

# In The Automobile World

## Figuring Car Depreciation

We hear a good deal about the depreciation of the value of our motor cars and we do not have much trouble in locating that depreciation when we want to get rid of a used car.

To hear a salesman talk about a car when he is selling you one, there is an impression gained that the car will be worth more after being used a year than when perfectly new. To hear him talk about the car after you have used it a year and want to trade it in for a new one—well, you get a very different impression.

But the depreciation is there, whether we want to sell the car, or keep it, and we might as well make up our minds to take the loss as it comes. In order to do that and avoid the unpleasant sensation of having to take it later all in one lump sum, it is worth while to keep an automobile inventory.

Perhaps you, as a business man, keep an inventory of your personal property to enable you to know the first of each month just where you stand. It doesn't take long to do this if you are an average citizen, and if you are a millionaire and don't care where you stand, it will still be worth while to list your automobiles and write off the depreciation monthly.

Suppose you are just buying a new 1918 model, \$2,000 car. You know that in the natural course of things, accident beside the question, that car, if used through 1918, will depreciate in value about fifty per cent, as far as selling price is concerned. That means a little less than five per cent per month. In order to keep from thinking you are worth more than the facts warrant, you ought to, in your inventory the first of each month, write off five per cent, from the value of that car.

If you do that through the year, when the car is a year old you may be reasonably certain that you can get out of it more than you count it worth, and if there is any surprise, it is likely to be a pleasant rather than an unpleasant one.

If you expect to keep your car until it is practically used up, the depreciation is not such an important matter and it will be much slower, because that car is going to have, when a year old, a much higher price value for you to use than to sell. If you write off 2 1/2 per cent per month, you will be able to feel reasonably certain that you are keeping your car at a figure which represents fairly accurately its worth to you to keep.

The figures you obtain in this way will give you a line on how much tire insurance you ought to be carrying on the car and whether it is valuable enough to make it desirable for you to carry collision insurance on it.

Countless business men who would not think of guessing at the value of any other property they own, which is worth as much as a motor car, are carrying along the car as a sort of side issue of whose value they take no account. The money lost in automobile depreciation is lost just as surely as if it were lost in depreciation in any other kind of equipment and it is only good business sense to take account of it.

There would be less money wasted in careless and unnecessary automobile buying if more owners knew the figures on the proposition. We are approaching a period when it is going to be increasingly worth while to take good care of our cars, and we will be helped to do this efficiently if we will inventory them and adjust the inventory regularly once a month.

After following this plan for a year, no one is likely to get back to the old guess method of getting at that part of his present worth which is in no way connected with his rolling stock.

### How Tires Are Him Cut.

Protection from rim cutting is not to be obtained by any particular type of tire, but depends rather upon design, quality and usage. No good tire of standard make will be cut by any standard rim if properly used. But any type of tire will be injured by abuse. Riding on a soft or flat tire, dented or irregular rims, excessive loads, tire fillers and stiff reinforcers are the common causes for getting and breaking above the beads.

The flanges of a rim may become battered from running a tire deflated for a considerable distance, and in addition to ruining that tire, the next tire put on that rim will be cut above the beads. Tires carrying heavier loads than those for which they are designed may break at the beads where engaged by the clinches of the rim.—Milestones.

### Motor Warnings.

Pain is the warning which the human machine sends forth when it is worn or disarranged and so needs attention. The motor car gives notice of its ailments by "making a noise." The well-built car of the present comes close to being noiseless, and the driver soon becomes familiar with its accustomed hum. An out-of-the-ordinary squeak or knock or rattle is a warning of trouble brewing. The wise motorist heeds the warning. The trouble may be a loose bolt or pin, a part of the adjustment, or a worn or broken part. If the motorist cannot locate and remedy the trouble for himself, he should seek the aid of the repair man before more serious trouble develops, or he suffers a breakdown on the road. A stitch in time saves nine in the garage as well as in the tailor shop.—Milestones.

An inventor has combined an automobile jack and pump in a single tool, one handle operating both.

## LOOK OUT FOR CROSSINGS.

### Simple Things That May Prevent Trouble on the Railroad.

By William H. Stewart, Jr.—An item of extreme importance to the motorist is the proper crossing of railroad tracks, especially crossings where there are no gates. The usual method is to throttle down and drive across in high; not bothering about shifting to a lower gear. Consideration of the matter will show that the engine may easily be stalled when so handled. To drive in high gear requires a certain amount of gas. If the amount is reduced too much the engine will stall. By shifting into second speed all such danger is overcome. The car may be driven across the tracks at approximately the same rate, but the engine is run at a speed which removes the danger of stalling. The distance is short and a full throttle will insure better control and send the machine clear if necessary.

Usually the driver opens the throttle too suddenly, thus choking the engine. This is because the air valve closes readily to the increased suction, giving a sudden rush of air before the spray nozzle can respond with sufficient gasoline. The throttle, whether opened by hand or accelerator, should be opened gradually enough to allow the engine to respond. Stalling the engine on the tracks with the train approaching at high speed is a ticklish experience, to say the least. There is no time to start the engine, so the operator who keeps his presence of mind uses the starter to pull out of danger. He quickly shifts into low speed and presses the starter pedal. The car moves forward slowly, but it moves! Keeping this fact in mind, a driver may save his life in such an emergency and also the lives of those with him.

When starting down a long, steep grade it is advisable to leave the gears in a speed for use in an emergency. The rear wheels with their resistance affords a very good braking effect. A light car on a moderately steep hill will slow down immediately and a heavy car will move slowly enough to be under control. This is called "using the engine as a brake." It should be practiced from time to time so that the driver may become familiar with the method.

Many drivers do not know how to take the bumps easily. A good way is to throw out the clutch and apply the foot brake gradually. This relieves the shock so that many times it may not be noted by those riding.

### A Minor Loss.

The observant one (to brother officer sitting at the Officers' Club)—Do you know you've lost your cap badge?

The gloomy one (of the motor transport)—I'm not surprised. I've just lost a couple of caterpillars, a six-inch Mg seven, nine motor lorrys and a four-wheel drive.—Galveston News.

## NEWEST NOTES OF SCIENCE

By turning rings at the ends a new fruit knife is opened.

New Zealand's last animal census showed that it had nearly 25,000,000 sheep.

Under certain conditions wood is as effective as iron for reinforcing concrete.

Wine made from banana juice has been invented by two Frenchmen in Cochinchina.

An artificial cork invented in Sweden is made of cork waste and a binding paste.

Wooden corks for picnickers that are sealed in sanitary paper envelopes are a novelty.

Energy emitted by radium has been utilized by a German scientist to drive a tiny clock.

A dry battery electric lamp to throw its rays upon the music on a piano has been invented.

A government bureau in Uruguay recently estimated the population of the republic at 1,300,000.

A plant in Germany converts 30 tons of peat into nine tons of coke, with gas and tar as byproducts.

A new piano for travelling musicians weighs about 120 pounds and can be packed and shipped like a trunk.

Some Paris streets will use oil for illumination, neither gas nor electricity having been introduced.

The skirt of a new bathing suit for women can be converted into bloomers as a wearer enters the water.

The increase in beet sugar production in Sweden has almost caught up with that nation's demand for sugar.

Operated by an electric motor, a freight elevator in a factory in New Jersey runs up and down a stairway.

It is estimated that Spain has developed not more than 8 per cent of its available hydro-electric power.

The entire interior of a new range oven is so mounted that it can be swung out for its examination of its contents.

For twenty years the population of the Netherlands has increased between 1 1/2 and 2 per cent, annually. In the weave lies the secret of a new Turkish towel that is said to absorb water more rapidly than absorbent cotton.

The copper mines of Cyprus, in ancient times among the richest in the world, are to be reopened by American capital.

A novelty in the egg cup line has a space around the bowl that can be filled with hot water to keep its contents warm.

Diamonds exposed to radium become highly radioactive and remain so for several years, according to a British scientist.

If razor hones are placed upon strong magnets razors can be held flat and can be sharpened more rapidly and accurately.

An instrument to measure the susceptibility of persons to suggestions from others is the invention of a French scientist.

A band saw mounted on wheels and driven by a gasoline engine has been invented for cutting off stumps level with the ground.

Machinery to trim the scalloped edges of embroidery at about 50 times the speed it can be done by hand is a Swiss invention.

The quality of flour can be tested by squeezing a handful of it, if good, it will retain the imprint of the lines of the hands.

Among the natives of Great Britain the Scotch average the tallest, the Irish are next, then come the English and the Welsh.

A new scrubbing brush has a telescoping handle that enables it to be used at several distances, from the hands and at any angle.

Argentina has built near Bahia Blanca the largest dry-dock in South America, capable of handling the dreadnaughts of its navy.

A hoisting engine that handles loads up to 1,000 pounds has been invented that can be operated by either steam or compressed air.

Chinese and Japanese bells are clapperless and never are swung, their tones being produced by striking them with wooden mallets.

Apparatus that enables men who have lost their hands to write with their knees has been invented by a physician in Portland, Ore.

The German city of Nuremberg plans to build a tunnel two miles long to help control a river which has caused 138 disastrous floods.

An incandescent lamp socket has been entirely covered with porcelain for use in places where wet hands might produce serious shocks.

Used only locally by the natives for smelting, the coal deposits of Angola have been found rich in petroleum by Cape Town chemists.

A Wisconsin farmer is the inventor of a simple brooder for keeping young pigs warm, heat being supplied by an ordinary hand lantern.

So successful have been Italian experiments with reforestation in Tripoli that 50,000 more eucalyptus trees will be set out this year.

To save automobilists eye strain there has been invented a disk of colored glass that can be attached to windshields with a vacuum cup.

Rubber shoes to be placed over the ends of tripod legs to prevent cameras slipping on hardwood floors are an English inventor's idea.

Among the new automobile locks one which, when fastened to a steering column, fastens the steering mechanism, and spark controls.

In an English inventor's smokeless furnace the coal is coked and the gas derived in that way is mixed with air and burned with the coke.

A portable vulcanizer for automobile tires gets its heat from a burner filled with gasoline, which is saturated with asbestos or alchohol.

Glass mirrors dating from the second or third century, discovered in a cemetery in Austria, contradicted the theory that the ancients used polished

metal in which to see themselves.

An English city has developed an economical method for recovering iron by burning it from the slag.

The use of pitch in the manufacture of fuel briquettes in England is believed to cause a form of cancer among the workers in that industry.

The motion of waves is utilized by a California inventor's device that is intended to scrape trouble from the other marine growths or barnacles.

For other residences or restaurants a revolving pantry window has been invented to permit food to be passed from a kitchen to a dining room yet exclude noise and odors.

haust valves will need frequent grinding. In many cage type motors the cages must be watched to see that they do not turn around and thus cut off the inlet or exhaust.

The private garage owner may be glad to know that ordinary commercial ammonia is a valuable fire extinguisher. Another formula for a liquid which discourages combustion is common salt, one ounce; sodium nitrate, one ounce; sal ammoniac, two ounces; and water, twenty-four ounces. The solids are dissolved in the water. Another efficient solution is made of twenty parts of common salt, nine parts of ammonium chloride, and seventy-one parts of water.

In making an ordinary connection to a battery terminal the stripped end of the wire should be wound around the binding post in a clockwise direction. When the screw is tightened it will be turned to the right and with the wire wound in the same direction there is a tendency for it to wrap all the tighter around the post. When the wire is wrapped the other way around it tends to unwrap when the screw is tightened.

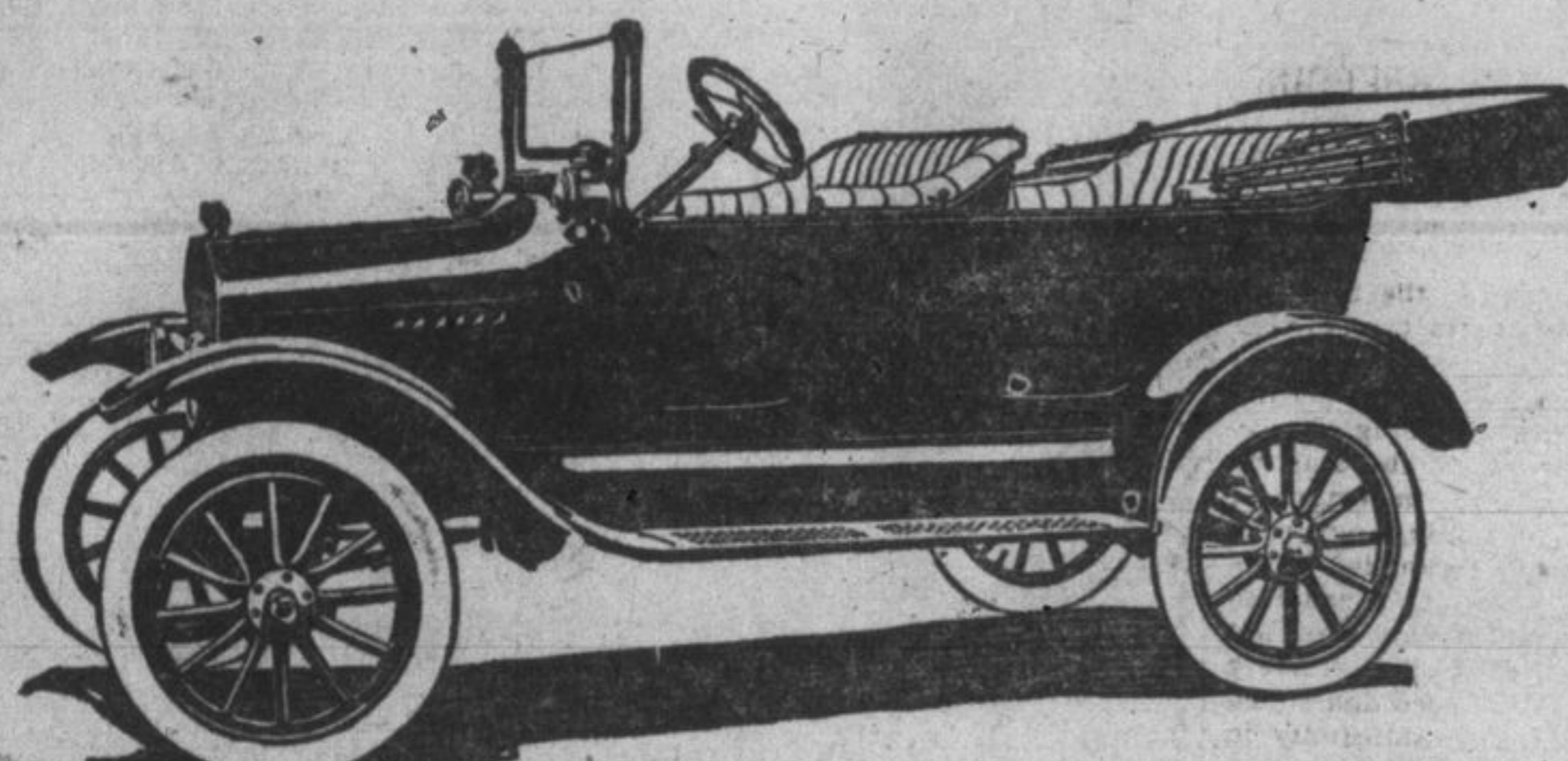
No one cares to think much about being towed home, but not to make a bad matter worse, some thought should be given to this subject. In attaching the rope which is to be used in the towing many drivers fasten it to the axle, which is wrong. The rope should be fastened to one of the front portions of the chassis, that the pull comes on the car above the towing, except that the rope should be fastened to some part of the rear frame.

Never permit a tire valve to remain uncovered. In case the cap is lost and no spare is immediately available, tie a piece of rag or rubber over the stem. If dirt once makes its way into the valve stem a leak is almost certain to result.

THE EXPERTS SAY.

In cars fitted with a magneto it is uncommon occurrence at this time of year to have trouble develop because of water getting into the device. Sometimes drops of water get in between the horseshoe magnets and prevents the magnet's functioning. To prevent any such trouble, not only from water but from oil or grease, it is an excellent plan to slip a leather cover over the entire machine. Some supply dealers have covers of this kind in stock, but if not any harness maker can manufacture one to order.

The principal disadvantage charged against the valve in head motor, especially those of the valve cage type, is the difficulty of properly cooling the valves. This difficulty is not pronounced in the case of the in-head valves, because the incoming gas is cool and keeps the valves fairly cool, but it does mean that the ex-



## A Ford Car Takes the Place of all These Things

WHEN you own a Ford you can do away with many articles that are a source of continuous expense to the man who still drives a horse. For instance, not only your driving-horse and buggy, but the single harness, blankets, whips, currycombs, brushes, horse-shoes, pitch-forks, feed-bins, etc.

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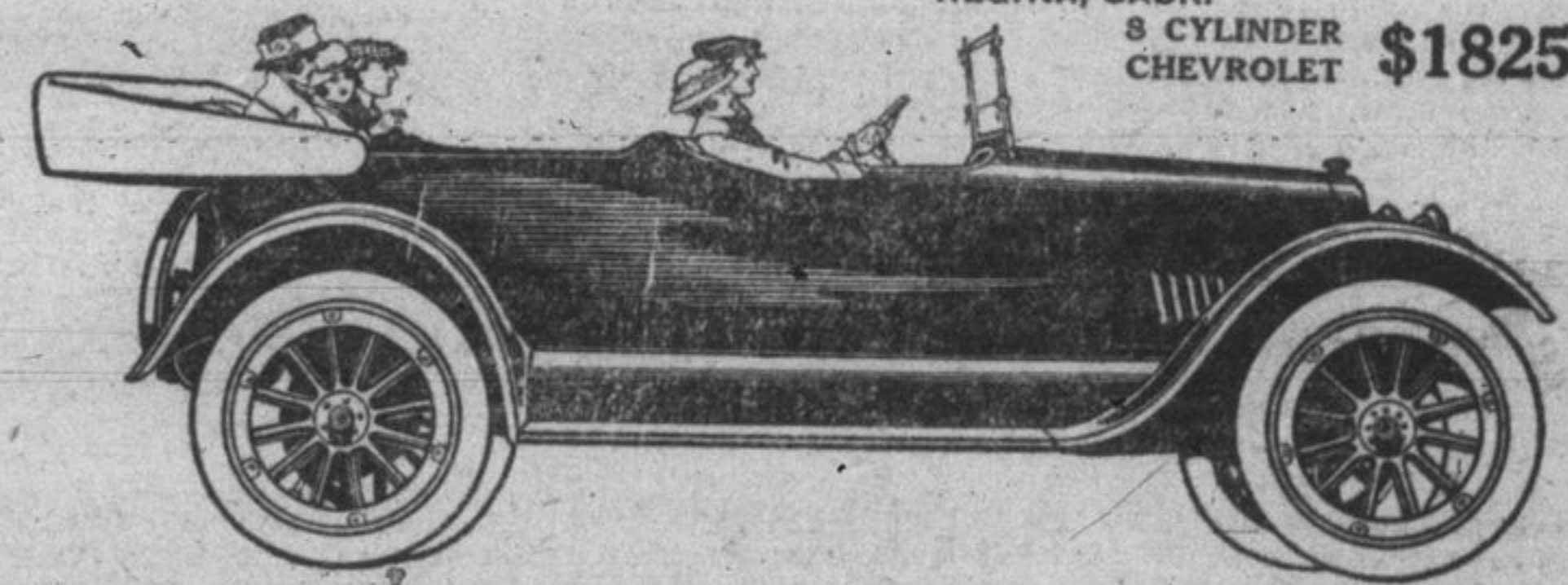
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