

good starting point for the West Coast route, which is the longest way down, for it is over 430 miles from Nelson to Christchurch via Otira, as compared with about 230 from Picton to Christchurch. Also, if one does the West Coast, it is a sin not to add another two hundred miles on to the total by going down through beautiful South Westland with its gem-like forest lakes and snowy mountains to the Franz Joseph Glacier. On the West Coast route the easy-going traveller rails his car from Otira to Springfield as the Otira Pass is said to be strenuous these days.

THE West Coast route is the most picturesque route, but it is distinctly a leisurely traveller's route, and one spoils it by rushing. Your leisurely traveller, for instance, will linger awhile in Nelson, and will then visit Apple Land, that stretches around the shores of Blind Bay to Motueka and Riwaka. Having got that far Takaka will draw him over its rugged hills to view its limestone caves, and visit the Buba (or Pupu) Spring, from which wells up a greater volume of water than from any other spring in the world. That is to say, there is a spring in Florida, in the United States, claimed as the world's biggest spring, which gives only a fraction of the Buba Spring's 457 million gallons per twenty-four hours—and figures, as they say, never lie. Then again on the West Coast route there is the detour down to Westport and

back, which is necessary in order to do the Buller Gorge as it should be done.

FOR those whose objective is first of all the Exhibition, and whose time is limited, the quickest way south is naturally to ship to Christchurch and motor from there. This is quite a good plan, as having seen the Exhibition one can then dispose of the remainder of the time available as circumstances suggest. Southland and Te Anau makes an interesting run, though there are rumours that the road from Lamsden to the lake is not ideal by any means. Then there are the two interesting routes from Dunedin to Queenstown, on Lake Wakatipu, about two hundred miles distant, and the enterprising can carry on from Queenstown and do the big lakes, turn to the Hermitage and thence down to Timaru and Geraldine.

THE road from Picton south to Christchurch, via Blenheim and Kaikoura is reported to be in excellent order, and as the Clarence River bridge is now re-opened there are no obstacles at all on this route. The scenery is very picturesque along the coast in the vicinity of Kaikoura, which makes a pleasant halting place.

## THE KING'S HIGHWAY

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COMMENT has been freely passed in different portions of the country on the lack of uniformity in the application of the new penalties for offending motorists provided for in the Motor Vehicles Act. The two new provisions of the law, not previously existing, are for the endorsement of driving licenses and for the suspension of driving licenses. These provisions are copied from the English Act, but they are being administered in quite a different way from that prevailing in Britain. There a motorist who is considered to need further pulling up than by a simple fine will find the magistrate ordering his license to be endorsed with particulars of the conviction. That endorsement remains on the license until the driver has had three years of subsequent clear running. If during the currency of the endorsement he offends again his outlook is poorer than it would be for a man with a clean license, and a driver who has two endorsements on his license has a very good prospect of suspension should he reappear in court.

IN Wellington and other places the magistrates appear to be making no use of the provisions for endorsing licenses, but they are making

quite free use of that for suspending them. It is, of course, for the courts in every country to follow their own line, but motorists who are familiar with the English procedure say that the New Zealand drivers are very liable to find themselves suspended in cases that in the Old Country would be met by endorsement at the outside. For instance, two drivers in Wellington recently crossed an intersection at a midday on a Sunday at a speed of fifteen miles an hour as estimated by the police. No trams were running, and little traffic was about. The by-law prescribes eight miles an hour for this intersection. The cars were crossing at right angles to each other. One driver braked and the other accelerated, but there was a slight collision in which nobody was injured. For exceeding the speed limit the drivers were each fined £4; they were also convicted of driving to the public danger; and their licenses were each suspended for three months. One of the drivers exercised his right of appeal to the Supreme Court on the ground that the penalty of suspension was unduly severe, but Mr. Justice Macgregor in dismissing the appeal said he was extremely loath to interfere with the decision of an experienced magistrate in this class of case. As the offence was this driver's first one it thus appears any momentary error of judgment may cost a driver his license.

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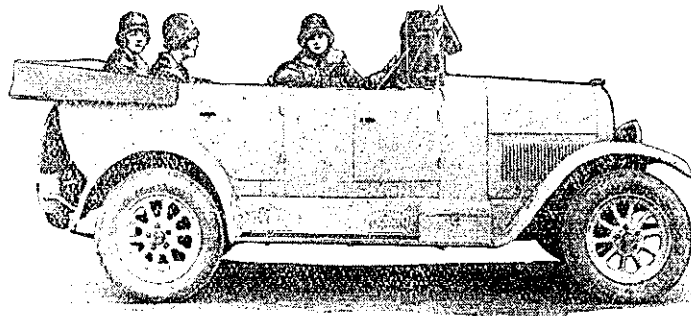
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