

### AUTO DEPENDANT ON ELECTRICITY

#### WHICH PLAYS VITAL PART

Motorists Should Know Something of Wiring and Electric Connections and Be Able to Test Out

(By H. Clifford Brokaw, technical advisor of the New York City West Side Y. M. C. A. Automobile school.)

Ordinarily an automobile is considered as a vehicle propelled by gasoline. And rightly so. But it is also a vehicle in the operation of which electricity plays a vital part. A car owner should know something of its electrical plant.

If, by any chance, something electrical goes wrong the first thing to inspect is the fuse, if any is provided. Finding this in good condition the status of the battery should be checked. Find out if it is charged, that is, has current in it. This can be accomplished by using a hydrometer. Then each successive terminal in the circuit leading from the battery should be tested. For instance, there is an insulated wire leading to the lighting switch. The first place to test it, after making sure that the battery is all right, is at the metal terminal on the switch. If no current is there, the wire may be broken or the terminal connections may be poor. In any event, the trouble must be limited to this one small stretch of wire.

#### How to Test

In making the test use a long piece of insulated wire with a six-volt bulb inserted in the middle of the wire. Disconnect at the switch the wire to be tested and connect this with the test wire. When the other end of the test wire is touched to the other terminal of the battery, the light should burn—that is if the wire leading from the battery to the switch is all right.

If the light does burn test where the wire leaves the switch to journey toward the device to be operated. If the current gets to the switch and does not get out of it, it is apparent that the trouble is in the switch. But if it gets to the switch yet not through the fuse, the fuse is to blame.

If the current leaves the fuse but does not get, for instance, to the headlight which the switch controls, then it is certain that the trouble is in that wire, somewhere. If the current gets to the lamp but the lamp will not light, it is certain that the difficulty is in the lamp. If the current is traced through the lamp but does not reach the battery, then the wire leading back to the battery is at fault. If the juice is carried back through the frame of the car, as is often the case, the ground connection may be at fault.

#### Where to Look

When there is electrical trouble much time may often be saved, if the owner will start to look for the trouble at the source of the current instead of puzzling over the end of any wire that may not even be intended to be connected to anything and that

certainly has nothing to do with the trouble. Sometimes there are extra wires that have never been connected up provided for use in case some accessory device should be installed.

Corroded battery terminals are responsible for a large number of the electrical troubles. This corroding process can often be lessened somewhat by carefully cleaning the terminals of this material that has gathered and then applying vaseline.

Electrical troubles of motor vehicles include the ills of horns which become silent or faint sounding and in either case cause a considerable annoyance in driving. Lights which fail to give the light which is absolutely essential for the motorist at night is another possible difficulty. Most of these illustrate the point that a complete circuit is necessary if an electrical current is to do its work well. Therefore, when electrical troubles occur, the course of the current should be examined first and then the current should be traced through its entire path leading from and returning to the battery.

#### Study Wiring

It will help if the owner will make a concentrated study of the wiring diagram of a car to become somewhat informed in this field of automotive electrical mechanics. This should be of great practical value to him in operating his car and in knowing what to do when, due to electrical failure, it fails to operate. Most books which are provided by the manufacturers of cars have information of real value to the owner who seeks some knowledge of the electrical plant of an automobile.

Most people are not skilled in use of electrical devices. Therefore, it is well for the motorist to take the best possible care of his batteries and other electrical equipment. Then when trouble develops it is wise to consult the electrical specialist at some good service station.

#### LATE PROCEEDINGS IN PROBATE COURT

Action in Settlement of Estates and Other Matters; Docket Entries; Orders

Recent proceedings in probate court are reported as follows:

Proof of heirship was taken in the estate of John C. Dawson, Jr., of Lake Forest. Further hearing was continued to September 9.

The will was proved in the estate of John McElroy and admitted to record. Letters were issued to Ella McElroy, executrix and her bond set at \$26,000.

Attorney Ernest Gail was appointed guardian ad litem for all incompetents and minors in the estate of James V. Fisher. Proof of heirship was taken. The will was admitted to record. Letters were issued to Lewis A. Wier, executor and his bond set at \$24,000.

Attorney Gail was appointed guardian ad litem for Helen T. Miller, a minor. The will was proved and admitted to record. Letters were issued to Mary Miller, executrix and her bond set at \$5,000.

In the estate of Helen Horning hearing on proof of the will was continued to September 9.

In the estate of Emily Russell Dawson, of Lake Forest, the will was heard and admitted to record and letters issued to Maroussa Russell, executrix. The bond was set at \$1,200,000.

Petition to complete sale of real estate in the estate of the late Mayor Theodore H. Durst, was granted.

Petition for letters of guardianship in the estate of Antoinette Urbaitus, minor, Waukegan, was granted.

Hearing on the final account and report in the estate of Theodore Boss was continued to September 9.

In the estate of Thomas Rankin petition for approval of contract was filed and allowed.

The inventory and appraisement was approved in the estate of John J. Carolan.

In the estate of Elizabeth M. Burge, insane, a certified transcript of the proceedings in the County court finding her insane filed. Attorney Charles Jack was appointed conservator and his bond set at \$200.

Petition for letters of guardianship in the estate of Cinderella Ladd was granted. Letters were issued to Caroline M. Yells and her bond set at \$3,600.

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