Of Interest to Motorists

THIEVES TAKE UNLOCKED CARS.

What is the use of a theft-proof lock on a car if you will not keep it locked? is the constant query returned to the motorist who is bewailing the loss of a stolen vehicle. Reports show that the greater part of the machines which are taken by illegal methods are whisked away under circumstances which would not exist had the owners employed even ordinary caution. To leave a motor parked without being properly guarded is to invite theft in many cases.

BEST OF PREVENTIVES.

Locks on the cars provide the owners with the best preventive of actual theft. All statistics on the subject clearly point to the fact, it states, that any locked car if the lock has merit, is immune from theft. The finest lock imaginable is of no avail, however, unless it is used. Figures collected by the Underwriters Conference and other national agencies show that about 85 per cent. of cars equipped with approved locking devices are habitually left unlocked when parked.

The coincidental lock, which automatically locks the car when the ignition is switched off, has been evolved to take advantage of the fact that most drivers turn off the ignition and remove the key when leaving a car unattended.

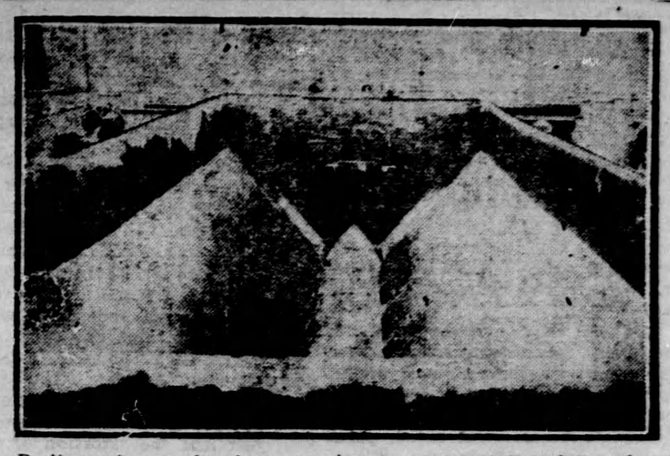
REQUIREMENTS OF LOCK.

Some of the requirements of a lock are that it should be conveniently, easily and positively operated both in the light and in the dark under all climatic conditions, that a key should not be required or locking should be coincidental with removal of the switch key; that there should be slight chance of accidental locking while the car is in motion; that it should not prevent quick stopping of the engine while the car is in motion; that if it is very similar to the ordinary ignition switch it should not simultaneously lock any control element of the car when the ignition current is broken; that it should allow coasting with the ignition off, although this is not good driving practice; should permit the car to be moved in a garage or in case of a fire when parked on the street with the key removed, should lock the car so as to prevent towing; should permit the transmission to be left in engagement or the front wheels to be cramped against the curb when the car is parked on a grade, and the entire lock mechanism should be simple, rugged, easy to install and of low cost.

Various types of locks have been produced that lock the transmission, steering system, ignition system, fuel supply, intake or exhaust valves or the clutch and brake pedals. Each type is described and illustrated by the authors.

CHECK "TOE-IN" AS TIRES WEAR.

Toe-in is the difference in measurement between the front and rear edges of the front wheels. "Pitch" or "camber" is the difference between the distance across the bottoms. Wheels on which the tires toe-in excessively have the effect of rubbing the tire tread against the road, greatly reducing its life. When the toe-in does not agree with manufacturer's recommendations it may be easily adjusted by adjusting the tie rod or distance rod. In case of rapid tread wear on tires, check the alignment promptly, as no other condition removes rubber from tires so rapidly.



Berlin engineers after long experiment are now prepared to make gas from sewage water. The picture shows a funnel, ready for action at the finished plant, which works on the principle of a filter.

"O God of Little Birds."

O God of little birds,
Who made our bodies light as spoken words;
Who painted Thy blue sky upon our wings;
We thank Thee for the Day, and for the Springs
Wherefrom we drank; the wholesome grain we ate;
For all Thy care of us who on Thee wait;
The brightness of our eyes so small and round
Which spy the foes no human eyes had found;
The tools Thy tiny gardeners never lack—
Our rakes and pruning-hooks of white and black.

To-morrow we will strive with weed and blight;
Forgive, we pray, our little sins to-night—
The stolen, tempting berries, two or three.
We cannot sleep if unforgiven by Thee
Unless Thou close our triple-guarded eyes
And keep us 'neath Thy wing till morn arise.

Lord, if some man have paid with snare and stone
The song Thy birds about his path have strown
The toil that slew the weevil in his wheat
—Aye though his net have caught some fledgling sweet
Teach us forgiveness, though it be not easy.
In the dear name of Francis of Assisi,
Forgiving man whatever hurts or girds
Because one man hath said "My Brother Birds."

And thou Saint Francis, blesser of our wings,
Pray for us.
Priest of the morning lark that soars and sings,
Pray for us.
Confessor of the Finches, loving Dreamer,
Who by thy faith became the Bird's Redeemer,
Gave us cur souls, absolved them of all taint,
Pray for us, and obtain, beloved Saint
Our Grain of barley—millet—and of wheat,
So be it! So be it! So be it!

Hydro Development.

The complete statistics compiled annually for many years by the Water Power and Reclamation Service of the Department of the Interior show that over a million horsepower of hydro-electric energy has been developed in Canada during the past two years. This was distributed amongst the provinces thus: Ontario, 332,000; Quebec, 600,000; British Columbia, $60,000; Nova Scotia, 12,000.

"The Doctor."

Now and then an artist paints a picture so full of tender feeling, so accurate in touching the keys of deep emotion, so broad in its appeal to experience, that the whole world takes it to its heart. Such a picture is "The Doctor," painted thirty-five years ago by Sir Luke Fildes, who has just died at the age of eighty-three.

The picture is familiar, though reproductions, to thousands and hundreds of thousands who never saw the original. A grave-faced doctor, his chin resting on his hand, and his elbow on his knee, sits watching a sick child that lies on a tumbled cot. At the head of the cot sits the mother, her head bowed upon her arms, and beside her stands the father, one hand resting on his wife's shoulder. The dress of the parents and the furnishings of the room are of the simplest and poorest.

The story that the picture tells is as old as human experience—the shadow that settles upon a household when the life of a child hangs in the balance, the struggle of hope against fear, the mutually sustaining love of husband and wife, the responsibility and beneficence of medical skill.

No wonder that visitors turn away with tears in their eyes! There are feelings that are apart from time and locality and above race, creed and social circumstance.

The tendencies of modern art are all away from such paintings as "The Doctor." We must have technical brilliance and smartness now, and emotion or the attempt to tell a story is decidedly poor form. A dead fish and a turnip, or a Shanghai rooster in a corner of the barnyard, is sufficient motif if the artist is great enough! Well, may be. But now and then a man comes along who knows the difference between sentiment and mawkishness, and is big enough to say what he feels. Then the generations take a "Christmas Carol" to their hearts or turn with moist eyes from a picture like "The Doctor."

Whittling Him Away.

"I believe she's figuring on doing away with her husband."

"Wouldn't doubt it. Why she's got him worn to a frazzle now."

Economic Justice.

BY C. W. PETERSON.

As fully 85 per cent. of the cost of all commodities and services is represented by human labor, enjoying more or less standardized wages, it will be clear that the farmers' operating and living costs have increased to a fantastic degree since the war, while the prices for his own products have been governed by rigid economic laws wholly without reference to cost of production. The average price of wheat at Liverpool during the entire 17th century, for instance, was $1.17 per bushel, with industrial labor at 25 cents a day. The prevailing price during 1923 was $1.23 per bushel, with industrial labor at well above a dollar an hour. This well illustrates the tremendous decline in the purchasing power of the bushel of wheat, which is a fair indicator of all prevailing farm produce prices. As I have frequently pointed out, the greatest social crime following the world war lies in the spectacular increase in the reward to urban labor without a somewhat approximate increase in the reward to agriculture.

Every cent the farmer receives from his products is spent in wages and other operating expenses—in taxation, in the purchase of equipment and in the further improvement of his property. The farmer, even in prosperous times, is not an outside investor. This is particularly the case in partly undeveloped countries like ours. It consequently follows, that owing to this enormous increase in industrial labor cost, he faces an increased operating cost all around of considerably over sixty per cent., as compared with pre-war expenditure. On the other hand, it is very clear that the average price he receives on the farm for the full range of his products is not sufficiently above the average of pre-war times.

That the crude, directive agency of natural laws would ultimately mete out ruthless, social justice to everyone is hardly open to doubt. That it will do so in the long run, irrespective of man-made obstacles, is equally certain. But, unfortunately, these obstacles lead to long periods of readjustment involving stress, injustice and suffering on the part of great classes of producers, which is the price society pays for conferring special privileges by class war or legislation. Whether in the end it is worth while or not I shall leave to wiser heads to determine. The fact that confronts us is that the natural flow of production is obstructed on every side as between nations, and within nations, as between classes. All of which add to the increasing complexities of modern life.

Time By Inches.

When Bobbie celebrated his sixth birthday he was given a splendid watch, which, regardless of quality or accuracy, possessed a loud tick.

Naturally Babby was very proud of it and strolled about amongst his friends, arrogantly displaying it.

Towards the end of the week everyone in the neighborhood had heard of Babby's watch and had seen him regarding it gravely, but the climax came when his little Cousin Betty asked him the time.

Bobby regarded the watch thoughtfully a moment, then replied slowly:

"It's two inches to four."

What Next?

A woman, having bought a large mirror at an auction sale, carried it home with her.

She boarded a tramcar, placed the mirror on her knees, and of course looked into it from time to time.

Several men were interested; and one of them remarked:

"Well, you never can tell what is coming next. I suppose it's the latest idea."

PRINCE TO MOVE TO NEW RESIDENCE

King George and King Edward Tenants of Historic Structure Before Succeeding to Buckingham Palace.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE IN COURSE OF PREPARATION.

The Prince of Wales, when he goes into residence at Marlborough House, which he is expected to do in the course of the next five or six weeks, will figure as a host in a larger and more important way than he has done yet.

Hitherto he has not entertained on a large scale, and the entertaining he has done has been of an informal nature quite devoid of the ceremony hitherto always associated with entertainments given by the heir to the English throne.

For example, not very long since the Prince gave a dance at his country lodge at Melton Mowbray. Had the ordinary conventions of the court been observed the Prince would not have entered the dancing room until all his guests had arrived, who would have made their bow to their host and his royal highness would have opened the dance by dancing with the woman who, according to the court rules of precedence, ranked higher than any other of the women present.

Court Conventions Slighted.

But the Prince did not worry about observing the conventions of the court in his capacity as a host. He stood at the door of the dancing room to receive his guests, and dancing began before the Prince danced and before all the guests had arrived.

No order of precedence was observed in going in to supper. The guests went in when and how they liked, and the Prince took two girls in, one on each arm.

It must not be thought that it was a rowdy affair. It was nothing of the kind. It was simply a happy, unconventional entertainment that any well-to-do young bachelor in a hunting country might have given.

When the Prince has entertained his friends with dinner at York House the guests always have been confined to men. The Prince sat at the side of the long table and a member of his household at the head and foot.

After dinner an adjournment was made to the big drawing room on the second floor (the dining room is on the first), and any guests who pleased could play bridge or any other card game they liked. The Prince does not play cards. He would sit chatting to his guests who were not at the card tables.

More Ceremony Expected.

But when his royal highness goes to live at Marlborough House he will be expected to play the part of host in a bigger and more ceremonial way.

Marlborough House, when King Edward lived there as Prince of Wales, was famed for the splendor of its entertainments. And King George, when he occupied Marlborough House as Prince of Wales, although he never entertained on the scale King Edward did, gave many splendid entertainments there, at some of which Caruso and Melba sang.

The Prince of Wales has yet to give entertainments of that kind, but without a hostess it will be rather a difficult thing for him to do.

It will indeed be a strange sight to see Marlborough House occupied by a bachelor heir to the throne. It is furnished to-day almost exactly as it was in the days of its greatest glory. Queen Alexandra, when she went to live there after the death of King Edward, had the house arranged almost as it was when she occupied it with King Edward as Prince and Princess of Wales.

Prince to Have Aunt's Room.

She did that for sentimental reasons, and sometimes would walk alone or with Miss Knollys in the spacious, beautiful red salon or blue or green drawing rooms, where she once had played the part of the most brilliant hostess in Europe.

The Prince of Wales is to occupy the set of apartments used by his aunt, the Princess Victoria. These rooms, of which there are five, are being prepared for him.

The rooms that formed the private apartments of Queen Alexandra, of which there are nine, will be used by members of the Prince's household, together with some other rooms on the first floor, one of which was once the schoolroom where King George and the late Duke of Clarence were taught to read and write. There is one thing the Prince of Wales will have when he goes to Marlborough House, which he has lacked at York House, and which he desires greatly, and that is one of the finest gardens in London.

There is not so much as a blade of grass growing about York House. Outside there is nothing but hard courtyard, fearfully hot in summer, horribly dreary in the winter.

The Prince will have a squash racquet court put up and a hard lawn tennis court and two grass courts laid down as soon as possible at his new London house. The Prince's first garden party should be one of the biggest events of the coming season.

All a Matter of Language.

During the last ten years there has been a rapid increase in the number of Chinese employed at sea upon European and American vessels. Mr. Hollister Noble, in the New York Times, recently pointed out some of the incidental and amusing results. Chinamen are inveterate gamesters, at sea as everywhere else; and sometimes a quarrel breaks out over a game.

Fifty feet away one would swear to a massacre. The din is terrific, and over a chorus of yells may be heard the shrill screams of the contestants. Young officers unused to the ways of the "heathen Chinee" often rush to the scene with drawn revolvers. But real blows are seldom struck, and each strives for a verbal victory. It is a contest in ridicule and abusive language, such as:

"Does the lowly, unworthy son of a Canton worm mean to imply that the most noble scion of the exalted Tow Lees of Kowloon concealed three coppers up his sacred sleeve?"

"Unworthy consort of Cutthroats," gurgles his enraged opponent, "your incredible crime would shame the low brain of that vile robber your uncle, who would have made the world much pleasanter for me to live in had he strangled you ten years ago!"

But if the expenditure of language strikes an American as disproportionate and its quality as absurd, there are times when the speech of America is no less deceptive to Chinese ears.

A new hand, a fat, awkward little Chinese who kept tumbling over things, getting entangled in ropes and making a nuisance of himself generally, politely approached the second officer of his vessel just as she had at last been made fast at the dock and everybody was going ashore.

"What to do now, sir?" he inquired.

"Aw, go tie yourself to the mast!" muttered the exasperated officer, turning on his heel. Three hours later, a watchman going his rounds was astonished to find a hungry, forlorn, and obedient Chinese securely lashed to the aftermast!

Why Great Men Like Mystery Stories.

Why is it that great surgeons, engineers, historians, legal lights, college professors and critical and analytical-minded folks in general are usually addicts of detective and mystery stories?

Charles Phelps Cushing answers this question by saying, "it's the simplest case in the world of like attracts like—an affinity of mind." He points out that the writers of mystery tales are trained scientific men and women. Conan Doyle, Samuel Hopkins Adams, Frank Parker Stockbridge are doctors. Mary Roberts Rinehart is a trained nurse and wife of a physician. Arthur B. Reeve, Arthur Somers Roche, Melville Davisson Post, Arthur Train, Octavus Roy Cohen are all lawyers. Gelett Burgess and William MacHay are engineers; Harvey O'Higgins and Earl Derr Biggers, psychologists; and J. S. Fletcher and John Buchan are well-known historians as well as writers of detective stories. So we have "like attracting like."

Well Thought-out Plan.

"And what are you going to give your sister for a birthday present, Bobbie?" asked the visitor, by way of making friends.

"Oh, I'm going to ask dad to buy her a football and then I'll show her how to play," came the reply.

Nesting Time in Birdland.

The winter months vanish quickly into memory when we see the bluebird high in the air. Who cannot rejoice at this and be still happier when the robin trills his evening carol.

Birds adore human association. In April bluebirds, robins, chickadees, nuthatches and phoebes begin housebuilding. The phoebe before man closed in upon it built its green moss nest in rocky caves or on the sides of hillside boulders. Then came man with his buildings and bridges, and the phoebe came to man. A shelf of small dimensions, nailed under the eaves of the house or barn, will often quickly solve the phoebe's house-hunting problems. Then, later, we may peer in from the stepladder at the four pinkish-white treasures on their bed of moss and horsehair.

The robins and wrens, the bluebirds and nuthatches, like all birds, are not really timid at all. They will accustom themselves to anything as soon as they know that no harm will come to them through their trust.

Birds are not highbrow in their tastes. The top of a waste can placed on some bricks and filled with water will attract just as many birds as will a beautiful marble bird bath. Get the birds accustomed to coming to your garden for a drink and a bath and they will repay you by helping you fight harmful insects. Don't begrudge them a few juicy strawberries as a reward.

Why a Hen Cackles.

Just as there is a reason why a hen crosses the road, so there is an explanation of why she cackles after laying an egg. The domestic fowl is descended from the jungle chickens, which run in flocks of six or eight under the sultanship of one cock. The hen steals away to lay her egg. When she leaves her nest she cackles to attract the attention of her mates, who in the meantime have wandered beyond her sight. This characteristic has never been bred out of domestic fowl.

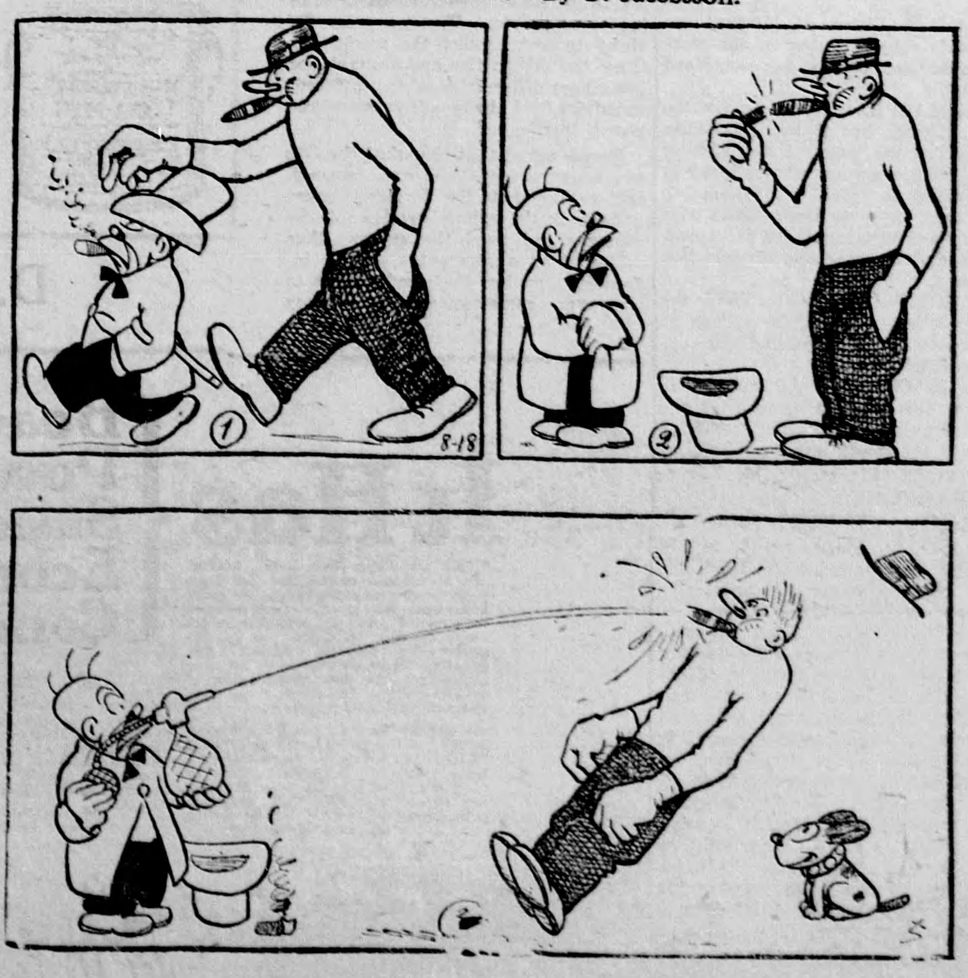
Sit at Wheel Properly.

An important factor in safe driving is to take the proper position at the wheel. This is attained by getting squarely behind the wheel and sitting in an erect way. Look over the wheel instead of through the spokes. Put the right foot on or close to the accelerator, the left on the floor in a convenient position for working the clutch. Both feet thus are in a position for use on the clutch and brake. The time element in the use of these is a powerful factor in preventing accidents. That is why correct position at the wheel is important.

Fishing Bears.

Bears, fond of fish, are also good fishermen. They seem to delight in their ability and will look over their catch before devouring it with much the same pleasure as does a human fisherman.

Hail Spring.

Tree—"We'll soon have our new spring clothes on now!"

ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES—By O. Jacobsson.