

# The American

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL  
Editor and Proprietor

## EDITORIALS

### A "HIDDEN" CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

The more traffic experts study the accident toll, the more they become convinced that there is an important "hidden" cause of many automobile accidents. This lurking agent of death and injury is carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide gas develops when any fuel—coal, wood, gasoline or illuminating gas—does not burn properly or completely. It cannot be seen, smelled or tasted. Its only warnings are headache and drowsiness. Yet it is in the air wherever there is motor traffic. The exhaust of a car, even one in good running condition, contains a concentration of fifteen per cent of it. As little as two per cent in the air will poison, and four per cent will kill.

Statistics show, according to the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters, that carbon monoxide from auto exhaust gases is the direct cause given in at least 700 deaths annually. No one knows nor can guess how many lives are lost indirectly through its influence. For example, there is no telling how often that common driving occurrence, "sleep at the wheel", has been induced by carbon monoxide.

All motorists are familiar with the headache and lassitude which often come upon them while driving. These signs, coupled with the odors of exhaust fumes in a moving vehicle, are final warnings that carbon monoxide is present in lethal quantities. They should be more than sufficient notice to take the necessary measures against carbon monoxide poisoning. This means regular checking of the exhaust mechanism and the carburetor action, keeping the vehicle well ventilated when driving, eliminating any leaks or holes which allow seepage from the motor or exhaust to the body of the car.

Householders should also consider that carbon monoxide poisoning is a possibility whenever fuel is burned in the home. Coal, gas, stove furnace and oil burner companies can give advice on precautions that will afford safety from this invisible death.

### STRANGLING INITIATIVE

Will Rogers by his native ability and thrift, left an estate valued at between two and one-half and five million dollars. It has been announced that state and federal inheritance taxes will claim some \$650,000 if the estate totals two and one-half million, or \$1,716,000 if the estate totals five million.

Proposals to "soak the rich" through new and greater inheritance taxes, which Mr. Roger's family escaped, would go far toward destroying the savings of his lifetime.

On the savings and wealth-destroying path we are traveling, there is less and less incentive for American citizens to exercise their initiative and ingenuity as in the past on projects which create employment and prosperity. If they are successful, their property will be largely taken away from them through taxation. If they fail, that's

just too bad—the tax collector does not share in the loss. He only takes the profits and savings.

### "SANITY ON THE PRAIRIES"

It is refreshing to report that at least one state has managed to avoid the fallacy that the way to create prosperity is to spend billions on credit—credit which must be based on all the savings and wealth, all the property, all the industries, all the earnings and other resources of the commonwealth.

That state is Nebraska which is described by W. E. Christensen in an article in the New York Herald Tribune entitled "Sanity on the Prairies."

Nebraska has a new \$10,000,000 capitol—without a penny of debt standing against it.

Nebraska has a splendid highway system—without a single outstanding bond.

Nebraska's state tax, which provides the funds for supporting the state university, four normal schools and all other state activities, has averaged less than two mills per year during the last ten years.

Nebraska has no state income tax no sales tax, no nuisance taxes. The state hasn't one cent of bonded indebtedness. Total bonded debt of its 93 counties, in July, 1934, was but \$6,247,999—of which a single county, Ogallala, accounted for \$4,500,000 leaving the small sum of \$1,749,999 apportioned among the 92 remaining county governments.

This sounds like a taxpayers' Utopia, which it is. It hasn't been achieved through magic. Here, according to Mr. Christensen, is the four-sided plan Nebraska follows:

1. Pay as you go; issue no state bonds and few county bonds.
2. Reject new forms of taxation.
3. Watch public spending and the spenders.
4. Remember that even in these changing times the functions of local government are the same as they were 15 years ago and should cost no more.

The plan is simple. It is workable. It is sound. Nebraska has led the way toward economic sanity—other states should fall in line.

### SOMEBODY ELSE'S WHITE ELEPHANT

At the twenty-fifth annual session of the Oregon Reclamation Congress complaint was made that more automobiles than farms are owned by Oregon farmers—that only 35 per cent of the farms in the state have electricity—that there was insufficient electrical pumping and irrigation for farm prosperity. Naturally with the great government power project at Bonneville about to throw a tremendous excess of power on the market, a drive will now be made to sell it and increasing use of irrigation and pumping machinery is one outlet.

Practical farm electrification is a good thing and has been proceeding at a normal rate in Oregon as the high average of 35 per cent farm electrification proves. But anyone acquainted with Oregon farming, for which irrigation and pumping are probably as little needed as in any state in the union, will not be surprised if Oregon farmers also decide that they would rather have an automobile in which to go to town, or which enables them to enjoy the mountains, the coast, the streams and the lakes, than they would a lot of unnecessary electrical equipment.

The Oregon farmer will use electricity when he wants it and the power companies have already made it widely available. So don't get the impression that he is a spendthrift or a fool if he continues to buy automobiles, even to the neglect of loading up with somebody else's white elephant of great surplus power production.

### THE PEOPLE REVOLT AGAINST DEBT

Signs indicate that the American people are at last awakening to the

## Horse Show and Rodeo To Head Entertainment at Exposition



Here are illustrated jumping and bulldogging, two of the most fascinating events of the Indoor Horse Show and Rodeo.

This year the Pacific International Livestock Exposition celebrates its Silver Anniversary, October 5 to 12 in Portland, Oregon. Heading a large and varied program of entertainment will be that ever popular combined Horse Show and Rodeo. Spectacular and thrilling events have been scheduled with liberal cash awards for winners.

The Rodeo will be the final of all western shows this year at which the grand champion cowboy will be chosen. Only the best of America's cowpunchers and buckaroos will be seen in action. Events will include bronc riding, bareback riding, bull dogging and Brahma steer riding with cash awards of approximately \$5000 for winners.

Veteran arena directors will have charge of events, assuring a fast moving program at all performances. Plenty of action is

promised with accompanying spills and thrills.

Homer Holcombe, World famous clown, will again add his thrilling, daring acts and inject into the Show those extremely delightful and humorous scenes so well liked by both youngsters and grown-ups.

Exposition officials predict that this year will see the breaking of all recent records for entries and attendance.

Industrial exhibits are expected to exceed in size all previous years. Included will be dairy products, land produce, wild life, fish and game, wool and mohair, and many others.

In addition, there will be nineteen complete shows staged under the mammoth eleven acre Exposition building roof. These will include dairy cattle, beef, swine, fat stock, draft horses, sheep, goats, dogs, poultry and pet stock. 4-H Club and Smith-Hughes vocation exhibits.

danger of tax-creating, property-confiscating bond issues.

A few weeks ago a special election was held in Rhode Island, in which the voters were called upon to pass a number of proposals for building public works, and carrying on other activities in the name of relief. In spite of the facts that passage of all the bills would have increased the state's bonded indebtedness by about 50 per cent, the "dope" had it that the measures, with their political backing would pass.

The "dope" missed. Rhode Island citizens voted down all but one of the measure by heavy majorities. The measure that passed provided for direct relief for the needy, and was designed to achieve the necessary purpose at a minimum of cost—without saddling the taxpayers with unnecessary and expensive public works.

A short time later the voters of California met a similar crisis at the polls. Several measures which would have put that already debt-ridden state farther into debt, were on the ballot. An awakened citizenry swung the axe—and when the votes were counted the measures had taken hearty kickings.

It is to be hoped that these elections, in widely separated states, are symbolic of the national trend of thought. The mor' menacing governmental ventures of recent years have been those which have piled debt upon debt, put government into competition with private business, increased taxes, weakened state cre-

dit and created industrial fear. This course had made it next to impossible to create normal jobs because private industry, sole source of productive employment, is afraid to take chances in the face of confiscatory taxation, legislation and regulation. We are drawing capital into tax-free federal bonds where its chief benefits accrue to our growing bureaucracy, not to the people or the needy. Follow Rhode Island and California in defeating debt-creating bond issues.

### PLANNING FOR THE MINES

Governor Martin of Oregon has inaugurated a project which could be followed to advantage in a number of other states. He has appointed a committee of seven well known Oregon citizens to lay plans for developing the state's mining industry.

Even in states where mining is highly developed, similar committees could be productive of much good. They could study mining's tax and legislative problems—thorns in the side of the industry even in normal times—and make recommendations to state officials. They could lay the groundwork for a long-range mining program which would encourage it and help it operate profitably, to the benefit of labor and the state.

Mining is one of the basic industries which are vital to the nation, in war and in peace, in good times and in bad. It deserves intelligent, scientific aid.

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