

COMPULSORY MOTOR INSURANCE IS HIT

Would Cost Huge Sum and Would Breed Recklessness; Association

WASHINGTON, July 31.—Following an investigation extending over several years, the American Automobile Association issued a statement today expressing unflinching opposition to compulsory automobile liability insurance, which is now being agitated in many sections of the country.

The national motoring body has reached the conclusion that the claim of its sponsors that compulsory insurance would promote safety is wholly unfounded and is based on a deep-rooted fallacy. Today's statement from A. A. A. national headquarters put the proposal under ban on the following counts:

First, it is in no sense a safety measure as there is no relation between prevention of accidents and compensation for accidents.

Second, all the evidence points to the probability that compulsory insurance would breed recklessness rather than promote greater care.

Third, it would subject the car owners in mass to a burden of \$200,000,000 in compulsory premiums in order to provide protection against comparatively few motorists who are financially irresponsible.

Fourth, it would tend to increase rates because it would do away with the principle of selective risks.

Fifth, it would inevitably degenerate into state insurance and be an entering wedge for state control of every other business.

The position of the A. A. A. is set forth in the following statement:

"It is generally admitted that less than 20 per cent of motorists carry insurance, leaving something like 16,000,000 of the total 20,000,000 motor vehicles of America without insurance. Consequently, if these compulsory insurance proposals became law in all the states, 16,000,000 vehicle owners would be compelled to purchase insurance; and on the basis of the ordinary premium for the amount of insurance carried, the \$346,000,000 would be re-directed to pay more than \$300,000,000 in premiums to comply with the law. This would bring the total bill, now something like \$100,000,000 to approximately \$400,000,000.

"If the present ratio should hold, in the event compulsory insurance was adopted, only about one twentieth of the gigantic amount would be paid back to the motorists in realization on insurance after damages had been done. Thus, there would be the enormous total of \$400,000,000 in premiums to carry insurance to meet but \$20,000,000 in uncompensated damages."

Characterizing as a fallacy the belief that compulsory insurance would decrease accidents, the statement continued:

"When insurance is arranged for, the feeling of liability on the part of the individual is lessened. No insurance can prevent suffering or restore life. No doubt, a great many motorists who are insured feel that, because of their insurance, they need not exercise so much care while driving. It would be a most human, a most natural, if unfortunate and regrettable attitude.

"If the state guarantees to pay everybody who is hurt on the roads a stipulated indemnity, the reckless and irresponsible can go the limit with no fear of anything but criminal responsibility.

"That there is a crying need for some drastic action to reduce automobile accidents cannot be denied. It is not to be wondered at that legislative bodies, civic organizations and good citizens generally are deeply concerned in finding a remedy. But it is a source of wonder that the latest medium proposed contemplates indemnity for the injured. Instead of making a real effort to enforce ample speed laws and traffic statutes and ordinances, it is proposed to let the carnage go on, seeing only that the heirs of the dead are provided for in a material sense and that the maimed and the injured are assured monetary compensation.

"Shall America contemplate such a method of obtaining its patrimony and permit financial redress to become the price of death and life?"

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Despite Crisis Paris Celebrates "4th" and Morocco Peace



With parades and display more elaborate than any since the peace celebration in 1918, and forgetting its financial chaos, Paris observes Bastille Day and the culmination of peace in Morocco. The photos show parading troops with the Arch of Triumph in the background, and the members of the Moroccan peace delegation, left to right: Si Chami Abadon, Moulay Youssef Sultan, of Morocco, and M. Steeg, governor of Morocco.

HOW THE ROADS ARE

(Continued from page 4)

grades and somewhat rough but passable.

Albee-Ukiah: Surfaced. Ukiah-Ritter: Rough mountain road; steep grades.

Ritter-Mr. Vernon: Partially graded and surfaced; fair condition.

The Dalles-California Highway. The Dalles-Durham-Maupin-Criterion-Madras - Redmond - Bend; Macadam except 5 miles dirt road at Trail Crossing of Crooked River. Under construction.

Bend-Lava Butte: Under construction. Use old road which is under finished. Fair condition.

Lava Butte-Lapine: Macadam. Lapine-Crescent: 14 miles new grade; rough but passable. Balance of 4 miles surfaced.

Crescent-Beaver Marsh - Sand Creek - Fort Klamath-Klamath Falls-Merrill-California state line: Macadam.

SOME ECLIPSE

Fred Delano—Did you see the eclipse yesterday?

"Bill"—Phillips: No. What eclipse was that?

Fred: A Ford ran between a moon and a star.

YOU ARE INVITED

Smith & Watkins, local tire dealers have recently had their service car repainted. On the back is painted, "Invite us to your next blow out." We will.

HENRY FORD HAS BIRTHDAY

Henry Ford celebrated his 63rd birthday Friday July 30th. He was born in Greenfield, Mich., in 1863. Mr. Ford is a Mason, be-

longing to the Blue Lodge of Palestine, No. 357 of Detroit.

Value of total Oregon agricultural production in 1925 was estimated at \$182,632,742.

The fourth biennial conference of the International Federation of University Women will meet at Amsterdam, Holland, July 27 to Aug. 2.



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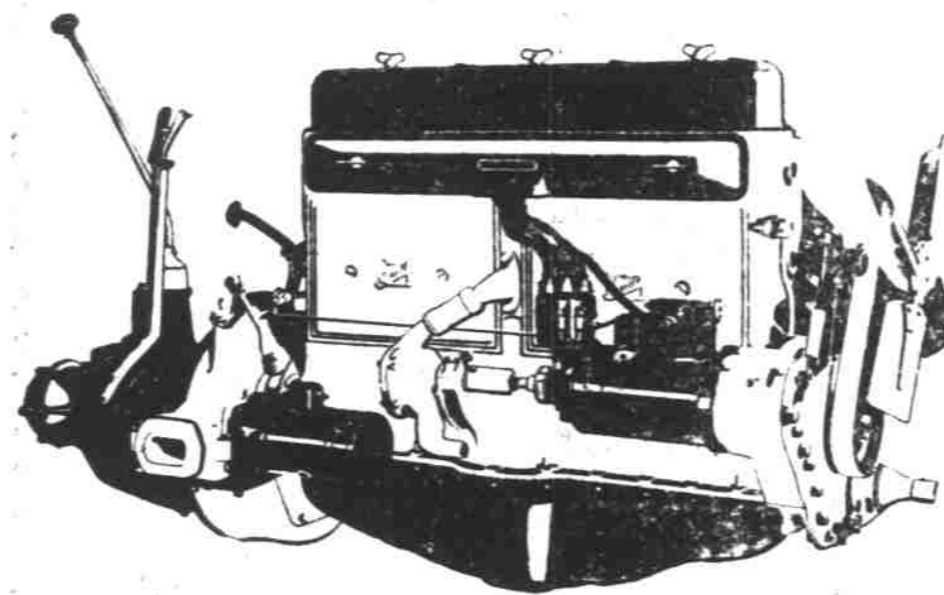
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(Continued from page 1.)
stopped at any hour of the day or night for an infraction of the traffic codes of the state. With all such services considered, there is no questioning the assertions that the service of the motor association works 24 hours every day for 365 days out of every year in the interest of motorists. But few motorists realize this situation, and fewer appreciate it."