

THE CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

FACTORIES VS. AUTOMOBILES

During recent years, the industrial accident record—both as to frequency and severity of accidents—has steadily declined. More and more manufacturing companies are operating month after month without a single reportable mishap. Unless all signs fail, 1936 will witness still additional improvement over the preceding years.

During the same period, the automobile accident record has grown steadily worse. More accidents occur—and result in graver injuries. It now seems likely that the death toll for 1936 will be the greatest in history, and will pass the 36,000 mark.

Why should factories grow more safe while highways grow more dangerous? It can be argued that constant progress is being made in guarding hazardous machinery. So it is—but constant progress is likewise being made in improving cars and roadways.

The real explanation of the anomaly can be expressed in two words: The "human element". Factory managements have been unsparring of time, money and effort in instilling "safety consciousness" into workers. The congenitally careless employee, who risks the lives of other workmen as well as his own merits and receives dismissal. A workman who won't absorb the doctrine of "Never take a chance" has no place in a modern factory.

The motorist, on the contrary, is not similarly restricted. If he wants to be reckless, it is up to him. True, we have traffic laws—but no state or city can employ enough peace officers to keep a check on all drivers. And it is an unfortunate fact that the most reckless driving practices are usually punished with only a small fine.

Men who would instantly fire a workman who was careless in operating some machine, daily risk dozens of accidents while driving. Not until public opinion forces the motorist to "think safely and drive safely" will the automobile accident toll be measurably reduced.

WHAT ABOUT THE WORKER?
Professional labor organizers, who recently launched a highly ballyhooed drive to unionize the steel industry, have run headlong into a painfully embarrassing situation—to say the least.

Announced purpose of the drive was to "free" the "suffering" steel workers from the toils of a malevolent management. It was easy to see the picture of workers waiting with arms outstretched to be delivered from their misery by John L. Lewis and his Committee on Industrial Organization.

But what happened? Something must have gone wrong somewhere.

From all over the country, the steel workers rose up and in clearly unmistakable terms announced that they wanted none of Mr. Lewis and his merry men. From Birmingham to Buffalo, the workers rallied to the employee representation plans which have functioned so satisfactorily in the steel industry. In some cases for more than 20 years, to serve notice that they would resist strenuously any attempt by Mr. Lewis and his organizers to charge them for the privilege of holding their jobs.

Typical of the attitude in the industry and the action taken was the procedure followed by 2,698 workers who constituted 98.8 per cent of the employees of the American Rolling Mill, Ashland, Ky., plant. In a petition demanding "our rights as American citizens to continue to take care of our own business in the lawful manner which we have chosen," the workers stated: "We are positively and emphatically against any outside interference of any nature in our affairs. We are opposed to paying any organization for the privilege of working. We ask to be left absolutely alone that we may continue to earn our living in peace, free from the turmoil that would follow an attempt to change our plans of dealing with our management."

AUTOMATIC ECONOMY
The experience of the dairy industry, as revealed recently in a bulletin of the Committee on Agricultural Cooperation of the National Association of Manufacturers, illustrates once again that when it comes to "planned economy," man made rules and regulations are indeed feeble substitutes for the nature made law of supply and demand.

In the last 37 years, this committee's study of the subject showed, nearly 5,000,000 farmers, without specific government direction, have adjusted their farm practice so that production of milk and dairy products has satisfactorily met market demands.

When prices fell to unprofitable levels, more dairy cows were allowed to feed their calves, less intensive feeding was adopted, herds were culled, that is, the old and unprofitable cows were disposed of, or animals suspected of disease were killed. When prices rose, fewer cows fed their calves, more intensive feeding was practiced, new farmers entered the field and advancing prices were staided. In other words, adjustment to the law of supply and demand was automatic.

As a result, the dairy industry has expanded almost in exact proportion to the increase in population. While

population rose from 75,000,000 in 1900 to 125,000,000 in 1932, the number of dairy cows on farms increased from 15,000,000 to 25,000,000, the apparently sound ratio of one cow for each five persons. As the per capita consumption of milk increased during that period, so also did the average production per cow.

It is a fair question to ask whether any government could do the job for 5,000,000 farmers and 30,000,000 consuming families better than the people have been able to do it themselves.

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BEATS THE HEAT! With heat records cracking under a torrid sun, pretty Lucille Booster of the Northshore IGA Food Mart in Chicago takes to sport shorts and shirt for comfort. It's a long way from the orthodox grocer's outfit, but even the customers agreed it helped them forget the heat for a while. Mrs. A. H. Everett is the approving customer.

Imports Increase As Exports Fall
America's Unfavorable Trade Balance Is Still Rising
WASHINGTON.—The Department of Commerce reports that America's "unfavorable trade balance"—excess of purchases from
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foreign nations over sales to foreign nations—is still rising.

In the first six months of the year the imports exceeded exports by \$19,568,000, but in the last month—June—purchases abroad were \$7,045,990, above sales abroad.

June exports, totaling \$185,188,000, were 8 per cent below those in May. This drop, the Commerce Department report conceded, is a greater than usual seasonal one. Ordinarily, imports decrease in June, but this year they rose a few million dollars to a total of \$192,233,000.

Exports which decreased included raw cotton and other agricultural products. Imports which increased included raw cotton, cotton cloth, raw wool, wool manufactures, lumber, nickel, tin and coal-tar products as well as meats.

Mr. and Mrs. Hogan of Medford were dinner guests Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Hogan's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fox.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Morrison who have work at the Diamond Lake Lodge visited briefly in Central Point Tuesday.

Mrs. Musty and daughters, Maxine and Nadine and Phyllis and Pauline Robertson visited in Ashland Tuesday at the Powers and Kilburn homes.

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Legal Notices
NOTICE
The Board of Equalization of the County of Jackson, State of Oregon, will meet in regular session at the office of the county assessor, in the county court house at Medford, Oregon, at 10 o'clock A. M., Monday, August 10, 1936, for the purpose of hearing complaints and equalizing the 1936 assessment rolls. The said hearing will continue from the above date until August 28, 1936. Any property owner who is aggrieved at the valuation placed on his or her property may appear before said board and petition for a correction in the valuation as shown on the 1936 assessment rolls. All petitions must be filed on or before August 28, 1936, as the Board of Equalization will complete its public hearing on said date.
J. B. COLEMAN
County Assessor
July 23, 30 Aug. 6

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