the Foundation of Good

Berald Corrance

Published Every Friday by THE HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY Torrance, California

W. HAROLD KINGSLEY nd weekly at Torrance, California, and entered nd-class matter January 30, 1914, at the post-t Torrance, California, under the Act of March

Subscription Rates in Advance

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE Single Copy

IN FAIRNESS TO RAILROADS AND OURSELVES

TRANSPORTATION history during the current year has been marked by "unequaled performance" of railroad service, according to the Interstate Commerce Commission in its annual report, just published.

It says: "The effect during the calendar year 1923 of rate reductions made in 1922 will be to lessen the total freight transportation charges paid by the shipping public by more than \$500,000,000." No recommendations for new legislation are made in the report.

Contrast this report from an authoritative government body whose duty it is to protect the public and the railroads in its supervision and regulation of our transportation systems, with the threatened anti-railroad legislation urged by certain members of Congress having radical tendencies.

For a few months the railroads have been allowed to operate their properties and try to get on their feet without being harassed by politicians who never built or operated a mile of railroad. The result is that there has

scarcely been a murmur about car shortage during the shipping season.

From January 1 to October 1 the railroads purchased 134,636 new freight cars and 2,963 new locomotives. Their total expenditure of \$3,103,244,000 for 1923, which includes no direct expenditure for labor, has gone to industries of this country and is one of the prime causes contributing to its expansion and to steady employment of labor. This accounts in a large measure for the unusual lack or unemployment recorded at this time of year. The surest way to get reduced transportation rates, if the same are justified, is to refrain from crippling the railroads with more uncalled-for legislation. Let them continue their policy of expansion and let us wait until the Interstate Commerce suggests some reason for the passage of new railroad legislation before we turn a friendly ear to the wild schemes of political fanatics who would think nothing of ruining a railroad if it gained them a proper number of votes.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE AND HENRY FORD

THE threat that has hung like a spectre over the political heads of the two great parties has been removed. Henry Ford has announced that he will not be a candidate for the presi-

that he will not be a candidate for the presidency.

Thus does the race for the highest honors in the nation take on renewed interest—with the chief contestants able to concentrate their plans, platforms and programs without the necessity of shuddering every time they think of Detroit's great manufacturer.

That the Democratic party received a body blow by the Ford announcement is conceded. For if Henry ever leaned toward either of the old parties he leaned toward either of the old parties he leaned toward the Democrats. But President Coolidge in his recent remarkable message to Congress made a master stroke when he spoke of the Muscle Shoals project. As neat a bit of practical politics could not be seen anywhere.

seen anywhere.

Not that we wish to charge the President with stooping to politics in considering great

issues before the country. Far be it. But the President has demonstrated clearly that he knows how to express himself on issues in such a way that the political fortunes of his party are not injured by his statements.

The President recommended that Muscle Shoals be sold at a fair price to some financially responsible party who would be able to provide cheap fertilizer for the farms of the country.

Henry Ford subsequently came out for

Perhaps there was no political trading or

swapping in those events.

But—well, Coolidge didn't displease Ford.

And Henry just naturally, like you and all of us, supports candidates that don't displease

The Coolidge chances went up 100 per cent

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF HIGHWAY FUNDS

TAXPAYERS place confidence in public of-ficials invested with the duty of expending public funds. They expect officials to use such money to the best advantage and get a dollar's

value for each dollar expended.

Contracts let for paved highways in the nation during 1923 totaled \$800,000,000. Coupled with construction and maintenance costs, the total available from federal, state, county, dis-

trict, township and city will reach \$1,250,-000,000, an increase over 1922 of more than \$125,000,000.

This is a tremendous investment of capital in which the people hope to provide themselves with highways that will endure. Maintenance cost of such improvement is a permanent overhead charge which may be in-

creased or decreased according to the character of road built.

of road built.

Types of road paving that minimize cost in maintenance are those able to absorb the shock of traffic impact. The most lasting pavements developed under actual traffic, at a minimum of expense, are asphaltic concrete base with asphaltic concrete surface, and cement concrete base with asphaltic concrete surface. These types embody elements that insure permanent and lasting pavements because of their shockabsorbing and waterproof qualities which protect the base and subgrade.

Road building is a great industry, and public officials who fail to observe time-tested principles of road construction when expending tax funds will be unable to survive the scrutiny of taxpayers, who are rapidly becoming educated on what is best in that line.

LET'S TAKE AN INVENTORY OF OURSELVES

A NOTHER year has passed—passed with its allures and victories. And the steady old world goes rollicking on toward the promised millenium. At the end of a calendar year it is the custom of communities, cities and nations to look back down the months and take survey of accomplishment—inventory of results.

Business houses count their merchandise, manufacturers their raw material.

manufacturers their raw material.

And individuals should take inventory, too.
Look through the twelve months with an honest eye. Count up your accomplishments.
Check off your failures. Have you lived up to the best that is in you? Has the quiet voice

that whispers to you the right from the wrong been heeded well?

Have you done with your year as much as you could have—not in a dollars and cents sort of a way—but as a respected individual should?

should?
Take inventory of these months that Time has allotted to you.
Have you made good use of them?
If you have, keep the good work up. If you have not, step into 1924 with some one definite aim. Set a New Year's goal for yourself and reach it before Father Time goes swinging by another milepost on the racetrack of the centuries.

SHORT JABS AND JOLTS FROM FAR AND NEAR

It is reported that several German marks have already been found floating in the Styx.—Wall Street Journal.

Before we run out of "weeks," wby not have an "honest-week's-work week"?—Boston Shoe and Leather Reporter.

I. Zangwill, whose remarks sometimes sound as if he were using a comma instead of a period after the initial, strengthens a suspicion already pretty well established that a pleasant novelist is not necessarily a great statesman.—Washington Star.

In arranging that new treaty with Great Britain, Mr. Hughes reasoned soundly that sur-rounding contraband liquor with more water will reduce its kick.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

As a coal man Pinchot is a good prohibitionist, and as a prohibitionist he is a good coal man.-Shoe and Leather Reporter.

Whipping-posts for offending motorists are advocated by a western district attorney. Why not sentence 'em to thirty days as pedestrians' -Brooklyn Eagle.

That German philosopher who said peace makes men soft, never had seen this kind.—Baltimore Sun.

The only serious objection that appears to Secretary Hughes' plan on reparations seems to lie in the fact that the Germans approve it.—Miami Herald.

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