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FSA IN SAFETY DRIVE

Active in the drive for prevention of accidents is the Farm Security Administration of the Department of Agriculture, with field men working with all families on the Farm Security program to reduce accidents on farms. They survey each farm, locate hazards, and warn the farm families about them. They discuss safety practices and point out unsafe handling of machinery, home accident prevention, and safe handling of animals.

In industry, accidental deaths have been reduced greatly by education and safeguards. Farm fatalities still number about 4,400 a year. The country's total cash loss from accidents, including death, injury, loss of time, etc., has been estimated at 2½ billion dollars annually, with from 27 percent to 35 percent of this loss on the farms.

Farm Security officials decided to add the safety program to the agency's activities after finding that accidents constitute one of the large "leaks" in farm income. They point out that many costly accidents are due to carelessness or thoughtlessness, and could be avoided. An old ladder likely to break, or a condition in the home that could cause a fall is often overlooked. Most accidental injuries in the home result from conditions which can be remedied easily.

FIRES IN STATE INCREASE

John B. Gontrum, State Insurance Commissioner, recently issued tables showing the fire losses in the Maryland counties for 1939 and the causes of fires in 1939.

Mr. Gontrum stated: "Despite the increased activities on the part of the firemen and the State Insurance Commissioner's office along fire prevention lines, the number of fires in Maryland continues to increase. We are endeavoring to analyze the reasons for this increase. Although the number of fires rose from 3044 to 3834, the increase in property damage was only $160,571.01 which would indicate increased efficiency on the part of the volunteer firemen. Furnace, boilers and their pipes head the list with 747 fires. Matches and smoking, resulted in 443 fires for 1939. Lightning played a big part, resulting in 405 fires. Chimneys, flues, cupolas and stacks overheated resulted in 436 fires."

"It is hoped that during 1940 with the increased cooperation between the Insurance Department and the volunteer firemen, the number of fires in Maryland can be materially cut down and property loss reduced."

The report shows the number of fires in Cecil county in 1938 were 94, and in 1939 there were 118 fires in the county, an increase of 24. The amount of loss paid in 1938 in the county was $54,032.27; in 1939 it was $74,391.15.

TRAFFIC OFFENDERS FACE REVOCATION OF THEIR LICENSES.

Among a number of steps recommended by Governor Herbert R. O'Conor's Maryland Traffic Safety Committee looking towards a reduction in traffic fatalities in the State, immediate interest centers around the announcement from the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of a plan of re-examination and possible revocation of license, for drivers who are involved in serious accidents.

In making the recommendation to Commissioner Elgin as a part of the Committee's enforcement program, A. Burton Metzger, Chairman of the Enforcement Committee, declared "Too many careless and indifferent drivers are now operating on our highways, and if arrest, fines and occasional imprisonment fail to deter this type of operator, then he must be removed from the roads for the safety of others.

"An intensive patrol of accident-reducing roads is now being made in order to render the highways safe for those who use them in their daily pursuits. Rigid enforcement of the law is necessary to apprehend those individuals, who by some peculiar complex think that traffic laws are made only for the other fellow and not for them."

The poor may be always with us, but the miser is closer.

THE THIRTY-THIRD PRESIDENT

By J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., July--The people of the United States will devote a great deal of time and measureless conversation in the next three months to the quadrennial problems relating to electing the thirty-third President of the United States.

One phase of Presidental elections is that voters seem to agree with the politicians each four years that "this is the most important election," and that it is "again necessary to save America."

In the first election in this Republic each elector voted for two candidates for President, and at that time George Washington received 69 electoral votes to 34 electoral votes for John Adams. The Electoral College named the person receiving the largest number of electoral votes as President, while the candidate in second place was chosen for Vice-President. That's the way Washington and Adams started out.

But Saint Thomas Jefferson had 73 Republican votes in the Electoral College and Sinner Aaron Burr had 73 votes. That threw the election into the House of Representatives where 10 States voted for Jefferson, and 4 States for Burr.

In the Chicago Convention the other day Vice-Presidential candidates were so numerous that a White House correspondent news-casted the suggestion that the Government of the United States really ought to step-up in line with the banks, and name a lot of vice-presidents instead of limiting the choice to only one favorite of the Convention.

Be it remembered, that in this midsmmer month there are loud threats of a "mud-slinging campaign." Senator Barkley as Chairman of the Chicago Convention referred to the Republican "Kilowatt convention," and next day in Washington some of the newspapermen who hadn't gone to Chicago spoke of the Democratic gathering as the "Job-holders convention." Well, that's all useless and "obsolete" stuff. After more than a century and a half of struggle "to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," the fact should be recognized that the two old parties have gone to bat on the genuine issue which is: Shall the New Deal be approved by the voters and continued for another four years, or shall it be replaced by policies of the Republican Party?

One of the grand old fathers of this Nation was Henry Clay, and he declared in the sunset of his life, ninety years ago, "I would rather be right than be President. That is good philosophy today, which every American voter might take home to himself and recast in this individual platform: "I would rather be right than be a mental slave to either one of the old political parties."

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NATIONAL SECURITY

Recent advices from Washington indicate that contracts for building military defenses, and for increasing the size of the Army and Navy have reached costs far above a billion dollars--maybe it will be 2 billion before you read this item.

The purchasing departments of the Army and Navy are not placing all their contracts with large industries, and it is a perfectly legitimate ambition for small business enterprises to seek contracts for supplies, products and materials wanted by the Government. The Department of Commerce, at Washington, has issued a "business man's guidebook" which explains the needs of Government prepardness. Any person who wants a copy of this guidebook should write to the Department at Washington, and the bulletin will be sent to them upon request.

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BACK ON THE FARM?

The farm population is now the largest in 24 years, according to estimates of the Department of Agriculture. It is close to the 1916 all-time hgh record of 32,530,000. The 1940 farm population figure has gained 186,000 in the past year. During the 1930's the farms lost 2,179,000 persons and 6,000,000 during the 1920's.

The largest increase in farm population during the past 10 years was in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi.

1940	AUGUST					1940
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CONDITIONS INCREASE INTEREST IN COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE

Interest in the first annual Cooperative Institute, which will be held at the University of Maryland on August 13 to 15, has been greatly increased by the changing economic conditions and the new problems confronting all lines of business, including cooperative marketing organizations, according to Dr. T. B. Symons, Director of the Extension Service.

Farmers are certain to encounter new, and probably difficult, problems in marketing some of their products and in purchasing the needed farm supplies. There are in Maryland some fifty organizations serving farmers in the sale of their products and the purchase of materials required on their farms. The Cooperative Institute is sponsored, Dr. Symons states, by the cooperatives and the University, with a view to providing an opportunity for obtaining up-to-the-minute information and ideas from those who have made outstanding successes in that field.

It is expected that approximately 300 will attend the three-day session, and that members of boards of directors, managers, and employees of many Maryland cooperative organizations will be present, as well as those who are leaders or especially interested in farmers' cooperatives.

The program provides for discussion by recognized authorities such practical questions as the responsibilities of members, of managers, and of directors of cooperatives; building patronage; sound cooperative records and accounts; retail credit policies; and many others. Among the more general topics are: "Can Cost of Distribution Be Lowered?"; "Cooperatives and the Public"; "The Challenge of Under-Consumption."

Moderate rates have been arranged for meals and lodging, and further information can be obtained from the University of Maryland Extension Service.

GRASS HUMBLE BUT MIGHTY

It is only recognizing the truth to say that in the past we have been lured by the Delilah of profits to destroy recklessly the grass covering of the soil. We have not understood what grass means as a source of strength for agriculture. We are only now beginning to understand. Millions of our people today are tree conscious but as yet only a few are grass conscious. A tree is easily seen; we think of it as an individual thing. A grass plant is small and humble, lost in the multitude, and unnoticed. Hardly one person in a hundred thousand realizes what is going on in the growth of grass. But, for protection of the soil, grass is just as important as trees--and for building a deep soil, rich in humus, holding water like a sponge, it is much more important.

American farmers can make good use of eroding hillsides by growing more trees and shurbs that will thrive without ordinary cultivation and yield crops other than timber. Even where commercial varieties do not thrive, some old-fashioned varieties have the vigor to grow and yield fruit acceptable for home use, for jams and butters, and for feed. Many wild fruit plants, such as upland blueberry, help control erosion and can be improved for domestic use by selection. In favorable climates holly and laurel grow on rough lands and annual cuttings sell well as Christmas greens.

The British Farmers Union can take German bombs with British fortitude, but souvenir hunters are getting on the union's nerves. One farmer member reported, at a protest meeting, that souvenir collectors, rushing for bomb fragments, had trampled down far more grain than the bomb had destroyed.

The condition of apples in Maryland on July 1 was above that of a year ago and above the average. An excellent peach crop is in prospect.

The acreage of barley in Maryland continues in increase, being estimated at 76,000 acres this year compared with 72,000 acres last year and an average of 31,000 acres from 1929-38.

In New York City, it has been announced that the four city-run colleges would limit enrollment of aliens to those who themselves or through their parents, have taken out first naturalization papers. Overcrowding, not anti-Fifth Column protection, is the reason given.

Costs of Repeal

THE average American citizen is a canny individual. He may believe for a little while what he's told by the propagandists, but pretty soon he gets to thinking things over.

That's just about what is happening to the alcohol question. John Q. Public has heard from every propaganda source about what repeal has done to boost America out of the depression. But when he starts realizing that he has spent more for liquor (which is money thrown down the sink as far as any net economic benefit is concerned) than he has for government relief, he gets to wondering about it.

On Jan. 1, 1940, John Q. Public's tippling had cost him $25,364,509,032, exceeding the total spent for relief by 10 billion dollars and far exceeding the $20,000,000,000 increase in the national debt since 1932.

When the indirect costs of drinking alcohol are figured, John Q. Public's schnapps have just about equalled the national debt. All told these costs reached $33,034,509,062 on Jan. 1, 1939.

With all this money paid out it dismayed John Q. to find out there wasn't much consolation on the credit side of the ledger.

Included in the gross costs of bottled spirits and beer from 1933-39 were public revenues totaling $4,408,765,589, less than 18 per cent of the total drink bill. The liquor industry paid John Q. an estimated five billion dollars in wages, $1,700,000,000 for raw materials, and half a billion for transportation costs and miscellaneous, a total return of $12,200,000,000.

In addition to swelling the liquor industry's coffers, John Q. Public when he drinks is contributing heavily to the 15 billion dollar annual crime bill each time he buys a drink.

His contribution to crime cost is based on the estimate that liquor is responsible for 16 per cent of the annual crime bill. To avoid overstatement, this 16 per cent has been charged against liquor only for 1936-38 with an average of less than half that total figure for 1933-35.

Looking at these colossal totals, John Q. has started scratching his head and wondering if maybe he isn't paying too big a price for his liquor in alcohol-bred hospitalization, in broken homes, in disease, in poverty, in highway deaths, in many social evils, lowered efficiency, and in actual cash.

(Sponsored by W. C. T. U.)

Tree Can't Hide Age

A woman's age may be her secret, but any good dendochronologist can date a tree, says an article in the Field Museum News.

Dendochronology, or tree ring chronology, has been used by Dr. Paul S. Martin, chief curator of anthropology at the museum, during archeological expeditions in Colorado and New Mexico.

Basis of the science is the fact that trees add a ring for each year of growth. Rings vary according to the moisture supplied to the tree by rain and snow. Wet years produce broad rings; dry years, narrow rings.

By careful study of hundreds of trees a graph of weather conditions for more than 1,200 years has been worked out. When log beams are found in ancient ruins, comparison of the rings with the mastergraph will show what year the beam was cut.

Women Run Hospitals

For many a year, women have claimed as their own the high executive positions in the profession of hospital administration.

Dr. Malcolm T. MacEachern, director of the American College of Surgeons, pointed this out recently.

"The reason for this," said Dr. MacEachern, "is the close relationship between nursing and hospital administration. Nurse executives are concerned with the problems of hospital administration and thus are prepared for the duties of hospital management."

The high percentage of women in the profession, believes Miss Nellie G. Brown, superintendent of Ball Memorial hospital, Muncie, Ind., the famed "Middletown," is due to women who started as head nurses in the small hospitals, which total 75 per cent of the nation's general hospitals. A "small" hospital is one which has fewer than 100 beds.

"Often, a superintendent of one of the smaller hospitals is simply a head nurse with some idea of menu making, X-ray and the workings of the laboratory," said Miss Brown. "In time, the small place becomes larger. Her own abilities increase and she finds herself an important administrator of a thriving hospital."

Coyotes on Outskirts of Spokane

Coyotes on the outskirts of Spokane are increasing, according to Floyd Priest, trapper and cattleman. Last winter Priest bagged 214 of the animals, 28 of which he got within six miles of the city limits. Priest has been trapping for years and said his catches close to the city were not so good as a decade ago.

An idea cannot be suppressed or established by force.

Men who are long on words are likely to be short on deeds.

MODERN ELECTRIC SIGNS IDENTIFY CONOWINGO SCENE

Zeon Embraces 65 Feet of Color

Strangers to the Conowingo scene, wending their way across the Susquehanna on U. S. Route No. 1, need no longer wonder "what it's all about." A program of identification, recently completed, including massive flood-lighted roadway signs for each approach, anticipates for the speeding tourist what lies immediately ahead. Zeon signs affixed to the roof of Turbine Hall, on the dam itself, lend further identification.

The approach signs, located strategically within a quarter of a mile of the dam on either side, are 50 feet in length, with a height of 14 feet, 6 inches. They carry a design in color that easily attracts the attention of the daylight tourist while at night a battery of 300-watt lamps provides flood-lighting of high intensity.

Facing the easterly approach is the larger of two Zeon signs, which has an overall length of 65 feet and a height of 22 feet. Its letters range from five and one-half to six and one-half feet in height. A smaller Zeon is installed at the official entrance to the development on the westerly side. Both carry the legend—"Conowingo Hydro-Electric Plant."

"By far the most attractive night view of the Conowingo development is from the highway on the easterly side," according to J. A. Purcell, General Manager of the Conowingo Power Company. "From an unusually high elevation, the traveler gets a sweeping, long-range vision of a panorama embracing the green of the Zeon, the bright red illumination on the face of the dam and a ribbon of incandescent lights marking the crest of the dam for its entire length. The effect is one of vivid color and exceptional life and beauty."

What The Peoples Court Amendment Provides

W. Clinton McSherry, State Chairman Of Non-Partisan Committee Issues Statement

In order to banish any possible misconceptions that may exist in the minds of the voters concerning the Constitutional Amendment authorized by the 1939 session of the Legislature for submission to the electorate in November, Reuben Oppenheimer, General Chairman, and W. Clinton McSherry, Frederick attorney, State Chairman of the Non-Partisan Citizens Committee for the Adoption of the People's Court Amendment, has issued the following joint statement:

"Chapter 163 of the Acts of 1939 makes a real court out of the People's Court of Baltimore City, presided over by three judges whose terms of office, in the first instance, are for two, four and six years, respectively, and who thereafter hold office for a term of eight years. After their initial term, each judge can run for election or re-election for a full term of eight years. Each judge will run against his own record. He will not have to go through any party primary, and his name will go on the ballot with no party designation and with no opposing candidate, so that the voters cast their votes for or against his continuance in office on the record he has made.

"The Amendment eliminates politics from the election of judges and from the appointment of constables and clerks. The constables and clerks are placed under the classified City Service of Baltimore. The Chief Constable is given the right and duty to supervise and direct the work of other constables and clerks. The number of constables and clerks will be determined by the volume of business to be done and not by the number of wards in the city.

"The Amendment empowers the Legislature to establish similar People's Courts in other cities or in the counties of the State. As a practical matter, this means that any county or any city in the State which desires to have such a People's Court can, through its delegation in the State Legislature, obtain the passage of a local Act establishing such a court. The Amendment does not require the establishment of a People's Court in any city or county outside of Baltimore City, but, in effect, gives them the option to obtain such a court if they want it. The establishment of the new People's Court of Baltimore City by the Amendment does not impose any expense or taxes of any sort upon either the State or any county."

Hare Runs Circles, Then Gives Hounds the Slip

The story of a European hare which played "rings around the rosy" with pursuing beagles is told by William H. Bennett in a recent issue of the Canadian Field Naturalist.

"An interesting experience which happened one winter in the Caledon Hills of Ontario was the loss of a hare in a cedar swamp," says Bennett. "After about an hour's run over hilly country, the hare had entered the swamp and immediately had proceeded to make a large oval of about a mile in circumference.

"The hounds carried the line about six times around and finally came to a loss. Tracks in the snow told the story. What had happened was quite simple. The hare had completed the oval three times and was part way around for the fourth lap when, with a bound, it had left the oval and waved farewell for parts unknown. The hounds had continued to run the oval until all scent had been lost.

"Time and again when a hare had been run for three hours or so and was beginning to tire, another hare would come in from the side and follow it. Invariably, after a short time, it would become aware of its plight and leave the trail of its weary neighbor. What would the hounds do? They almost always followed the newcomer, and the tired hare escaped.

"Some days we would travel 15 or 20 miles in nearly a straight line, because a hare running in a big circle would pass on its trail to another hare at the extreme of its territory; and the same thing would happen repeatedly, one hare after another," says Bennett.

Politicians are people who stop to hold their ears to the ground and thus let the people get six months ahead.

Rumania exports oilcake—to be used as foder—at a rate of 400 pounds every minute.

'Swiss Navy' a Kitchenette

Wearied of answering questions about a barrel-like structure they are building in one of the American Airline hangars at LaGuardia field, New York, several airplane mechanics posted a sign over it reading:

"Mock-up for submarine of Swiss Navy."

The authors of the sign enjoyed the joke thoroughly although they found that they had more questions to answer than before because of the term "mock-up," which is aviation slang for a form or pattern.

What the men are doing is building an experimental model of a new Douglas transport in which it is hoped meals can be cooked. At present meals served in the air are prepared on the ground.

"We're just trying to make all our mistakes beforehand," N. K. Wilson, supervisor of passenger services for the airline company, explained, when asked about the model.

'Egg' State

Pennsylvania ranks first in the United States in the dollar value of its egg crop and second in the number of eggs produced, the Pennsylvania Chain Store council reported in opening a producer-consumer campaign to move a heavy surplus of eggs into consumption in behalf of the state's $65,000,000 poultry industry.

The United States, to improve its war bases, highways, etc., is importing hydraulic cement at a speed of 1,500 pounds a minute.

HEARTACHES OF A FAMOUS BOY GIANT

Relating how a real-life Gulliver, tried, unhappily, to make the best of it. But that little gland made him different from everybody else. Don't miss this unusual story in the August 11th issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY

the big magazine distributed with the BALTIMORE AMERICAN