

PROPOSE STATE LAWS TO PROTECT MOTORIST

Grist of Legislative Matters Holds Many Interesting Items; Would Minimize Auto Thefts

In last week's grist of bills brought up in the legislature there are many that will be of intimate concern to automobile owners, drivers and repair men. Out of the mass of proposed legislation which has been brought before the law makers it is predicted drastic laws to cover automobile thefts and reckless driving will emerge.

Garages that feature repairing also will find themselves subject to state regulation as to charges and will be compelled to employ skilled workmen.

Several bills have been introduced making it unlawful to damage or meddle with any motor vehicle. These are aimed at those who steal automobiles or "borrow" them for a joy ride. A bill also makes it possible to prosecute auto "fences" and others who seek to hide identification numbers and marks on stolen machines.

A bill by Representative Phillips would fix punishment for stealing or receiving a stolen automobile at imprisonment in the penitentiary from ten to twenty years, while in a bill introduced by Representative Turner of Chicago, the automobile is classed as a deadly weapon when it has caused the death of human beings. The bill provides that in such cases it shall be confiscated by the proper authorities and sold, the proceeds to pay cost of proceeding, funeral expenses of the victim and remainder to be considered as assets of the estate of the deceased.

Would Regulate Repair Shops

Regulation by the state of those who repair motor vehicles is provided in a bill introduced by Representative Giesler, which would require all taxicab companies to file with the state and pass such examinations as may be determined to establish their efficiency and ability to do the work. Automobile owners hail this bill as a step in the right direction and assert it will wipe out "robber garages."

Representative Williston of Chicago has brought out a bill to curb the persistent offender of speed laws and traffic regulations of the state or municipalities. It provides that a person found guilty of a second violation of motor vehicle laws shall lose his state license for six months. Clerks of courts of record where such violations are tried and conviction are obtained will be required to send official notice of the same to the office of the secretary of the state that the license may be revoked.

Bill to Control Taxicabs

Another bill by Mr. Williston offers protection to patrons of taxicabs from "pirate" drivers. It requires all taxi-cab companies to file with the secretary of state indemnity bonds of \$10,000 for each cab the company operates, as a guaranty the company will pay all damages for which it is liable. This would also apply to personal injury cases and affects motor transportation companies in passenger or freight traffic. Whether this bill will prevent the small taxicab owner from operating, is a question raised.

The bill requires also that compan-

ies carry a reasonable amount of insurance and be ready at any time to file proof with the secretary of state that the company is complying with provisions of the act.

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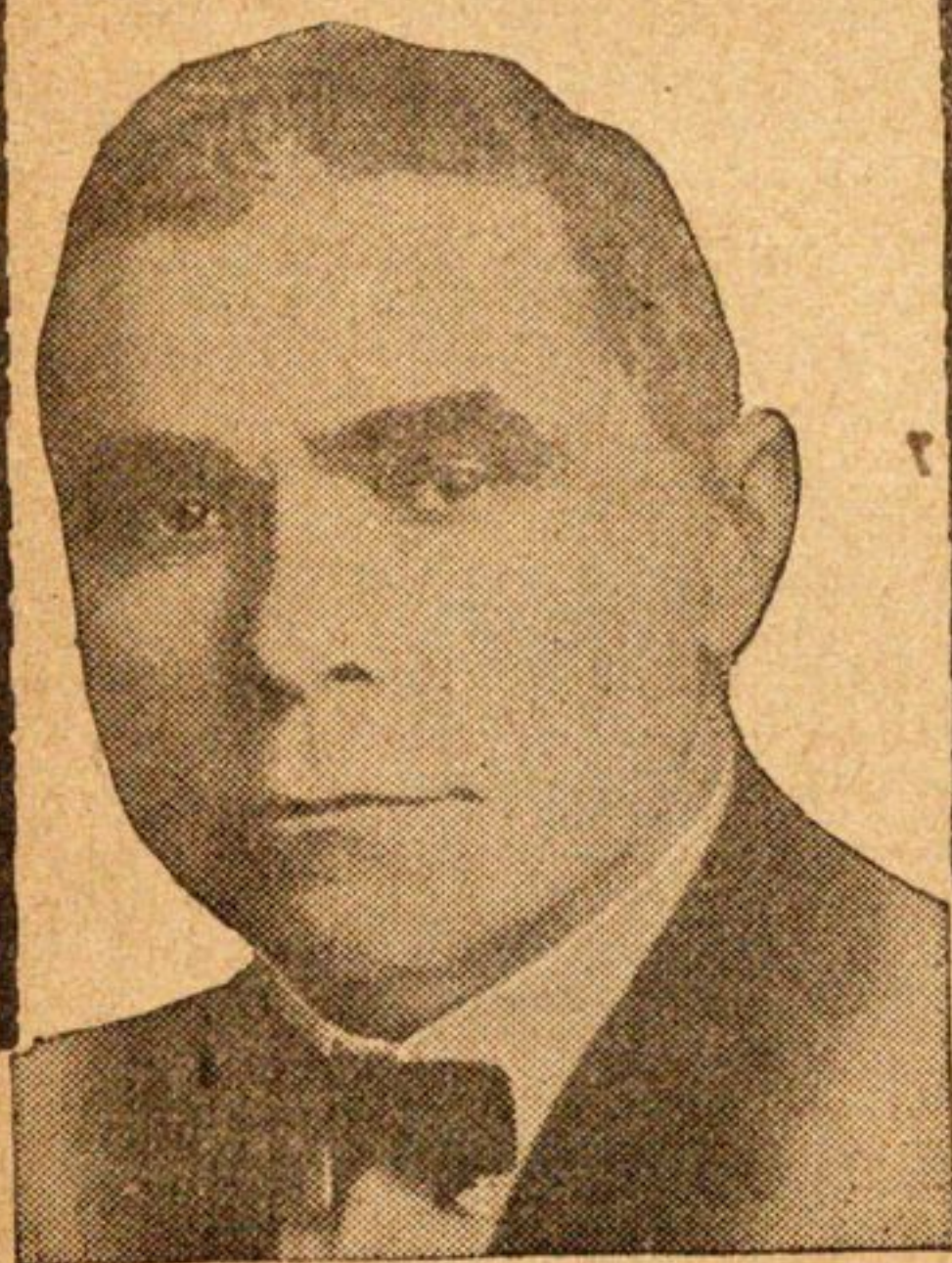
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