

## Four Wheel Brakes Need New Law

*Engineering*

The universal introduction of four-wheel brakes on automobiles in the past year makes it necessary to change the brake laws that were written to safeguard cars that were equipped with brakes on rear wheels only. Prof. E. H. Lockwood and H. W. Best of Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, told the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Existing laws provide that every automobile be equipped with two sets of brakes completely independent of each other, one for use while running and the other for parking or emergency use. Some engineers con-

tend that in the interest of economy and simplicity and in view of the reliability of existing four-wheel brakes this provision should be repealed. A new proposed brake law, approved by the motor vehicle administrators of eastern states, requires two braking systems, with two separate means of application, each operating on at least two wheels, so arranged that a mechanical failure in either system will not affect the other. The speakers declared this new law may be interpreted to be just as objectionable as existing laws.

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## War Reveals Pottery

*Archæology*

British and French soldiers in the World War, fighting over ground where ancient men once had settlements, stumbled on many clues to man's early history, and archæologists are now busy following up the clues.

French soldiers in the near east in Macedonia alone found 74 sites where early men had lived, according to Dr. R. V. D. Magoffin, president of the Archæological Institute of America. The time when these sites were inhabited has been dated by the pottery found in different layers of earth. British soldiers found the earliest pottery, dating back to about 3000 B. C.

Imported ware which had come from the southern island of Crete was found between layers of earth

containing pottery made by the early Macedonians themselves. Scholars have concluded, however, that the famous civilization of Crete did not extend its influence very strongly to this country north of Greece. So much evidence was found, the scholars studying it have practically concluded that prehistoric Macedonia learned more about civilization from the north than from the south, Dr. Magoffin says.

Archæologists are now trying to settle with more exactness the dates of the invasions or migrations from the north, which swept over Macedonia and overwhelmed the Aegean or Mycenaean peoples in the lower part of the Balkan peninsula, he states.

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## Japanese In Roman

*Philology*

The use of Roman characters in Japanese writing has been criticized and defended for a sufficient number of years to be now recognized as a standard method of writing, according to A. Tanakadate, member of the Imperial Academy of Japan, and member of the International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation. Important official documents, over one hundred thousand school books, and all the text books in technical schools and colleges are now using this type of letter.

Typewriters with keyboards arranged for writing Japanese with these characters are on sale and about two hundred are now in use. The National School of Oriental Lan-

guages in Paris is now teaching Japanese with this system.

Prof. Daniel Jones, eminent English linguist and phonetician, gives a full approbation to the Romanized Japanese system. The true function of Roman characters is to represent what Professor Jones calls diaphonemes, i. e., certain groups of sounds peculiar to any particular language, and not the absolute individual sounds for which the international phonetic signs serve with sufficient approximation.

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At one time Yellowstone Lake flowed into the Pacific Ocean; now it drains into the Atlantic.

## NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE

*Natural History*



*Pike*

"The mighty Luce or Pike is taken to be the tyrant, as the Salmon is the king, of the fresh water. . . . All Pikes that live long prove chargeable to their keepers, because their life is maintained by the death of so many other fish, even those of their own kind."

Thus Izaak Walton, indefatigable observer of the ways of fish and compiler of ancient lore about them. The pike is indeed a kind of small freshwater shark in his restless roving and relentless ferocity toward others of his own kind. He is surpassed as bully of the lakes only by his big cousin, the muskallonge, and that only because the musky is bigger.

His whole build marks him for a corsair. His body is built long but solidly, like a battle cruiser, for power as well as speed. His gaping mouth, his long, undershot jaw, his array of terrible teeth, are all parts of a racing, slashing, insatiable fish-trap.

The pike's disposition matches his build. He is the most truculent fish that swims fresh water. He will attack anything that lives, anything that moves. He is sought with live bait by many anglers, but that is not necessary, for he will pounce on a spoon or spinner or a bacon-rind bait as furiously as he will on a minnow or frog. And an array of murderous gang-hooks, that would rip the mouth of any other fish, hardly even embarrasses him. He will grab a mouthful of steel and fight it like a bulldog, and even when you have worn him out and got him alongside the boat it is best to kill him very dead before bringing him aboard. For he may take one last bite at your hand that can very well ruin your fishing trip then and there. The only good pike is a dead one.

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