

Statewide Periodic Vehicle Inspections Important In Curbing Highway Accidents

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Have you ever faced a single on-rushing headlight and uneasily wondered whether the approaching vehicle was a motorcycle or an automobile with one headlight not working? Have you ever frantically stabbed at the horn button in an emergency and received only silence—or jammed on brakes that would not hold, or that spun the car around like a top? Have you ever felt a blowout drag at the wheel and swerve your car like a clutching hand? If you have, you realize these things cause accidents, and that keeping a motor vehicle in good repair is highly important as a preventative measure.

Defective equipment is reported to be currently the cause of 18% of the nation's traffic accident fatalities. That represents a steady increase in accidents resulting from this cause, beginning with 8% for the last pre-war year.

Faulty brakes, improper lights and worn tires constituted nearly half of the mechanical deficiencies. Recent evidence developed by the National Brake Emphasis Program reveals that 14.3% of vehicles checked had faulty brakes. More thorough brake tests which include equalization, made in connection with periodic inspection programs, usually develop that 40% to 60% of the vehicles have poor brakes.

Greater traffic safety results from frequent inspections. This has been the experience of states and cities having a periodic inspection program. The purpose of periodic motor vehicle inspection is to discover any maladjustments in vehicles that might lead to accidents and, by correcting those maladjustments, to prevent accidents.

There are 10 major benefits resulting from motor vehicle inspection:

- (1) It improves the general standard of vehicle condition.
- (2) It maintains an automobile at a higher value level by lessening depreciation.
- (3) It affords opportunity to check motor and serial numbers actually on the vehicle against registration certificates, and in other ways to assist in the enforcement of motor vehicle laws.
- (4) It improves the quality of garage workmanship in making adjustments and repairs.
- (5) It provides an excellent opportunity to inform drivers about the condition of their cars and their responsibility for driving safely 365 days in the year.
- (6) The psychological effect on the driver is considerable, for the

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motorist who has been shown that his brakes meet only the minimum requirements will tend to drive more carefully.

(7) Inspections also help to educate and keep car owners aware that certain parts need periodic attention and that it is less expensive to have the vehicle checked regularly and kept in repair than to wait until a breakdown occurs.

(8) Rejection of a vehicle usually informs the motorist in a specific way that he is driving an unsafe car, and that as a consequence he is liable to be held as the negligent party in the event of a collision with a car that has been properly maintained.

(9) The driver who subjects his car to periodic inspection tends to cooperate with enforcement officers and the general public in the observance of traffic rules and regulations.

(10) Periodic inspection provides for the motorist an inexpensive maintenance service not available elsewhere.

In 1946, police officers of the United States, Canada and Honolulu, examined nearly 3 million vehicles during a six-week accident prevention program. They found that 32.3% of all vehicles examined—nearly one third—had obvious and hazardous mechanical defects.

A total of 2,860,346 vehicle checks were made. Of this number, 922,775 had one or more defects. The total number of defects reported by types was 1,231,161—almost one dangerous defect for every two cars examined.

In the United States, 2,718,076 vehicles were checked: 872,290 or 32.1% had defects. In Canada police checked 128,814 vehicles, 44,107, or 34.2% of which were defective.

In the State of New Jersey, during the first motor vehicle inspection year, there were 413 fewer fatalities, or a reduction of 30%, as compared with the preceding year. Total reportable accidents and non-fatal injuries also decreased 13%. This substantial reduction has been consistently sustained through the years.

Motor vehicle inspections in the United States have been recognized as an accident prevention medium since 1927, when several eastern states developed "Save A Life" campaigns.

There has been steady development to a pre-war total of 8,500,000 motor vehicles being regularly inspected from one to four times each year in 17 states and 15 cities.

Now, two years after V-J Day, this nationwide program has been 100% resumed with at least 2 states added to the list and 10 additional ones giving serious consideration to legislation requiring periodic motor vehicle inspection in the interest of accident prevention.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

HONESTY

International Sunday School Lesson for August 24, 1947

Golden Text: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil."—1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.

Lesson Text: Proverbs 3:3,4; 11:1; 12:17-22; 14:5; 23:10-11; Matthew 5:37

While written centuries ago, the words of Solomon, the author of Proverbs, have a striking message for us today. They give a remarkable insight into life and the true value of things, declaring that dishonesty is bad business and that integrity of character is essential to happiness and favor with God and man.

The word "honesty" brings to mind a variety of people. One author suggests that because each person is reared and trained differently from all others, conceptions of moral principles vary and this fact accounts for a large part of the wickedness in the world. For a definition of the word, we go to Webster, who defines "honesty" as the quality of being honest. Going back to the word "honest", Webster defines it as "upright, just sincere, honorable, equitable, fair, righteous, chaste, frank or open." Therefore, honesty involves fair play, justice, truth, uprightness, trustworthiness and every other quality of noble character.

To state that dishonesty is the opposite of this is not to go deeply enough. Jesus taught that if the spirit of honesty was not in the heart of a man, even though all his known works and deeds were apparently honest, he was a dishonest man. In the parable of the talents, Jesus taught the depth of unfaithfulness when he contrasted the man who had the one talent with him who had two talents. To him who was faithful, his lord said, "Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things" (Matth. 25:28). He who is honest in the little things of life

can be trusted to be honest in the larger ones.

Are we as a people losing our sense of moral integrity? Surely, one of the needs of our day is a consciousness of the wrongness of dishonesty. Clifford P. Morehouse declares: "In the Middle Ages most European coinages were so debased as to be virtually worthless. Counterfeits were rampant; coins of silver or gold were panned and mutilated. When the North German merchants came to England to do business in the reign of Edward I, they introduced their own coins, which were of uniform weight and excellence. The merchants were known as 'sterlings' and their money came to be known as 'sterling'. Even today one looks at the back or base of silver utensils to see if they are warranted 'sterling'. It is a mark of excellence, a guarantee of integrity.

"We need some kind of 'sterling' mark to guarantee integrity in our human relationship. The currency of business and social intercourse has become so debased that without it one cannot rely upon another's words. The best 'sterling' mark in human relations is the Christian life. A Christian's word should be as good as his bond. Are we always careful to safe-guard that warranty in our own dealings with friends and strangers alike?"

Dishonesty can be practiced in every relationship of life. One can even be dishonest with one's self by doing those things which are harmful to mind and body, or living on a plane lower than one's possibilities, doing less than one's best. Dishonest practices in business are rampant. Black market transactions, during and since the war, have been indulged in and patronized by people who should have known better and have made it more difficult for those who were determined to remain honest.

Solomon calls attention to a practice that was in common use in his day and which, in too many instances, still exists—that of cheating by means of dishonest scales. Government inspection makes this a risky operation but there are some business men who still manage to cheat their customers through faulty scales, short cuts and scant measures. A Christian business man cannot afford to take that which belongs to another. He not only hurts himself but he hurts the cause of Christ and the work of the church of which he is a member.

Dishonesty in speech is also a matter to which we must call attention. Solomon speaks of "lying lips" and states that they "are an abomination to the Lord." Spreading false reports and gossip are the pastime of some people, who do not realize that this is a sin. A person whose word cannot be relied upon is not appreciated even by people who are like him, or her. Another way to be dishonest in speech is to imply or hint a thing about another without actually saying it or remaining silent when something untrue is said about another and the reputation of the innocent person should be defended.

The fundamental foundation of good character is honesty and to be worthy of complete trust should be the ambition of everyone who wants to be in right relation with God and with his fellowmen.

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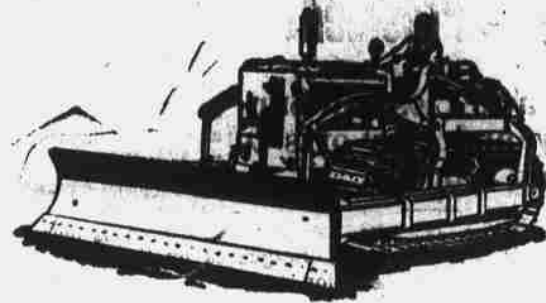
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Myrtle N. Ward, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them

to the undersigned at Hertford, N. C. on or before the 18th day of August, 1947, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 13th day of August, 1947.
 J. W. WARD,
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