

# The American

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL  
Editor and Proprietor

## EDITORIALS

### "THE LUNATIC FRINGE"

"There is a lunatic fringe of drivers who create hazards, for themselves and everyone else, as they rush on their heedless way," said an article in the Ladies' Home Journal for July, 1935. "They are the 5 to 10 per cent of drivers who are responsible for 90 per cent of all accidents."

This "lunatic fringe" has so far shown itself to be 100 per cent deaf to the most elementary principles of reason. Its members know that excessive speed is the most prolific of all causes of serious accidents, and that a collision that would be unimportant at 20 miles an hour will probably prove fatal at sixty—yet they continue to push the throttle through the floorboards. They know that driving on hills and curves is an invitation to the coroner—yet so important does time seem to them that they are perfectly willing to risk necks and necks of other drivers to save a few usually unimportant minutes. They know that weaving in and out of traffic, driving on the wrong side of the road and similar stupid practices, may mean sudden death in one of its most horrible forms; yet they persist in these practices. They know that many accidents, fatal and minor alike, can be attributed to cars in faulty mechanical condition—yet they continue driving many an "old heap" when

its horn is silent, its lights are either glaring or inadequate, its steering shimmies, and its brakes are about as valuable a stopping device, as the accelerator.

Result: An annual death toll that hovers around the 35,000 mark. Only the most stringent methods can hope to handle the unattractive fringe. Modern traffic laws, rigidly enforced not only by the traffic patrol but by the enthusiastic cooperation of the sane and careful drivers (the 90 per cent) are vital. The one way to hammer some sense into the lunatic fringe is to treat them as the public enemies they are.

### THREE ESSENTIALS

Today, according to a multitude of unprejudiced and non-political opinions, there are three main essentials to recovery:

First, a decisive campaign to reduce the cost of government, balance the budget as soon as possible, and thus eventually make sweeping reduction in taxes.

Second, less governmental interference with legitimate business enterprise, and an assurance that new laws, restrictions and rulings will not cause managements to become mere rubber stamps for Washington bureaucrats to handle at their discretion.

Third, the assurance that there will be no tampering with the instrument that stands foursquare between America and one form or another of dictatorship—the constitution.

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