

# STATE LAW URGED TO GOVERN AUTOS

## City Framing Bill for Compulsory Examination of Chauffeurs

### WILL TAKE IT TO CAPITAL

#### Police and Motorcar Officials Deplore Carelessness of Pedestrians

The most important 1916 achievement in the motoring field of Philadelphia, leaving out the prodigious growth of the industry, was, to judge by the opinions of city and motorcar officials, the inception of the blanket State automobile legislation that bids fair to bear good fruit at the present session of the General Assembly.

This legislation, undertaken by Director of Public Safety Wilson during the closing months of last year, has as its most important feature a proposal to enter all applicants for motorcar drivers' licenses in the State to undergo a rigid test as to their ability to operate a car. The proposal represents the consensus of motorcar clubs and dealers of the city, which cooperated with Director Wilson in the preparation of the bill about to be presented to the Legislature.

The exact form and contents of the bill have not been made public, but it is understood on high authority that the proposed act will contain a provision for the examination of drivers, who at present need not demonstrate their ability to obtain a

license. Its clauses now are being shaped by Director Wilson, with the assistance of other police officials, automobile men and officials of the State Highway Department. Upon the last-named rests the responsibility of passing on the practicality of the measure before it is presented to the Legislature.

Not only Philadelphia, where the legislation originated, but every corner of the State would be affected by the bill. He-coming of its uniformity it is hailed by automobile men as a constructive piece of work.

**AUTOMOBILE POLICE**

Another forward-looking step was the creation by Director Wilson of a squad of volunteer automobile police, 200 in number, representing every phase of business and professional life, who are empowered to apprehend violators of the traffic regulations and motorcar offenses. The moral effect of this "cavalry" look of men is emphasized by the police officials.

"Concerning the citizen police, the Director said:

"Had Council seen its way clear to appropriate money for additional police, I would have created a special squad to hunt automobile thieves and violators of speed and traffic laws. But I had to do the best I could. This was enlisting the services of reputable men to cooperate with the Bureau of Police. The results already accomplished prove that the volunteer squad of citizen volunteers, these of automobiles are entitled to a minimum and greater safeguards are thrown about the public in the immediate anti-house and parking lots of those who use our thoroughfares in expediency."

#### EDUCATE AND REGULATE TO CHECK AUTO MISHAPS

The conflict between the car and foot and the man at the wheel has resulted itself into a question, not of preventing accidents arising therefrom, but of decreasing the possibility of the accident.

Accidents are inevitable, considering the

growing population and the rapidly increasing number of motor vehicles. But the possibility of accidents engendered by the ever-increasing swarms of cars may be decreased by wise laws and regulations, according to traffic experts, who have studied the situation from sociological statistics, from personal observation and experience and from the psychological point of view.

Education of a too-careless public by a safety campaign and regulation by State enactment of the operation of automobiles would make Philadelphia a city noted for its small percentage of automobile casualties; that was the opinion common to all.

#### ALUMINUM IN CARS

##### Light Metal Made Great Strides in Industry in 1916

Aluminum came into its own in 1916. This tough, light metal was used extensively in the manufacture of motorcars, reducing the weight of automobiles by hundreds of pounds and thereby cutting down the wear and tear on tires and other parts. Aluminum pistons, oil pans, splash pans, valves, mechanism covers, rear axle parts, bodies, splash guards, fenders, hoods and even the large parts of the engine now are accepted facts. Engineers are working on engines of cast aluminum.

#### Circus to Travel by Motor

Plans for touring the country by automobile instead of railroad are being made by the United States Million-Dollar Circus Corporation, which intends utilizing 130 trucks and passenger cars this spring. The circus is to travel westward along the main highways from city to city, advance agents entering ahead in swift automobiles.

#### Automobiling Archibald Asks:

If the Greeks had used motor touring transport, would there be another race today?

## AUTOMOBILE SHOW CHRONICLE

Sam Binko stared as hard as he could at his wife Hannah through two lazy eyes. He was just on the homestretch of a healthy sleep when her grumpy voice clashed on his ears.

"Fo' de lan' sake, Sam, dere's an ortermobill 'a-hangin' on da close line an' ma wash is 'a' foun'!"

Hannah was staring out the window with bulging eyeballs as she spoke.

Sam sat up in bed. Hannah had promised to sweep off. He stared at her with suspicion.

"Wah yo' 'a' foun'?" he demanded.

"Where's I 'a' foun'?" asked Hannah.

"In de locker."

"Don't yo' talk to me lak dat!" Hannah rushed to the bed, pulled Sam out of the warm covers and dragged him to the window.

"Now, yo' 'a' foun' me wat yo' see," she challenged.

Sam rubbed his eyes and then opened them to their full capacity. There in the little back yard was a first-looking automobile standing on its hind wheels, with the front wheels hanging on the clothes line in loving embrace. Binko was trickling from the radiator and the engine was still chugging along without complaint.

"Ah! let me see both a-dreamin'," muttered the amazed negro, as he stared, somewhat fascinated, at the transmuted hood.

"We 'a' drag yo' 'a' foun' on an' 'a' foun' down-stairs," ordered Hannah, "or we'a' meane to be 'a' foun' on 'a' foun' roof."

In a few moments both of them were down in the yard. Hannah rescued as much of the wash as she could from near the spinning auto. Sam gazed at the thing in dazed fashion. He didn't know where to begin.

His energetic wife became exasperated, she ranted at the auto and elbowed the front wheel. "But the wheels declared a revolution and like a flash she was on her back."

"The foun' clouds of smoke floatin' over the fence and the clanging of the engine's air-

tracted & passing motorcycle cop. He stopped his machine and dashed into the yard just as Sam was helping Hannah to her feet.

"Where did you swipe the car?" demanded the cop.

"We didn't steal it, I ever heard," it was—'it was—'a-hangin' on her close line."

"Yes, indeed, it wuz," declared Hannah.

"That's the worst I ever heard," said the cop. He lifted the leaning car, which was a small diver, from the clothesline, and Sam and Hannah helped him to get it out in the street. The cop towed the car to the station house.

"The loving negro couple were taken be-



fore Magistrate's power. The judge was just about to take a spin in his new car from the arrival of Sam and Hannah seized a-dreamin' in his life.

"He was stabled on hearing the prisoner's' foun', when they were accused of stealing the car."

"Never let it make a joke on the law," said the Judge. "It's worse than making a confession."

Just then the Judge's telephone rang. The call came from the Fourth street and Sevier's apartment.

"We're asking everybody," said the sergeant, "to be on the lookout for a stray automobile. A drunk was found lying on the street near Fourth and Mifflin last night. He said that his car became fatky, struck a curbstone and jumped over a fence. He says a driver and automobile gangster, and we think it might be true."

"I think we've got it," replied the Judge.

## ACCESSORY EXHIBITORS

SPACE COMPANY	EXHIBIT	SPACE COMPANY	EXHIBIT
A-R J. J. Dunsen, Jr.	Electrical Supplies, etc.	P. Bryzolin Rubber Co.	Patented Converter for Touring Cars
B-L Interstate Motor Car Co.	Interstate Autos	R. J. Bowers	Miller Tires, etc.
B-R Blain Motor Sales	Blain Autos	J. H. McMillough	Auto Accessories, etc.
C-R Daniels Distributing Co.	Daniels Autos	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
C-L H. H. Roberts	Electrical Supplies	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-R Daniels Distributing Co.	Daniels Autos	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-J The Power Co.	Petroleum Products	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-K Chase & Norman	Portable Garage	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-L W. W. Longstrech	Auto Accessories, etc.	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-M D. M. Moore & Co.	Auto Accessories, etc.	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-N W. W. Longstrech	Auto Accessories, etc.	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-O Electric Starter Sales Co.	Electric Starters	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-P Electric Starter Sales Co.	Electric Starters	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-Q Electric Starter Sales Co.	Electric Starters	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-R Electric Starter Sales Co.	Electric Starters	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-S Electric Starter Sales Co.	Electric Starters	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-T Electric Starter Sales Co.	Electric Starters	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
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D-V Electric Starter Sales Co.	Electric Starters	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
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D-X Electric Starter Sales Co.	Electric Starters	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
D-Y Electric Starter Sales Co.	Electric Starters	W. H. Stetson	Auto Accessories, etc.
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