

Why the Netherlands became a country of cyclists

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The Netherlands as a country of cyclists

- The Netherlands currently has **18 million** bicycles and a population of almost **17 million** inhabitants.
- The bicycle is used for more than **a quarter of all journeys**. For distances up to 7.5 km, the bicycle is the most popular means of transport.

1870-1895

The introduction of the bicycle



- The penny-farthing:
dangerous, but prestigious to
ride



- From 1871 on, local bicycle associations founded
- In 1883 the **ANWB** founded as a national federation of local bicycle associations



The ANWB started to organise excursions, competitions of various sorts



Maps and guide books for tourists



The bicycle aid box



1895-1920

The breakthrough of the bicycle

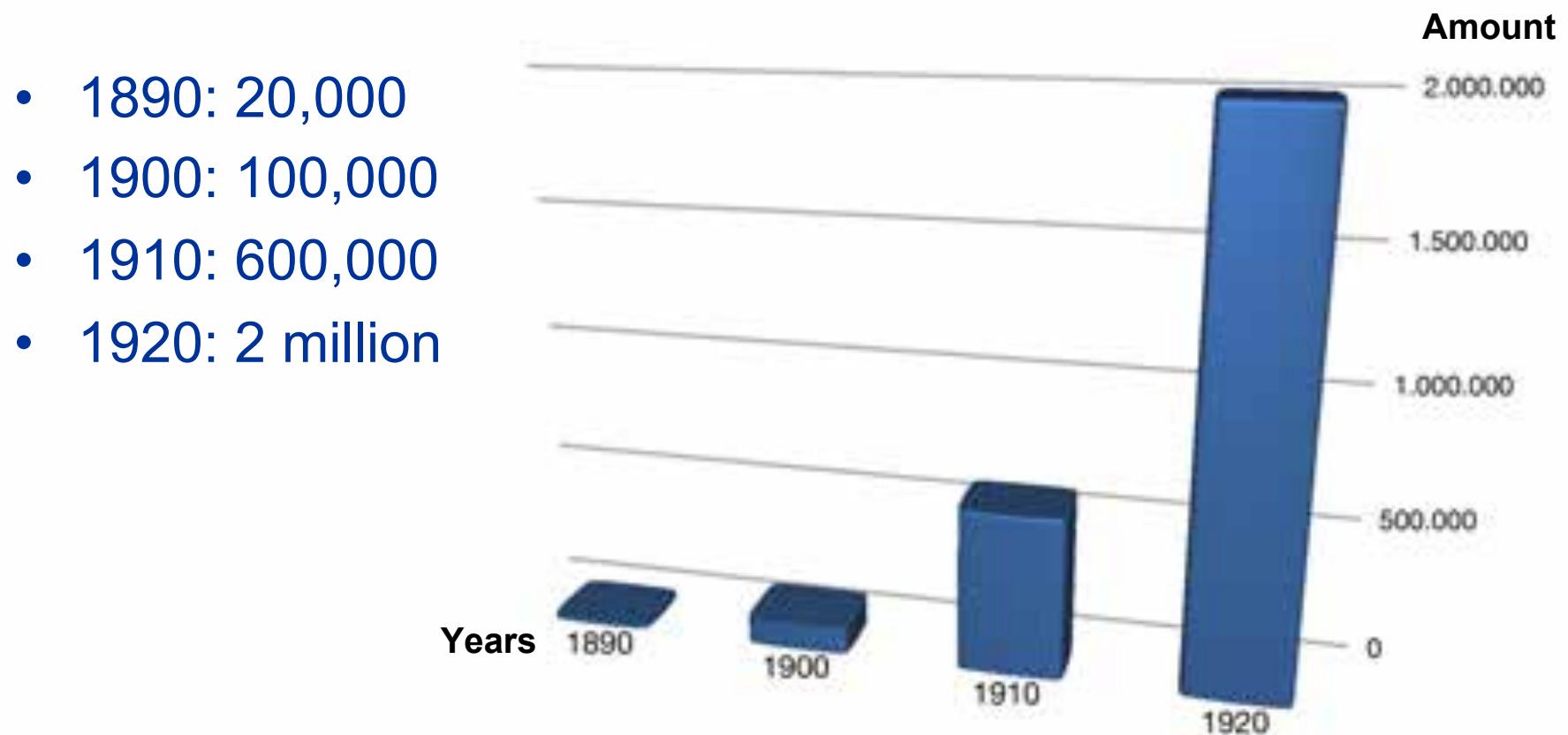


Success of the safety bike (1895)



The result

- Steep increase of bicycle use and ownership after 1895.



Promotion of non-leisure use of bicycles



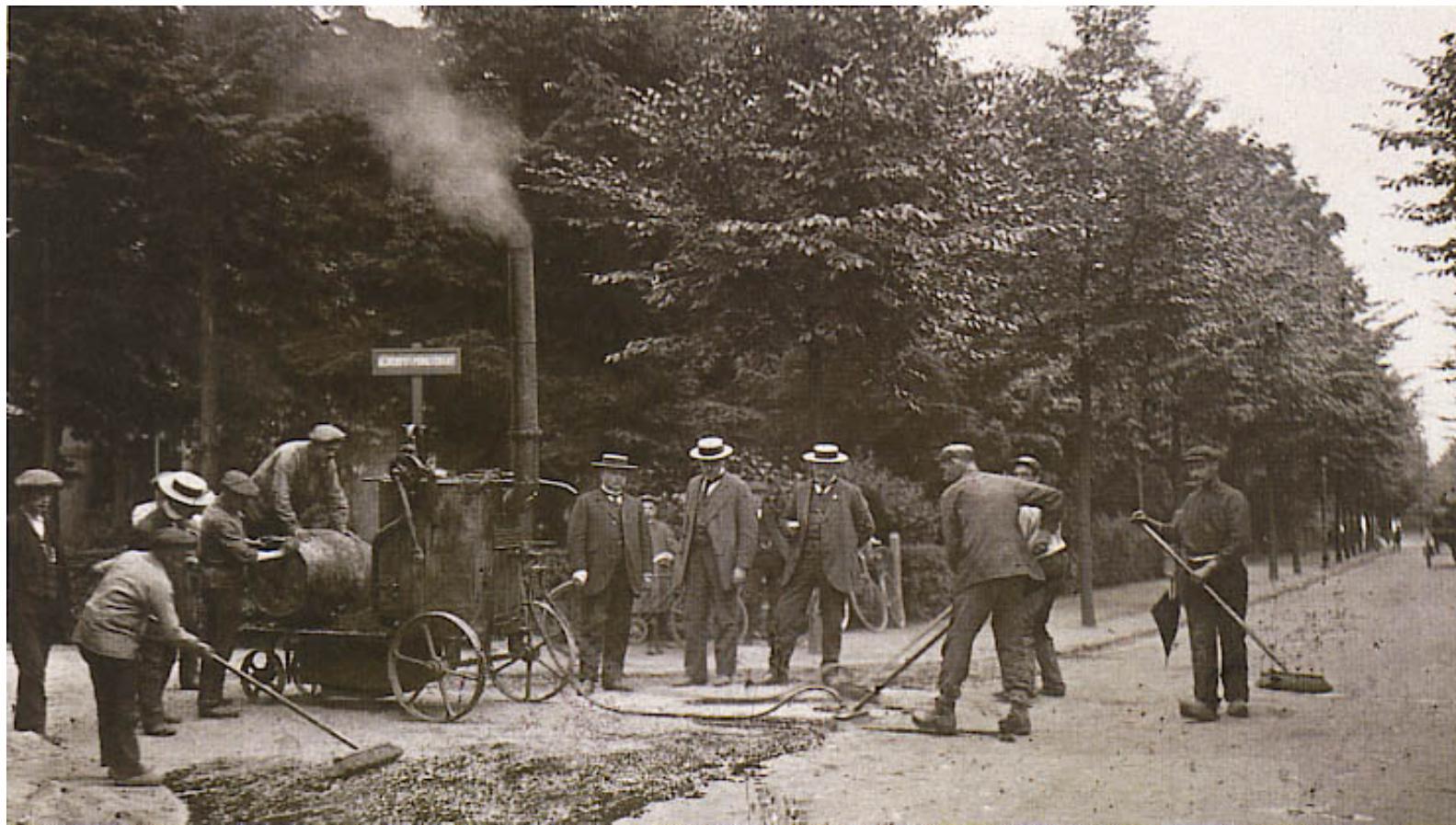
1900: the ANWB transformed itself into a touring club



Road signs and signposts



The ANWB initiated the construction of bicycle paths from 1896 on



Constructing recreational routes (and placing signposts for cyclists)



1920-1940

Massive bicycle use



Promotion of the ‘Dutch Bicycle’



The bicycle as a symbol of national identity





1930: 60,000 private motorcars and three million bicycles



Toward disciplined behaviour of cyclists



1940-1970 Cyclists under pressure





1965: the white bicycle scheme of the Amsterdam social movement Provo



‘White bikes’ introduced by the ANWB at the national park ‘De Hoge Veluwe’ (1975)



1970–1990

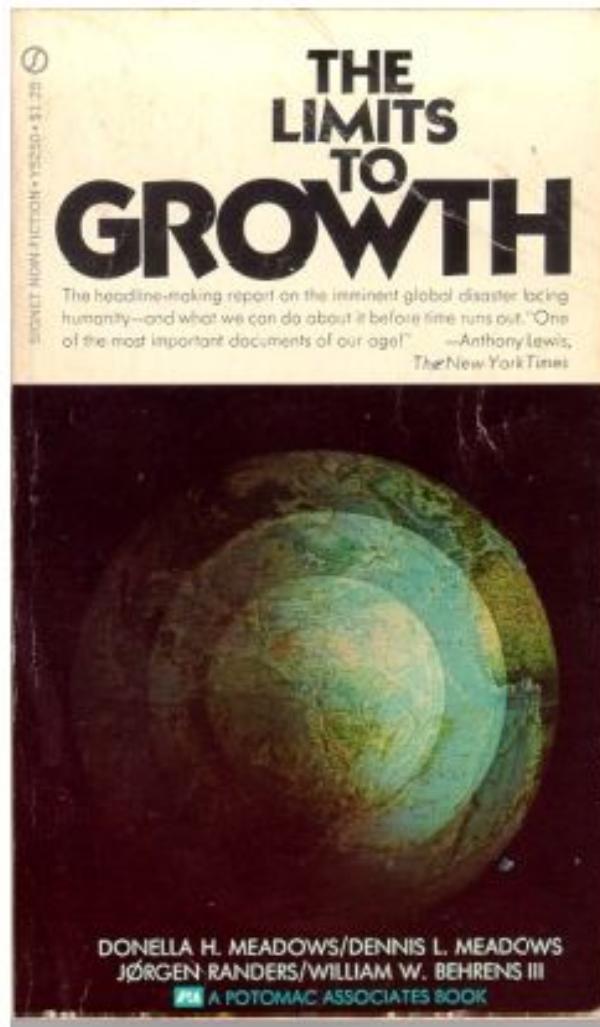
The bicycle renaissance



Rising amounts of traffic accidents







The 1973 oil crisis







OMDAT WE ALS FIETSER
OOK IN HET DONKER
"GEZIEN" WILLEN ZIJN!



ZIJREFLEKTIE

ANWB







Bicycle theft: an increasing problem



Introduction of a new ring lock and a bicycle insurance



1990-2013 Continuing success and new innovations



Huge increase of cycle paths

- 1990-2010: 18.000 km to 35.000 km





**18 million bicycles
16 million inhabitants**



Growing popularity of the electrical bicycle: 1 million E-Bikes (2013)



Road Assistance for cyclists by ANWB Roadside Assistance



Congestion on the cycle path

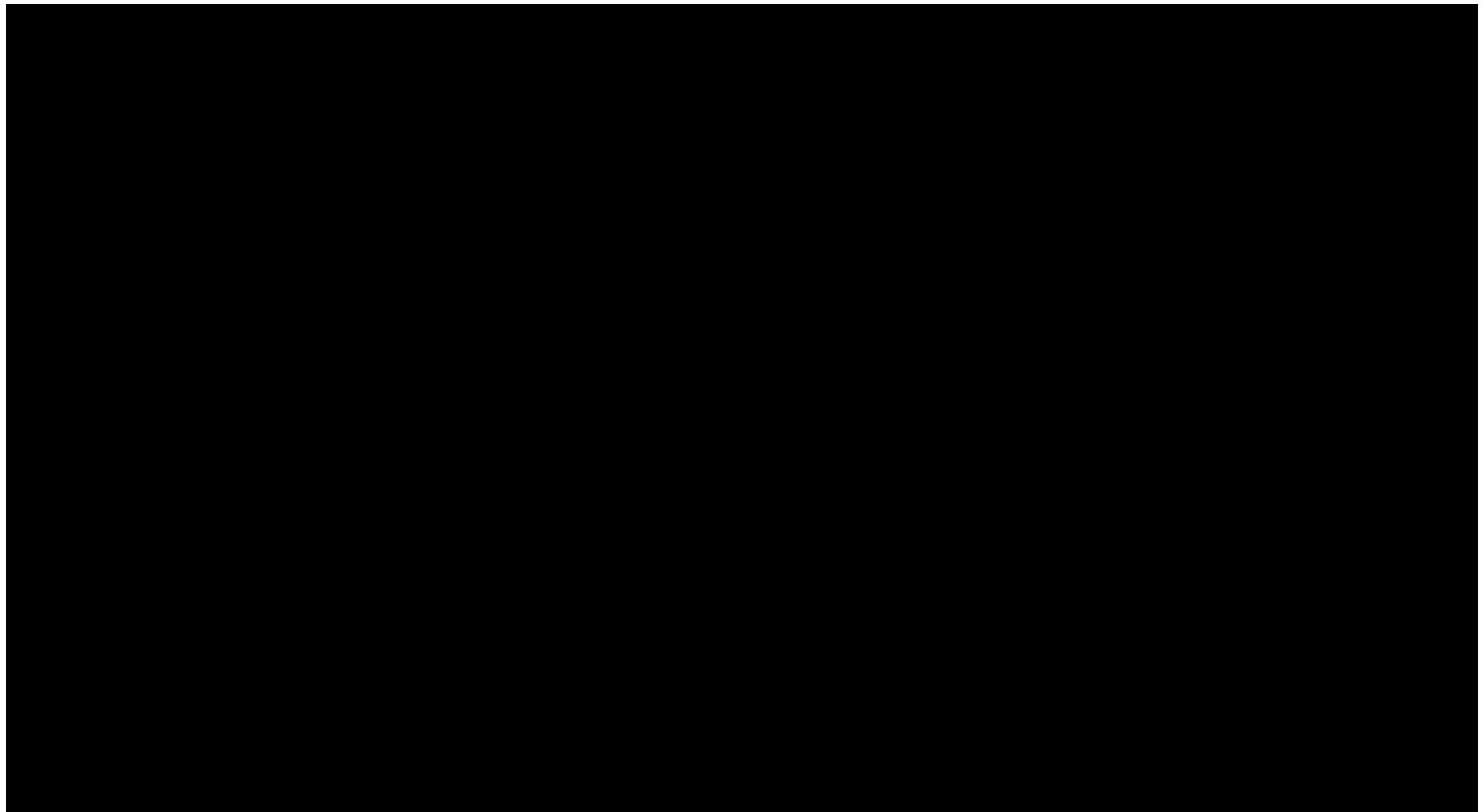


Number of accidents on the rise again



Streetwise







Prime minister Mark Rutte



Contribution of the ANWB to the Netherlands as a country of cyclists

- Campaigns for more bicycle infrastructure
- Publicity for the bicycle as a means for all walks of life and all purposes
- Redesign of models to improve safety



