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Accidents

Rochester has been impressed the last few days with the importance of accident prevention both as an economic as well as a humanitarian measure by the recent Industrial Safety Congress held in this city.

Experts from all over the country stressed the economic loss sustained in accidents by the community not only in the money paid out in compensation relief, the loss of time by the injured workmen and consequent loss of wages in the pay envelopes, but the loss to the family and to the home when the breadwinner is incapacitated.

Secretary of Labor James J. Davis brought the accident question home in forcible manner when he declared that every six minutes somewhere in this country, a person is injured, oftentimes fatally in preventable accidents.

Carefulness makes for safety. Carelessness makes for accident. fatality. Think right and work safely!

The Reason.

Some of us have wondered just why the western farmers are so much interested in a ship canal from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic.

"They want to save ten cents a bushel in freight on their wheat according to W. L. Harding, former Governor of Iowa. The figures which Governor Harding presents indicate that it would cost worth almost \$60,000,000, if farmers could ship their wheat, corn, oats, barley and rye by water for the shipment from the upper lakes in 1923 amounted to 589,000,000 bushels. A saving of ten cents on the bushel is the estimated benefit of a ship canal through the St. Lawrence route.

The governor pointed out that this shipment was the surplus crop from both the United States and Canada. He did not give the amount shipped from the great wheat fields of Canada, consequently it is not evident just how much the farmers of the United States would realize on the undertaking. Of course, the St. Lawrence plan provides that Canada shall pay a part of the cost of the project.

Here, then, is seen the basis of the pressure of the Middle West and the Canadian prairie provinces to obtain an outlet to the sea. If \$60,000,000 could be saved each year on grain shipment, the sum would amount to 10 per cent. on \$600,000,000, or much more than it would cost to build the St. Lawrence route.

Hunting, Yes, No?

Just as the "crazy lunatics" around here who jump into a high powered car with an expensive rifle or shot gun about whose mechanism and operation they know little or nothing and blaze away at anything that moves, as soon as the hunting season opens in the Adirondacks the story is repeated.

If not checked some way, the net result is likely to be no hunting at all for deer as pointed out by the Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle" in the following editorial:—

With at least five known dead and more than sixty wounded or otherwise incapacitated by injuries, the 1926 deer-hunting season promises to surpass the records of previous years in casualty lists. The proportion of so-called hunters affected with a feverish blood-just that causes them to shoot anywhere at any moving object among the trees seems to have been unusually large this season.

Two causes appear to be operating to put an end to deer shooting in New York state. One is the disappearance of deer reported by guides to be unusually scarce this season. The other the multiplication of hunters. When the Adirondacks were almost of access by rail roads, or none at all, there were no magazine hunters and a sporting chance

and increased accordingly. Hunters could go into the woods with a fair certainty that they could bring out a fine buck without being themselves made a target by near-sighted and over-enthusiastic city boys out for a week-end shooting.

To-day it is well said that the Adirondacks have become a merc park, where the few protected deer become almost as tame as cows in the closed season. Good roads have made it possible for automobile parties to roar out from the cities on Saturday, unlimber their high-velocity guns and pump ammunition into the brush, in a desperate drive for a deer to take back as a trophy before Monday morning. As the hunters multiply the danger to other hunters increases accordingly, so that many experienced woodsmen are now staying away from the Adirondacks during the hunting season as a measure of safety and are doing their hunting in Canada or Alaska.

Because of the increasing casualty lists and the rapid disappearance of the deer it is seriously proposed to close the forests against deer hunters at least for a time, and to require before the next open season an examination of all candidates for hunting licenses to determine their fitness to handle a gun. Certainly if the life of an amateur hunter is to be made safe he must be protected in some way against the folly of his kind.

"Soggy Seventies".

A few weeks ago the Catholic Journal ventured the opinion that newspapers might well devote some of their newsgathering facilities to a record of the good deeds done each day, rather than to pen pictures of all the bad criminal happenings.

The Rochester "Times Union" in this editorial:—

Our authors continue to look back ward, putting the final kibosh on the good, old days. The "gay nineties" looked rather drab after Thomas Beer gave them a microscopic study in "The Mauve Decade." Mark Sullivan did the same good service for "the turn of a century." Now George Ade takes us unwillingly by the hand and leads us back to the "sloppy and soggy seventies." That lovely decade was epitomized by the silver dollars used as a mosaic centerpiece in the Palmer House barber shop, and by farmers in the outlands burning corn in their sheet-iron stoves because it did not pay for the hauling to market.

Hauling anything anywhere in those days meant either using streaks of mud called roads in the country and streets in the city, or the soft and bumpy rails of the steam roads. A lurching locomotive and short-waisted day coaches invited the traveler who wished to get on from hither to thence.

Prisoners of mud is the way Mr. Ade describes life in the seventies outside certain large cities. People stayed home because they lived on an island criss-crossed by wooden sidewalks and entirely surrounded by mud and water. Those who ventured forth at night carried lanterns, and also had the help of kerosene street lamps which only accentuated the interminable darkness. And thus people had lived from the dawn of history!

Good roads and the incandescent lamp are the genii of the progress and comfort of today. We fail to comprehend what these inventions mean to us. Only when a man of George Ade's vivid memory and facile pen takes us back, are we even dimly aware of the true character of those "good old days."

But was it not the Hoffman House bar room in New York city that was paved with silver dollars, not the Palmer House grill in Chicago.

Not Too Severe.

A year ago everybody thought the law emanating from the state commission to inquire into "crime, its cause and cure" to the effect that persons convicted three times of felony be adjudged habitual criminals and sent to prison for life upon a fourth conviction was a splendid piece of legislation.

Now that a few criminals of the type over which the sob sisters weep have been caught in the net and sent to prison for life the pacifists are sniveling and urging its repeal.

The Catholic Journal joins the "Union and Times" in this editorial opinion:—

The Baumes Law which makes certain the punishment of recalcitrant criminals has received severe criticism from the bench and the bar. This new statute practically removes a criminal, convicted of three felonies from society. Despite the criticisms offered, the Baumes Law is not too severe. A criminal convicted on three or more felonious charges proves his inability to live honestly and decently among his fellow men. Crime with him is habitual and to make a proper example of his misconduct he should be taken from society and placed permanently in a penal institution.

Both England and Canada are able to teach the courts of this country in the efficacy of punishments proportionate to crimes committed. Under the English system, an accused receives a prompt and speedy trial and if found guilty, is sentenced within a few weeks after the commission of the crime. The trial law is not permitted months and

often years to unearth technicalities which may safeguard the liberty of a client. Nor are the newspapers given the time to work up slobbering sentimentality in the public mind. The results are most satisfactory. Criminality in England is at a minimum. The actual display of justice in English courts and the measured severity of punishments actively meted out has raised a fear which deters the citizen from the commission of crime.

What a different outlook the law-breaker has in this country. With the law's delays, the thousand and one technicalities raised by ambitious lawyers, the false and uncalled for sympathy elicited through the sensational members of the public press as the medium, the odds that the criminal will unjustly procure his freedom are five to one.

The Baumes Law may act as a deterrent to the criminally-inclined. It will bring us nearer to that system which has proven so thorough in English courts of justice. But probably like all measures properly applied, the Baumes Law will have opponents strong enough to see that the rigor of the statute is withdrawn. At times we actually protect criminally by substituting sentiment for justice.

Why should Rochester not be an airport? It is the most important industrial city in New York State.

It is real luck for the non-Catholic prelates to pick up a topic of discussion that will act as a smoke screen for the Klan and blanket over "Bishop Adna Leonard".

Mayor O'Neil shrinks from the pitiless blaze of publicity.

Those who are prone to find fault with the priest who preaches too long, who does not preach long enough, who talks too much about money or not enough, as a rule, never contribute toward the support of religion or do any great work for the Church.

We are glad that Congressman James M. Mead, of Buffalo, was re-elected. He's a real good sort of chap.

Congress has a chance to do much for the country. Will it be done?

Governor Smith is back on the job at Albany. That's the proper way to win promotion.

The Calles regime in Mexico wants to crush out all religion.

If you want a post in Washington run for Governor or Senator in New York State and be defeated.

Secretary Davis never will put President Coolidge or his administration in a hole.

There should be some sort of radio relief for the listeners.

No one would rejoice more than the Catholics of Rochester were his Grace, Archbishop Hanna, of San Francisco be elevated to the cardinalial purple.



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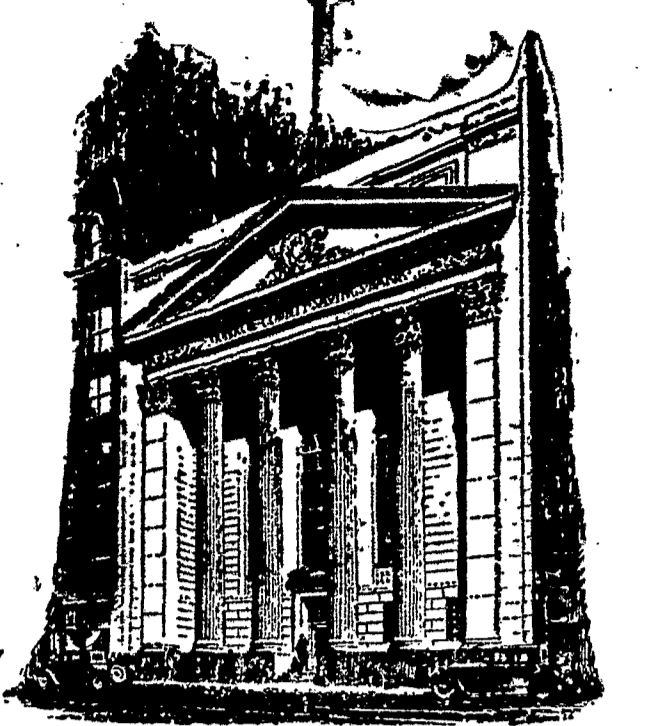
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