native thinker in Everytown who has come to the conclusion that if only 5 million people were out of work that the lazy would be better cared for, and if the additional 10 million who are now unemployed could be given jobs that the Nation's troubles would be over.

There is another native thinker in Everytown who is convinced that if everyone would start buying everything he needs that the 10 million unemployed who really want jobs would all be called back to work to supply what the professors and experts call "the demands of the consumers".

The native thinkers in Everytown are keeping their eyes on the same rainbow, and in the variegated colors they discover the end of the Nation's troubles.

A good old lady that I know keeps a little table of statistics of her own that show that most of the telephones, radios, automobiles, electrical appliances and other possessions to make life more cheerful are owned by Americans. She tells her friends that she "counts her blessings every morning." She grows old gracefully.

The thinkers in Everytown make their own personal surveys of fine streets, lined with shops and stores, and as they catalogue their fellow citizens and neighbors they are glad that they live in the U. S. A. instead of Europe or Asia.

* * *

True or False

The manufacture of an automobile required more man hours o fwork and more pay for workers per car in 1937 than in 1930. True or false?

How many of the devotees of this interesting little game of spotting mistatements can score a bull's-eye on the above question? Before you look for the answer, think it over carefully. If you bought a car in 1930 and another one in 1937, which one do you think required more labor to build? Do you think automobile workers received more pay for building your 1930 or your 1937 car?

In thinking it over, one might jump at the conclusion that machine methods have reduced the amount of human work that goes into an automobile. On the other hand, it seems only simple common sense that the recent cars are so much better than those of pre-depression days that it would take more man hours to build them.

Yes, you are right. The statement is true.

* * *

Ups and Downs In Primaries

Texas returns rather startled Washington, since the results indicate a decided turn towards conservatism. The two big labor unions had their favorites in the Congressional contests, and A. F. of L. claims that it cleaned up the C. I. O. in the Lone Star State.

Able students of political trends believe that a new movement of deep significance is just ahead of us, and that Texas has in some mysterious way given a hint to what may be a New Deal among the people—in which the politicians are being repudiated.

* * *

Seeing America

Thereh as been a whole lot in the papers in years gone by about "see-America first"—but that referred to travel.

There is a significant trend shown by a study just completed by the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics. An official statement says that there has been a steadily rising income among farmers, and Uncle Sam figures it out that the crop prospects for 1938 will guarantee that part of America outside the metropolitan area an exceptionally high degree of prosperity.

Many large advertisers of the United States, led by the automobiles, electrical supplies, radios, wearing apparel, tobaccos, mail-order houses, oil, foods, building materials, furniture, etc., are preparing to increase their advertising appropriations this fall. Local newspapers are included in the planning.

This indicates that big business is seeing the biggest part of America, at last—because it's sound sense to spend dollars and cents that way for advertising.

EASTERN WOMEN HELP LAUNCH NATION-WIDE TAX CRUSADE

Chicago, Sept. 8th,—Women from the east today joined forces with others representing 29 states in launching organization of the National Consumers Tax Commission in what they termed "America's first nation-wide crusade against local, state and national taxes that are increasing the cost of living and raiding the family pocketbook."

Announcement of the setting up of the tax commission, which has established headquarters here, and statement of its objectives came from the president of the group, Mrs. Kenneth C. Frazier, of Dallas, Tex., long prominent in consumer campaigns in the southwest and active in the South Wide Association of Consumers.

The eastern section of the country, Mrs. Frazier said, is represented by the following national committeewomen: Mrs. William H. Beacon, Wilmington, Del.; and Mrs. L. L. Giles, Clifton Forge, Va.

Work of organization is expected to proceed at a rapid pace in the states in the east, Mrs. Frazier said.

She declared the commission has set at its goal enlistment of two million consumers in a national organization ultimately to have units in every city and town in the United States. She said plans call for members to pay annual dues of 60 cents each.

"We all know certain taxes are necessary for the maintenance of good government and of proper public services. But we know also that all taxes are not necessary or in the public interest, and we intend to analyze and study taxes, good and bad, then fight those which do not contribute in proportion to what they take from our homes and tables."

SENATOR CAPPER TO CARRY ON FIGHT FOR WAR REFERENDUM

Declaring that "a demand for the right to vote on sending our boys into foreign slaughter pens is ringing through every state in North America," Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas in a statement issued through the National Council for Prevention of War, served notice that he will reintroduce in the next session of Congress his referendum bill giving the American people the final say-so on war.

"Neither Congress nor the President should have the right to declare war until the people have considered the question and by their votes have consented to it," the Senator stated. "Those who will have to do the dying and have to bear the unspeakable burdens and griefs of war should have something to say about it when the war lords of Europe undertake to drag our American boys into a foreign war."

Senator Capper brushed aside the argument that wars come too suddenly to allow time for a popular vote, for he maintained, "wars are a long time brewing before hostilities break out." He also pointed to the testimony of Admiral McGowan, an officer in the Warld War, before a Senate Committee in which the Admiral said: "The United States has long since graduated out of the stagecoach and pony express class, and there is no reason why in this day of railroads and airplanes and telegraph and radio we could not refer the question of war or peace to the people of the country and have their answer back within a week—indeed, within 48 hours, if absolutely necessary."

Senator Capper went on to say that "in the United States public sentiment is virtually unanimous against being drawn into foreign war. If this fact were brought out in a national referendum," he continued, "it would have a powerful effect in maintaining this country's stand for neutrality and peace and would have powerful effect throughout the world."

The Senator also made clear that his proposed measure would not prevent the President from using the army and navy to repel invasion or deal with insurrection.

TRACTORS DO DOUBLE DUTY

A generation ago farm tractors were used almost exclusively for draw-bar and belt work, and worked on the average only 150 to 200 hours a year. Nowadays, according to W. M. Hust, of the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, a work year of from 500 to 750 hours is common, and introduction of rubber tires to put tractors on the highways as well as in the fields is likely to increase the number of hours of service that farmers get from this equipment.

Nearly half the general-purpose farm tractors manufactured last year traveled on rubber tires. Pneumatic tires provide farmers with what amounts to a combination of tractor and motortruck equipment, with outlay for only a single engine.

The new Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act—which goes into full effect next June—broadens considerably the power to protect the public by restricting dangerous drugs, informing buyers of possible dangers, and holding dealers more strictly to definite standards, thus making medication safer. The new law closes a lot of old loopholes which 30 years of experience had revealed.

MARYLAND CROP REPORT

A 2 percent decease in Maryland 1938 feed grain production, as compared with last year, a hay crop 11 percent larger, an increase of 15 percent in this year's tobacco crop, a 23 percent reduction in apple production, an 18 percent smaller peach crop than that of 1937, a decrease of 6 percent in the potato crop and a sweetpotato production about 20 percent larger, are indicated by the September 1 crop survey made by the Maryland Crop Reporting Service.

The indicated corn production on September 1 is 18,216,000 bushels, which is 2 percent below the crop of 1937 but is 18 percent larger than the 10-year (1927-36) average production of 15,477,000 bushels.

The oats crop is now estimated at 1,170,000 bushels as compared with 1,170,000 bushels last year and the 10-year (1927-36) average of 1,107,000 bushels. There was considerable weather damage to oats that were in the shock during the rainy season late in July. Some unusually high yields were reported, however, from threshings previous to his period. The barley crop is indicated to be 1,134,000 bushels. This is 5 percent under the 1937 production but is 63 percent larger than the 10-year average. Present conditions indicate a buckwheat production of 98,000 bushels which is the same as the 1937 crop but is 19 percent below the 10-year average of 121,000 bushels.

Improved propects of tobacco yield per acre over a month ago now places the production at 30,030,000 pounds, an increase of 1,155,000 pounds over the August 1 forecast. Production last year was estimated to be 25,200,000 pounds and the 10-year (1927-36) average production was 25,560,000 pounds. Dry weather at maturity caused greater loss of ground leaves than usual but curing weather has been good and quality is above average. Due to unreasonable weather conditions the late crop is not expected to be as good as early plantings.

The prospective production of tame hay on September 1 was 576,000 tons which larger by 40,000 tons than on August 1. This is an increase of 11 percent over the 1937 crop and 23 percent above the 10-year average of 468,000 tons. The third crop of alfalfa showed, little effects of the dry weather conditions. Clover and timothy yield were good. Heavy yields of soybeans and cowpeas are indicated. September 1 pasture condition reported at 85 percent of normal is the highest on that date since 1928 with the exception of last year when it was 86 percent. Pastures are furnishing a large amount of feed.

Potato production is now estimated to be 3, 276,000 bushels. The 1937 crop was 3,480,000 bushels, the 10-year (1927-36) average, 3,348,000 bushels. The early crop was good but the late crop is showing the effect of adverse weather conditions and blight. September 1 sweetpotato condition indicates a production of 1,200,000 bushels which is 20 percent above last year's crop but is slightly less than the 10-year average production.

No change from last month's estimate of the total apple production is indicated. The 1938 peach crop is estimated at 368,000 bushels, which compares with the 1937 crop of 448,000 bushels and the 10-year average of 37,000 bushels.

Devil's Punchbowl, Other Things Named for Satan

The Devil's Punchbowl at Hindhead, in Surrey, is known to thousands of visitors, says a writer in London Answers Magazine. But there are actually three Devil's Punchbowls in these islands—one being in the Scillies and the other near Killarney.

As a matter of fact, the Wicked Old Gentleman whom we call the Devil has given his name to all kinds of places in Britain.

There is the Devil's Dyke near Brighton the Devil's Staircase at Glencoe the Devil's Chimney near Cheltenham.

You will find the Devil's Frying Pan at Cadgwith, his Spoon at Petersfield, his Bellows at Kynance Cove, in Cornwall, and his Kitchen at Llyn Idwall, in Wales.

On Studland Moor, in Dorsetshire, is a large boulder known as the Agglestone, or Haggerstone, about which a satanic tradition is woven. It seems that Old Satan was carrying it to drop on Salisbury cathedral, but it proved to be too heavy for him and he dropped it where it now rests.

A somewhat similar legend is woven about a big block of stone on a moor not far from Richmond, Yorkshire, while an immense pile of rock in Upper Wharfdale is known as the Devil's Apronful.

Actually, these boulders and rocks were deposited where they lie by glacial action during the Ice age.

It is always easy to tell a wise man from a fool, unless he discusses the problems of a region he never has seen.

Personality is the quality that makes people like you so well they blame your advisors for your mistakes.

Criminal law punishes you for robbing your neighbors; civil law provides you a nice safe way to do it.

WHY

Athletes Hold Breath When in Short-Distance Run.

It sounds absurd to tell an athlete to dash off a hundred yards without breathing, but it's possible. The sprinters themselves may not have realized it, but that's the way most of them run the dash, according to Dr. Ancel Keys, head of the University of Minnesota study of effect of athletics on the human body.

"Just do it—that's the way," Dr. Keys said.

It can be explained better by the man who is performing experiments on such things.

"The muscles and organs of the human body need oxygen to do their tasks. Blood carries oxygen to the muscles and organs. But ordinarily one minute is required for the blood to make a circuit of the body. During intense muscular exertion the blood will hurry around the circuit in 15 seconds. Any good sprinter can do a 100-yard dash in much less time than that. And so the body uses the oxygen it already has stored."

Why not a mile without breathing?

An athlete, Dr. Keys explained, can't hold his breath for that long, and besides the body hasn't stored up enough oxygen to permit operation of the organs for that long a period.

"In the early part of a longer run," he explained, "a boy uses up what energy is stored and an oxygen 'debt' is created, and this debt must be paid. The heart and lungs work overtime to carry blood and oxygen through the body to help."

Why Word "Controller" Is Used "Comptroller"

The spelling "comptroller" was introduced about 1500 and arose from a mistake deriviation of the word from "compt," an obsolete form of "count" suggested by the French "compte," states a writer in the Indianapolis News.

Since a controller's business was to examine and verify accounts it was supposed that the word should be spelled "comptroller." The erroneous form now survives only in certain official usage; as, comptroller-general of the United States, comptroller of the currency, and comptroller of the Post Office department. "Controller" is the correct spelling for ordinary purposes. In both cases the word is pronounced the same—"kon-trol-er," accent on the second syllable.

Why Stars Twinkle

The twinkling of the stars is a rapid shaking or vibration of their light, caused mainly by the state of atmosphere, though partly as a result of the color of their intrinsic light. Ordinarily the bright planets are not seen to twinkle, because of their large apparent disks, made up of a multitude of points, which, therefore, maintain a general average of brightness. A star's light seems to come from a mere point so that only its rays are scattered by irregular refraction, at one instant very few rays reach the eye and at another many.

Why Ohio Is "Buckeye State"

One version of how Ohio got the nickname of the Buckeye state is that it came from the Indians' nickname of a big man. Redskins as well as whites were assembled for the festivities of the opening of the first court in Marietta in 1788. Among the big wigs was a Colonel Sproat, who was six-feet four inches tall. The Indians called him Hetuck, or Big Buckeye; hence, the nickname for the state, according to the version.

Why Metal Is Colder Than Wood

On a cold day a piece of metal feels much colder to the hand than a piece of wood, notwithstanding the fact that both must have the same temperature. The explanation is that metal, being a much better conductor of heat than wood removes heat from the hand more rapidly, giving the impression that it is colder. In general, the better a conductor the colder it will feel to a hand hotter than itself.

Why It Is 4-8-2 Fertilizer

The term 4-8-2 fertilizer means the percentage content of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash in the order named. A ton of 4-8-2 fertilizer thus contains 80 pounds of nitrogen, 160 pounds of phosphoric acid and 40 pounds of potash, combined with mineral and organic substances such as lime, oxygen, carbon and sulphates, which make up the bulk of the material.

Why They Are Tea Roses

Some roses are called tea roses because they are descended by hybridization from two roses—Rosa chinensis and Rosa gallica—which had a perfume similar to that of tea.

Why Magicians Use Rabbits

The reason why magicians pull rabbits out of a hat instead of cats, puppy dogs or opossums, is because rabbits are the only animals that will behave.

Why Fabrics Turn Yellow

Pure cotton fabrics turn yellow very slowly, but the change is accelerated by the presence of impurities, such as iron compounds, fats and rosins.

Why Nero Committed Suicide

Emperor Nero died by committing suicide on the approach of horsemen sent to drag him to execution.

HOW

URUGUAYANS CHOSE FLAG OF BLUE, WHITE AND RED.—The Uruguayan national colors are blue and white and date from the year 1810, in which the movement for independence from Spain began. Those were the colors chosen by the patriots at Buenos Aires who on May 25, 1810, deposed the Spanish authorities which ruled the United Provinces of the River Plate. Artigas, the forerunner of Uruguayan independence, the man who for years fought with all his might to liberate his country and who is alive truly in the hearts of all Uruguayans, even if he died in exile, used these colors in his flag. His flag was formed by two blue stripes separated by a white stripe, with a diagonal red bar.

These three colors, blue, white and red, appeared again in 1825 at the time Uruguay was under Portuguese and Brazilian domination. At that time, says the Washington Post, a small and daring group of patriots, known as the Thirty-three, began a "liberating crusade" which brought about the establishment of an Uruguayan government. These men fought under a flag composed of three horizontal stripes, blue, white and red.

At the beginning of 1826, the Argentinian flag was hoisted over Uruguay, which at that time was still recognized as one of the United Provinces of the River Plate.

National independence was declared by a congress which met in 1828, which resolved that the national flag should be white with nine horizontal and alternated blue stripes and with a sun in a white square in the upper side nearest the flagstaff. The design of the flag was modified in 1830, and at the present time it consists of four horizontal blue stripes in a white field and a sun placed in a white square in the upper corner nearest the flagstaff.

How Names Were Selected for Pieces of Airplanes

Don't you often wonder how, when something new is invented, the names are found for various parts of it?

When airplanes came into use the name "petrol tank" was easily borrowed, as an airplane tank is similar to that of a motor car. But what was the central body of the plane to be called?

In shape that part was something like a shuttle, so it was christened the fuselage—which is merely the French for shuttle. Similarly, aileron is the French for wing-tip, says Pearson's London Weekly.

The name cockpit, for the part occupied by the pilot, was borrowed from warships, on which the cockpit is the cabin used by some of the officers.

Why cockpit, by the way? Because that cabin on board ship occupies the place where originally the cocks carried on many men-of-war used to fight their battles.

How Movies Are Made

The method used by movie directors to show the camera crew and others on the set what to do follows: The camera crew, electrical crew, sound crew and special-effects people are all rehearsed verbally before the actual photography starts. There is no need for any instructions by hand signals or cards after photography begins, with exceptions: (1) By a downward or upward motion of his hand the sound engineer in his sealed booth indicates whether dialogue is too high or too low, (2) a cameraman may indicate raising or decreasing intensity of a light by simple hand signals, (3) if an actor has difficulty in remembering his lines these may be written on blackboard out of the camera line.

How to Clean Powder Puff

Watch your powder puff. You may not notice its lack of daintiness but other people will. Every day isn't a bit too often to change to a fresh powder puff. When you have collected a week's supply, dip them in a thick lather of soapsuds and scrub them with a hand brush. Rinse thoroughly, roll in a towel for a moment and let them dry overnight. Rub between the fingers to bring up the nap and you have practically a brand-new batch on hand.

How to Wash Ivory

If the ivory articles for your bureau have yellowed a bit, wash them with white soap and water and place while wet in the sunshine. Keep wetting with soapy water several times during the day and letting dry in the sun. Continue this process for several days. Then rinse and the ivory will be as white as when new.

How to Mend Torn Book Back

The torn back of a book may be mended with adhesive tape and then painted or tinted the same shade as the binding. Do it as soon as discovered so it will not tear further.

How to Clean Stained Sink

A stained sink may be cleaned by rubbing with lemon rinds and then applying soap powder to the stain. After a few minutes scrub with a brush and the stain will disappear.