

The Automobile

BALLOON TIRES PROVE COMFORT IN HARD TESTS.

That balloon tires have come to stay as representing advance in comfort for motorists is generally conceded. However, there are some new tendencies pertaining to the use of balloon tires which obtain as a result of experience in their use during the last few months. Consideration of these tendencies should enable the automobilist using balloon tires to prolong the life of this important factor in motoring, and to secure more general satisfaction from the standpoint of riding comfort.

While the natural tendency has been for owners to do nothing but sit back and enjoy the ve-vet-like, shockless ease that came with balloon tires, other owners have been making a study of how to get the best possible results from using them, and manufacturing concerns have had their experts at work figuring out the best methods that would give the greatest satisfaction to automobile owners.

PROPER INFLATION FOUND.

One of the most important things which has been discovered is that at first there is a tendency to under-inflate balloon tires. It was found that with a very low air pressure the amount of shock was greatly reduced. The fact that under such circumstances the balloon tires were still able to give satisfaction from the standpoint of continued service indicates the strength which manufacturers put into these first designs of larger tires. After some investigation, however, it has been demonstrated that under-inflation does not give the best results in the long run and that in using the balloon tires the car should not sag when driving along the highway. In fact, there is a definite tendency nowadays to put more air in these tires, so that the shoe stands up in much the same way as a cord tire.

Of course, even under these circumstances, there is a larger contact with the road when using balloon tires. This is due to the larger dimensions of the new tire. But the results are more satisfactory. It is now the usual thing for motorists to carry from five to fifteen pounds more air pressure in their tires than was the case twelve months ago.

As a matter of fact, in many cases the air pressure has been doubled. Where a year ago some automobile owners were carrying only fifteen pounds in their tires, they are now carrying thirty pounds, and several manufacturers are recommending twenty-five pounds for the rear tires and thirty pounds for the front ones. While this does not give quite the feather-bed effect of the low inflation, it does give a riding comfort which is very satisfactory and much in advance of the cord tires. This makes for better mileage and enables the driver to get more power from the engine.

The First "Black Maria."

Now that London's last real "Black Maria"—the horse-drawn prison van—has been relegated to the scrap-heap, it is interesting to trace the manner by which it came by its name. The common theory is that it was named after a muscular negress of Boston named Maria Lee, and there seems to be no other candidate. It was said that "Black Maria" was so powerful it was always necessary to obtain a conveyance in which to take her to prison. The first prison vans were, therefore, named after her. The name, "Black Maria," is one of the few respectable terms in the language which the Oxford Dictionary omits to recognize. Will the phrase disappear now that the "Black Maria" becomes a motor instead of a horse vehicle? Quite possibly it may, though the slang dictionary is a very conservative institution.

Artificial Silk Popular.

Leek, England, the first silk centre to take up seriously the production of artificial silk garments, has been so successful in the change that its percentage of unemployment is the lowest of any district of the silk industry.

There is nothing new in trial marriages. According to some people, every marriage is a trial.

There also is the advantage of such a car being less liable to skid on a slippery highway than with the cord tires, and there is much less danger of the balloon tires picking up nails and getting punctures when they are more highly inflated than in the former low-inflation method. Of course, the greatest benefit which comes from the increased inflation is found in the fact that tires which have been inflated will last much longer, and therefore the tire expense to the motorist is considerably reduced.

It is now considered that about thirty pounds is the best pressure to use in tires on an automobile weighing around 3,000 pounds. Cars which are heavier will need some extra air in the tires to secure the same general effect in riding. A full balloon tire carrying a load of about 1,000 pounds is considered over-inflated at anything over thirty pounds. And for a 6.20 tire, one of the manufacturers recommends twenty-four pounds as the minimum inflation for such a car around 1,000 pounds.

Another important consideration is that inasmuch as the manufacturers have carefully tested the tires they make from the standpoint of giving the greatest service possible, the owners should carefully follow manufacturers' recommendations as to pressure. He should be careful above all things not to over-inflate, and it is almost as important to be sure that the tires are not under-inflated. This means that the motorist should take the trouble to test the air in his tires frequently to see that they are kept at about the proper pressure.

Car manufacturers have been improving the designs of steering gears, springs and other units which are affected by low pressure tires, so that there is now a perfect adjustment between these factors and the new type of tires. This adjustment, however, needs the proper pressure in the tires in order to be completely satisfactory and it is found that even one or two pounds one way or the other makes considerable difference in the satisfaction derived from balloon tires.

Ordinarily a tire should not lose more than four pounds of air pressure in a month, provided the valves are kept tight and the caps are given a tight twist. In some instances, under these conditions, the pressure will remain practically constant for several weeks. The owner of the car usually can ascertain in a short time how rapidly deflation takes place and can adjust his schedule of renewing air pressure in his tires accordingly.

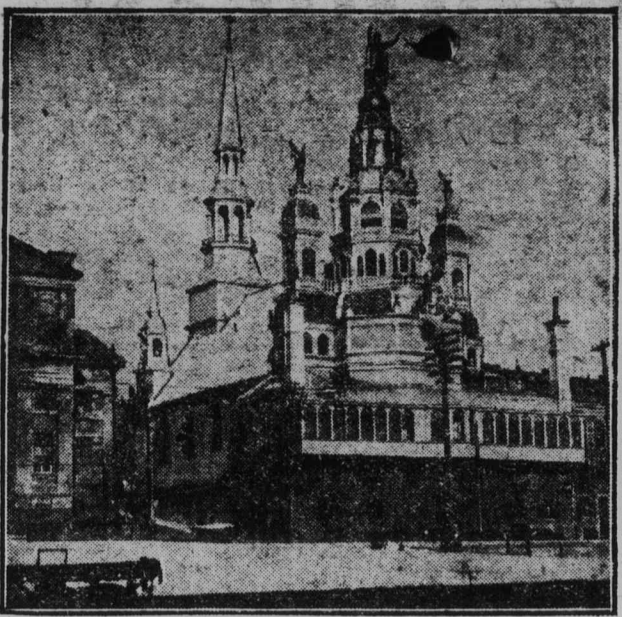
It is estimated that balloon tires have greatly reduced the number of punctures, so that it is not uncommon now for a driver to go 5,000 miles without having any tire trouble. These tires are not so soft as to drag up foreign matter nor so hard as to force nails and other sharp articles into the tread.

Listening to Music.

Listening to music with intelligence demands from the listener more than is demanded from the votary of the other arts. The lover of painting or of sculpture may stand before the picture or the statue for as long as he likes. The lover of literature has available to him the books of his authors. Those arts not only provide for their lovers permanent records of their beauties, but some of them enable those who study them to bring into play the healthful activity of comparison. Thus, the person looking at a picture or a piece of sculpture instinctively measures what they represent with the reality in so far as he has seen it. Music, on the other hand, has no such aids to its effect upon its hearers. Being merely sound, and sound that is as fleeting as it is intangible, its effect must chiefly be instantaneous effect. For that reason, listening to it, if it is to be intelligent listening, must be far more concentrated than intelligent looking at a picture or intelligent reading of a book need be.

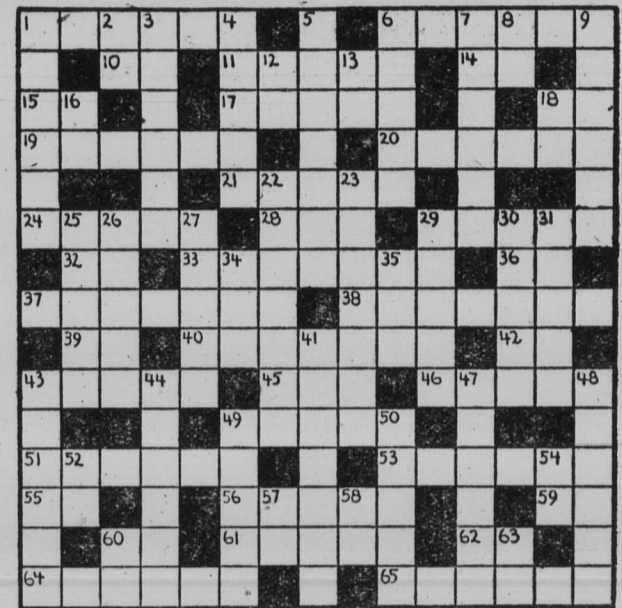
Which Way Are You Living?

There is a tremendous difference between living life indifferently, without purpose or plan, and living it triumphantly with a definite goal in view.—O.S.M.



Visitors to Montreal find the famous old church of Bonsecours one of the interesting landmarks. The church is dedicated to all seafarers.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



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SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLVING CROSS-WORD PUZZLES

Start out by filling in the words of which you feel reasonably sure. These will give you a clue to other words crossing them, and they in turn to still others. A letter belongs in each white space, words starting at the numbered squares and running either horizontally or vertically or both.

HORIZONTAL

- 1—A vegetable
- 2—Of more recent date
- 10—In the year of our Lord (abbr.)
- 11—To analyze according to grammar
- 14—Division of the army (abbr.)
- 15—Railway (abbr.)
- 17—To strike out
- 18—Note of the scale
- 19—One who loves extremely
- 20—Perches
- 21—Footless animals
- 24—To take firm hold
- 28—Highest card
- 29—Variety of pork
- 32—Exclamation
- 33—City in N. E. Massachusetts
- 36—Prefix, Toward; to
- 37—Everlasting
- 38—Black and red bird of U. S. (pl.)
- 39—Abbr. for name of a Western State
- 40—Covered with dots
- 42—Bone (Latin)
- 43—A dunce
- 45—Used in billiards
- 46—Made an error
- 49—Slips sideways
- 51—Variety of domestic fowl
- 53—One who paints
- 55—Abbr. for a thoroughfare
- 56—A vegetable
- 59—Civil Engineer (abbr.)
- 60—Toward
- 61—Plural of that
- 62—Prefix meaning "in"
- 64—Oxyrates
- 65—To be indignant at

VERTICAL

- 1—A throng
- 2—Mother (abbr.)
- 3—Loves extremely
- 4—Musical entertainment
- 5—River in Venezuela
- 6—Looks at maliciously
- 7—City in State of Washington
- 8—A large cask (abbr.)
- 9—Dried fruit
- 12—Man's name (familiar)
- 13—N. Central State of U. S. (abbr.)
- 16—Measure of length (abbr.)
- 18—A thoroughfare (abbr.)
- 22—A fastener
- 23—Attentive
- 25—Proportion
- 26—in front
- 27—A spring flower
- 28—Party to a marriage ceremony
- 30—Tint
- 31—Stout
- 34—Short sleep
- 35—Before
- 41—Charge made for instruction
- 42—Bigoted
- 44—Physician
- 47—Ties again
- 48—Abhor
- 49—Dots
- 50—More rational
- 52—Man's name (abbr.)
- 54—Southern State of U. S. (abbr.)
- 57—Abbr. for a New England State
- 58—A bone (Latin)
- 60—Same as si (musical)
- 63—Point of compass (abbr.)

Keep Your Piano in Tune.

If it is important that the piano in the home be kept in tune—and who will deny that it should?—it is a great deal more important that the piano in a public or semi-public place be kept in tune. Such a piano, upon a single hearing,

can disgust a whole roomful of people. Not one family and a few neighbors, as in the case of a piano in the home, but many families.

And yet the majority of pianos in public places are neglected. Is this not worth a thought on someone's part?

Illiteracy in Canada.

Illiteracy in Canada is not confined to its frontiers and newer territories. Defining illiteracy as inability after the age of ten years to read or write in any language, an analysis of the census statistics of 1924 shows that 5.10 per cent. of the population of Canada is illiterate. Of the provinces, Ontario has the lowest illiteracy, 2.90 per cent., and New Brunswick tops the list with 7.61 per cent. illiterate. Manitoba comes second to New Brunswick with an illiteracy of 7.09 per cent. In that province the high percentage is due in great measure to the large immigrant population in which illiteracy is much higher than among Canadian born. Of the foreign born in Manitoba 20.72 per cent. are illiterate. In the three Western Provinces there are 69,638 illiterates and of these 81 per cent. are foreign born and 19 per cent. Canadian and British born—a condition which should make us, as Canadians, think. Compulsory education laws are doing much, but in spite of these, many Canadian born children of foreign parentage as well as many children of Canadian illiterate parents are perpetuating their family names in the ranks of illiteracy. For instance, 39.46 per cent. of foreign born Ukrainians in Canada are illiterate and 7.65 of their Canadian born children can neither read nor write. Illiteracy, however, must not be confused with inability to speak English. This is another problem and a serious one. In Saskatchewan alone over 40,000 citizens cannot speak English.

A much lower urban than rural illiteracy in Canada, even among foreign born, demonstrates the excellent work that is being accomplished by night schools.

Field Marshal French.

Whatever place may be finally assigned the Earl of Ypres in the history of Britain's part in the World War, no subsequent revelations can rob his name of the lustre that attached to his supreme effort on the battlefield from which his title was derived. Lord French was the foremost factor in the creation of the "First Hundred Thousand," as the nucleus of that greater force whose firm stand on the Continental shore saved the day for the Allies and for embattled civilization.

When French's great service was performed, it was undoubtedly well for the further conduct of the British offensive that the supreme command was entrusted to Haig. But in a year and a half of intensive warfare he had justified the faith reposed in him as the brilliant tactician of the South African war. As Lord Lieutenant of Ireland until the Home Rule Partition Act became effective, he served the Imperial cause with courage and firmness in a critical juncture.

Whatever policies of statecraft or manoeuvres in the field may continue to be controversial issues in the appraisal of his career, he set down to his record so much that was for the indisputable advantage of the cause in which his sword was drawn that he is entitled to a place high in the list of soldiers who have ably served the British commonwealth.

Obstinate.

Mother—"Now, children, don't quarrel. What's the matter?"
Willie—"We're playing airplane, and Mamma won't jump out the attic window with your umbrella."

Punish, Owner of the Dog.

When a dog barks at night in Japan the owner is arrested and sentenced to work for a fixed time for the neighbors whose slumbers may have been disturbed.

Solution of last week's puzzle.



MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.



Romance Enters the Little Fellow's Life.

