

Altho the "Nimbus" has telescopic front forks, the rear wheel is mounted rigid. Frame is of flat strap metal construction. Shaft drive is employed.

American boys home to dinner. (ED-Fall in for "Chow"!)

The more I rode this machine the more it seemed to remind me of something familiar. Finally I realized that it sounded and acted like my first car, a '27 Chevrolet 4. It had a nice steady, reliable pull, cruised at 60 and loved to idle in traffic. It was somewhat noisy due to the inadequate muffling device and whine of the gears but you know that it would never fail. It is sold as just that; a good solid substitute for an automobile.

Price on the Nimbus is about \$650, but taxes bring it to about \$900. Now with the average wage being \$150 a month for a man you can see that they will never crowd the highways here. Gas is half a dollar a gallon.

Powerplant of the "Nimbus" is this 4-cylinder 22 horsepower engine. Of overhead cam design, it has a compression ratio of 5.4 to 1 and turns 4500 rpm. 3-speed gearbox is used.

With a government permit some of the taxes are reduced but few people can manage one. No vehicle is ever scrapped here and used prices are very high with a car or motorcycle of any year worth at least \$200. A Danish friend of mine said that he expected his 1937 Nimbus to last forever and the way he treats it, it certainly will.

Like all Danish factories the plant at 30 Peterbansvej in Copenhagen is clean and modern. The owners have always considered Nimbus as a noopy while they concentrated on the Nilfisk vacuum cleaners. They admit that in certain years Nimbus loses money. Still the Danish bike has become part of the Danish tradition since its introduction in 1919 and all government departments buy them exclusively. They have

THEORY

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however never been exported or even advertised much at home. Production runs from 300 to 1000 bikes a year.

The attitude toward motorcycles here is a very healthy one. It is considered as a desirable and means legitimate transportation. Equipped with sidecar it becomes a family vehicle and is used in all sorts of weather, even snow. As there are no hills, traction is no problem for these careful drivers. Children learn to hang onto daddy at an early age and when they are allowed to help drive they accept this with a keen sense of responsibility.

People thought I must be a millionaire when I drove up on my new B.S.A. At my first dance the prettiest girl asked me for a ride. She meant right then in her beautiful gown. And that is the way it is everywhere.

Middle aged people will gladly accept a ride or even ask for a lift while in their best clothes. Everyone seems to trust everyone else and they think an accident just could not happen.

Nobody is more internationally minded than a Dane. They say they have a small country and the only way they can protect it is to understand developments in all parts of the world. They are proud that they are usually the first to volunteer aid to foreign countries in time of disaster. Besides it is part of their culture to be kind and generous to all strangers. Every stop in the country usually leads to testing the local farmer's cheese, milk and bread which I guarantee to be the very best. (They tell me that if I eat enough of them I will not feel the cold when riding my bike.) It is significant that Denmark has chosen English as its second language with most children getting 5 years of it before they are 16 years old.

