



*Dodge Touring Car 1914*

Long before the famous car bearing the Dodge name was announced in 1914, John and Horace Dodge had built the vital parts for almost half a million cars in their Hamtramck plant. They were both completely loyal to their principal customer, Henry Ford, insisting that the Ford was the best piece of mechanism ever put on the American market for the money. However, they aimed at building an even better product. On November 14, 1914 the first Dodge car, a touring model, was adjudged ready for sale. In what little time remained of that first year, there were 240 Dodges produced and sold; the next year production skyrocketed to 45,033. The 1914-produced model boasted an all-steel body for the low price of \$785. It had a 12-volt, 40-ampere battery for starter, lights and horn and featured a windshield which could be adjusted for "rain vision, clear vision and ventilating." Dodge Bros.' long experience in the motor industry was outstandingly evident in the simple, reliable engine they used. It was a 30-35 h.p., four-cylinder, L-Head type with bore and stroke of  $3\frac{3}{8} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ "; top speed was 63 mph. Other specifications: selective sliding gear type transmission; 110 inch wheelbase; hickory wheels with demountable rims,  $32 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " tires; Timken bearings throughout; weight, 2200 pounds.