

The American

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW ANYTHING

It doesn't take brains to push the throttle of your car to the floor-board.

It doesn't take cleverness to weave in and out of traffic at sixty miles an hour to the consternation of the slower moving highway-users.

It doesn't take any intellectual capacity to hang onto the steering wheel, give her the gun, and see if you can make the speedometer touch ninety-odd.

In other words, you don't have to know anything to drive fast.

Drivers who regard streets and highways as the Indianapolis bowl, might be divided into two classes: First, those who are weary of living and don't mind if they take innocent parties along with them into eternity. Second, those who are so stupid as to not realize that several thousand pounds of metal moving at terrific speeds is as lethal a weapon as a machine-gun—both for the occupant and for anyone else who happens to be in the locality.

Speed—and speed alone—is responsible for the great majority of automobile accidents. All other causes pale into insignificance beside it. As even the most mentally deficient driver should be able to realize, an accident occurring at sixty miles per hour is almost invariably more serious than one occurring at 20.

The roads of America are strewn with corpses because a relatively small number of drivers are doing their best to emulate Malcolm Campbell.

FIRE ON THE FARM

No class of citizens has a greater interest in fire prevention than the farmer.

Farm fire are customarily more disastrous than urban fires. This is partly the result of the fact that much farm property—homes, corn cribs, hay-rieks, barns, stables, etc.—is extremely inflammable. And it is partly the result of the fact that many otherwise up-to-date farming communities have a deplorable lack of fire fighting equipment.

Fire prevention on the farm is thus not a simple matter—but it can be achieved. Better building goes a long way toward attaining the goal, as does the exertion of great care and watchfulness during the dry season.

Every farm should be adequately equipped with up-to-date fire extinguishers, situated at strategic points in the home and out-buildings. Many a serious fire, which destroyed lives and property, could have been stopped before making headway had a good fire extinguisher been at hand when the blaze was first discovered.

Most farming communities, as well as can afford to develop modern fire-fighting departments—indeed, they cannot afford to be without them. Such departments must be backed up with dependable water facilities and alarm systems. Roads must be kept open, even in bad weather. It is not uncommon for a rural fire department to stand by impatiently watching a house or a barn burn—because the pumper has been mired in a mud-hole of a road.

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace recently pointed to the magnitude of the farm fire loss, and to the need for reducing it. Other experts have done the same thing. Farm property is often inadequately insured, and values tend to deviate sharply from season to season as crops are raised and distributed. In good times a serious fire is a blow to even the most prosperous farmer—in bad times it may ruin him.

A fire prevention program that will get results should be undertaken in every agricultural area in this country.

RAISE YOUR OWN POTATOES!
There is a great rumpus about whether the AAA is to enforce the Potato Control Act or not.

Just what discretion has the AAA or any of its officials, to do other than enforce the law? They have not been given the power to nullify or change any law.

It is not the function of any board or bureau charged with enforcement duties to say whether it will or will not administer an act.

The courts still have the duty of deciding on the legality of the acts of Congress and this constitutional provision of our government has not yet been abrogated.

The quickest way for our citizens to break the legislative program to drive up potato prices is for every citizen with a back or front yard, to raise potatoes for his own use.

That would also be an expression of disapproval of the new doctrine of food scarcity that is advocated to raise prices. "Every family raise its own potatoes" may become a national slogan.

PRACTICE NEW ENGLAND THRIFT

For some years every resource of the government has been used to raise the price of farm products for the producer.

No one begrudges the farmer a good living. But the consumer should not be forgotten during this process. It must be remembered that if an undue part of the family income is taken for food alone, the purchasing of all other commodities is reduced, with resulting unemployment.

There is one outstanding way to hold down food prices to consumers, namely, by continually cutting distribution costs.

Boyhood Life of Late Billy Sunday Told by Friend

As an Evangelist, the entire nation is familiar with the life of the late Billy Sunday. But few friends remain who know him in the little town of Ames, Iowa, where he was born, and spent the greater part of his youth.

His father had entered service in the Civil War in 1862 and passed away during an epidemic of measles three months prior to the birth of Billy, on November 9, who with his mother and brothers made their home with his grandfather, well known as Squire Corey. Mrs. Sunday, left a widow in very poor circumstances, struggled along as best she could to keep them together. Billy grew to be a sturdy, active youngster and at about the age of ten years, was the envy of every boy in town because of his ability to outrun any of them, thus making him a sort of leader in anything of an athletic nature, very few games being familiar to them at that time. Baseball being the favorite, gave him the practice he desired as a sprinter. At about twelve years of age, he was placed in the Soldiers' orphanage at Davenport, Iowa where he remained for a couple of years, (sometimes a homesick lad) after returning to his home, he worked when opportunity offered and intermittently attended school in the little old Red School House with its crude pine board furnishings, where the three R's were about the sum total of subjects taught.

Billy has often been heard to remark that the greater part of his education was acquired through the school of hard knocks. As time passed on, Billy under the experienced leadership of the nationally known ball player, Captain Adrian Anson of Marshalltown, accompanied him to Chicago where both played for a number of years with the White Sox.

While Billy was never the hard-boiled youth, some of his critics claim, he did not give promise of becoming the whirlwind evangelist into which he later developed. His conversion took place in Chicago at about the age of twenty years. Regardless of the criticism heaped upon his method of reaching the sinner the results were far more wide spread than could have been accomplished in any other manner. All honor to his memory for the multitude of souls saved through his efforts.—
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Robert Lee Hay Buried Last Monday

Funeral services were held for Robert Lee Hay, who passed away after a short illness, at the Gold Hill cemetery Monday. Perl's Funeral Home was in charge. Mr. Hay had made his home in the valley for many years and was a brother of Mr. J. H. Hay, who died several years ago.

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