CAR INSURANCE VALUE IS SHOWN BY LOSSES HERE

Consistency Is Chief Virtue—Policy in One Instance Lapsed Six Days Before Large Truck Was Burned; Insurance Rates May Be Changed to Some Extent.

Insurance is proving its value to the automobile owner more and more each year. The necessity of having one's car insured under all five coverages offered has been proven time and again, in this territory as well as elsewhere in the United States.

The five coverages offered, which give the driver a true sense of protection, are as follows: fire and transportation, theft, collision, public liability, and property damage.

No big changes in automobile insurance have been made in the last year but, with collision insurance offering a considerable problem, there is a possibility that a change may be made. There is no doubt but that collision insurance will still be carried, local dealers assert, although it may be modified.

Examples of Insurance Values

The necessity of carrying automobile insurance consistently has been forcibly shown here during the past several months.

One person, who purchased a car on the installment plan, objected strenuously because the dealer insisted that he carry collision insurance. It was only a short time later that the car was damaged so badly in a wreck that it cost the insurance company $300 to repair it. Had not the dealer insistd on the purchaser carrying the insurance, the purchaser would have had to foot the bill and might not have been able to do it—may have had to give up the car.

Another case was where the owner of a truck let his fire insurance lapse and exactly six days later, the truck burned up, with a loss of two or three thousand dollars to the owner.

A third man, after driving cars for five years and carrying collision insurance, decided to drop this coverage because he thought the rates were too high and, in the event of a wreck, stand the cost himself. It was only a short time later that his car was damaged to the extent of several hundred dollars.

An example of quick action is recited by one local insurance dealer. A certain person purchased a car one Saturday, took out insurance immediately, and Monday suffered a loss which would have been fairly expensive to him had he not had the protection of insurance.

Compulsory Insurance

Insurance agents in reference to the discussion about automobile accidents, generally hold the belief that compulsory insurance would not remedy matters to any extent. They point out that the mere fact of having insurance does not lessen the amount of accidents.

Qualification of drivers is held as a far better solution of the problem, insurance men favoring tests to determine whether a person is capable of intelligently driving a car or not before issuing a driver's license. They believe that this would eliminate the overly careless drivers and also those who are unfit to meet emergencies. They also favor some regulation in reference to crippled persons driving automobiles.

Favor Public Liability

Public liability insurance is appealing more and more to drivers in general, it is said, largely because of the fact that juries are more inclined to give liberal damages for injuries. In Oregon death claims are limited to $7,500 but the sky is the limit on injuries that do not prove fatal. In one instance a jury awarded $52,000 to a boy whose legs were crushed in an automobile accident. Had the boy died, his parents could not have collected more than $7,500.

Turning again to the collision coverage, insurance men declared that survey in the Pacific northwest has shown that the per cent of payments is very high, in some instances companies reporting more than 100 per cent.

It is this fact that is likely to result in a change in collision insurance.

About Rate Making

However, if the frequency of accidents can be decreased, the payments by the companies will be proportionately decreased and the rates will be reduced. Though the present rates are high when viewed by the man who is paying them, the insurance companies have both records and logic to support their claims that under existing conditions they cannot be lowered at present or while conditions remain unchanged. The companies claim, and their reports to the state insurance departments bear out the claim, that there is little profit in liability insurance at this time, and that in certain forms of it there is no profits, not even a chance to make the premiums equal the losses.

It is generally known that the rates differ in different places. Formerly the United States was divided into 49 territories on the insurance map, but during the past year the rates have been fixed on the basis of state boundaries, further subdivided by cities and towns. As a result of this the rates are growing more equitable each year. Many factors enter into this fixing of the rates.

Disparity of Rates

It is generally thought that cars per capita is the influencing factor in the making of rates, but that this is only one factor is shown by a comparison of New York City with rates in Los Angeles. The number of cars per thousand population is the same but the Los Angeles rates are about 20 per cent of the rates charged in New York.

During 1926 there was a general revision of rates, in some cases slightly lower, on almost every make and model of car. The exception was in fire rates, which remained practically unchanged, and theft rates on large, fast and expensive cars, which were increased.

Property Damage

In connection with property damage coverage there is wide misunderstanding. The motorist who carries this form of protection usually thinks that he has agreed with his insurance company that the latter will pay, which is to say protect, the man whose property was damaged. This is not true. The insurance company is not interested in the welfare of any one other than its policy holder. The policy itself provides that it will pay the legal liability of the person to whom it is issued for damages inflicted on the property of another.

The insurance company insists that legal liability must be shown and denies that the agreement of its policy holder with the injured party constitutes legal liability. If, after the stories of both parties have been considered, the company declines to pay the damage it will defend the suit brought by the person whose property was damaged. If a judgement is obtained the policy holder it will pay that judgment up to the limits of the policy, but the company does not propose to pay out money unless it is compelled to pay.

Adjuster's Position

Many company adjusters frankly state that their companies do not intend to pay property damage claims until a verdict has been obtained against their policy holder.

Each community has in its hands the reduction of its insurance rates, insurance men point out, first by a drastic enforcement of existing laws, secondly by such common sense traffic regulations as local conditions require, and finally by the rendering of fair verdicts by the jury.

New Jersey Beats Germany in Autos

Germany has nearly 545,000 motor vehicles, less than the total registration of cars in the state of New Jersey. There are about 27,000 bicycles operated with motor attachments in the republic.

THE HEASTY, GEORGE FILLING STATION

Above is a picture of the Heasty & George Filling station, located on Adams avenue and Second street. The station is considered one of the most attractive of its kind in Eastern Oregon and the company endeavors to keep its service rating at as high a standard.

Italy Runs Auto Club, Is Report

The Automobile club of Italy is under government control and all automobile owners are required to become members, according to reports from Italy. The present status of the club is said to be the result of an order by Premier Mussolini, who plans to use the organization as a government auxilliary.

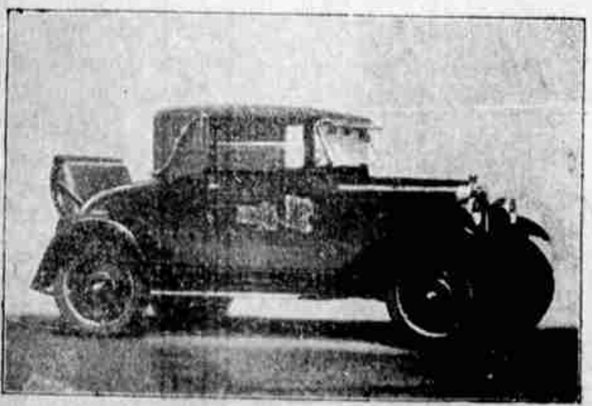
INSPECT WHEEL RIMS

Quite often a motorist cannot understand the cause of a blowout when the trend of the tire is still good. If blowout is near the rim, see if the rim is bent. A bent rim is often the cause of rim cuts, of tires blowing from the rims, and breaking of the wire cables at the base of the tires.

THE CHEVROLET GARAGE

The Blue Mountain garage, located on the corner of Fourth street and Adams avenue and facing the latter, was erected a few years ago. The building was especially built for the use of Avery Harrison, Chevrolet distributor here, and affords him adequate space for his business.

CHEVROLET CABRIOLET



Above is one of the newer Chevrolet models, the cabriolet, which is proving one of the most popular of the new line offered the motoring public.