

Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

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21 KING STREET EAST



TELEPHONE ELGIN 1904

White Paper No. 146

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Motoring Safety

Story No. 2

What one type of "safety-responsibility" legislation has done in protecting the public and in taking unsafe and undesirable drivers off the highways in one State of the United States of America. The absence of such a type in Canada prevents the use of a Canadian example.

As stated in Story No. 1 of this series, the Connecticut Commissioner of Motor Vehicles has the right to refuse, suspend or revoke registration of cars and drivers' licenses to all who have been convicted of serious breaches or repeated minor breaches of the motor and traffic laws of that State and who cannot prove financial responsibility.

His Department publishes each year a statistical report of its administration.

A summary follows.

Motor Vehicle Situation in Connecticut

	1926	1927	1928
Registrations	274,900	296,805	319,829
Operators Licensed	292,253	323,881	337,623
Accidents Reported	24,326	26,832	27,539
Persons killed in motor vehicle accidents	332	356	466
Persons injured in motor vehicle accidents	9,802	11,979	12,797

Proof of Financial Responsibility Required

Required because of:	1926	1927	1928
Fatal accident	42	57	74
Personal injury, non-fatal accident.....	436	535	1,679
Property damage accident.....	4,694	8,228	9,897
Conviction for intoxication.....	951	1,528	1,532
Conviction for reckless driving.....	1,160	1,871	1,694
Conviction for evading responsibility.....	128	197	193
Conviction for speeding.....	1,011	1,771	2,693
Operating public service motor vehicle without special license		8	9
Failure to obey officer.....		16	10
Operating without owner's permission.....		75	89
Leaving motor vehicle in dangerous condition		1	11
Improper passing of trolley car.....		93	99
Improper mechanical equipment.....		450	486
Perjury		3	3
Improper use of registration.....		132	181
	<u>*8,422</u>	<u>*14,965</u>	<u>*18,650</u>
Under age			3,254
Compliance by:	1926	1927	1928
Filing insurance certificates	3,813	7,874	12,200
Filing financial affidavit	23	20	6
Real estate lien	1	3	.....
Bond filed .....	.....	1	.....
	<u>3,837</u>	<u>7,898</u>	<u>12,206</u>
<u>For non-compliance:</u>			
Registrations and rights suspended.....	1,387	1,995	440

* Totals do not include renewals, therefore each year's figure represents new cases.

Suspension of Operators' Licenses

Cause:	1925	1926	1927	1928
Reckless driving	3,009	2,368	2,376	2,345
Operating while under the influence of intoxicating liquor	1,204	1,356	1,615	1,670
Under age	43	26	14	1
Fatal accidents	339	329	315	443
Evading responsibility	198	240	243	245
Improper persons	61	88	58	39
Taking car without permission	74	82	135	129
Operating unregistered car	328	404	186	175
Operating without license	1,236	1,489	1,454	1,584
Failure to appear at hearing of court.....	35	79	80	124
Overloading truck	347	245	296	236
Physical infirmities	3	8	11	14
Loaning operator's license	4	13	12	15
Failure to pay fine (complaint by Justice)	1	1	5	8
Failure to report accident	1,345	1,528	2,514	2,238
Registration suspension .....	.....	1	.....	1
Tampering with motor vehicle	9	20	24	35
Misuse of markers (borrowing).....	17	14	6	3
Improper public service registration.....	2	3	2	4
Operating without public service license	29	21	30	24
Giving bad check	1	2	2	4
Misuse of registration (loaning markers)	7	17	21	19
Serious accident	1	3	2	2
Theft of motor vehicle	36	43	51	103
Unable to locate	56	50	34	30
Complaint	2	27	15	6
Operating while suspended	15	12	19	8
Perjury	4	7	3	6
Improper use of special dealers' markers	1	1	6	8
Failure to give proof of financial responsibility .....	.....	307	837	1,106
Criminal record (public service only suspended) .....	.....	8	3	5
Allowing minor to operate .....	.....	6	24	21
Improper use of markers .....	.....	.....	325	257
Miscellaneous	27	23	32	23
	<u>8,434</u>	<u>8,821</u>	<u>10,750</u>	<u>10,926</u>

DISCIPLINE IMPOSED BY THE COURTS IN MOTOR VEHICLE CASES, 1928

(As reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles, Connecticut)

Offense.	No. Cases Tried	No. Conv. Cases	Imposed Fines	Days served in jail
Reckless driving	4,388	2,775	\$ 73,432.15	3,528
Speeding	3,184	2,998	32,136.82	415
Driving without obtaining operator's license	2,263	2,060	18,381.61	1,703
Driving under influence of liquor.....	1,942	1,771	160,255.84	24,297
Disobeying auto traffic signal.....	2,577	2,471	3,158.01	35
Violating rules of road.....	1,546	1,455	9,588.10	246½
Operating with defective equipment.....	41	32	216.00	15
Driving unregistered car	355	316	3,079.26	434½
Failing to carry operator's license.....	554	433	1,315.01	82
Operating with illegal lights.....	704	680	1,970.43	35
Evading responsibility	505	325	14,467.69	2,417
Failing to grant right-of-way.....	537	421	1,481.72	150
Failing to stop back of standing trolley car	257	211	4,582.39	20
Failing to carry registration certificate..	502	373	999.68	85
Overloading commercial motor vehicle...	342	322	639.47	90
Parking without lights	246	236	874.50	17
Miscellaneous	4,055	3,604	41,170.63	20,858
	23,998	20,483	\$374,749.30	54,428

This State publishes a large number of bulletins in addition to the statistical bulletin from which quotations are made. In spite of the law and the very evident legal and administrative activity, Bulletin No. 63, issued in 1928, concludes with the following sentence:

"Among the many conclusions evident in this report, two are outstanding. Motor vehicle accidents are not increasing in proportion to traffic hazards, though the results are more serious. The operators are apparently failing to accept their responsibilities. These present both the encouragement and the challenge to not only continue, but to **increase all efforts in accident reduction work.**" (The bold-faced type is the Bureau's.)

Evidently the problem is a tremendous one, capable of solution only by continuous study, unremitting public co-operation, and drastic law enforcement.

The Connecticut reports are summarized here not because they are the only ones, but because the State is in a highly motorized area and appears to be making an honest effort to enforce one type of legislation referred to in the previous bulletin. The reports of other States and Provinces are also worthy of study. Connecticut is simply taken as a single illustration.