

The Automobile Business Is On The Hum

THE AUTO SITUATION IN KINGSTON

Over 2,000 Cars Operated Here--The Outlook For This Year Is Unusually Bright.

The local automobile dealers are looking forward to an exceptionally good year. Judging from the number of Ontario motor licenses which have already been issued, no signs of a slump in business are evident. D. H. Wightman, local issuer of licenses, states that up until the middle of the week he had issued about 1,000 passenger car licenses, 80 commercial truck licenses and 10 motor cycle licenses. Last year there were issued by the local office about 2,600 passenger car licenses, 150 commercial truck licenses and 35 motor cycle licenses. It is not expected that there will be any great rush for licenses until about the first of April at least, as there has been a number of autos who have not yet taken them out of winter storage.

It is stated that in some sections of the country the roads are so soft that motor cars will sink to the axle in mud, but as soon as people in the district are able to get to the city many more licenses will be issued.

This year the license fee is higher than last year. For example, last year Ford cars and Chevrolets were taxed a \$10 license fee; this year the fee is \$13. All the license fees are charged according to horse power of the engine. In 1920 the largest motor license fee was paid for the large motor trucks used in building the new highway on the York Road. These trucks called for \$110 license fee. So far this season the highest fee collected is \$48.

The local dealers expect that they will be able to sell more automobiles this summer on account of the war tax being removed. For the past few years several people had planned on purchasing autos, but they would not consent to pay the war tax.

ing, the party should arrive in Kingston shortly after six o'clock. Many Kingston Old Boys who reside in Toronto have never had the privilege of making the trip from Toronto to Kingston by automobile, and so this should be much enjoyed.

The highway from Toronto to Kingston has been practically completed, so the motorists should experience no difficulty due to bad roads.

Kingston Roads Well Marked.

Thanks to the work of several members of the Kingston Automobile League all the roads leading into Kingston have been so marked that visiting motorists have no difficulty in reaching the city. For years there had been a feeling that something should be done in this direction, but nothing was accomplished until the Motor League took the matter in hand. It is safe to say that no county in the province has its roads as well marked as Frontenac. Several visiting motorists have remarked that if all the roads in the province were marked as well as the ones close to Kingston there would be no difficulty for touring motorists to find their way from place to place. At the different points where there are a number of roads large sign boards have been erected by the local league.

Must Have Parking Areas.

At the present time there are so many automobiles owned by Kingstontians and people from the district that larger parking areas must be provided by the city authorities.

Many farmers who live a short distance from the city come to town for purposes of doing their shopping and attending the shows. It is too expensive to put their automobiles up at the garages, so they want places assigned where they can park their cars on the streets. The Board of Works department and the chief of police are working out a scheme, so it is expected that in the course of a very short time new parking areas will be assigned.

Tires Are Cheaper.

Recently the dealers have been able to announce a drop in the price of tires. This week some of the local dealers informed the Whig that there was a drop of 5 per cent. in the price of fabric tires and 7 1/2 per cent. on cord tires. During the period of the war the prices were somewhat advanced, but now they are getting back to normal. One dealer said that automobile tires, size 30 by 30 1/2, suitable for Ford or Chevrolet cars, were selling at \$25.35 for non-skids and \$23.55 for plain tires. These prices refer to Dunlop, Goodyear, Maltese Cross and Dominion tires. The prices vary according to size. This will be good news to the automobile owners as tires cost considerable money during a season.

Gasoline Will Be Cheaper.

It is stated by those who are in a position to know that the price of gasoline will be lower before the season is well advanced. During 1920 the retail price of gasoline in Kingston reached 47 cents a gallon, while at the present time it is selling for 43 cents a gallon. There will likely be another decrease of two cents per gallon. In some of the back towns gasoline sold as high as 50 to 55 cents a gallon last summer. The increase over the Kingston rate was due to the extra cost of shipping.

Repairs Are Cheaper.

The Ford dealers report that the

prices of new genuine Ford parts are cheaper than they were last summer. For years a number of firms have been making parts suitable for Ford cars, but the Ford company has evidently decided that they will make their competitors travel for the business, so they have decided to get back to pre war prices.

Many New Garages.

On account of so many people buying automobiles many new garages have been opened in the towns and cities. People who have been privileged to visit the country during the past few years were surprised to find so many garages doing business. Several blacksmiths in the small villages, who for years made their living out of shoeing horses and carriage repairs, have gone to the cities and taken a course in automobile repairing and then returned to their homes where they run a garage in connection with their other business.

Gasoline Tractors Are Popular.

During the past few years gasoline tractors have become popular in the country. Farmers who for years thought that nothing would take the place of the horses on the plow have placed their horse in the barn and purchased motor tractors. The men who have bought tractors state that there is such a saving in time that they are a very good investment.

Recently the Ford Motor Company, at Toronto, had all the agents and their chief mechanics make a trip to Toronto to get instruction in motor tractors. Vanliven Bros., of this city, who are the local Ford agents, have rented the Grand Opera House for March 25th and 29th and intend to run a motor tractor demonstration. Farmers from all sections of the country will be present to see the demonstration.

Women are smarter than men. If a man's vest buttoned up the back he couldn't put it on without help.

SHOW STEADY DROP IN DEATHS PER CAR

 Automobile use is constantly growing safer. Official figures compiled by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce show a steady decline in the ratio of fatalities to the number of cars in operation. Automobile deaths per car were .0025 in 1914, and have been reduced to .0013 in 1919. Figures for the year 1920 in Detroit and New York City show that the former city registered one less fatality due to automobiles than in 1919, and New York's toll was 21 less than in 1921. The reduction of 50 per cent. in five years in the ratio of fatalities to the number of cars shows that the public is quickly adapting itself to the problems of congestion, and continued progress in motor safety is confidently expected.

Stop Bushings From Binding.
 Binding of the bushings that surround the push rods frequently causes trouble. This may be caused by the oil becoming gummy or by valve grinding grit that has got down into the interior. If the aperture is closed with a cloth before the valves are ground, this latter trouble will be obviated.

Caps Off Tire Valve.
 A recent survey of 1,309 cars parked along Broadway, New York, showed 455 caps missing from the valve stems. This means that 455 tires were being run with the valve stems open to the admission of dust.

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Non-Glare Lights Necessary.

A recent act of the Ontario government makes it necessary for all owners of motor vehicles to have them equipped with non-glare headlights. For years there has been a feeling that something should be done to forbid the owners of cars equipped with powerful headlights to drive after dark on the country roads. On many occasions people riding in horse-vehicles have been injured as a result of the powerful headlights blinding them so that they drove into the ditch.

Some of the automobiles were equipped with "flimmers" which could be turned on when passing other vehicles, but unfortunately the men who were driving the cars did not use this device as often as was necessary.

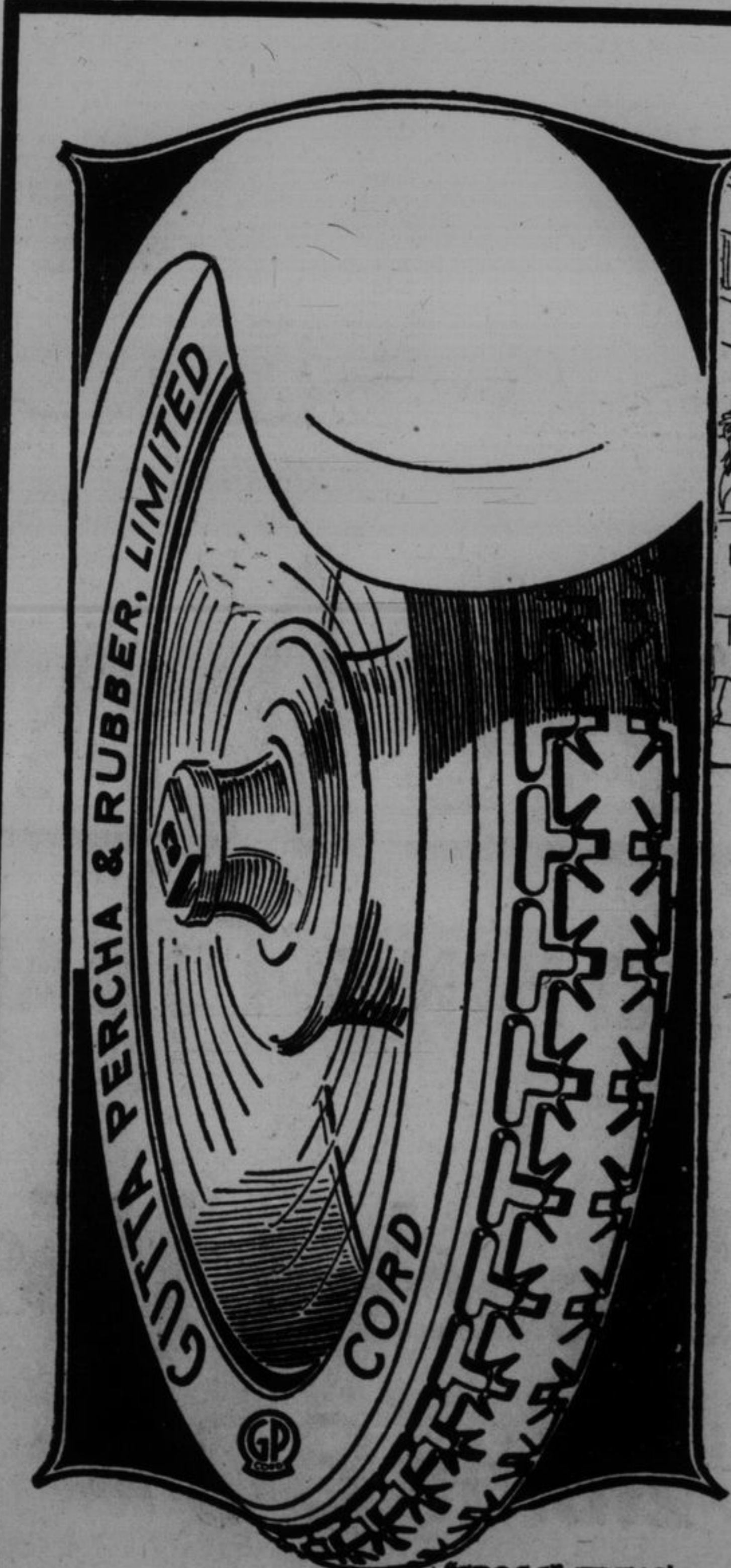
The clause in the highway act reads as follows: "It shall be unlawful to carry on a motor vehicle any lighting device of over four candle power, equipped with a reflector, unless the same shall be so designed, deflected or arranged that no portion of the parallel beam of reflected light, when measured at seventy-five feet or more ahead of the lamp, shall rise above forty-two inches from the level surface on which the vehicle stands." To make sure that this non-glare provision is carried out, the highway commission has sent out instructions to the issuer of motor licenses not to issue 1921 licenses unless the non-glare lenses are in use on the cars.

Motor League Busy.

The Kingston Automobile League is to be congratulated on the aggressive spirit which has been shown this year. Already over two hundred owners of motor vehicles have been enlisted as members of the Kingston Automobile League, which is affiliated with the Ontario Motor League. To become a member it is necessary to pay the sum of \$5. This carries with it free legal advice in case of accidents, a subscription to the Motor Magazine, a road map of Ontario and an Ontario Motor League marker. It also helps to maintain the Motor League which is a great help to motorists who tour through the country. Thousands of markers have been placed through the country directing automobile people from one place to another and to do this requires considerable money.

At the annual meeting of the Kingston Motor League, T. M. Asseltine was elected presiding officer, and D. H. Wightman, secretary-treasurer. Although this meeting was held only about six weeks ago, the league is already planning to co-operate with the Toronto motorists in connection with the Kingston Old Boys' celebration this summer. It has been suggested that instead of the Kingston Old Boys coming home this summer by train or boat, as in the past, that they make the trip from Toronto to Kingston by auto. It will likely require about one hundred cars to bring the delegation to Kingston, but those who have the scheme in hand figure that they will experience no difficulty in getting the required number of cars. The suggestion has been made that the Kingston League members co-operate to try and bring this scheme about. There is a possibility that several of the Kingston members will make it their business to meet the Toronto motorists on their way from Toronto this summer, and then lead the grand procession into Kingston.

It is thought that, providing the cars leave Toronto early in the morn-



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