

GOOD BUSINESS WILL CONTINUE SAYS NASH HEAD

C. W. Nash, president of the Nash and Ajax Motors companies, just back from California and the northwest, sees every indication of a continuance of good business on the Pacific coast and elsewhere throughout the balance of 1926. Mr. Nash, long regarded as one of the outstanding leaders and spokesmen of the automobile industry, declared in summing up the general business outlook that crop conditions together with "confidence inspired by the present administration at Washington," justify the optimism that seems present everywhere.

Speaking of the business situation as he found it on the Pacific coast, Mr. Nash said: "I have never seen California in better condition than at the present time. Everywhere, up and down the state, there is a fine feeling of optimism. Ample rains and other suitable weather conditions, encouraging the farmers, fruit growers and business men generally, have stimulated healthy activity in practically all lines.

"Our business in California may fairly be taken as an indication of the general situation and our sales throughout the state have shown splendid increases over the early spring months of any period in the history of our company. This condition is noticeable also in Oregon and Washington and, in fact, throughout the entire northwest territory, including Montana, the Dakotas and Minnesota, all of which states I visited. Everywhere I encountered optimism, based on splendid prospects of a fine crop yield.

"Since returning to the factory I have made a careful analysis of reports from our dealers and distributors in all sections of the country with the result that I feel there will be a continuance of sound business, except perhaps in a few spotty places, throughout the balance of 1926. While the east and central west have encountered a backward spring, this apparently has not proved a serious obstacle. Trade in most lines is active. The south and southwest have been very active and with settled weather is slight the general prospects are extremely encouraging.

"It has occurred to me many times, that the consistent period of

Auto Industry Is Held Index to U. S. Prosperity

National prosperity is reflected in the volume of automobile sales, or depression by the lack of sales, for the automobile industry is the first to feel the good times or the bad.

Leading coast automobile men who have just returned from the east, from visits to the big automobile manufacturing plants in Detroit, in Flint, in Lansing and other points therefore present a bright picture of the present and an optimistic forecast for the future when they cite the sales records made by the great General Motors organization.

These experts point with pride to the sales achievements of this automobile organization with its many strong units as being the best possible indication that prosperity is here and that business men can look forward to the future months with the greatest confidence.

Month by month General Motors and several of its outstanding units are establishing new sales records. For instance in the month of May 141,651 cars were sold at retail by the General Motors sales organization, a new record in General Motors history.

It is pointed out that not only did May break the April sales records for the General Motors units but that April beat March and that March established a new record.

RAIL CROSSING DEATH SHOWS BIG GAINS

During the past five years approximately 10,000 men, women and children have been killed and 30,000 persons injured in automobile accidents at grade crossings, laments the National Safety Council, which mourns the fact that some motorists persist in not heeding the advice, "cross crossings cautiously."

"good times" which this country has enjoyed during the past several years, is due in no small measure to public confidence that exists in our present government at Washington. This confidence, I feel, is well placed. Business men generally, seem agreed that the country is in "safe hands" and, frankly, I have always particularly admired the policy of the Coolidge administration as applied to sound economy in the handling of public affairs. I am not alone in the opinion that wise economy is the very keystone of success, whether it be applied to public business or private enterprise."

GOOD DRIVING IS REAL ART SAYS EXPERT

In automobile driving, as in any other operation where the balancing of judgment enters with physical control of highly sensitive mechanical developments, there is a great latitude in the degree of perfection reached by the individual. In explanation of this statement as applied to motorists, George Brandenburg, general manager of the Oregon State Motor association, said: "The difference between a good driver and a poor driver is the matter of how far the individual drives in front of his car."

"A good driver," said Mr. Brandenburg, "is the driver who has acquired the ability of driving far enough in advance of his car to have his auto under control sufficiently to meet any situation that might arise. If driving at a good rate of speed the driver must have a clear vision of his roadway to justify the speed he is maintaining. That is, he should be able to stop in the area allotted to him in the traffic should any hazard appear in the nature of someone driving onto the highway from side roads, or the stopping of autos in front of him. That is what I mean in driving ahead of one's car."

Mr. Brandenburg went on to explain that some drivers have acquired this art, while others drive to the two extremes. Some driving too far ahead of their car to such an extent that they do not seem to realize the immediate hazards until too late. "These drivers," said Mr. Brandenburg, "are found driving with their attention centered a mile down the highway, when the hazard encountered hobs up in front of them to be reckoned with in yards or feet. The other extreme is the fellow who drives with his interest centered so closely to his car that he does not seem to become aware of a hazard until he is too close to it when traveling at a speed that will not permit of his stopping before being involved in a serious accident."

These two extremes, according to Mr. Brandenburg result in a great number of accidents in traffic. The answer is simple. If a driver operates at a speed that will permit of stopping or maneuvering properly in the allotted space given him in the traffic, in which he is driv-

RENO WILL BUILD SPAN OVER TRUCKEE

RENO, Nev., July 3.—A contract for the construction of a bridge across the Truckee river at Center street, has been awarded by the city council. The structure will cost \$57,000.

AUTO THIEVES BUSY IN EASTERN STATE

Automobile stealing in Massachusetts, despite all that is done to prevent it, is increasing. Last year there were reported to the used car section 19,790 stolen motor vehicles, compared with 9,500 in 1924.

ATTENTION TO FAN BELT

Test the fan belt occasionally to see if it is coming loose, as a loose belt allows the fan to slip and prevents the water from being properly cooled. If the fan can be moved easily, the belt needs tightening.

ing, there will be no accidents resulting from these far-sighted or near-sighted drivers who have not acquired the art of driving the proper distance ahead of their cars. A good idea is for a motorist to ask himself at frequent intervals: "Can I stop or maneuver my car with an assurance of safety in the space allotted in this traffic at the speed I am traveling?" If this brings a satisfactory answer whenever asked, then the driver has overcome the hazard of far-sighted or short-sighted driving. He is driving the proper distance ahead of his car.

Tidewater Oil To Spend Millions In Improvements

The following news was released by Tide Water-Associated Oil Co.:

"Work now under way at the Bayonne refinery of Tide Water Assoc., the subsidiary of Tide Water Associated, will call for the expenditure of \$5,000,000 this year. When the plant is completed, it is stated, it will make it one of the most efficient in the world, as it will contain all the latest developments in refining practice. The policy of the Tide Water management always has been not to spend money for capital improvements unless the savings realized will repay the cost within a period of three years or so. The improvements at Bayonne, it is asserted, will be paid for by economies effected in less than that period. The company is effecting similar improvements at other plants, expending about \$400,000 at the Drumwright, Okla., refinery and equal amounts at other plants."

SAFETY TRAINING OF CHILDREN FOLLOWED

The Automobile club of Bavaria, Germany, has followed America's example in training children to practice safety on the streets. Postcards are issued to the children illustrating traffic dangers.

Lack of lubrication of the spring shackles, or of the leaves, will result in a squeak on rough roads. The cure is obvious.

ROOKIES FOIL POLICE BY AUTO IN LONDON

To elude the authorities, book-makers in London have adopted automobiles to carry on their business. The car is driven through the district and wagers received by the passengers, who also pay off winners of the previous day.

A SUMMER TOURING TIP

Do not forget to check the condition of the water hose from the radiator to the water pump and from the cylinder to the radiator before starting the summer trip. Many a trip has been spoiled and frequently the engine overheated as the result of a broken hose or from a loose lining curling up and stopping the water flow.

Monoxide Gas Alarm Devised

WASHINGTON, July 3.—A carbon monoxide recorder and alarm devised by chemists of the Pittsburgh experiment station of the bureau of mines, department of commerce, it is announced here, will doubtless result in the movement of heavy automobile traffic through tunnels unmeasurably safer.

Detailed descriptions of these devices are given in Technical Paper 355, "A Carbon-Monoxide Recorder and Alarm," by S. H. Katz, D. A. Reynolds, H. W. Frevert and J. J. Bloomfield, copies of which may be obtained from the bureau of mines office.

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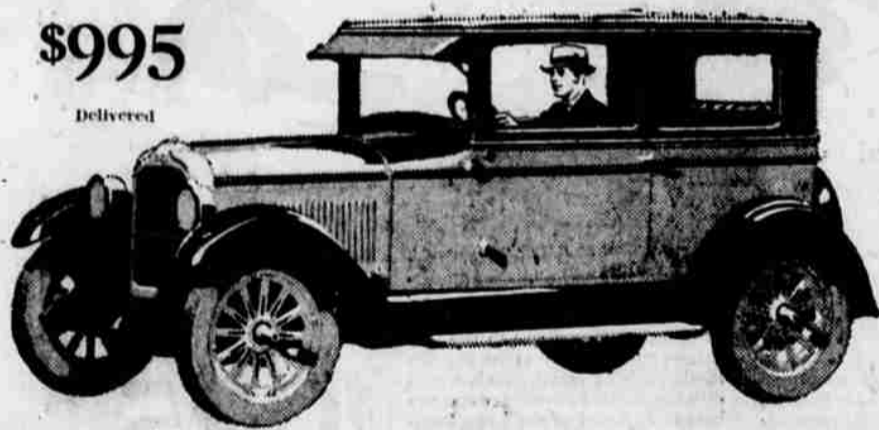
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