The Automobile

MOST OF AUTO BLAZES CAUSED BY BACK-FIRING.

Automobiles do not catch on fire nowadays as frequently as they used to. Manufacturers have made them about as nearly fireproof as possible. Brick houses are also considered quite fireproof. Yet the average home owner doesn't care to take a chance on insurance protection. He knows that such houses do sometimes burn. The wise automobile owner realizes that there is a possibility of his car burning up and gets insurance protection. For when a car does burn the destruction is apt to be complete. Yet motor car fire insurance is inexpensive.

However, when a brick house burns down the owner receives the full amount for which it was insured. This is not true of the automobile. The owner of a car destroyed by flames gets a sum which represents the actual market value of the machine at the time the loss took place. Such an arrangement is really fair, for on any other basis, whenever the owner of an insured car got tired of it and found he could not possibly sell at the price he paid for the machine, all he had to do was to stimulate a convenient fire. This would enable him to recuperate whatever loss he had sustained through depreciation.

KEEP DRIP PAN CLEAN.

The most general cause of an automobile fire comes from back-firing. And the principal reason for back-firing is too lean a mixture fed to the cylinders. When there is a back-fire a sheet of flame comes from the air intake of the carburetor. If there is anything inflammable nearby it is very apt to catch on fire.

Gasoline vaporizes so quickly that if there is gasoline in the drip pan there is apt to be a sufficient mixture around the carburetor to make trouble. The idea is to keep the drip pan free from gasoline. See that there is no leak in the supply pipe or in the connection to the carburetor. Also see that there is no overflow coming from carburetor due to poor seating of the float valve.

Operating a car at high speed for a long distance may cause the exhaust pipe to become hot. If it is next to any wood, this may cause a fire, especially if there is an accumulation of grease and oil in the wodwork. To minimize this danger do not drive continuously at top speed and keep the woodwork free from grease and oil.

The exhaust pipe also heats up when the engine is run with a greatly retarded spark. Sometimes it will become red hot and set the woodwork on fire. Fires have also been known to catch by opening the muffler "cut-out" in the starting up. This danger is greater inside the garage than out of doors, since there is usually more or less spilled grease and gasoline on the garage floor.

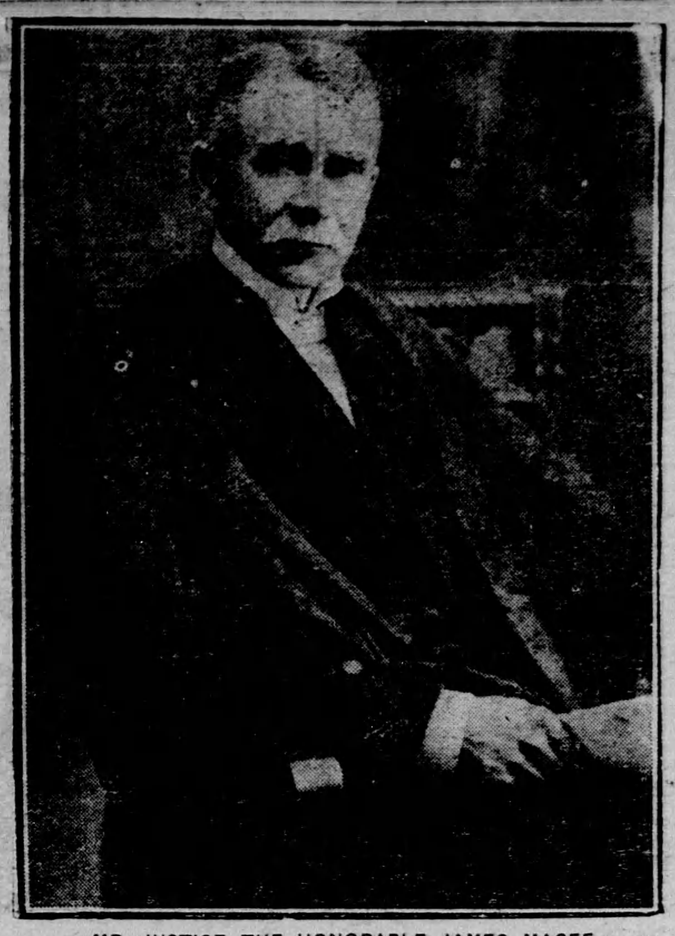
PERIL IN SHORT CIRCUIT.

Another cause of fire comes from short-circuiting of the ignition or lighting systems when a storage battery is used. A short circuit may heat one of the wires red hot and burn off the insulation. If there is any accumulation of grease or oil or gasoline near by a fire is liable to start.

Another form of fire insurance protection which ought to be a part of the equipment of every car, is one or two fire extinguishers. Some fire insurance concerns give a reduced rate to cars thus equipped.

After having taken every precaution possible to prevent your automobile from catching on fire, it may some day nevertheless be found in flames. It is worth while to have in mind what to do on finding your car on fire. The time required to figure this out after a fire has started may mean a heap of twisted ruins instead of an automobile.

First grab your fire extinguisher. Locate the position of the fire and work the extinguisher to the limit.



MR. JUSTICE THE HONORABLE JAMES MAGEE
Who celebrated his seventy-ninth birthday on March 26. On April 9 he completed 16 years upon the bench of the Supreme Court of Ontario.

"Nobody Wanted Me."

"Going through the Reformatory one day," said J. J. Kelso, "I stopped to speak with a lad who was standing listlessly at a window. He had a sullen manner when first spoken to, but brightened up considerably and after a friendly conversation he was asked the question: 'Now, tell me honestly, just what it was that brought you to this institution?' He was silent for two or three minutes as if reviewing his past life. His whole manner changed and tears gathered in his eyes. 'Nobody wanted me at home,' he replied. 'After mother died my father did not care much how things went, then he married again, and although they did not exactly turn me out I knew I had no place there any more. I got to staying out at nights with other boys like myself and we had to steal things to get along. I was up in court a lot of times but they did me no good and then I was sent here.' The sadness of his words, especially the misery and heart-hunger revealed in his manner of speaking, was most touching. With the co-operation of the officials a home was found for him with people to whom his friendless condition was explained. They promised to do their part, and that they succeeded was shown in the fact that the boy willingly remained with them for several years, and at latest reports was doing well."

Gave Up the Job.

About the year 1500, during a battle between the Swedes and Danes, Bishop Beldenack, in charge of the Danes, began thinking how hard the Swedes fought.

He had with him a guide who had been living in Sweden and he asked his man "What foods do these Swedes live on?"

"Well," said the guide, "They live mostly on bread and water, but when the corn crop fails they mix their water with ground bark, nor do they care much for cold or heat or hunger or thirst."

"Aha," said the Bishop, "A people who live on wood and who drink water the devil himself, far less man, will not be able to overcome. We will go home."

Green's Folly.

We put up a prize for the largest fish,
and the trip was over and done,
And the money we'd paid when the fish
was weighed, for Green's was
the largest one.
And the rods were packed and the
goods were stacked, and we'd
only an hour to wait,
When Green said: "Oh, I would like to
go for a few more casts with
fate.

"Will one of you men come out with
me?" But each of them shook
his head.
"We've packed our stuff and we've had
enough, and the time's too
short," they said.
Said Green: "Take note, I will row the
boat for the one who is game
to go."
Then Chappy rose, and he said: "Here
goes. Get out in the boat and
row."

Let Green now tell what next took
place with the first cast Chap-
man made,
He hooked a trout that was just about
three times what his own catch
weighed,
And those minutes flew on the waters
blue, which he's coaxed his
friend to share,
Cost the fifty beans which were in his
jeans for the prize changed
hands right there.

Oh, the moral's plain. When the prize
is yours, though you've still an
hour to wait;
When the contest's done and men say
you've won, don't further risk
with fate.
Don't coax men out on the stream for
trout. Hang on to the joy you
own.
Sit down content in your shack or tent
and let well enopgh alone!

Early Maple Sugar.

Early colonists in America learned from the Indians a crude way of collecting sugar from maple trees.

Wide-Spreading Oak.

The great Hooker oak in California can shelter 8,000 persons under its branches.

Spring Fever.

When, as a child, I had a "fever," mother gave me delicious cooling drinks, laid heavenly touches of ice on head and hands, told me quieting tales and kept away from all that could fret or affright.

To-day, I have spring fever! The doctors have no cure for it. The nurses rather view it with contempt. But "Mother" understands — the Great Mother whose other name is Nature. To her I turn in my captivating distress.

What a Mother she is! Never a rebuke glimmers in her great wise eyes; never a doubt mars the wonder of her grave smile. She just beckons to me and, knowing her high misintrations these many years, I follow.

Upon my hot brow her breezes lay their fluttering fingers——fingers that feel as laughter sounds, the sweet laughter of innocent children Upon my lips, athirst for drink that shall bless soul as well as body, fall the sparkling fluids of her skies. I am given ineffable incense to inhale—the Mother's own Breath—essence of all her new-born flowers. For my tired eyes, her sunshine and quiet shade. For my restless feet, her green-brown earth paths. For my yearning ears, her bird-song and wind voices. My fever is cured!—Ada Melville Shaw.

He—"Personally, I think the rising generation is going mad."

She—"They have nothing to get mad about. It's the older generation that's mad."

Oil Aids X-Ray.

Dr. J. E. Forestier a French surgeon, is the inventor of a new method of diagnosis with the X-ray through use of iodized oil. The oil, it is said, furnishes a background for an X-ray photograph.

Natural Resources Bulletin.

Of the many natural products which the world has learned to think of as Canadian, none is more interesting than asbestos, according to a report recently published by the Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the Dept. of the Interior. This strange mineral, of which Canada now produces some 80 per cent. of the world's supply, has been known since the time of the early Romans. It is mentioned by Marco Polo in the thirteenth century, and even Charlemagne is supposed to have entertained and mystified his guests by committing his table covers of "asbestos" to the flames.

The first modern attempt to exploit asbestos deposits was made during the year 1862 in the Aosta valley of the Italian Alps; and almost simultaneously with the exploitation in Italy asbestos was discovered in the Province of Quebec. In 1878 mining operations commenced on a small scale. The total length of the productive belt which is situated in the hills of the so-called Eastern townships of Quebec, is about twenty-three miles, with a width varying from 100 to 6,000 feet in the Black Lake area, and to 3½ miles in Coleraine Township. The formation occurs in knolls and ridges from a few hundred to a thousand feet in height above the surrounding country. Another deposit of less magnitude has been found in Deloro township, Ont.

The commercial value of asbestos depends chiefly on tensile strength, flexibility, fineness of fibre, dehydration temperature and temperature of fusion. The long fibres, ¼ inch or more in length, possessing these qualities, are used for spinning and weaving into fabrics, and are by far the most valuable. The short fibres, less than ¼ inch in length, are used in the manufacture of asbestos, cement, shingles, etc.

Canadian asbestos is of the finest quality, and, on account of its softness, silkiness and tensile strength, is in great demand for all kinds of asbestos products, particularly for asbestos textiles.

Although deposits of asbestiform minerals are widely distributed over the world, there are but few localities in which high-grade spinning fibres are found in important commercial quantities. Before the world war Canada (Quebec) and Russia furnished most of the world's supply of high grade asbestos. At present Russian production is small and South Africa (including Rhodesia) is the only other large source besides Canada. Other countries which are small producers include the United States, Australia, Cyprus, Italy, China and India.

Canada from Coast to Coast

Summerside, P.E.I.—In order to stimulate the growth of the fox farming industry along lines calculated to better ensure the financial and economic future of the industry, the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association has established a modern ranch at Summerside, where the various problems connected with the industry will be studied. This experimental ranch is equipped with 70 breeding pens and there still remains adequate space for further expansion. The ranch has been stocked with high-class animals, registered and pedigreed, supplied by breeders in the vicinity of Summerside.

Halifax, N.S.—The Provincial Minister of Mines, in a statement to the Legislative Assembly, said that an expert had been surveying gold prospects in the province for some time, and the report was that large gold deposits were yet untapped, comparing favorably with those in Ontario and other places where gold mining was being carried on successfully. Many years ago this province was a successful gold producer, yet the industry has dropped off in recent years and the annual production now amounts to about 750 to 1,000 ounces. It is considered more than likely that at a future date operators will give serious consideration to ways and means of exploiting the gold resources of this province.

Saint John, N.B.—Orders for three carloads of seed potatoes have been placed with the New Brunswick Seed Potato Growers' Association by parties in the State of Massachusetts, according to the secretary of the Association. Inquiries have also been received from Newfoundland, New Jersey and Ontario, and the outlook for general business this year is considered good.

Montreal, Quebec.—The program of new newsprint machines in Canada and Newfoundland for 1926 includes eighteen machines with a combined rated capacity of 1,715 tons a day, according to a report issued by the Newsprint Service Bureau. In 1925 there were ten new machines started with a capacity of 890 tons daily. With the exception of one machine of 100 tons capacity, all the new machines slated for 1926 will be installed in Canadian mills.

Hamilton, Ont.—P. V. Byrnes, president of the Hamilton By-Products Coke Ovens, has announced that contracts have been signed for a battery of 35 ovens and that work will be commenced at once. It is a little over a year since the production of coke under the by-products process was started in Hamilton. The popularity of this fuel has been sufficiently demonstrated, said Mr. Byrnes, to warrant the company spending $1,500,000 and the increasing of the capacity of the plant to 1,000 tons daily.

Winnipeg, Man.—Beginning on June 1, a corps of enumerators, 2,500 strong, will begin a ten-day drive to determine the population of the three Prairie Provinces. This census is taken under the authority of the federal statutes which provide for a census every five years, to fall each time midway between the decennial Dominion census. Thus a census is taken on the Prairies every five years, while in the other provinces it is taken every ten years.

Saskatoon, Sask. — Saskatchewan now owns approximately one-third of the horses in Canada, having 1,169,953 in a total of 3,554,041. Alberta comes next with 849,939, while Ontario is third with 644,138. Manitoba has 358,-839, so that the three Prairie Provinces have altogether 2,249,730 head of horses, almost two-thirds of the total number in the Dominion. Saskatchewan has an average of about eight horses per farm.

Vancouver, B.C.—Construction of the first units in connection with the buildings required for the new hop yards located in the Sumas reclaimed lands has commenced. Several thousand pieces of special lumber will be required for the trellises. Five hundred acres are being planted into hops this year.

Average Span of Human Life on the Increase

When Magellan sailed around the globe in the sixteenth century, the average length of human life was thirty years. But in this year, the average length of life in the United States and Canadian registration area is 54.5 years. But the century mark is not yet reached by any considerable number.

However, centenarians are not scare. The automobile is one of the biggest factors in promoting longevity Your car takes you out in the open, into the air and the sunlight. These are nature's greatest curative forces.

Also, according to the vital statisticians human life has been lengthened in the last decade in America by approximately 10 per cent. The increase is reflected in all ages from 10 to 80 according to recent insurance figures.

Civilization has greatly increased the life span. Medical and other sciences have done much to prevent a high and early death rate.

Some prophets have declared that in the year 2,000 the average life span will be more than 100 years.

Decline in Tonnage at U.S. Ports.

Improved methods in handling grain at Canadian Atlantic ports and the opening of large coal fields in Nova Scotia, the Shipping Board's Bureau of Resarch declares, have altered the position of United States North Atlantic and Great Lakes ports, "which have heretofore participated largely in these movements." The result, it is said, has been the establishment of a "balanced traffic in eastbound grain and westbound coal" for the railroads of the Canadian territory.

Fluctuations in foreign commerce in grain, petroleum and coal, through North Atlantic ports the Bureau found, "More than offset the general increase in hundreds of other commodities handled during the fiscal year 1925."

The Shooting Star.

Shooting stars are really meteors, or small bits of stars.

And Several Who Can Do Otherwise.

"A beautiful and loving woman can bring down heaven."

"True—and I know several who can raise hell."

Low Infant Mortality.

From New Zealand comes the report that a new low world-record for births was established there for the births was established there for the year 1924, for which complete statistics have been compiled. Encouragement is felt particularly in a reduction of deaths of infants under one month from 29 to 24 per 1,000. This gain is attributed to the fact that public heath nurses are supplied with the names and addresses of mothers within a few days of childbirth, so that offers of aid may be extended immediately. Dr. Truby King, founder of the Royal New Zealand Society, is quoted by the report as placing the irreducible infant mortality at 30.

Great Benefit to Radio.

Discovery by women scientists of short electro-magnetic waves which it is claimed will revolutionize radio-telephony, raidio-telegraphy and photography, is announced by Prof. Weinberg, of Leningrad University.

Maria Levitskaya, a physicist, discovered waves measuring less than four-tenths of a millimetre (.0157 of an inch), while similar waves, estimated to be only the 100th part of a millimetre in length, were discovered by Glagolieva Arcadieva.

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.

Augustus Mutt is Kidding His Better Half.