The great evolution in modern traffic and travel has made these three items of most vital importance. "Safety first" is the slogan the world over. Danger is the bane of the highway today and must be eliminated. Last year, according to reports, approximately 15,500 persons lost their lives in automobile accidents and probably three times that many were injured. To this, add the heartaches and privation and increased taxes and property loss, and you have a sum totalling such a gigantic figure that we begin to wonder if the advantages are worth the price we pay. Remember, too, that this is only in its infancy, that it is increasing in almost geometrical progression and I shudder to think what the result will be unless we take radical steps to eliminate danger. Three things evidently must be done, viz: we must warn the public by posting proper notices; drivers must be educated to realize their responsibilities and heed the danger; drastic laws must be enforced against offenders.

I heard a story of a young man who took his best girl to the fair. Being short of money and noticing a vendor's sign which read, "Ice cream $2 a gal.," he remarked, "Law me, Sue, if it takes as much for a feller as it does for a gal., we'd better let ice cream alone and stick to lemonade." Some people are about as ignorant in reading danger signs. Some are so possessed of the dare-devil spirit that they would rush pell mell into danger, even if a Demosthenes or a Cicero were shouting warnings into their ear with a megaphone. Some way must be found to deal with this class of offenders. They must neither be allowed to commit suicide, nor endanger the lives of law abiding citizens, who, contrary to their opinion, have a perfect right to travel the public highway in safety.

I had thought that the law of the survival of the fittest might operate in this case, but it doesn't seem to do so. When I meet a saphead driving fifty miles an hour around a dangerous bend and I am forced into the ditch to protect my life and flivver, I am rather disposed to frown on the theory of evolution in general and Darwin in particular. The strong arm of the law must be invoked to curb this class of offenders, and the sooner we force the bit into their mouths the better it will be for all concerned. I saw a report recently in a highway magazine, where out of 1909 accidents on one railway system 409 automobiles ran directly into the train and 122 broke through the crossing gates. Most of these accidents can be attributed to reckless driving.