

# Sound Basis Seen In New Highway Act

(Editor's note—This is the third and last story in The Statesman series on the 1947 Motor Transportation act.)

By Thomas G. Wright  
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Oregon's much disputed and controversial motor transportation code has been the result of ten years' search for a fairer base for taxing vehicles.

Now, supporters of the new ton-mile fees fear that first year income losses, minor inequalities and political lobbies will do irreparable damage to the infant law before it has the chance to prove its worth.

An estimated \$2,500,000 decrease in revenue over last year, complaints from truckers and pro-flat fee advocates are arguments which promise to make the code a hot issue in the 1948 legislative sessions.

**Passed Unanimously**  
The code was passed unanimously by the 1947 legislature and became law Jan. 1, 1948. Its beginning was more than ten years previous.

Oregon — pioneer of the gas tax — seeking a more equitable base for charging highway-use fees, set committees to investigate the possibilities of a new law to replace the 1933 code.

The 1937 legislature established an interim committee to study the matter and subsequent sessions continued the activities. In 1945 a bill, basically the same as the present code, was introduced into the legislature and was passed by the house. It was skipped by the senate for more pressing legislation, but won unanimous support of both bodies at the 1947 meeting.

**Differs from 1933 Law**  
The new code differs from the 1933 law in several respects. It collects highway-use fees on a uniform basis—weight and mileage — both meters of highway use. Vehicles which were exempt under the old law — about 7,000 of them — pay on the same basis as others. Fuel taxes (now five cents per gallon) are deducted from the assessment to the trucker.

The old law provided for three separate types of motor vehicle taxes or fees. Registration fees, with some exceptions, ranged from 30 cents to 90 cents per 100 pounds for gasoline-powered property carrying vehicles. Those using other fuels paid \$1.50 per 100 pounds.

**Various Formulas Used**  
Vehicles under the jurisdiction of the public utilities commissioner paid highway use fees based on various formulas. Common and contract carriers of general commodities paid 6 per cent of gross revenue or one mill per ton-mile of combined weight. Private carriers paid 2 1/2 mill per ton-mile and special carriers — logs, poles, piling, sand, gravel, etc. — paid 3 1/2 cents per 100 pounds monthly.

Motor fuel taxes of five cents per gallon were collected by the secretary of state.

Sponsors of the new law are confident that data gathered from the first year of operation will give a sound basis for reconstruction of the law.

**Soundness Held Provable**  
Corrections of fee scales and elimination of proven inequities, they say, are all that is needed to prove the soundness of the

ton-mile means of collecting taxes on truck transport.  
First-year failure of the bill to meet expectations can be expected to spur agitation for changes of the law or repeal at the next session of the legislature. Or if the current fees and law are found to be fair, new sources of revenue for highway financing will come under study.

## U. S. Suggests International Antarctic Zone

LONDON, Aug. 28—(AP)—Britain was reliably reported today prepared to accept in principle a United States proposal for an international regime for a large part of the Antarctic continent.

The U. S. proposal does not include the Soviet union, which has no claims in the territory in question.

An informed Whitehall (government) source said Britain would retain sovereign rights she claims over the Falkland islands, which are off the Argentine coast. But, he added, the British will probably be ready to renounce claims to the Falkland island dependencies in the Antarctic region.

The United States has approached Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Argentina and Chile—all with claims in or near the Antarctic—on an overall settlement.

In Washington U. S. diplomatic authorities declined to give the specific nature of the proposals. The British foreign office, which received them, likewise remained silent on details.

## Chin-Up Booth Slated at Fair

Physically handicapped people are offered an opportunity to sell needle and craft work through the Chin-Up club booth at the Oregon state fair, Lois Sellwood, club president announced Saturday.

Persons wishing to sell articles should mail or deliver them to Mrs. Edith Cowden, 2220 Mill st., Salem before September 4. Articles should have name, address and price on the sales tag fastened to the article. A list of items and description should be included with the articles. The Chin-Up club will add 5 per cent commission to the sale price to cover expenses.

**Portland Bridge Traffic Top 200,000 Cars Daily**  
PORTLAND, Aug. 27—(AP)—It will come as no shock to the motorists who curse their way across Portland's bridges each day, but a record heavy traffic is using the bridges now.

A count showed 208,744 cars using the eight Willamette river bridges within 24 hours. Never before has the count reached 200,000.

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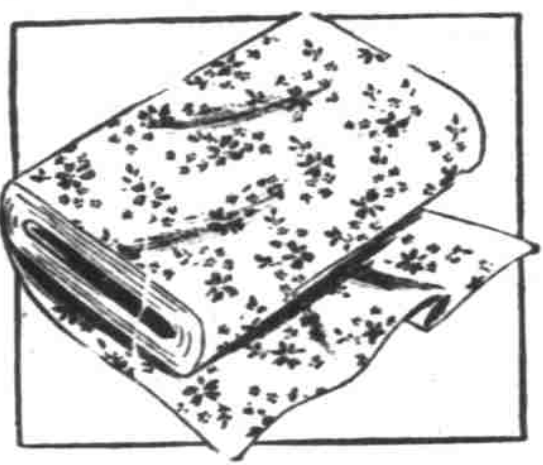
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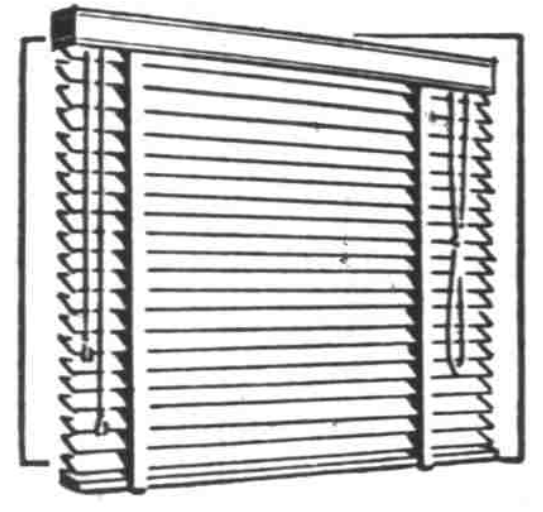
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## end-of-month... SALE!

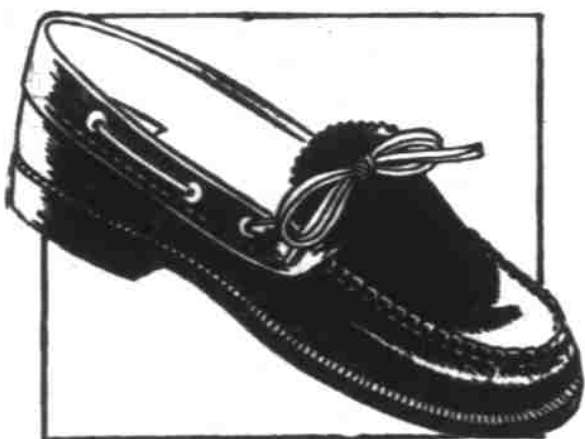
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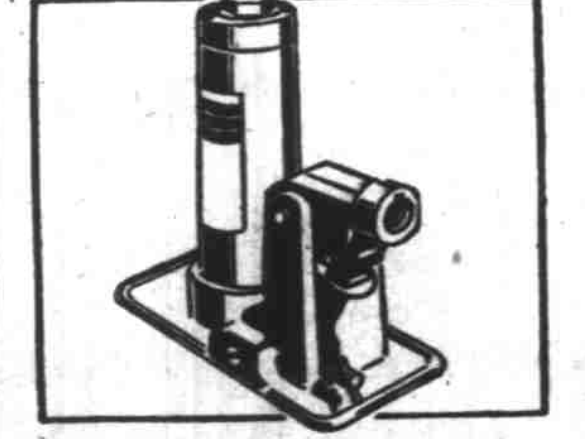
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Regular stock size Venetian blinds in steel, aluminum and wood slats. Reduced for quick clearance.



**STURDY CAMP MOCS IN BROWN OR WHITE 1 44**  
Girls' favorite moc in water resistant leather. With rubber soles. 3 1/2-8. Reg. 2.98.

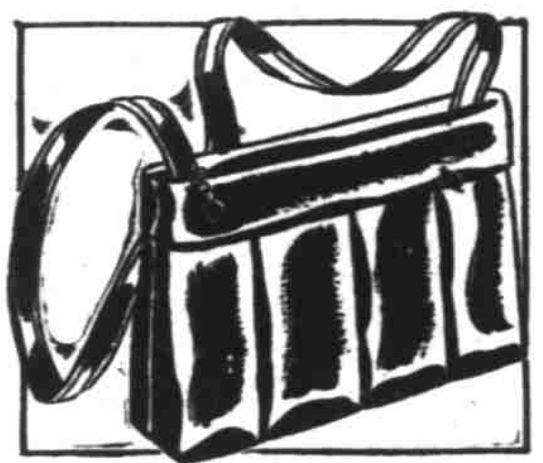


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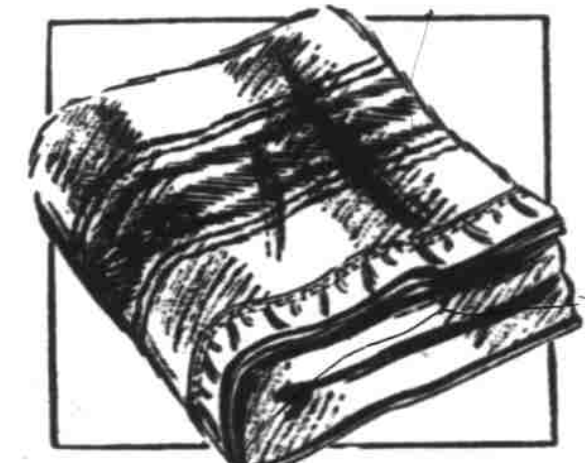


**3-TON CAPACITY HYDRAULIC JACK 7 88**  
Gives smooth effortless lifting and lowering! 7" to 12 1/2" lifting range. Reg. 9.95.

- Reg. 3.98 Brushed Rayon Quilted Bed Jacket .....77c
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- Reg. 2.98 Faded Denim Slack Suit, sizes 2 to 6x.....1.77
- Reg. 1.98 Infant's Dotted Swiss Dress, pastel colors.....1.27
- Reg. 3.98 Boys' Coat and Slipover Sweaters, sizes 10 to 16....1.99
- Reg. 19.95 Men's Cardigan Sport Coats, sizes 36-44.....14.88
- Reg. 2.98 Men's Herringbone Twill Work Pants, 30-44.....2.33

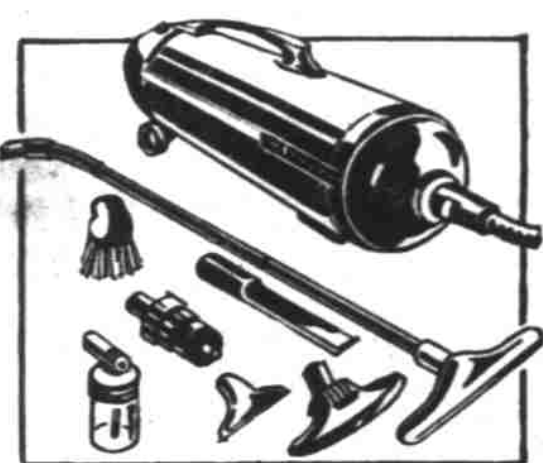


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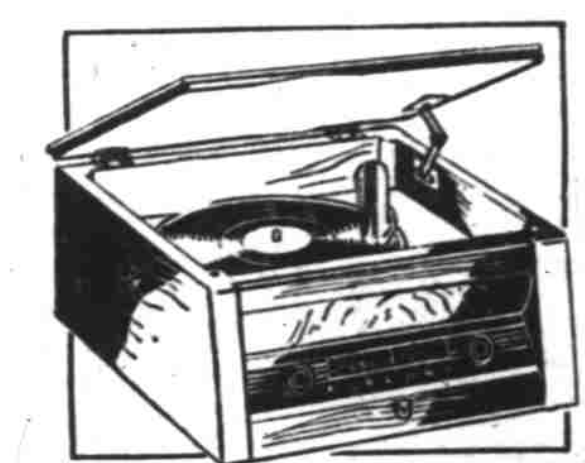


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- Reg. 154.95 Twin Bedroom Set, waterfall design .....129.88
- Reg. 69c Turkish Bath Towel, medium weight, 20x40 .....47c
- Reg. 79c Striped and Floral Seersucker, 36" wide.....yd. 47c
- Reg. 9c Cannon Wash Cloth, 11" x 11", 4 colors.....5c
- Reg. 1.98 Kwikpleat Rayon Marquisette Panels .....1.57
- Reg. 24.95 Down-Filled Rayon Satin Comforter.....21.88
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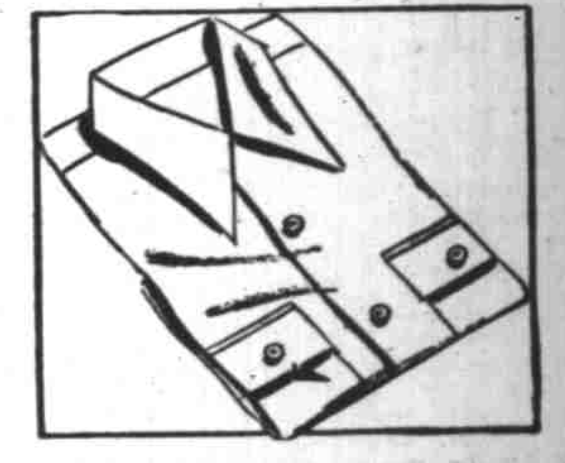


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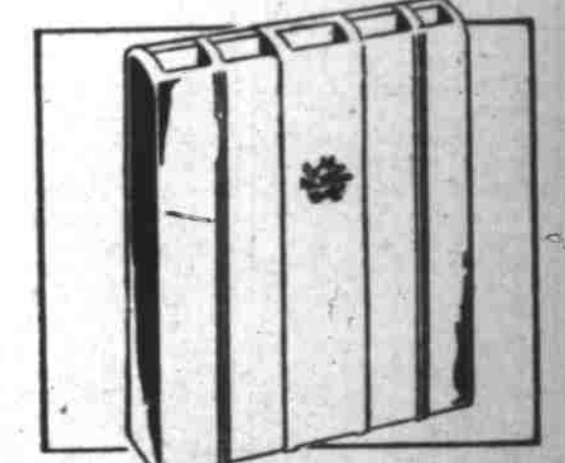
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Reg. 4.79 and 4.98 men's convertible collar sport shirts. Long sleeves. Sizes S-M-L.



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