

# THE SOWER

A Weekly Department of Religious and Secular Thought Contributed by REV. JAMES A. TURNER, Pastor, M. E. Church, Patton, Pa.

## On Welcoming A Fellow Columnist

We are glad to learn, as announced recently in the Editorial column of the Courier, of the commencement of a new feature in the nature of a series of articles to run weekly in the paper under the heading of "Information", to be furnished by a writer of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis, at Loreto, Pa., the purpose of which is to dispense Catholic Information not generally known to the lay public.

We are heartily in accord with this project of the Order to disseminate religious information, and look forward with pleasurable anticipation and interest to the coming articles. The first and prefatory article, appearing in the Nov. 16 issue, gives promise of some interesting and informative as well as inspirational reading to come, and we feel that the many readers of the Courier will want to clip these articles as they come, and paste them in a scrap book, thus creating a compendium of informative and suggestive material which will be of great interest and usefulness to them in the years to come.

The writer has always been interested in the business of sowing good seed in the receptive soil of the human mind, and feels that anyone thus engaged is building for the eternities to come in things eminently worth while and, as a "Sower," preparing for a day of rich harvesting that will bless the nations of mankind with a glorious heritage of peace and good will.

We wish for the contributor of the new column success in his undertaking, and believe that through his efforts much good informative material will be dispensed which will "engender understanding and good will which are so necessary if America is to stand united against the evils that surround us" and result very materially in the bringing in of the Kingdom of God upon the Earth.

We liked, very much, the tone of the first article under "Information," and its frank and sincere spirit of utterance leads us to observe that what the world is in such eminent need of today is that state or attitude of mind of openness to conviction, following upon an honest and thorough investigation of all teachings of whatever source, when, such investigation sup-

porting the claims of the teachers, the claims are anciently and subsequently validated by ethical results in the laboratory of human experience.

Only those who have something to hide, because they are afraid that it can't stand the light of truthful investigation, are the ones who will not advertise and disseminate and open the doors of entry into the inner sanctuary of their cherished creeds for the honest and interested investigator to come in to criticize and find fault, or to remain and worship. Such "hidiers of their sanctum" "will not come to the light", for they have doubts as to the validity of their contentions.

Whereas, on the contrary, those who believe that the truth has nothing to lose through honest investigation will "come to the light", knowing that all things must eventually be subjected to the test of human experience, and that the only way, as St. Paul says, to "know the spirits" is "to try them."

St. John comments on this principle under discussion when he says: "This is the sentence of condemnation, that the Light has entered the world and yet men have preferred darkness to light." That is to say, Some men refuse to be enlightened,—won't open their minds.

So do many people close the doors of their minds to the consideration of the truths presented by Christian teachers, and thus remain in the clammy darkness of their ignorance and prejudice wherein are germinated many evil and noxious humors that, like the noxious vapors of a mephitic morass, rise continually to suffocate every good and worthy and virtuous impulse, and render the atmospheric environs of their souls a malodorous miasma that sickens and disgusts the high-souled and lofty-minded one who is forced to come into contact with its foul climate.

It is with great delight and satisfaction that we observe the increasing tendency of the Press to open its columns to the pens of Christian writers in Orders of various kinds for the purpose of spreading information and enlightenment that will enable fair-minded people of all creeds to know the facts from all sources about other creeds with no purpose in mind other than to engender understanding and good will.

As Dr. Roy L. Smith reminds us: "It ought to be a source of great encouragement to those who are giving their lives for the establishment of righteousness to know that God has promised the resources of heaven as their allies. If a thing is right, we know it is ultimately certain of victory."

So, let the good work go on, and, since it has been said of Truth that "the eternal years of God are hers," we know that as it goes on the years will bring a rich deposit of truth and mental enrichment to those who never refuse to give their minds to any source of information that carries the imprint of Christian sincerity and honest intention.

Our blessings upon the new columnist and all good men who bring in the light of truth to lighten the pathways for the feet of men to walk in, and who sow the good seed of understanding and good will for the harvest of healing that shall bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the spiritually captive, open the prison to them that are mentally bound, to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness,—that they may be called "trees of righteousness, the planting of Jehovah, that He may be glorified.

## PATTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

James A. Turner, pastor. Church school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. every third Sunday evening. Epworth League at 6:30 p. m. Mid-week bible class Wednesday evening at 7:30.

Mary E. Shannon reminds us in the UPPER ROOM that "in many passages in the Bible we are admonished to give thanks, sometimes for specific things, for mercies granted or prayers answered; but in many others we are exhorted to bless and praise God because of what He IS

Preachers and moralists have called us to repentance many times because having asked and received, we fail to give thanks. We deserve their rebuke. But do we not also deserve reproach if having asked and received, we are satisfied with the gift itself? The friend who sends a gift or greeting—is he not more to us than what he sends? If the answer to prayer does not take us beyond itself to the One who answers, if the gifts of God do not take us back of the gift to the Giver, we are like the people of old who followed the Master, not for Himself, but for the loaves and fishes."

The Bible is God's love letter to us. If we truly love Him we will come to the mid-week Bible Class and read and talk about that love-letter with great gratitude and thanksgiving to Him for His gracious consideration of us and of all our needs.

## COAL FIRM ATTACKS ACT ALLOWING STATE TO REFOREST LANDS

Branding the law unconstitutional, Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation last week attacked the legislative act by which the Commonwealth takes temporary title to land for reforestation.

Counsel for the coal company appeared before the state supreme court and argued that the act conflicts with a clause of the state constitution providing that all taxes be uniform.

Counsel for the Cambria County Commissioners, who appealed the case, contended the act a proper exercise of powers of the state to preserve water supply, prevent soil erosion and floods and conserve timber.

Judges of the highest state court reserved a decision on the case.

Cambria county court some time ago instructed the commissioners to stop assessing taxes against coal company land of which the Commonwealth has assumed control. The legislative act empowers the state to set aside tracts of unused privately owned land as forest reserves. The state takes the title during the reforestation program. After the program is completed the land is returned to the original owner.

The act provides that while the land is in the temporary custody of the commonwealth the owner shall be assessed \$1 in taxes, but that any coal or other mineral deposits may be separately assessed.

There are several tracts of land in the county that have been turned over to the custody of the state for the reforestation program.

## PROBE PREMATURE RUSTING OF THE 1939 AUTOMOBILE TAGS

Harrisburg.—A careful investigation is under way by the state highway department to determine reason for premature rusting of thousands of 1939 automobile plates and possible corrosion of already completed 1940 tags.

Department laboratory experts sought through analysis of steel paint enamel and varnish to find fault in the tags manufactured by the commonwealth prison inmates. Welfare department attaches said, however, that possibility of faulty craftsmanship in prison labor has been eliminated.

Officials evidently were certain that if defective materials were sent to prison shops which turned out two million of the current year's plates, it was the result of an "honest error."

One spokesman said it is the first time in 25 years that the prison produced tags have turned "bad" on such a wholesale scale. In previous years only a few sets of plates were turned in because of rusting or corroding.

Approximately a thousand motorists throughout the state have turned in rusted plates to the motor vehicles bureau of the Revenue Department, it was understood, and tens of thousands of others are in such poor condition they may have to be replaced.

In clearing prison officials of possible charges of carelessness, Welfare Department spokesmen said the same care and technique used during the past 24 years was used last year. One explanation of the faulty tags

was that the steel manufacturer may have used a new chemical in annealing the metal and inadvertently created oxidation beneath the enamel. Such oxidation would break the paint surface and permit rusting.

It was pointed out that steel, background and numerical enamel and varnish used in manufacture of the tags were tested for every specification and found satisfactory.

If the fault happens to be in the steel used in both the 1939 and 1940 plates, similar difficulty may arise in issuance of next year's registration tags, it was feared.

A large Pittsburgh steel corporation furnished all material for the 1939 and 1940 plates. The same firm produced two-thirds of the steel used in the 1938 tags, which were entirely satisfactory.

Paint for the licenses came from two different Pittsburgh companies and officials proffered the possibility that an insufficient pigment in the rusting products may have caused the rusting.

## MOTORIST INJURED.

Edmund Pigozzi, 22, of Greenock, Allegheny county, was seriously injured early last Friday when his automobile overturned after colliding with a truck on Route 22 on the Cresson mountain.

He was taken to the Mercy Hospital in Altoona where attendants reported he received a possible fracture of the skull and severe lacerations which required 21 sutures.

## RADICAL CHANGES IN AUTO CONSTRUCTION PROPOSED FOR SAFETY

Chicago.—An Iowa coroner who has devoted four years to a comprehensive study of "the why of motor accidents" this week proposed radical changes in auto construction in the interests of safety.

Writing in the current issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, Dr. B. L. Knight of Cedar Rapids, asserted that for "more safety for myself and family I shall here-with order the first 1941 popular priced car constructed according to the following ideas:

1.—Bumper all around: A bumper running entirely around the car (removable section to change tires.) In most fatal accidents the bumper of one car catches into the front or rear wheels of the other car and both turn over, or the end of the front bumper is pushed into the front wheel and the car darts off the road.

2.—Turtle or helmet shaped body: The body should be brought out to the bumper on the sides at the bottom so that the fenders are entirely beneath the body. The running board, of any, should also be covered by the body of the car. Door handles should be hinged and dropped into a well in the door.

3.—Knock out windshield: With safety glass in the windshield, the doctor now sees severe head and neck injuries. The windshield should be so de-

signed that a force of 50 pounds would loose nthe entire windshield without breaking it.

4.—The steering wheel should be constructed of material that will bend but not break.

Dr. Knight also proposed that there should be no sharp corners on the instrument panel, no sharp ornaments near the front of the car and that a strong support be placed behind the engine to keep it from being pushed back against the front seat in case of collision.

He also recommended formation of a special AMA committee to study the problem of auto accidents in the light of reports from coroners' throughout the country, as to "factors responsible for fatal accidents."

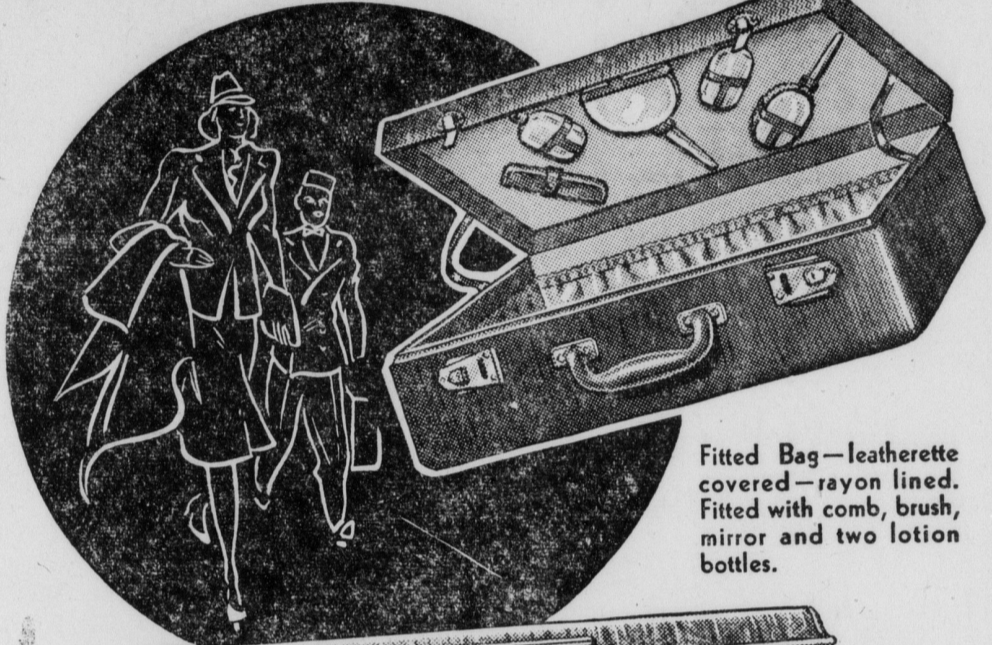
Such a committee, he said, would study angles, such as road construction and proper universal marking of the roads, education of the public, proper medical care and car construction.

"The committee," he said "might advise all states to frame a law making it compulsory for any driver involved in an accident to take—and pass—another driver's test before driving a car again."

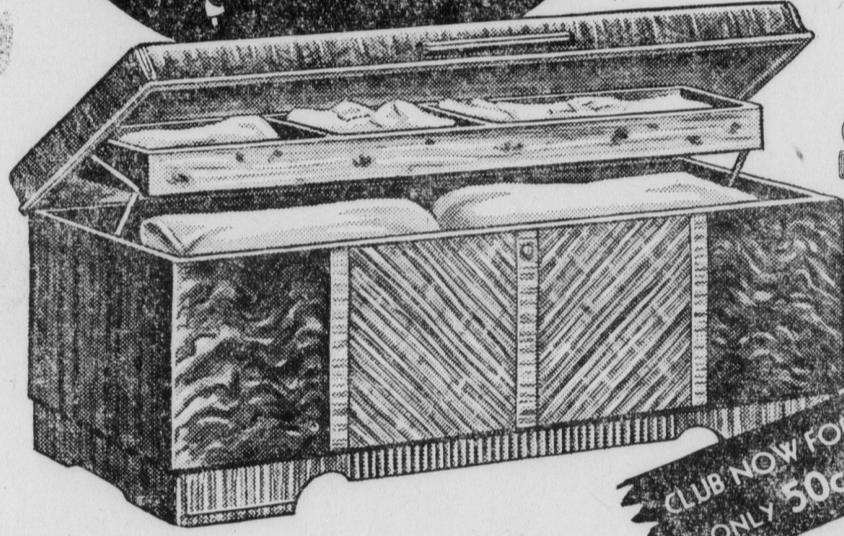
Dr. Knight said his study showed that poor judgment on the part of the driver, rather than alcohol or fast driving, is the chief cause for motor accidents.

Insert the candle holder in the birthday cake before the icing is set, then you will not have any unsightly cracks running from the holders.

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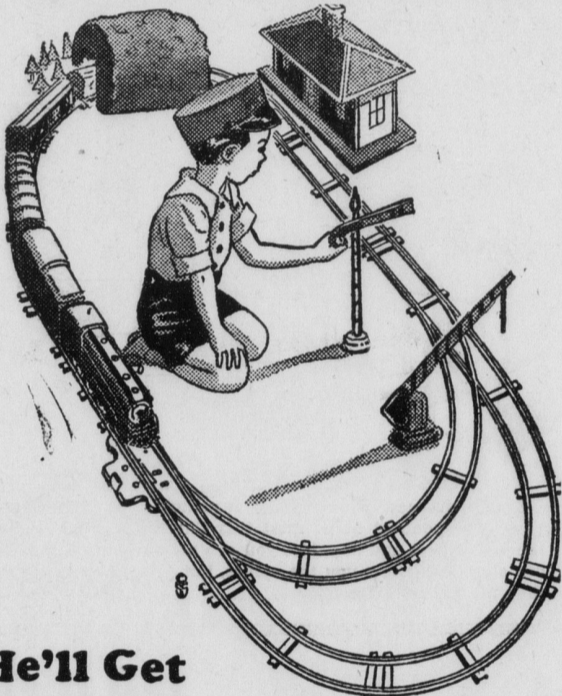
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