

CAR TAX OVER BILLION MARK

Federal and State Government Collecting a Huge Sum in Tolls on Autos and Fuels.

(By Judson C. Welliver) WASHINGTON.—The American people spent roundly \$1,003,000,000 on rural highways in 1925.

presented by Thomas H. MacDonald, chief of the bureau of public roads, department of agriculture, in an interview on the present state of highway development.

"The equipment of this continent with modern roads has been the most amazing provision of a public utility that any community ever accomplished in a similar period," said Mr. MacDonald.

"Historians say the Roman Empire was held together by its highway system, radiating from Rome to the provinces. But Americans might boast that our highway system has converted a continent into a neighborhood within a few years. What makes the achievement more remarkable is that it has been wrought in the period of high taxes following the war.

"For the year 1925 state taxes on gasoline aggregated just about \$143,000,000. Add to that \$263,500,000 for automobile registration and licenses. Put down another \$150,000,000 as moderate estimate of property taxes on the 20,000,000 automobiles. Then, set down \$143,430,709, as the federal excise tax on automobiles, parts and accessories.

Road Chief



Thomas H. MacDonald, chief of the United States bureau of public roads, department of agriculture.

for 1925. After that, add in \$50,000,000 to represent wheelage taxes, special taxes on gasoline or cars, and fines collected from motor drivers. The total reaches approximately \$749,930,709.

"But these figures do not include income and corporation taxes derived from the motor car business. Nor do they include state, local, production, corporation or income taxes of the petroleum industry. Yet that industry has a capitalization of about \$9,000,000,000. A modest estimate for these, added to the preceding figures, makes a total of \$1,094,930,709, which is considerably more than the entire amount spent on country roads."

The gasoline tax was first imposed in 1919, in Oregon. It has now been adopted by all the states except New York, Illinois, New Jersey and Massachusetts. The tendency has been continually to increase the rate of tax per gallon. As late as 1921 gasoline taxes for the entire country were only about \$5,000,000; in 1922, \$15,000,000; in 1923, almost \$37,000,000; in 1924, \$79,000,000; and in 1925, \$143,430,749.

With good prospects that the "gas" tax will be adopted soon by the states which do not have it now, and with the gallonage rates being increased in other states, it is calculated that this tax alone will soon raise \$200,000,000 a year; quite possibly during 1926.

Crater Lake Park Will Be Open Early, Report

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Apr. 24. (AP)—Crater Lake national park will be open much earlier this season than ordinarily, is the report of a party of local people who made the trip to the rim recently. Despite the fact a howling blizzard was raging at the summit, auto roads were in good condition three miles beyond the Klamath Falls entrance to the park.

Buying Is Heavy in The Northwest Region

Something new in the way of a sales record was established by the Wells Chevrolet company, of Spokane, when they sold 415 Chevrolets in March.

RUBBER COSTS ARE REDUCED

Motorists Saved Gigantic Tire Bill — Foreign Trust Curbed—Hoover Given Credit.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A survey of current rubber prices and prospective tire costs made by the American Automobile association reveals that the motor vehicle owners of the country will save \$250,000,000 on their tire bill alone during the year 1926 as a result of the campaign to loosen the grip of foreign monopoly on raw rubber.

This estimate is based on the differential between present prices of around 50 cents a pound and the price of \$1.10 last November, when Secretary of Commerce Hoover launched the campaign to secure relief for the users of rubber in the United States.

Acknowledging the debt that all motorists owe Secretary of Commerce Hoover for what he did to loosen the grip of the Stevenson restriction law, one of the first acts of the executive committee of the A. A. A. at its recent session here was the adoption of a resolution expressing gratification over the result of the campaign and giving unqualified endorsement to the policies and the methods advocated by Secretary Hoover.

"I doubt if the country at large and particularly the 20,000,000 owners of motor vehicles appreciate the debt of gratitude due the secretary of commerce for initiating and giving leadership to the campaign, the results of which are already apparent," said Thos. P. Henry, president of the A. A. A. "Without analyzing all the ramifications of the situation caused by the monopolistic control of rubber without going into the difficulties encountered, it is clear to me that we can already point to four distinct gains that have resulted from the campaign.

Nation's Rubber Bill Less "First, even if raw rubber does not go below the present price, the car owners still stand to save at least \$250,000,000 that they would have paid this year if monopoly had not been vigorously opposed and the stranglehold on the American consumer broken. The entire saving on the nation's rubber bill will be in excess of \$350,000,000.

"Second, it has done a great deal to make the country see the seriousness, from the economic standpoint, of the United States being wholly dependent on foreign-controlled sources for one of the basic raw materials of our great automotive industry. The fact that steps are being taken to cultivate our own supplies is an acknowledgment that we have at least awakened.

"Third, if prices had remained at the peak they reached last year or had continued to climb, the inevitable result would have been the under-tying of automobiles and in consequence a material increase in accidents.

"Fourth, not since the advent of the automobile has there been such interest in reclaiming rubber and the development of substitutes as there is at present. This is largely due to the nation-wide interest created by a very intelligent campaign of education.

Credit is Due Hoover.

"A review of what has happened leaves no room for doubt as to where the major part of the credit belongs. When Secretary Hoover's campaign got under way last December the price of crude rubber was \$1.10 a pound, it having at one time reached the peak of \$1.20. Under the pressure of a steady hammering the price began to decline until it was down to 50 cents last month.

"Mr. Hoover was confronted with many difficulties. He pivoted his position on a sound foundation, namely, that artificial interference with economic laws is bound to end in disaster all around. In winning out, Mr. Hoover has contributed something of definite worth to the economic welfare—and by that same token to the social and political welfare—of the world. He was quick to see what must happen, if political agencies were to interfere at will with the normal processes of supply and demand. The success of his efforts is a signal example of public spirited, service combined with deep insight into the present and ultimate consequences of the policy that he opposed.

"In particular is credit due to him because he studiously avoided urging any course of action by the government that would create international bitterness or misunderstanding.

"He was wise enough to know that neither acquiescence nor retaliation would solve the problem. The solution he eventually evolved, including economy in the use of rubber, reorganization of purchases and distribution, and the creation of new sources of supply, is daily proving its efficacy."

Motorists of the United States annually pay out more than \$200,000,000 to take motoring organizations. It is difficult to convict promoters of these organizations, as they always claim that they had good faith in the project.

DODGE COUPE IN FAVOR HERE—7 SOLD RECENTLY

The new model Dodge coupes are becoming one of the most popular cars on the local market, L. C. Smith, Dodge Brothers dealer here, declares.

In support of his claim, he says that new coupes have been delivered recently to Harry Runstrom, Horace Knapp, Herman Siegrist, H. F. Matthews, the Enterprise Packing company, C. P. Hutchins and W. B. Hindman.

Wallowa County Roads Are Being Improved

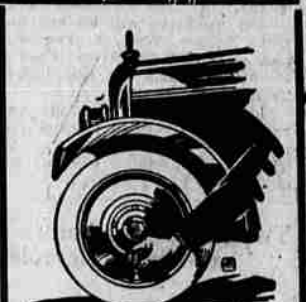
WALLOWA, Ore. (Special)—County road crews working out of here and also from Lostine, have been busy during the past few days, doing some much needed work on many of the roads in the hill sections east of here. In the Upper Leap section where the crew from Lostine, have been working the most of the roads have been graded down and a drag run over them. Many worn culverts have also been replaced. The dirt roads have been in a very rough condition over much of the county during the past several weeks, with so much water running off in early spring, the roads were washed considerably in places.

Hoboes Inest Roads; Freight Cars Forsaken

PENDLETON, Ore. Apr. 24. (Special)—Tourists are being "humbled" for rides with increasing frequency on the highways these days, it is reported, and inquiry as a result led to the discovery that the hobo who used to ride the rails on freight trains, has now taken to the highways, where he finds he can go greater distances without paying than he could on freight trains through the kindness of motorists willing to give him a lift.

Several hobos have recently passed through Pendleton. It was learned, who started from the Atlantic coast this spring.

Parts -- Storage LA GRANDE WRECKING CO. Adams Ave.



Is It Enough?

You test your auto tires at intervals to see that the pressure is right—not too much—not too little. Look at your insurance the same way. When you put your insurance problems in the hands of this agency you know that your insurance protection is right at all times. You know that all your interests are properly safeguarded.

"We Write Policies Right." CHAS. H. REYNOLDS "The Insurance Man Worth Knowing"

Advertisement for the New-Day Jewett Six car, featuring the slogan 'You drive in safety always in' and a price of \$995. Includes illustrations of the car and its features like Paige-Hydraulic 4-wheel-brakes and Steel Construction.

HARRIS F. FRENCH MOTOR CO. Phone 305-W. Open Evenings

Large advertisement for Buick cars, featuring the slogan 'Buick shares its price with many motor cars - but its Value with none'. Includes an illustration of a Buick car and text about the value and quality of Buick vehicles.

Advertisement for Chevrolet cars, featuring the slogan 'Know what Chevrolet offers at these Low Prices'. Includes a list of car models and prices, and a list of features like Modern Design, Modern Appearance, and Modern Equipment.

Blue Mountain Garage M. A. HARRISON, Mgr. Opposite Postoffice. QUALITY AT LOW COST

Advertisement for Playle Oil Co., featuring the slogan 'Doubtful Tires and Blow-Outs' and 'No need to take chances, when you can buy Guaranteed Tires for a low price at Playle's'. Includes the company name and address.