

FOUR MOTOR SPEEDS | FORECAST IN TESTS |

Saving in "Gas" and Almost Noiseless Gears Sought

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 29 (Special) — That the automobile is far removed from its ultimate development was emphasized at closing sessions of the Society of Automotive Engineers here when it was pointed out by Harold Nutt of Durant Motors, Inc., that transmissions having more than three forward speeds are forecast within the next two or three years.

Mr. Nutt said that the results of road and laboratory tests with four-speed transmissions showing distinct improvement in car performance and a saving in gasoline consumption approximating 20 per cent give promise of their development and general adoption. He added that this would result also in reduction of maximum engine speed and almost noiseless gears.

Possibilities of the automatic gearless transmission, named the Constantinesco Torque converter for the European engineer, George Constantinesco who designed it, were explained by R. K. Jack, an English engineer. He pointed out that the effect of this device is to produce an instant and automotive torque or turning force always equal to the resistance encountered, very similar to electric transmission. Mr. Jack said this gear was simple to control, although best adapted for use with a larger engine, as the acceleration from rest at a traffic stop was very slow with the result that a high engine speed was required.