EXPERTS URGE U. S. CONTROL OF MOTORS

Say Only Federal Regulation Can Halt Increase in Theft of Cars.

STATE PLATES FAKED

Prosecutors Think Uniform Numbering Throughout Nation Would Help.

N. Y. TROOPERS ACTIVE

Major Chandler Says They Have Recovered 133 Cars in Four Months of This Year.

Federal regulation of all automobile registration is urged by officials as one of the principal means of checking motor thefts, which have increased until they have become a handicap to the industry, a menace to society and one of the biggest sources of graft to the professional crook.

Failure to agree on some nationwide uniform legislation is cited by many who have given long study to the subject as the only reason why this modern form of piracy can continue to the point where it is estimated that a hundred thousand automobiles, valued at upward of $100,000,000, are lost annually. While the number stolen goes up each year officials continue debating this and that proposal.

Congress, Legislatures, State motor vehicle bureaus, automobile organizations and manufacturers are suggesting all kinds of remedies, generally alike in principle, but appear to be far from agreement on any single bill. The motor thief takes advantage of this division of opinion and of the inconsistent State laws and goes on his prosperous way.

In this series of five articles, THE NEW YORK HERALD has presented in definite form for the first time all the data and statistics available in this country showing the extent of the automobile stealing business and how it is carried on. It has been shown that nearly 38,000 cars were stolen in twenty-eight leading cities last year, that 10,000 were stolen in this State and 6,809 in this city. This is the fourth article of the series and deals with the subject of remedial legislation needed.

Police Redouble Efforts.

Police are becoming more active in their efforts to stop thefts, and private detective agencies are being formed by insurance companies to recover stolen cars and try to hold down the mounting insurance rates. While all agree on the necessity for united action and uniform laws, conflicting interests prevent an agreement. After all the discussion, expert opinion has been reduced to two well defined proposals. These are:

A Federal law of standardization and regulation which will make stealing motors more difficult.

Uniform State laws, adopted by the commonwealths, so that bordering States have the same regulations. This would be in effect much the same as a Federal law.

Federal and State officials generally, including the State Association of District Attorneys, favor the Mills bill now before Congress, or a similar measure. Many automobile associations favor State regulation and fear a Federal law.

"The subject of thefts is being watched vigorously by the National Automobile Dealers' Association," states a bulletin of that organization, "because of the theft insurance rates now having become so high as to prove a big factor in the resistance to sales of automobiles. It is realized that until thefts are checked materially little progress can be made in the matter of insurance reductions.

The New York State Association of District Attorneys, which includes all prosecuting officials, has taken up the matter of automobile thefts as one of the most important crime factors in the State. This organization drafted and backed the Mills bill now before Congress. Hiram C. Todd, United States Attorney for the Northern New York district, and chairman of the committee which drafted the bill, declared uniform State laws are impractical.

Thieves' Second Best Tools.

"The consensus of opinion of members of our association is that, next to the revolver, the automobile is one of the most useful tools of the criminal in the perpetration of all kinds of crime, from a holdup on a country road to a murder in a big city," District Attorney Todd said. "It is therefore one of the problems of our association to find some method of checking, first, the theft of automobiles; and, secondly, their use in other criminal enterprises.

"The proposition of checking such use of automobiles and their theft by State legislation has been considered by our association, and it was decided that it could not be done because an automobile can get across a State line from anywhere inside of any State in this Union within a few hours. An automobile is stolen to-night in New York, Washington, New Haven or any other city or town, and it is sold to-morrow in Philadelphia, Boston, Hartford or any one of a thousand cities. The schemes of registration in the different States of the Union are all different. They have separate number plates and those numbers are changed easily.

"We have studied this question carefully and we have concluded the only constructive solution is a Federal law branding every car with a permanent number to be recorded in offices of United States court clerks. An absolute check can then be kept on every car in the country, and when one is stolen it can be easily run down. Such a law would be the greatest possible deterrent to the stealing of automobiles."

Some State Laws Good.

Mr. Todd said some States now have excellent laws for discouraging automobile thieves by requiring the recording of all sales and transfers of cars, but they are not effective because all States do not have the same laws.

"Experience has taught us you cannot get a uniform State law," he added. "There are too many conflicting interests and ideas. We have had a commission on uniform laws for thirty years, and so far as I know they have succeeded in getting only two uniform laws, one on negotiable instruments and the other on bills of lading."

Scores of bills aimed at automobile thieves have been introduced in the New York Legislature, but about the only one that ever got on the statute books is that which makes it a crime to remove or deface any identification mark on an automobile. There is practically no way, however, of checking up whether such a mark has been removed.

"Even though a State now has an effective law," said Mr. Todd, "there is nothing to prevent a practical automobile thief from stealing a car there, running into the next State, securing number plates for it and selling it with little danger of detection. In this State there is nothing to prevent a thief from going to an automobile bureau, describing a car and securing automobile plates for it. He can then steal the kind of a car he described, put the number on it that he gave to the bureau and sell it. Thieves rarely steal a car with a distinctive coloring or marks on it, but when they do they can drive it to a near by machine shop in collusion and have it completely changed in appearance."

In spite of the inadequacy of the present State laws State troopers have had some success in running down automobile thieves. Major George F. Chandler, head of the State police, said that during the first four months of this year his troopers recovered 133 stolen cars in addition to others which they got with the aid of local police officers.

Gangs Broken Up.

"Several organized gangs," the Major said, "have been broken up, one through the efforts of a trooper who worked as a chauffeur with them for about six months. Through his work one of the leaders confessed thefts of fourteen cars, the last of which he stole in Syracuse and drove to Albany with the trooper-chauffeur in the car. The arrest took place the next morning, when the gang leader was about to sell the car. The trooper in the meantime did not show up. In spite of numerous efforts to secure a confession from the thief he swore he was absolutely alone in his work and did not 'squeal' on his 'pal.' The head of this ring is believed to have been found outside the State of New York, but up to the present time its headquarters have not been determined.

"The trooper also shared in the receipts from the sale of several cars to the selling of which he was supposed to be a party. However, he did not succeed in meeting the ringleaders of this gang, as the ax fell before he got that far in their confidence. Two blocks distance in New York city was the nearest he came to the one who delivered the cars to the subagents.

"Another gang was located through the recovery of six speedsters by our Batavia troop. By the information secured in this case the Cleveland police found a band of automobile thieves who operated in that city with the aid of a beautifully dressed woman and child, who would walk along one of the prominent boulevards afternoons, step into a parked car and drive off. The woman would then deliver the car to one of the gang outside the city, who in turn drove it into this State. Reports of stolen cars are received daily from police departments and bulletined to troopers throughout the State. Garages are inspected frequently to see if they contain stolen cars and everything possible is done to overcome this evil."

The fifth and concluding article in this series dealing with the whole subject of automobile thefts, methods and remedies will be printed to-morrow.

Works of Masters Shown in Summer Show at Columbia

Etchings of Whistler, Millet, Zorn, Nevinson and Roth on View.

Etchings by American and European artists are on view in Avery Hall, Columbia University. The collection, one of a series of exhibits under the auspices of the summer session, comes from the Keppel Studios and includes works of Whistler, Millet, Zorn, Nevinson and Roth.

The Whistler group comprises "Portrait of Becquet," "Black Lion Wharf," "Little Rag Gatherers," "Burlington," "The Forge," "Bibi Valentine" and "Rotherhithe." Millet's sketches are "The Gleaners," "Shepherdess Knitting," "The Sower," "The Diggers" and "The Carders." In the orn display are "St. Gaudens and Model," "The Cabin" and "Gulli II."

Many works of the French artist, Leheutrex, are shown, including "Les Plataines du Canal a Troyes," "Le Bords du Durtint Provins," "Le Matin au Lazaret," "Le Coté de St. Maurice a Moree Basse la Rochelle," "Les Voiliers du Bassin Neuf la Rochelle" and "La Tom des Four Sergents a la Rochelle."

Bird life is portrayed in Braquemond's "Ducks at Play," "Pheasants at Dawn," "Geese in a Storm" and "Lapwing and Teal."

Other works exhibited are "Looking Through Brooklyn Bridge," "Stock Exchange," "Statue of Liberty," "Two A. M." and "Broadway, Downtown," by Nevinson; "Desert Freight," "Dawn," "The 75's Follow Up," "Old Cooperage at Grasse," "Infantry," "Chateau Thiery," "On Artillery Train" and "The Cure's Garden," by Eby; "Columbia Library," "Seville," "The Giralda," "Poplars near Florence," "Seville," "Roofs and Pinnacles," "Chartres," "Cliffside" and "Grim Florence," by Roth; "Strolling Musician," "Guitar Player," "Pixie Baby," "Youth and Old Age," "In the Twilight" and "Sultry Afternoon," by Heinzelman; "Roped," "The Long Throw," "Buckskin and Feathers," "Dividing the Riders," "The Saddle Bunch" and "Parting a Cow and Calf," by Borein; "Path Through the Woods," "Twilight Waters," "St. Sulpice," "Paris," "Campo Venice," "River Song, No. 8" and "River Song, No. 10," by MacLaughlan; "The Chariot," "Totmans Cove," "The Doomed Duck," "The Stranded House Boat," "The Three Witches" and "The Wand," by Haskell; "Zephyr," by Kinney; "A Railway Enchantment" and "Kensington Gardens," by Haden; "East Hampton," "Old New England House," "Deep Sea Bathers" and "Old Doorway, East Hampton," by Hassam; "Femme a la Felerine" and "Le Bi a'Villerville," by Besnard.

In Earl Hall the National Child Welfare Association is displaying posters covering 300 phases of child welfare and character development. One series of the exhibit, styled "Keystones of Character," contains ten drawings visualizing abstraction, each picture teaching a moral lesson. A dual lesson in health is taught by drawings called "The A1 American Girl" and "The A1 American Boy." A series dealing with "Thrift" is exhibited in connection with the thrift work going on in the public schools. This exhibit is in charge of Miss Elizabeth Ragan, extension secretray, and is attracting large numbers of teachers from other cities.

"THE GOLDFISH" TO MOVE.

Miss Marjorie Rambeau in "The Goldfish" will be moved on Monday, July 31, to the Shubert Theater from the Astor because of a prior contract made for the latter house by Metro Pictures Corporation, as well as the fact that the goldfish supporting her are said to need a change of scene. Metro will present Rex Ingram's latest production, a film version of Anthony Hope's story, "The Prisoner of Zenda," at the Astor on the same date.

RUSSIAN TO DIRECT FOR THEATER GUILD

Theodore Komisarjevsky of Moscow Coming Here.

The Theater Guild promises a further importation of Russian talent for next season to swell the list already here or impending. The Guild has arranged to bring here in September Theodore Komisarjevsky, famous among the Russians as Fyodor Kommissarzhevsky because of his work as producer and scenic designer for his own theater in Moscow. He will direct many of next season's productions at the Garrick Theater, chief among them being "Peer Gynt," with Joseph Schildkraut, the Czech play "R. U. R," by Karl Kapek, and Ernst Toller's "Masse Mensch."

Mr. Komisarjevsky is known abroad as a cosmopolitan, having been born in Italy and having seven languages at his command. He is credited with being the first in Russia to present Moliere's play "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" and Goethe's "Faust," and made much of Shakespeare in his productions at his own theater.

Notes of the Stage

Hasautra, who does a Javanese temple dance in "Spice of 1922" at the Winter Garden, has arranged with a publisher to issue a series of Javanese songs, which she brought with her from Java, which may be sung in native American or ready made costume.

Charles Dillingham discovered last night that more than 25,000 cigarettes have been served to feminine patrons of "Good Morning Dearie," since the ladies' smoking room was established at the Globe Theater, but so far none of the patrons had called for a gas mask.

Jay Brennan received word yesterday that the challenge he made on behalf of his partner, Bert Savoy, to fight Julian Eltinge for the benefit of some recognized charity would have to remain unanswered by Eltinge until the lace mantilla champ underwent a minor operation in a Buffalo hospital—so now is the opportune time for Savoy to make the usual declaration that "that guy is afraid to meet me."

Lynn Starling, Henry Buckler, Albert Howson and Miss Katherine Barnes have been added to the cast for the revival of "The Imaginary Invalid," which Mr. and Mrs. Coburn are to present at Columbia University in celebration of the Moliere tercentenary on July 25.

EXPLORER GETS DALY MEDAL.

Ambassador Harvey Decorates Sir Francis Younghusband.

LONDON, July 19.—The Charles P. Daly medal for 1922 was presented to Sir Francis Younghusband, president of the Royal Geographical Society, at the American Embassy this afternoon by Mr. George Harvey, the American Ambassador. Those present included men distinguished in science, officers and councilors of the Royal Geographical Society, representatives of the Government departments and the staffs of the embassy and consulate.

Mr. Harvey presented the medal on behalf of the American Geographical Society. It was the fourteenth medal awarded since it was founded by the will of the late Mr. Daly. It was ascribed "for explorations in northern India and Tibet and for geographical publications on the Asiatic and African borders of the empire."

SOUSA BEGINS CONCERTS.

Lieut. John Philip Sousa began his thirtieth year as the director of the band which bears his name last night in Albany, when he gave a concert en route to his first engagement of the season in Montreal. Mr. Sousa begins his thirtieth year with the record of having traveled more than 800,000 miles at the head of his organization, his tours having included five trips to Europe and one trip around the world. Following the Montreal engagement he will give several concerts in New England and go to Philadelphia for his annual five weeks' engagement at Willow Grove Park, beginning August 6.

MOTION PICTURE NOTES.

Invitations were extended yesterday by the Fox Film Corporation to all the actors who ever played the role of Nero to view an early presentation of "Nero," the Fox screen spectacle at the Lyric, as it has been discovered that such prominent actors as George Fawcett, Wilton Lackaye, J. C. Nugent, J. H. Kilgour, Edmund Breese, Frazer Coulter and William Courtleigh all had turns at painting the town red as the Roman Emperor.

"Abraham and Lot," the seventh episode of the Biblical series produced by the Sacred Films, Inc., will be on the Incidental bill with "The Kick-Back" at the Capitol next week.

"The Storm" will break over the Central for its last week next Sunday.

AMUSEMENTS. | AMUSEMENTS.

AMERICA'S FOREMOST THEATRES AND HITS. DIRECTION OF LEE & J. J. SHUBERT.

WINTER GARDEN B'way 50th. Evs. 8:30. Mts. Tues., Thurs. & Sat. MATINEE TO-DAY. WORLD'S GREATEST REVUE SPICE of 1922. VALESKA SURATT, ADELE ROWLAND, GEORGE PRICE and Superlative Cast. "FAST IS NO WORD FOR IT." —Quinn Martin, World.

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Alan Dale Says: "I'LL GO AGAIN" TO SEE FLORENCE MILLS IN PLANTATION REVUE. MATINEES TO-DAY AND SAT. WM. A. BRADY'S 48TH ST. Theatre, Just E. of B'way. Evs. 8:30.

SELWYN THEATRE, W. 42 St.—Evs. $2.50. MATINEE SAT. ONLY. BARNEY BERNARD and ALEXANDER CARR in a new Comedy "PARTNERS AGAIN"

LYRIC THEATRE—42 STREET. TWICE DAILY 2:30-8:30. WILLIAM FOX presents THE GREATEST OF ALL SCREEN SPECTACLES "NERO" Staged by J. GORDON EDWARDS. 119th and 120th Times Today—Tonight.

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HE WHO GETS SLAPPED GARRICK 65 W. 35th. MATS. THURS. & SAT. 2:30

CAT AND THE CANARY NATIONAL 41st ST., W. of B'Y. Bry. 1564. Evs. 8:30. MATS. SAT. & WED. 2:30

MOROSCO W. 45th St. Evs. 8:30. THE BEST MYSTERY PLAY IN TOWN. THE BAT

WILLIAM FOX presents THE GREAT AMERICAN FILM! Silver Wings WITH MARY CARR. IN PERSON AT EACH PERFORMANCE BY WITH AND FOR AMERICANS. APOLLO West 42d St. Twice Daily 2:30-8:30. 134th and 135th times today—tonight.

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