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**1928**

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These startling discoveries were made: in 19,000 cases the driver responsible did not have the right of way. In 7,000 cases the accidents occurred through speeding. Listen to this—in 7,000 other cases the driver was on the wrong side of the road! Further, in 5,000 other cases the driver failed to signal his intention, while 4,000 other accidents were caused by "cutting in." I ask you, to what conclusions do these figures lead? Selfishness and disrespect for the rights of others is my answer to the question. Human life is held cheaply; in order to gain a few minutes for no purpose whatsoever, auto drivers are willing to sacrifice human life on a wholesale basis.

Here is one phase of the accident prevention program in which most of us are directly concerned and in which all of us can lend our aid. While it may not have been possible for all of us to be heroes in war, we can be heroes in peace. Too often we under estimate the true value of services that can be given to the cause of safety. Look at my own profession for a minute. There are no more heroic names in all the lists of the world's heroes than those who gave their lives to save the lives of thousands — yes, millions, — of fellow-men! Look at Pasteur, who dragged a half-paralyzed body around at his life-saving work for twenty years. Look at Walter Reed, Harvey, Noguchi and numerous others of more recent days! These men made a sacrifice in order to perform their service! We are only asked to be careful and considerate in order to perform a valuable service. All for prevention. Surely that is not asking too high a price to promote the safety and happiness of our people? Every person who owns an auto, rides in one or is a pedestrian, must give some thought to the problems of street and highway safety.

Let us consider the rights of the pedestrian on our streets and highways. Our answer to such a question must, of necessity, be guided by our occupation. That is, whether we are drivers or pedestrians. Most of us, probably, are at some times drivers or pedestrians. Nevertheless, street and highway safety is a serious problem for both driver and pedestrian, but I stated a while ago and repeat it here, that 60 per cent of all auto fatalities occur to those in autos, we must deduct from any such conclusion the large number of accidents to drivers in which pedestrians are in no way involved. We cannot escape the conclusion that the pedestrians have been getting much the worst of the argument. We must, also, admit that pedestrians have their rights on

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our streets and highways. Of course, there are many pedestrians who are not as responsible for their own actions as drivers would like, but we never help a cause by ignoring such conditions. There are such people and we might just as well recognize that fact and drive accordingly. They may be deaf or nearly blind. They may be mental weaklings. In many such cases they are aged and infirm and in many cases drivers give such people credit for seeing and doing things of which they are not capable, so it is always a good thing for auto drivers to be careful.

Auto accidents are always regrettable and nobody wants to have one. It stated that most of the victims are pedestrians and that among the pedestrians most of the victims are children. Let us look into this phase of the subject for a moment. Every driver should regard every child playing on the sidewalks as a possible victim of his automobile or truck and drive accordingly. The driver should

always do a large part of the child's thinking. Right here is where the old argument pops up — that children should not play in the streets. Maybe that is right, but whether right or wrong, we must face the fact that they do play in the streets and just as long as they do it is our duty to give them the protection that their immature minds cannot secure for themselves.

In closing, let me say that the best protection there is against automobile accidents is to cultivate safe driving habits, for it is better to be careful a thousand times than to kill somebody once. Here, then, is a great national problem which should have the attention of all patriotic and serious minded citizens. Here is an opportunity for each of us to make our individual contribution to the peace and happiness of our people. We can all be heroes in this great battle to eliminate the accident menace. We are not asked to make any sacrifices — we need simply be careful

and considerate of the rights and welfare of others.

A life is a life — a fatality is a fatality — whether caused on the battle fields of war or in the quiet pursuits of peace. The matter simply dissolves itself into this — we are not waging peace successfully when 95,000 of our citizens are being rushed to their graves each year by the accident route. A constant fight is being waged against accidents in America today but the trouble is that but few, apparently, of our citizens are fighting the battle which should be waged by every one of our millions of people.

As individuals let us join in this great fight. Let us resolve to exercise discretion, caution and constant watchfulness. Avoid exposure to unnecessary risks and to lose a minute is much more satisfactory than to maim a limb or lose a life, whether it be our own or that of someone else. Let us, as a nation, join with the forces and organizations that are

working publicly and co-operatively for safety.

Let us adhere to the standards they establish and spread the knowledge of their efforts. Let us do our duty as we see it in their standards, to the end that our people may be fully protected in time of peace from the scourge of this annual sending of 95,000 souls to premature graves. While we are fighting to abolish war, let us not be unmindful of the accident war that is killing thousands of our citizens in time of peace.

That is the great challenge that is hurled at every patriotic and loyal American citizen. As has always been the case in periods of great emergency, we expect the American people to solve this problem as they have always solved the problems of these United States — victoriously!

That is your challenge! It is my challenge! It is the challenge of the American people! And as individuals as an organization, let us strive to do our duty!