

STRINGENT TRAFFIC CODE EFFECTIVE IN SEATTLE

Responsibility for Safety
Largely Placed Upon Pedes-
trian—"Jaywalking" Barred
by Heavy Penalty.

(For Editorial Comment See Page 6)

Watch your step!

Beginning tomorrow, when Seattle's new traffic code goes into effect, an erroneous move either in the wrong direction or at the wrong time may bring Mr. or Mrs. Seattleite before one of the city's sedate and learned judges and may deplete the family bank roll up to the extent of \$100. And, in extreme cases, the offender of the new code even may be asked to labor in the city jail for thirty days without pay and under the careful vigilance of an armed guard.

For Seattle's new traffic code is something unprecedented and unknown to Seattle walkers. In brief it places the responsibility for the safety of a pedestrian largely upon himself. It relieves automobile and vehicle drivers to a large extent from complete responsibility for all accidents and gives the pedestrian his share of the blame if he should be struck through carelessness.

Pay for Being Hurt.

It is a serious thing. Just suppose a man were hit by an automobile in the downtown business district while crossing the street diagonally—which method of crossing is prohibited in the new code. While he is lying in the hospital watching the various portions of his anatomy reunite some judge may decide that he was to blame for the accident. Then, along with the hospital, nurse, medicine and doctor bills he would have to contribute a small sum—even up to \$100—for the privilege of being hurt.

"Jaywalking" in all its various and sundry forms is prohibited in the new code. A pedestrian reaching a congested downtown corner where a traffic patrolman is on duty will have to wait for the "Go" signal, either of the overhead signal device or of the patrolman, before he attempts to cross. It doesn't make any difference if friend wife or sweetheart is standing impatiently on the other side of the street and is seen starting off impatiently just as one arrives at the crossing.

Any person darting diagonally across a street in the downtown business district may expect to hear the shrill whistle of the traffic policeman and to be ordered to report at police headquarters at once.

The code also provides that no pedestrian shall step into the general channels of traffic from behind any standing vehicle or object obstructing a view of the thoroughfare. This is to prevent accidents caused when persons appear suddenly in the paths of onrushing vehicles from behind standing cars or wagons.