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TREES OR SAFETY?

A tree is valued more in an arid country than in a section where constant rainfall produces an overplus of native trees. Aside from the fact that trees in a dry climate, such as ours, have been laboriously set out by hand, there is something of a psychological reason for our appreciation of the trees bordering our streets and boulevards. We appreciate them the more because there are none too many trees outside mountainous sections. For the sake of beauty and picturesqueness,—factors that go to make life more enjoyable,—we need more trees. Much as we appreciate the beauty and shade of our trees, however, we have to face the fact that there are conditions which require the sacrifice of trees in the interest of human safety.

There are several places near Torrance where trees bordering boulevards at curves and intersections of highways are a menace to the lives of motorists. There are several rows of trees between Torrance and Lomita that shut off a view of approaching vehicles. In the day of horse-drawn vehicles these trees were of no danger in themselves. But today, with the stream of fast-moving automobiles, a clear view of highway intersections is essential to the safety of motorists. At the double curve on the boulevard from Harbor City to Harbor boulevard, a thick row of trees on the west side of the roadway endangers the lives of everyone using this thoroughfare. A row of evergreens at the first curve on the boulevard to Redondo and the "bottlebrush" in the El Prado at the intersection of Carson and Manuel avenues are two points in Torrance where trees jeopardize the lives of occupants of automobiles.

Valuable as every tree is, human life is still more valuable. Wherever trees obstruct the vision of the motorists at curves or intersections of streets and highways, the trees should be sacrificed. It will seldom be necessary to destroy the tree, however, in order to give a clear view of approaching automobiles. If the tree trunk is property trimmed to a suitable height, the trees seldom need be removed. A moving object can easily be detected even though a row of tree trunks intervene. Where shrubbery obstructs the view it may be necessary for the sake of safety to human life to remove the obstruction and replace it with trees or plants that will not be a hazard to all persons using the highways.

Our praiseworthy desire to beautify our streets and boulevards should not overshadow our desire to eliminate wherever we may some of the many perils of motoring. If trees need be sacrificed to make modern transportation safer, then let us dispense with a few trees where absolutely necessary to the welfare of human life.—H. M. R.

A "TRADING CENTER"

There is a little town on the Ohio river that does an immense retail trade, not alone with the surrounding towns in the state, but also with towns in a neighboring state. There are practically no industries in the town. It is merely an ordinary river town, little different in its advantages from hundreds of other localities along eastern navigable streams. Yet the merchants get the business, and have for years past.

The volume of business enables them to compete in price with any other town or city within two hundred miles of them. It is not "price" alone, however, that enables the stores of this little town to draw customers past nearer competition. "Variety" is the real foundation upon which a trading center has been established that has met all competition for several years. Each merchant has made it his policy to concentrate his efforts on his own line of goods. The result is that the inhabitants within reach of this little town know where they can find a variety of merchandise from which to make their selection. The result is that for a quarter of a century steamboats and railroad have carried people past other towns to shop in this little town "that has the goods."

With the available store rooms now being completed in Torrance this city has an opportunity to establish such a satisfactory variety of stores, each a specialist in its line, that a vast amount of business from the surrounding territory may be concentrated here. Torrance is the fastest growing city in this district, it has industries already established to support many times the persons now living in the industrial city, and it has enjoyed a growing popularity as a trading center. With a greater variety of retail businesses represented here, Torrance can use "variety," as does the Ohio river town, to attract customers that are now going to other markets. Each merchant a specialist in his particular line, stock well displayed, and persistent advertising, will make of Torrance the trading center of this entire district.—H. M. R.

"As ye sow, so shall ye reap," isn't always true when a man reads the seed catalogs.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT NEWS?

If an unprejudiced poll of newspaper readers could be had, would they vote Honduras or China as the center of the most important news?

Los Angeles daily papers seem to assume that Honduras is the center of interest for the most readers. Anything concerning a woman suspected of murder is given the place of honor. Daily the eye is greeted with huge headlines in which the magic word "Clara" is invariably found. Clara always gets front page location.

News from China is given a secondary position, with a small headline. Chinese "bandits" are holding for ransom several foreigners among whom are Americans as well as Englishmen. This situation in itself may not be enough to overshadow interest in "Clara," but there are other significant features to the news from China.

The so-called "bandits" have all the aspects of a military organization. In other words, there is a political significance attached to the situation. The action of the "bandits" takes on international significance not alone because America, England, and Italy will not countenance such ruthless treatment of their subjects, but for a still ominous reason. The whole of China is being circularized in an effort to arouse the natives to an uprising against all foreigners.

The present status of affairs in China resemble the conditions which resulted in the "Boxer" uprising in 1900, in which two thousand American troops joined larger numbers of English, French, German, Russian and Japanese soldiers in protecting the lives of foreigners. China had to pay dearly for this attempt to punish the foreigners.

Since the day of Marco Polo, the adventurer of the thirteenth century, China has resented the intrusion of other races. Despite her ancient civilization and unknown millions of natives she has always been worsted in a conflict with more modern nations. Her seclusion has been heartlessly shaken by foreign powers on several occasions. When a missionary was killed by the Chinese in 1856 a four years' war followed in which England and France compelled China to open up several ports to foreign trade and to protect foreign commerce and missionaries. As one foreign nation established a "sphere of influence" in China, another nation immediately established itself in another part of the empire to "off-set" the rival power.

In later years with the struggle for a more democratic form of government in China the "open door" policy has been more popular, but there is still the antagonism for the "foreigner." The "bandits" are evidently bent on agitating this deep passion of their countrymen, while at the same time making political capital by discrediting the present governmental officials, who are apparently unable to rescue the foreign captives.

The future economic and social welfare of hundreds of millions of persons bordering the Pacific Ocean may be directly affected by the news from China. A relatively few lives can be remotely changed by the news from Honduras. Yet what is the important news to the newspaper readers of the Pacific Coast? —M. M. R.

Some men count themselves lucky if they live next door to a neighbor who has good garden tools.

We're pretty sure of one thing, and that is if we were looking for a wife we wouldn't pick a non-stop dancer.

Nobody seems to be content in this old world. The young want to be old, the old want to be young, the skinny want to be fat, and the fat want to be thin.

We can't help believing that finding a needle in a haystack is an easier job than finding a girl who is pretty and doesn't know about it.

The woman who drops in "just for a minute" usually mistakes the minute hand of the clock for the second hand.

We read that an eastern college professor says pie is a necessity. The politicians will probably all agree with him.

It's going to be a fine world when all the women are as willing to give their husbands credit for what they do as they are to roast them for what they don't do.

Kicking seldom gets anything done. The way to lower sugar prices is to buy just as little as you can get along with.

Why is it that some husbands expect about \$50 worth of cooking and petting for about \$5 a month spending money?

Jack Dempsey is now a coal operator. Let us hope it will be as long between strikes as it is between fights.

We read where one congressman contends that buttermilk contains alcohol. Maybe it does, but drinking it doesn't make a man want to go home and kick the stuffing out of his family.

We heard a man say yesterday that the old-fashioned boy who used to carry away a lock of her hair now has a son who carries away part of her complexion on his coat.

Another good time to raise a rumpus with the man you bought your seed from is when you discover that a geranium has come up where you planted string beans.

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