

NEW RECORD FOR MOTOR INDUSTRY

Prediction Is Made That 1926 Will Be 4,500,000-Car Year

From New York Times
Optimistic reports from all centers of the automotive industry will be the keynote of the directors' meeting of the next national automobile chamber of commerce. The meeting will be held at the offices of the chamber in New York, and practically all of the leading motor car manufacturers will be present.

The October meeting is one of the most important monthly conferences held by the national chamber, for at that time the drawings are held for space positions in the forthcoming national automobile shows. The big national event in New York will be opened on Saturday, Jan. 8, in the Grand Central palace, as usual, and will continue for one week. This will be followed by the Chicago national show, from Jan. 29 to Feb. 5 with the same list of exhibitors.

The New York national show will contain an additional element of interest in the fact that for the first time in several years commercial vehicles will be exhibited. Owing to the elevator capacity in the Palace it will be impossible to display the heavier and larger wheelbase trucks, but a very comprehensive exhibition will be made of all the lighter truck and commercial delivery vehicles, which

are growing in popularity every year.

1926 Making Motor Records
Apart from the widespread industry in the 1927 national show, the recognition that the present year will excel all former records in the production and sale of automobiles in the United States will provide the big note of enthusiasm. The public demand for automobile transportation ever since the first of the year has been enormous. Every department of the industry has shared in the prosperity. Not only have more passenger cars been sold than ever before, but there has been a corresponding gain in motor truck use, and the year will also round out new achievements in the development of motor bus service.

The assurance of new motor records for 1926, which was indicated by factory production figures two or three weeks ago, has come, it is perfectly safe to say, as a surprise to most of the leading executives. When 1925 established its hitherto unprecedented record of 4,154,259 passenger cars and trucks made in United States factories, it was not generally predicted that the American public could absorb an even greater number of cars in the following 12 months. It has been done, however, and if one thing more than any other has contributed to this result, it is doubtless due to the comparatively low prices prevailing for the various types of substantially built closed models.

MORE
The year 1926 will figure as the greatest year in closed-car production and sales in the history of the industry. The demand for the closed car began to make strong headway in 1922 when 30 per

cent of the output was of that type. Since then there has been a steady increase and last year, for the first time, the closed-car output exceeded that of the open models, representing 58.5 per cent. This year it will probably be three-quarters of the national production.

Factory Production Figures
Striking evidence of the new record possibilities for the present year is indicated by the fact that the production for the first eight months, two-thirds of the year, aggregated 3,104,752 passenger cars and trucks, exceeding the output for the same period one year ago by 358,947. Production in September was well up to the monthly average of the year and October is expected to be heavy. November and December will doubtless show some decline. A monthly average of less than 300,000 for the last four months will be sufficient to create the new record, but the average will be higher than that. In the month of August 379,111 passenger cars were made, being the third best month of the year. Truck production was 45,283 making a total of 424,394 motor vehicles for that month. Passenger car production for the first eight months was 12 per cent ahead of last year, and truck production increased by slightly more than 7 per cent.

Alfred Reeves, general manager of the national automobile chamber of commerce, said last week that he believed the production this year would be 4,500,000, or slightly over the 1925 record. "That is a conservative estimate," said Mr. Reeves, "but I am looking for a four and a half million year in the automotive industry; counting the products of American makes in Canadian factories, the total output last year was 4,326,754, and a slight excess of 150,000 will round out the yearly goal I am looking for.

"Transportation needs of the country are continually growing. Not only is this reflected in the ownership of cars by individuals, but also in an increase in the manufacture of motor trucks and motor buses. This year will pass all previous periods in these lines of operation."

Motor Future in Canada
Mr. Reeves returned last week from Canada, where he spoke in Montreal, Quebec and several other cities at the invitation of Canadian officials to discuss plans of future motor transportation development in the Dominion. "Canada is a land of great distances," said Mr. Reeves, "and is peculiarly well adapted in many respects for extensive motor transport growth. More than 200,000 cars will be produced in Canadian plants this year. Car registration there exceeds \$60,000 and is steadily growing. The Canadians are keenly alive to the benefits of motor transportation, and with the marked highway improvements in many parts of the country it will only be a short time when the number of automobiles will be doubled.

"Canada is on the threshold of a much extended automobile growth. It has splendid transcontinental railroad systems which have been invaluable in building up the country. The Canadians, however, are learning, just as we have learned, that a country can be fully developed only in so far as it has short line transportation radiating from the railroad and supplying direct door-to-door service."

The motor production increase this year was reflected from the sales standpoint in the recent registration figures for the first half of the year, announced by the bureau of public roads. In that six months' period a total of 19,627,822 vehicles were registered in the United States, representing an increase of 1,927,141 over the corresponding period of 1925, equivalent to 10.8 per cent.

A simple way of locking the mechanism of the car, where no factory lock is installed in the transmission, is to drill a hole through the clutch pedal just as close to the floorboard as possible and snap a padlock into it.

Pennsylvanians Touring Country In Specially Built Studebaker Six

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. King and son, Gordon R. who happened to stop at the chamber of commerce offices here Wednesday and were directed to Wallowa lake by Earl C. Reynolds, secretary, returned to La Grande yesterday from the adjoining county bringing with them a large steel-head trout, about 29 inches long, which they gave to Mr. Reynolds.

Mr. and Mrs. King and their son who are touring the United States, left their home at Sharpville, Pa., in July and since then have traveled about 6,000 miles. They first visited the New England states and went from there into Canada and along the northern route to the Pacific coast. They will go from Oregon to California and through the southern states, including Florida, expecting to return home by next July. Mr. King is in the iron and steel business at Sharpville.

Car Specially Equipped
Their big-six Studebaker car, which has the name "Oriole" painted on each side, is specially equipped for traveling, having a body similar to a Pullman railway car. Two beds, one across one end of the car and the other at one side, fold into comfortable seats for day time use. A little kitchenette and refrigerator, which closes tightly, are at the other side of the car and when they are opened form a table. A two-burner stove for cooking is also a part of the equipment, besides a radio, placers for guns, fishing poles and tackle, clothing and other necessities.

Their own motor boat, which is collapsible, is carried on top of the car and the motor for it rides in a box which fits snugly at one side of the front.

Like Out-of-Doors
Their English setter bird dog "Lady Luck" also accompanies them on their trip. The Kings are fond of out-of-door sports and have spent much of the time hunting and fishing.

The large steel-head which they gave to Mr. Reynolds this morning was not the only one they caught in the Wallowa river yesterday after they left the lake. An 18-inch rainbow trout was also landed.

Although they only spent a day and half in Wallowa county they were much impressed with the scenery there. They were only at the lake half a day and did not unload their boat. Fishing there would be too easy Mr. King says, as the fish seem so plentiful. He

Lena-Vinson Road To Be Surfaced

PENDELTON, Ore., Oct. 16.—Contract for surfacing the last remaining uncompleted stretch of highway between Pendleton and Heppner will be let at the Oct. 25 meeting of the state highway commission at Portland. It has been learned here. The road to be surfaced is known as the Lena-Vinson stretch of 15 1/2 miles and with its completion this winter the road from Pendleton to Heppner, a distance of 60 miles will be in excellent traveling condition.

Work it is believed will start on the 15 mile stretch within 30 days after the contract has been let by the state highway commission. Plans for oiling the highway between Pendleton and Vinson are also under way, according to County Judge Schanep. This work will be done by the state and will not be actually undertaken until spring. However the state is now preparing to let the contract for providing the fine gravel needed during the oiling process.

Presumably the entire Oregon-Washington highway will be oiled after the Vinson-Lena gap has been surfaced.

Urges New Spark Plugs This Winter

"If you have not installed a new set of spark plugs within the past year or if your present set has gone 10,000 miles, you will make certain of quicker starting and better engine performance during the coming winter if you install a complete new set now," is the advice of the local manager of the

Western Auto Supply company. "Hundreds of thousands of motorists who installed new Champion spark plugs during Champion National Change week last spring, have enjoyed better service since that time, and every motorist will be better satisfied with the performance of his car if he makes it a regular practice to put in new plugs once a year," he continued.

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