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## NEW AUTOMOBILE BY-LAW.

**T**HE Montreal City Council is considering a by-law to regulate the use of automobiles and to restrict the use of automobile sirens. It provides that: "On the approach of any ambulance or of any vehicle or apparatus of the fire department responding to a call, in the city, the owner or driver of any vehicle or motor vehicle whatsoever shall bring the same to a standstill on the right hand curb and remain there until the said ambulance, vehicle or apparatus of the fire department shall have passed. In the case of a tramcar, the motorman shall stop the same as promptly as possible and keep it at a standstill until the said ambulance, vehicle or apparatus of the fire department shall have passed."

It further provides that: "The vehicles of the Fire Department of the city, the patrol waggons of the police, the patrol waggons of tramway or light companies and the hospital ambulances may alone be provided with the horn or alarm whistle known as "Klaxon," and no persons other than the drivers of such vehicles shall use such horn within the limits of the city of Montreal."

The Council might go a step further and provide a penalty for leaving any automobile on the street with a horn or other alarm for silly boys to play with. It might also forbid the use of these automobile horns on bicycles. If a dozen boys pass twelve automobiles standing unprotected on St. James Street, there will be about a hundred and forty-four noisy blasts on the horns for no useful purpose whatsoever. The automobile horns on the bicycles are also an unmitigated nuisance. People young or old who enjoy playing with such noisy toys, should be taken at their own expense to Ile Ronde, or some other place where there is nobody to annoy.

## COST OF LIVING.

**T**HE New Zealand Commission on the Cost of Living has made a report with recommendations. It finds that the cost has increased 16 per cent. in the last seventeen years. Rent, food and clothing have increased 20 per cent., household necessities remain unchanged, while the wages of domestics have doubled. The price of exports has increased by forty per cent., and those of imports by four per cent. The rise in the standard of living has been considerable.

These findings agree largely with the experience of other countries during the same period. Rather

illegally the report goes on to recommend the abolition of all duties upon food-stuffs and the necessities used in the primary industries. A fiscal system under which the cost of imports has increased only four per cent. while the price of exports has increased by forty per cent. does not seem to indicate the wisdom of any reduction, let alone abolition of duties. An increase of four per cent. in the cost of imports does not go far to explain an increase of 16 per cent. in the cost of living; an increase which is partly accounted for by the doubling of the wages of domestic servants and largely by the rise in the standard of living. The question of wages depends largely upon the point of view; whether it be that of employer or employed. The grievance of the "consumer" in free trade England (by the way, who is not a "consumer?") is that wages have not advanced in proportion to the advance in the cost of living. In most discussions on this subject sufficient allowance is not made for the rise in the standard of living. Owing to the scarcity of violets the pure essence of violets will cost about \$10,000 a pound in Paris this year. This will add something to the cost of living of the community even if it drives some of the consumers to the use of perfumes made from essence of roses at \$250 a pound.

## AMERICAN STANDARDS OF LIFE.

**G**OVERNOR Woodrow Wilson, the Democratic candidate for the presidency, discussing the immigration question says:—"If we can hit upon a standard which admits every voluntary immigrant and excludes those who have not come of their own motion with their own purpose of making a home and a career for themselves but have been induced by steamship companies or others to come in order to pay the passage money, then we have what we will all agree upon. I am speaking to you as also Americans with myself, and just as much Americans as myself, and if all take the American point of view, namely, that we want American life kept to its standards, and that only the standards of American life shall be the standards of restriction, then we are all upon a common ground."

There ought to be no trouble about applying this test. Whether we judge by the attitude of the United States Government and Congress on treaty obligations, or the ethical principles which rule the New York police administration, the standards of American life do not seem to be so very high that the average immigrant cannot qualify for citizenship.