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COMMERCIAL MOTOR ROAD TRANSPORT

BY

L. M. MEYRICK-JONES

ONE TIME EDITOR OF "MOTOR TRANSPORT"
AUTHOR OF "STEAM ROAD VEHICLES"

WITH A FOREWORD BY

LT.-COL. J. T. C. MOORE-BRABAZON

M.C., M.P.

SOMETIME PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT



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FOREWORD

WHAT is the purpose of that comparatively modern invention, the Foreword? If, as I assume, it be a species of recommendation to the public, then I can only say that a volume on motor transport of the type that follows is something that is long overdue.

In recent years mechanical road transport has undergone very great changes. The values, absolute and relative, change from day to day, and not only the values but the bases on which they are founded have changed, especially in the heavier class of road haulage. Loads carried in single units are larger than ever before. New sources of power are being mooted and methods of employing old ones, long attempted with but little success, are now being evolved with startling results. Over and above all this, mileage capacity—the very foundation of transport working—has been vastly increased by the device and development of the giant pneumatic tyre.

The economic possibilities of this are still further fostered by legislation; for the road transport of to-day is governed by a new law radically different in many respects from that of a year or two ago. Motor transport propositions are very changed to what they were only a few years ago, both from the mechanical, economic, and legal aspects.

Such being the position, it must be admitted that some sort of up-to-date guide is badly needed, and the publishers of this book are to be congratulated on having chosen the psychological moment to fill that need, and on having obtained a book by so eminent an authority as Mr. Meyrick-Jones. He gives us what is so much required at the present time, that is a straightforward

and accurate view of the possibilities, in simple language, of motor transport in all its branches.

This should enable the business man to assess the value of the commercial motor vehicle for his own purpose, besides doing a great deal to help him if he has already adopted motor transport.

To such people in particular, and to those of the public who wish to know more about a subject which concerns the whole country vitally, I can recommend this volume with confidence.

J. T. C. MOORE-BRABAZON.

PREFACE

THE enormous increase in road motor transport which followed the War led to a number of excellent books on the subject; but it also brought with it such vast and far reaching developments that the need for a guide based on the altered conditions thus produced can hardly be questioned. Since those days new laws govern road transport and throughout the whole economic aspect vast changes have taken place, to which great activity in mechanical development has added. Goods and passenger chassis have been evolved into two separate and distinct types, the pneumatic has practically displaced the solid rubber tyre, new types of vehicle have been developed (among which the six-wheeler is perhaps the most prominent for road work) and now the heavy oil engine promises to revolutionize the £ s. d. outlook, at any rate for motor transport in its larger units.

Under these circumstances the question confronting the author has been how to fill the undoubted need in some small measure to the best advantage. It has been said that no man can please everyone and he who tries to do so is a fool. However that may be in general, the writer assuredly does not presume to attempt it in the present case. This volume therefore has been compiled primarily for that most numerous class which contemplates or has adopted motor transport in a small way and may have need of a general guide for reference. Consequently it makes no pretension to deal with the necessarily elaborate systems of large organizations entailing the services of departmental specialists. It merely attempts to give information on such points as may be useful to the average man engaged in motor

transport and to outline common-sense methods of applying his knowledge. After all, transport working, like most other things, resolves itself into little more than applied common sense based on knowledge, and it is hoped that within that modest scope this book may be found, if not "of the greatest good," at least of some service to "the greatest number."

For the last twenty-five years or more the writer has had the privilege of learning from those in motor transport who are in a position to teach and lead, and to them he wishes here to make the fullest acknowledgment. Also his most grateful thanks are due to all the leading firms in the industry for their kind co-operation in the matter of illustration and for much valuable information. In connection with the latter particular acknowledgments are due to the Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Co., Ltd., and to the Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., to Mr. F. G. Bristow, C.B.E., Secretary of the Commercial Motor Users Association, to Mr. A. W. Rosamond, Secretary of the Guildhall Insurance Co., Ltd. and to the author's old colleagues Mr. Horace Wyatt, Major P. M. Sanders, and Mr. C. F. Haywood. Lastly, but very far from least, the writer must express his very real sense of obligation to Lt.-Col. J. T. C. Moore-Brabazon, M.C., M.P., late Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport, for the Foreword which he has been good enough to contribute to this volume.

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