The Automobile

GIVING A "LIFT" OFTEN LEADS TO RISK BY AUTOIST.

With a tremendous effort being made to cut down the number of accidents which can be laid up against the automobile there is one growing practice which ought to be considered carefully. This is the matter of allowing folks, usually children, to ride anywhere but on the seats inside the car which are provided for the express purpose of occupying when riding.

This habit takes on all forms of indulgence. There are those lads who climb on the spare tire or other parts of the rear of the car. There are those who hang on the end while roller-skating. Others do this sort of thing while riding on bicycles. Still others climb on the running board and thus place their lives in jeopardy. And not all of these reckless individuals are thoughtless boys. Some are girls and many are grown-up lads who ought to know better.

It should go without saying that all such persons should not be encouraged in this sort of thing. In fact, they should be very definitely discouraged and forbidden to ride thus. What may happen to those on the outside is bad enough, but the responsibility of the owner of the car is considerable if he allows boys to climb on his machine and then they are hurt.

"HITCHING" CONDEMNED.

Not only should this outside riding be discouraged with unmistaken firmness but also the practice of a motorist taking a stranger in his car for a lift should be frowned upon. This pastime is called hitching or catching a ride. This business has reached the proportions of a fad in some parts of the country—one of the less desirable mediums of transportation taken up by some too lazy to walk short distances, by others who are merely looking for adventure.

Every motorist will understand what is meant by hitching, for it is becoming a menace both to motorists and those who hail automobiles for free rides. It ought to be considered as a nuisance that has elements in it of both physical and moral dangers. So popular has this catching a ride business become in the country, however, that the motorist travelling along any highway is constantly annoyed by people who stand by the road or in it seeking a ride that will help them on toward their destination.

Not a few of them have become so bold that they stand in the middle of the road exposing themselves to all kinds of danger of being run into as they practically demand a lift. If a motorist passes them by they do not hesitate to curse him with choice bits of profanity. Many a driver, being kind-hearted by nature, finds it difficult not to give these lifts.

DANGEROUS PRACTICE.

While most of these self-appointed travellers are young men out for innocent fun, some of them on the contrary are not as innocent as they look. Women drivers of cars, perhaps being more tender-hearted than men, are probably most apt to take these parasitic wanderers aboard. But both men and women drivers will usually be using good discretion if they resist the temptation. Here is one time it is wise to pass by on the other side.

No doubt the small boy is the most persistent solicitor of free auto rides. Even if he is only going a quarter of a mile to school, he often prefers to stand in the road awaiting for a ride rather than walk the short distance. He should be advised against this practice by his parents, who are supposed to love him. Such advice from parents, if it could become general, would mean a considerable reduction of automobile disasters. There is no doubt about it, and the motorist should discourage such a habit, if not for his own convenience, for the sake of the lad's welfare.

Then when one considers the dangers of this catching of rides when young women and girls take up this sort of thing, it is not difficult to point out disastrous possibilities.

The food cache on Ellesmere Island, nine degrees south of the North Pole, established during the northern trip of the Canadian government vessel Arctic. It may prove a boon to Polar expeditions.

WHAT IS WILL POWER?

Most things in life—the joys as well as the griefs—are mixed up with other people. But will-power is exercised alone.

To ask anybody to help you to strengthen your will is foolish and useless. It is entirely a private affair, and he who is engaged on this difficult and life-long task should never speak about it to anyone. Our friends and acquaintances will soon find out that we are exercising will-power. It shows itself, mysteriously, like good thoughts.

Some may be annoyed; some may scoff, but they will not be able to withhold their respect.

What is will-power? It is simply making the inclinations play second fiddle to the will; it is, when wisdom has decreed a certain course, forcing ourselves to follow that course.

Let me take a simple case. Suppose I decide overnight that I will get up on the following morning at a certain minute when the clock strikes. And suppose, when the clock strikes, I lie in bed for another ten minutes, and then get up and hurry. That in itself may not seem a very grave fault. But it is. Because every failure of the will makes it more difficult to conquer the next time.

A well-known man of science once said in my hearing, "If I say that I will get up one morning at seven, and do not get up till half-past seven, that minor negligence may be the cause of my committing a great crime twenty years hence."

By this he meant that this early little failure of the will led to other and other failures, until in the course of time his will had become so weak that he was not able to resist the temptation to commit the great crime.

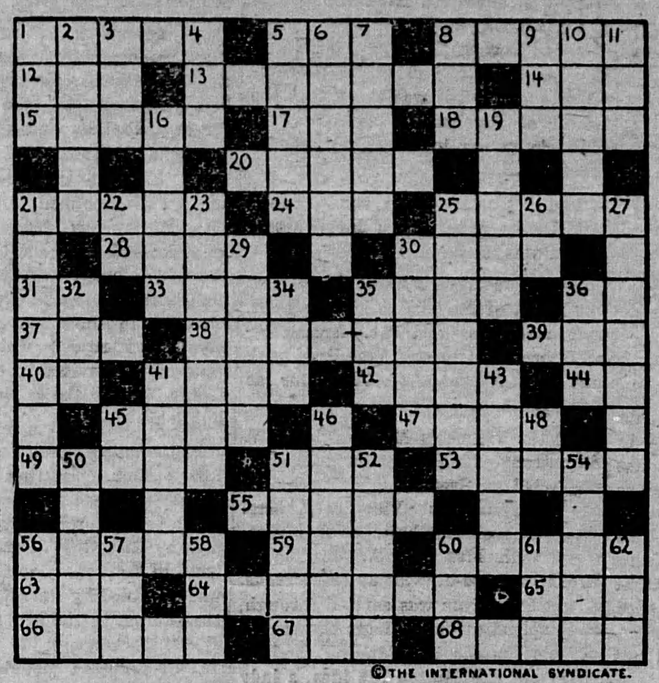
Will-power is formed by an accumulation of victories in little things. At the time they may seem trifling, but it is victory in these trifles that enables us to meet the great moment when it comes. For all, the lowly as well as the mighty, must at some time or another, be called upon to face their great moment when the will has to direct destiny.

What is the advantage of strengthening the will by this constant and difficult watchfulness? Apart from the inward joy that comes from these silent victories, the strengthening of the will gets one on in the world and opens the way to happiness. For happiness never comes by searching for it: it is a by-product as it were; it comes sideways from doing something else as well as we can, such as day in and day out cultivating the will-power.

Now let me sound a note of warning. Will-power is not obstinacy. If you find that what you thought was will-power is becoming obstinacy, and hurting those you love, wipe the slate clean and begin again.

Finally, remember that if you want to fashion your will into something fine and strong, begin at once, and begin with the little things.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



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SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLVING CROSS-WORD PUZZLES

Start out by filling in the words of which you feel reasonably sure. These will give you a clue to other words crossing them, and they in turn to still others. A letter belongs in each white space, words starting at the numbered squares and running either horizontally or vertically or both.

HORIZONTAL

1—Compensation
5—Indistinct
8—Of the city
12—To be indebted
13—Allows
14—Southern State of U. S. (abbr.)
15—Smart
17—Appropriate
18—In good time
20—To emit fire
21—To bend
24—Before
25—Colors
28—Corner
30—Dull
31—Preposition
33—To separate
35—Spare
36—To exist
37—To pull
38—Wicked wretch
39—A fish
40—Preposition
41—To crack and roughen
42—Skillful
44—Prefix. Two
45—Part of a shoe
47—Outbreak
49—Weapon
51—Lair
53—To shut
55—To deck with gems
56—Smoothed
59—Nominal value
60—Property
63—Poem
64—Develops
65—Over (poet.)
66—To sprinkle with moisture
67—Golf term
68—Joyous

VERTICAL

1—Achieved
2—To be ready for
3—To procure
4—Investigator
5—Arrange in folds
6—Make known
7—High-priest's headdress
8—Employ
9—To shut out
10—To apportion
11—Refusal
16—Body of soldiers
19—Pertaining to birds
21—Atmospheric electricity (pl.)
22—Preposition
23—Marauder
25—Trade
26—Province of Canada (abbr.)
27—Unfruitful
29—African village
30—To postpone
32—A weight
34—Point
35—Cover
36—Evil
41—To end
43—Fixed compensation (pl.)
45—Pronoun
46—To feast
48—Preposition
50—Ostentation
51—Station
52—Cord-like structure of body
54—To brush up
56—Watch-pocket
57—Conducted
58—Condensed vapor
60—A tree
61—To dip in a liquid
62—To endeavor

Duna.

When I was a little lad
With folly on my lips,
Fain was I for journeying
All the seas in ships.
But now across the southern swell,
Every dawn I hear
The little streams of Duna
Running clear.

When I was a young man,
Before my beard was gray,
All to ships and sailormen
I gave my heart away.
But I'm weary of the sea-wind,
I'm weary of the foam,
And the little stars of Duna
Call me home.

—Marjorie L. C. Pickthall.

Indefinitely Postponed.

This conversation printed as a joke is plausible enough to be accepted as genuine:

"Johnny, did you enjoy the book I sent you?" inquired his aunt.

"I haven't looked at it yet," replied the boy.

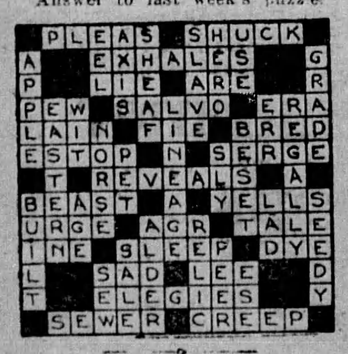
"Why? Don't you like it?"

"I don't know. Ma said I'd have to wash my hands when I read it."

Apple Year for Nova Scotia.

The forecast of Nova Scotia's apple crop for 1925 indicates that prospects never looked any brighter than at present for a successful crop this year. The crop should reach, if not exceed, previous records.

Answer to last week's puzzle.



Early Glass.

In early times beach sand was melted to make glass.

Just Wasting Time.

Ida—"You'd never get me to waste hours sitting on a sofa with any man!"

Irene—"I suppose it is just waisting-time."

Race to the Pole.

The North Pole is to be the fashionable resort this summer. Six expeditions are reported to be leaving as soon as the ice melts. Some are going in aeroplanes. Others prefer an airship. British, American, Norwegian and French explorers wil be engaged in a race.

It seems a pity that some international authority could not regularize the sport by adopting a system of handicapping, worked out so that all the explorers would reach the Pole on the same day. Each expedition means to plant a flag at the Pole.

If the worst comes to the worst a fresh expedition can go out next year and survey the ground, deciding by observation which flag was nearest to the Pole.

It is, nevertheless, rather a Jules Vernian idea to fly an airship over the the Pole, even if the scientific results of such an adventure are less tangible than plodding or sledging over the ice in the approved manner. It introduces a new element of speed and new dangers of mechanical breakdown which add to the perils of the explorers.

A Good Reducer.

It is estimated that a man working hard on a summer's day loses 7.7 per cent. of his body weight in 24 hours.

Wise Enough.

Friend—"Why do you have such misspelled words and ungrammatical signs in your front windows?"

Sharp Merchant—"People think I'm a dunce and come in to swindle me. Trade's just booming."

While speaking your mind, it is always best to mind your speaking.

Ancestors.

Mrs. O'Brien—"Have you any ancestors, Mrs. Kelly?"

Mrs. Kelly—"And phwat's ancestors, Mrs. O'Brien?"

"Why, people you've sprung from."

"Listen to me, Mrs. O'Brien. I come from the stock of Donoghues that sprung from nobody—they spring at them."

Better-Grade Mowers Keep Lawns Velvety.

Much of the success in establishing a level, velvety stretch of lawn depends upon the mowing. The main need is a good lawn mower. There are scores of lawn mowers on the market, but it will be economy in the long run to get a good mower. The main factor in selecting a mower is the quality of steel in the blades. Will they stand sharpening? Many of the cheap grades of mowers won't. When the first edge is worn off they never perform up to the mark again, despite earnest sharpening.

The result is a ragged-looking lawn after the mower goes over it, and the thicker and more luxuriant the growth the worse the job. A first-class high-grade mower is rather expensive, but it is better to club with a neighbor and get a good mower than to waste money on a bargain counter machine that won't hold up over summer. Find out what sort of steel is in the blades and get the dealer's word for it before taking it away from the store.

Mowers with good steel blades which will take sharpening, run twice as easily as the poorer grades, and there is great saving in time, labor and nerves. A cheap mower is poor economy.

A last sprinkling of nitrate will be a help to the grass at this stage, to keep up the spring rush. Sprinkle it sparingly, but as evenly as possible, and be sure that all lumps are broken fine.

The lawn will need no more nitrate until the dry weather hits it and it begins to turn sere. Then give it light dressings before wetting it down with the sprinkler.

The Hammer Campaign.

1st Politician—"Seen that lie about us the opposition tacked up around town?"

2nd Politician—"I have that!"

1st Politician—"Well, I've nailed it!"

Honey Brings in $195,000.

The 1,800 bee-keepers in the Province of Manitoba, with 22,113 colonies, produced 1,302,000 pounds of honey, valued at $195,000, in 1924, according to the official returns made by the provincial apiarist.

Natural Resources Bulletin.

The Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the Dept. of the Interior at Ottawa says:

Are Canadians loyal to their own vegetable and fruit growers?

A glance at the reports of foreign vegetables and fruits imported into this country gives reason for serious thought as to whether we are giving our own produce the support it deserves, or whether we are not cultivating an extravagant taste for out-of-season and imported vegetables and fruits.

For instance, in the month of January of this year, we bought from the United States 2,086,665 pounds of ordinary potatoes, valued at $25,372, in a year when there were ample supplies of Canadian potatoes available, while in January of 1924 we bought but 95,865 pounds, valued at $2,341. We bought $2,342 worth of cabbage in January this year, against $1,730 last January. In the past fiscal year we bought outside of Canada 1,034,866 bushels of ordinary potatoes, valued at $835,497, and cabbage valued at $253,379 or more than a million dollars spent outside of this country for these two vegetables, while we had plenty of them at home.

For canned vegetables, such as beans, peas, corn and tomatoes, we spent $601,675 in the twelve months outside of Canada. In fruits, we bought in the United States in the twelve months 172,101 barrels of apples, for which we paid $867,826, and we also bought 1,021,064 pounds of dried apples, worth $32,906, or $900,832 for imported apples, while Canada holds the world's record for quality, and has ample supplies. Other fruits which we bought in large quantities were, plums, $835,213; strawberries, $764,593; pears, $807,959; peaches, $609,818; grapes, $862,298. For bananas we paid $4,194,017, for oranges $6,439,805, and for lemons $1,058,569.

This large quantity of vegetables and fruit was purchased by Canadians in large part while the fruit growers of Canada were searching for markets in which to sell their products.

Canada is so geographically situated that she is, for a portion of the year, dependent for variety in fresh fruits on more southerly countries, but there appears to be a tendency to unduly cultivate the taste for imported fruit. Undoubtedly a great portion for these products could be spent with our own vegetable and fruit growers, to the benefit of the original growers, and of the country as a whole. It would be worth while for dealers to give this matter serious thought and try to intensify the demand for Canadian produce.

Writing poetry for a living is an effective way of starving to death.

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.

Very Discouraging, to Say the Least.