

**MAKING IT "SAFER" TO INJURE PEOPLE**

Ohio has been "exposed" to a proposal for compulsory automobile liability insurance backed by a state fund. Thus would the state be launched in the insurance business, a most complicated undertaking, and especially so under political management.

Why put the state into the business. Probably for no real reason except to build up the political machinery of government and hasten the day of socialistic control.

The law proposed in Ohio would charge each motorist ten dollars in addition to license fees, for a state insurance policy to protect the public. Of course, the fee is an arbitrary amount and not based on any law of reason or experience, but with the taxpayer to fall back on, mistakes in estimated expense for state undertakings make little difference.

The theory of compulsory insurance as a means of creating responsibility in irresponsible persons, may be good. But by removing what little responsibility such persons feel, it is probable they would be all the more careless and "let the state pay the bill." Thus accidents would be increased rather than prevented.

There is really no necessity for launching the state in the insurance business except as a political measure, the argument for which might read as follows:

"We must pass a law requiring compulsory automobile liability insurance. It would not be right to force a poor, irresponsible man to insure with a private company, therefore, we must start a state insurance department to write his insurance at cost or at such sum as he can pay. In order to make it safer to be killed or injured by the very small percentage of careless and incompetent drivers who are permitted licenses by the state, we must force all responsible drivers to maintain a state automobile insurance department for the irresponsible few. In fact the liability law should gradually be extended until all personal responsibility is eliminated, and the state is converted into a charitable organization to collect money from the responsible and pay it out for the acts of the irresponsible—rather than punishing the guilty and upholding the laws relating to personal liability."

**THE GUARDIAN OF NAVIGATION**

Radio is makin ocean travel safer. By the use of recently perfected thoriated tungsten tubes, the ice patrol is now able to flash warnings without interfering with commerce and broadcasting. Speaking of this invention, which combines thorium and tungsten, both metals, for new uses to mankind, L. A. Hawkins, engineer in charge of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Co., said:

"Ice patrol warnings from this equipment, while reaching much farther than ever before, will no longer be a source of interference with commercial traffic and broadcast entertainment. Under favorable conditions, it is expected that direct communication will be had with headquarters in Washington.

"Success for the ice patrol consists not only in finding bergs, but also in conveying quickly to ships at sea exact information of the whereabouts of these menacing floaters. Most ships traversing the Atlantic are now equipped with radio apparatus; hence the fitting of these patrol boats with the best radio transmitters which could be produced."

Discovery of new uses of radio are almost a daily occurrence, and its value to mankind is incalculable.

**WASHINGTON DAY PROGRAM**

On Monday morning, February 22, a good-sized crowd attended the Washington and Lincoln Day Memorial given at the gymnasium.

The entire program was practically impromptu, as but little preparation had been made by the school, aside from their regular work and the speeches were all extemporaneous. These were made by Mayor Leever, Mr. Tom Panakey, I. G. Shaw and J. M. Johnson. The whole program was along patriotic lines and the speakers brought out splendid thoughts and expressed appreciation of the men and women of the former generations, who have made our nation what it is today. They also expressed appreciation of the school-children and their work and of the teachers, and mentioned the pride

which is naturally felt by parents in maintaining the school.

Miss Bernice Shaw spoke of Lincoln and his achievements and Miss Geraldine Fox, of the sixth grade, gave the "Gettysburg Address". Patriotic songs were sung by the grades and "The Star Spangled Banner" and "America" were sung by the audience.

After the program school was dismissed for the day.

**NEW "STAGE FIXINGS" NEEDED**

It is being predicted that the tariff is to be made a leading political issue.

What a pity! The tariff should be as free from partisan politics as the tax question.

Our lawmakers, in many instances, seem to be the last persons to realize that the American people are past the kindergarten stage in understanding of questions of public interest.

It is silly to try to fool our people with the political fairy tales of the past.

The nation wants economy in government. It wants tax sanity and it wants a businesslike administration of the tariff question, in the interest of American workmen and American industry.

The tariff is no longer part of the "stage fixings" for either the Democratic or Republican party, any more than is the tax question or economy in government. These are today public questions of equal importance to all the people, and the people are apparently better posted on the situation than many of their lawmakers.

**STATE MARKET NEWS**

**Education, Intelligence**

Whether it be a co-operative organization for marketing, a consumers' league or a co-operative bank, very much depends on the intelligence and ability of the membership in the selection of men and women to positions of direction, and the judgment shown by boards of directors in electing managers and officials and the supervision they exercise over them, says State Market Agent C. E. Spence. The ignorant are more likely to be stampeded by the plausible talker than to appreciate the value of the well informed cooperator with a practical business mind and real devotion to the movement and the interests of his fellows. It all resolves itself into the old remedy of education; it is the hope of the cooperative movement.

**Like Trading Dollars**

According to government reports the

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reports of butter from this country for the month of December last totaled 405,423 pounds, while during the same time we imported 159,000 pounds more than we exported.

**Wheat Meeting Big Success**

W. J. Spillman, consulting economist of the Department of Agriculture said that more and better information was presented at the Moro economic conference, February 11-13, than in any other one gathering in the United States. Complete reports of the conference will be issued from the Oregon Agricultural College. Organization of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League was one of the accomplishments of the conference. State inspection officials and the federal supervision service were given a clean bill of health by the farmers, after charges of inefficiency had been made. Every detail of wheat raising, financing, marketing, discounts, cleaning, etc. were taken up.

**A Remarkable Situation**

The following remarkable comment was recently printed in a financial publication, in a review of the conditions of European countries, and the State Market Agent thinks the condition applies to this country as well as Germany:

"In Germany, strangely enough, depression appears to be due to the fact that the country had such good crops last year that the prices of farm products were reduced and the farmers' purchasing power thereby curtailed. This reduction in farm purchasing power has been felt all along the line, and as a result bankruptcies in November last were 1343 and in October 1164. Because of these conditions Germany is not expected to offer as large a market for exports in 1926."

If big framing yields have resulted in depression and bankruptcy, the

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remedy to bring back prosperous conditions would seem to be crop failure.

**Big Grain Crops Forecast**

Prospects have seldom been better at the present time of year for big yields of wheat and other grain crops in Oregon, although much may happen to change conditions between

now and harvest time. Wheat in eastern Oregon is in fine condition at present, due to plenty of rain and an open, growing winter.

A three-day cooperative school, for directors and members of cooperative organizations will be held at the O. A. C., Corvallis, February 25, 26, and 27.

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