

Automobile, Truck, Tractor and Highway News of

Auto Blue Laws Are Proposed

Conference Series To Draft Legislative Measures Opens At Washington

With "blue laws" occupying the attention of the country, radical motor legislation has crept into legislative discussions in some quarters. One of the most stringent measures proposed has been referred to a committee of the Illinois state body, and, although even its proponents admit there is little chance of passage or of even slight progress, automobile men and motor car owners may take it as an indication of "how the wind is blowing."

The unusual Illinois "auto blue law" was suggested by Representative Crudden of Chicago, who seeks to limit the speed of all motor vehicles to 15 miles an hour by means of an automobile governor such as now control the postoffice mail trucks of the Windy City.

"No regard is shown for the inevitable traffic congestion certain to occur where all vehicles travel at the same speed," say Vick Bros., local Oakland Motor Car representatives. "Picture for yourself the sight of Michigan avenue, in Chicago, with its thousands and thousands of machines all rolling along at 15 miles an hour. Big multi-cylindered cars would be unable to pass the humble flyover. A car driving at the maximum rate, high on the crown of a boulevard, would retard all machines behind."

"Of course, we all smile at the prospect of such a law and its effects. But the mere fact that such a measure can find a sponsor and even a small number of supporters seems to indicate that there is now forming a sentiment that may, if permitted encouragement, grow into a commanding force."

"A minute's thought will give any motorist the solution of this

problem. It can be expressed in one phrase, which the Oakland Motor Car company has spread throughout the land through its great dealer organizations: "Drive Politely."

"Observance of the speed laws is essential in every community. The infraction of such laws by only a few motorists may mean inconvenience for thousands if laws are made more stringent for the few violators."

"As stated, there's little chance for such blue laws to become national in the immediate future, but their appearance and agitation shows mostly plainly what is coming unless automobile men and car owners, by discretion, prove to every community that such legislation is not required for public safety."

Some of the other blue laws that have been advanced in various communities would abolish Sunday driving; prohibit working on cars on Sunday; require full stops before crossing any street in city or town limits. In no instance has success attended the presentation of such laws but, as the local Oakland dealer explains, "they are straws that show which way the wind blows."

"It can't be done," was long said of at least one other curbing measure that had affected the lives of millions.

Coast-to-Coast Auto Race to be Run By Chileans

Santiago, Chile, April 22.—The first coast-to-coast automobile race in South America will soon be attempted between Buenos Aires and Santiago, according to plans now being completed by the newspaper El Mercurio of this city and La Nacion of the Argentine capital.

A route several hundred miles south of here has been suggested since the mountain passes directly east of Santiago, through which the trans-Andean railway is laid, are closed to automobile traffic owing to perpetual snows.

Auto Industry Fast Regaining Balance; Output For March To Run 63 Percent Over Feb.

The report of the traffic committee at meeting of directors of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, April 5, increased activity in motor car shipments and sales.

The shipping record of factories producing two-thirds of the total volume indicate that complete figures for March will show an increase of 63 per cent over February shipments. A year ago the March shipping was the heaviest of any single month on record and exceeded February by 20 per cent. The shipments for March this year will be 42 per cent of this record month a year ago.

Increase Is Marked

In February shipments increased 58 per cent over January. This increase in the previous year was 13 per cent. The figures for March will amount to 16,500 carloads, in addition to which 10,000 machines were driven overland from the factories.

In February there were 9920 carload shipments by rail and 7491 machines driven overland.

J. Walter Drake, chairman of the foreign trade committee of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, will speak on the subject of reciprocity in tariff matters, at the ninth annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America at Atlantic City, N. J., on April 27th.

To Submit Resolution

Mr. Drake will talk on the following resolution that will be submitted by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce for the consideration of the business interests that will attend that gathering:

"Whereas the export trade of the United States, amounting in 1930, to more than \$8,000,000,000, indicates its direct relation to domestic prosperity; and

"Whereas, in the present period of worldwide reconstruction a

tendency is developing in some foreign countries to discriminate against American interests by means of imitral tariffs, and taxation, and regulations; and

Whereas, our government should be provided with means to prevent the continuance and addition abroad of acts prejudicial to the foreign trade of the United States; therefore, be it

"Resolved, that a request be addressed to the appropriate legislative bodies of the United States, urging a provision in the general tariff for application of additional duties on products imported from countries that directly or indirectly discriminate against the trade of the United States in favor of that of other countries."

Franklin Body Plant Reopens

In order to augment its present supply of bodies the Franklin Automobile Company of Syracuse has reopened its Richmond Avenue body plant. This plant, which occupies seven floors and has 65,000 square feet of floor space, has been closed since December 1. By June 1 production of bodies will reach three a day, or at the rate of seventy-five a month. Employment will be given to 100 men at the body plant, which occupies two large buildings about a mile distant from the main factory, where 3,000 persons are employed.

Heavy demand for closed cars, particularly of the sedan type— which Franklin first introduced—is responsible for the reopening of the body plant.

Steers Auto With Handlebars

A light automobile becoming popular in Paris is steered and controlled with a pair of handlebars as is a motorcycle.

New License Fees Adopted For Montana

Helena Mont., April 23.—For the next two years at least, Montana motorists will pay 50 per cent higher licenses for motor vehicles than were paid in the last six years, in compliance with the law passed by the recent assembly and approved by Governor Dixon. In order to avoid extra bookkeeping and consequent misunderstanding no motor vehicle's license were issued during the months of January and February.

Under the new law all cars which formerly were licensed at \$10 will now pay \$15 a year, except the higher powered cars, which now require a license costing \$22.50. Dealers' licenses have gone up to \$775 a year. The new rates are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Not over 25 horsepower | \$ 7.50 |
| From 25 to 37 horsepower | 12.00 |
| Over 37 horsepower | 22.50 |
| Electric passenger vehicles | 15.00 |
| Motor trucks— | |
| One ton or less | 10.00 |
| Over one and not over two | 22.50 |
| Over two and not over three | 37.50 |
| Over three tons | 60.00 |

Town Indicted for Road Neglect

The town of Reading, Mass., has been indicted on a charge of criminal neglect in failing to maintain a highway in a proper manner. The Middlesex County (Mass.) grand jury brought the indictment. The town was indicted under a statute that provides that a city or town must keep its highways reasonably safe and convenient for public travel.



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| Special Six 2-pass. Roadster | 2085 | Special Six Sedan | 3145 | Light Six Landau Roadster | 1900 |
| Special Six 4-pass. Roadster | 2085 | Big Six Touring Car | 2550 | Light Six Sedan | 2400 |
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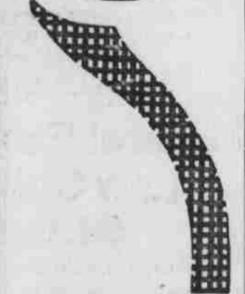
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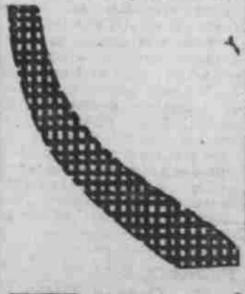
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