

NEEDLESS WEAR ON TIRES IS DUE TO CARELESSNESS.

Common Form of Mileage Waste Can Be Avoided by Motorist Who Will Follow These Rules.

It is estimated that the stupendous sum of \$350,000,000 was spent for automobile tires last year. Of this vast expenditure, experts figure \$105,000,000 was squandered by automobile drivers through carelessness and ignorance in the use and care of tires.

A very common form of "tire wastage" is the unnecessary wear on the tire caused by a careless use of the car brakes, the inaccurate adjustment of the wheels or the improper use of anti-skid devices.

Knowing how to stop, when necessary, is considered more important than a knowledge of how to start the engine; therefore, the use of foot and emergency brakes is taught to the new car owner early.

Anti-skid devices are helpful under certain conditions, but great harm will result from continued use when not actually needed.

Another common cause of excessive wear on a tire tread is faulty alignment of the wheels.

UNNECESSARY WEAR ON SIDE WALLS. Probably one of the most common and inexcusable abuses of tires is driving them in car tracks or deep ruts.

There may be times when bad roads cannot be avoided, but such circumstances should not, in fairness, be considered as an indication of fault in the quality or construction.

It is possible, under very severe conditions, to wear through the side wall rubber in a very short time, but ordinarily the wear indicates neglect.

Quite often the pavement along inside edges of rails is very rough and may result in cuts to the rubber and bruises to the fabric.

The service of tires will be abbreviated to a considerable extent if cuts, punctures and snags are neglected.

The elasticity of the rubber permits a cut in the tread to expand under the weight of machine and in contact with the wood.

In this way such foreign matter as grit, sand and pebbles are forced into the cut.

With each revolution of the wheel the accumulation of foreign matter acts as a wedge and further forces itself between the cover and fabric of the tire.

If garage floors are not kept clean and the tires stand in a pool of oil, the treads soften and the traction strain in service stretches the rubber in a wavy outline.

Probably the most damage is experienced from grease in differential housing, working out into the break drums and then on to the side walls of the tires.

Not Mere Living. "My salary is \$4,000 a year. Couldn't you live on that?"

"I suppose I could manage to live on it," replied the girl, "but I expected to do a lot of entertaining after I was married."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

American women residing in Australia have organized an American-Australian League of Help, one of the objects being to send comforts to the American soldiers co-operating with the Allies.

War's Destruction Short-Lived.

Devastated districts in France refuse to stay devastated. Nature is a great restorer, and when she is backed up by man as a cultivator, it is hard to wreck a countryside by human agencies so that it is incapable of production.

Truly remarkable, then, is the announcement recently made by French officials to the effect that work is progressing rapidly in the devastated districts, and that already there is promise of abundant crops in the restored provinces.

The fruit-trees which the German invaders ruthlessly slashed and cut down presented a more serious problem. Yet when the French tree surgeons came upon the scene they soon found means of salvaging the grand old fruit trees which were the pride of the former French inhabitants.

Roads which were full of gaping holes caused by exploded mines, bridges, and other public works have been leveled and replaced. Indeed, all that still remains to remind the French and their British allies that those provinces were converted into a wasteland by orders of none else than von Hindenburg are the thousands of wrecked homes, churches, town halls, and schools.

The Czar a "Poor Man." Now that the ex-Czar has been deprived of all the revenue from the land belonging to the Russian Crown, there remains to him only his strictly personal property.

Mr. Titoff, the commissary appointed by the Provisional Government to take charge of the affairs of the ex-Czar and his family, has applied for a grant to cover their immediate expenses.

According to a rough estimate of their private fortunes, it appears that Nicholas II owns not more than \$500,000 in cash and securities.

Young Alexis is much wealthier, as his allowance has been accumulating. He possesses about \$2,750,000. The fortunes of his sisters are estimated as follows: Olga, \$2,650,000; Tatiana, \$2,000,000; Marie, \$1,850,000; Anastasia, \$1,650,000.

Since 1906 the Civil List has amounted to \$8,000,000 annually, but enormous revenues were derived from mines, forests, and lands belonging to the Emperor's cabinet.

The position of the Grand Dukes and other members of the Romanoff family will also have to be considered. Some of them own large private properties. The other kinsmen had little besides an annual grant from the revenue of the Imperial appanages, which will also revert to the State.

Hungry Sweet Tooth of German People.

The German government has permitted certain candy shops in Berlin to continue doing business—possibly to work up stocks on hand. Prices, not being controlled on such luxuries, had gone sky high—four or five dollars a pound for mixed chocolates.

After all, it seems, the important thing is to be ready to do one's duty when the call comes for action.

Innuendo. "I took first prize at the dog show," remarked Fluddub.

"What were you entered as?" inquired Wombat with an irritating smirk.—Kansas City Journal.

Poultry Note. "She made a goose of herself." "How?" "Trying to act like a chicken."—Boston Transcript.

Torpedo Supply Getting Scarce.

There is reason to believe that the German torpedo supply is weakening. The increasing frequency with which press dispatches report merchant ships as successfully dodging German torpedoes, says the statement, suggests to the technically trained mind that the German torpedo is deteriorating in speed and hence in accuracy of fire at long range.

At the outset, the statement continues, the Germans were extremely careful to conserve their torpedoes. Merchant ships were sunk by gunfire wherever possible. But the arming of merchant ships and the constant improvement in the allies' system of defense against submarine attack has driven the submarines under water and they are now forced to use torpedoes in almost every attack.

The explanation of this offered by certain naval experts is that the Germans are being so pressed for time in the construction of torpedoes that they can no longer maintain their speed and their accuracy of fire. It is estimated that the German torpedo has lost nearly ten knots in speed from the standard torpedo used at the outset of the war.

It takes normally six months to construct a torpedo and costs thousands of dollars. There is also a chance of Germany running short in some material essential in their manufacture.

The U-boat warfare as now being waged, it is said, was undoubtedly not thought out and prepared for by Germany before the war.

Naval experts are rightly continuing to stress the vital importance of attempting to destroy the power of the submarine by some new development in naval strategy. No degree of deterioration in the effectiveness of German torpedo attack would lessen these efforts at effective warfare against the submarines.

Large Crop Gains. A \$350,000,000 crop from vacant lots and home gardens is the way the people of the United States responded to the early spring call of the national emergency food garden commission for food F. B. with the kitchen door, according to the nation-wide survey announcement by Charles Lathrop Pack, the president.

According to our figures," said Mr. Pack, "there are more than three times as many gardens in the United States this summer as compared with a year ago, the estimated gain being 222 per cent. This increase represents a gain of 1,175,000 acres, according to the best figures available.

Middle western States lead all other sections with an average increase in gardens of 295 per cent. New England is second with a gain of 275 per cent. The eastern States show an increase of 250 per cent, while the south Atlantic group show 235 per cent.

After all, it seems, the important thing is to be ready to do one's duty when the call comes for action. When the people of Belgium were without bread, and no one in all the stricken country seemed to know how to make use of the corn meal which had been provided, it is related that a negro from the United States, who had wandered in some unexplained way into Belgium, volunteered to assist one of Herbert C. Hoover's aids in teaching the people to make corn bread and corn pone.

Laurel as National Flower. England is fighting now with the rose as her national flower. The United States has no national flower, recognized as such, but the mountain laurel comes nearer to being the right candidate for the honor than any other bloom particularly characteristic of the United States.

Why Ships Float. Steel ships differ from those of wood in that their hulls are made of steel plates riveted together, instead of the old method of using wooden planking.

They are enabled to float because, being hollow, they have what is called buoyancy. A steel ship displaces a volume of water equal in weight to its own. The principle of buoyancy may be tested by floating an iron pail in a bathtub full of water.

FAKING FILMS IN BELGIUM

Germans Take Pictures Showing Soldiers Distributing Bread Among Hungry Populace.

That seeing is not necessarily believing, where a motion picture camera is employed for purposes of influencing public opinion, is shown by an article in the Princeton Alumni, describing a visit to a Belgian village, occupied by German troops. The correspondent writes:

In the middle of the scene was a little line of ragged Belgian men, women and children. They had been gathered from the nearby streets. They seemed much frightened. Appeared a dozen underofficers and privates carrying loaves of bread. These they thrust into the hands of the people in the line, while in a corner the clicking camera recorded the touching scene, to be shown in Germany and Austria and in neutral countries throughout the world, of "Kind-Hearted Prussians Feeding the Belgian Populace."

That was what the camera showed. But what it did not show were the fields of Kansas and Manitoba, or the ships of the American commission that had brought the wheat that had been converted into the flour from which those loaves were made, or the American dollar sign indicating who had paid for the loaves, or even the Belgian agents to whom the distribution was the morning and evening work. That day these agents had been thrust aside and their bread taken from them. "On this occasion," they were told, "our soldiers will perform your task. You can leave the loaves and go home." I thought I had a story to tell. I was disappointed when my description fell rather flat.

TO THWART THE PICKPOCKET. Safety Chain Which Will Anchor Wallet Safely to Its Owner is New Invention.

From sad experience, many a man has learned that placing his wallet in even an inside pocket will not prevent it from being stolen. But if the wallet is attached to the safety chain described in the Popular Science Monthly, a pickpocket could not remove it without taking the coat along, too!

A fine steel chain connects the wallet with the coat pocket. When you pocket your wallet, this chain is wound up on a spring-revolved drum in a very thin casing which is sewed to the bottom of the pocket. The chain, which has its free end secured to your pocket book, is about a foot long, so that you can draw it out conveniently. Should a pickpocket attempt to rob you, the tug on the chain would betray him.

Japan Raising Medicinal Herbs.

Prices of all medicines have increased to such a degree in Japan since the outbreak of the war that the Japanese Medical Investigation association has undertaken, with the aid of the department of home affairs, to stimulate the growth of medicinal herbs of all kinds, and at the same time to prevent the exportation of all medicines from the country. The Hochi of Tokyo regrets that Japan still has to import medicinal herbs to manufacture its medicines. Many varieties of these herbs are cultivated in Japan, but the government has not especially encouraged the industry. An experimental station was established in Tokyo about 1883, many of the plants being brought from Germany, but the station was abandoned in 1880. The Hochi argues that Japan can and should produce most of her own medicines.

Dogs as Cart Drawers.

The useful work performed by dogs in France reminds us that within living memory dogs were employed to draw carts in England for pleasure as well as for the conveyance of fish. In the first half of the nineteenth century they were largely used by workmen and the humbler members of "the fancy" for Sunday outings, says the London Chronicle.

The dogs employed were sturdy animals of a mongrel character, generally with a strain of the old English bull mastiff. Twenty miles in and out was nothing to them, and while on these excursions they were sparingly fed on bread soaked in a little beer, which is said to have been a sustaining diet.

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