

THE BIGGEST EVER AND FASTEST

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 1908 IN SPEED, SIZE, AND SKILL, NEEDS OF DARING AND THE REWARDS



THE THOMAS MOTOR CAR WHICH WON THE NEW YORK PARIS RACE IN THE SUMMER, CARRYING THREE CONTINENTS AND AN OCEAN, AND REACHING THE FRENCH CAPITAL ON JULY 30TH.

BY JAMES WARWICK PRICE.
NINETEEN eight promises to have written itself down for all time as a year of "records." American crops from wheat to whisky, from petrol to lemons, have left far, far behind the old familiar figures. The foreign mails, outward bound (thanks to the year's last achieved "penny post" with England) have as surely set new high-water marks as have the foreign mails, inward bound. In January, Master Roy Sablin, of Great Barrington, Mass., set one record when he entered upon a thirty-month year of unbroken attendance at Sunday school. With the closing day of the 36 comes word of a daily paper to be immediately established in London "to contain nothing but unvarnished truth"; another record, surely—even those Ohio bullet-holes, made from sugar barrels to accommodate the giant local tickets, pale before this trans-Atlantic work.

The Doings of Women.
Perhaps Turkey's women have set the year's highest record in things dealing directly with their sex. They have fought free at last from the long-worn yamulka, the chaste but tantalizing veil. At last the traveler in the Near East may now pass judgment upon the standards of human beauty, and compare it with that which won a "contest" in England in the early Spring. Fifteen thousand photographs had been entered, but Miss Ivy Close received the unanimous vote of the twenty artist-judges. Miss Margaret Fry, of Denver, stood proxima.

The Race for Speed.
To the reckless God of Speed prayers have been offered up every week of the 12—and many of them have been answered. May, for instance, witnessed an auto run between Newport and Boston distinctly beyond the usual. Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Wagstaff, escaping from some too-enthusiastic guests at their wedding that morning, jagged over the 73 miles intervening between the Rhode Island city and the Hub in three minutes better than two hours. A month later the Italian Nazario, at London, in a Brooklands course, drove a car four times faster than that; though it is borne in mind that the fleeing Wagstaffs were on a very narrow road, and the Nazario's Shovel sufficed himself with less than two miles at his 120-an-hour speed.

On the Water.
And man has done as notable things on water as on land, as 68 months have witnessed one of the most celebrated. The entries of this sort are, indeed, so many that they must be merely tabulated if even bare mention of them is to be made.

Years and Miles.
In September, 19-year-old W. J. Sidis, of Brookline, Mass., passed his entrance examinations for "The Tech"—Boston's high-grade scientific college, where the average age of first-year students is 21. Three months earlier, Maurice Moriarity sailed from New York for Ireland for his first vacation in 24 years. He was an employee of the Cheney Mills, at Manchester, Ct., and had worked week days and Sundays for over 30 years and six days out of every seven for the balance of his time.

Words and Weather.
But has not the talking "record" turned not inexact to such of the '08 events as the recorded testimony in the Government's case against the great Standard Oil concern—4,800,000 words; 13 volumes, that is, with five more of "exhibits." Senator LaFollette's speech, too—the now historic filibuster in which the Wisconsin leader indulged, in the closing days of the last session of Congress, was "weighty" to record length; it turned the scales at 19 pounds.

ing the Eiffel structure. But what of all this? Architects and engineers have now figured out that a 2000-foot building is practical. It would cost some \$60,000,000, but the chances are fair that we shall see it soon—leaving poor little St. Peter's at Rome in a veritable valley, and dwarfing old Storm King Mountain. Apropos of mountains, August saw a St. Bernard climb Mont Blanc in search of a master who had left him behind at Chamounix, when himself going up; while, on the 6th of the same month, a Mr. Burr, of Boston, broke all local climbing records by ascending the peaks of the Jungfrau, the Moench and the Eiger in one day, the first ascent being made by lantern light.

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A Few "Biggest-Evers."
Signs appeals to the 20th century mind, and 1908 has done yeoman's work in going-a-few-better previous measurements and dimensions. The nine months from February to October offered the news dispatches of the wide world's press just as many items—and again refuge must be sought in the "utshell paragraph."

The Domestic Side of It.
This surely sounds "like mother used to make the real heartache, and about it. To it then adds these items of similar kind:
The same good commonwealth claims (uncontested) the butter championship of the world, with "Johanna," who anted up 35.22 pounds in one working week. Her yearly milk output totals at 27,423 pounds.

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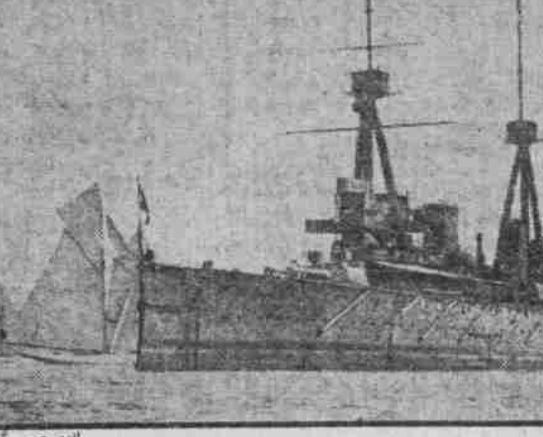
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tured was taken in San Pedro Bay, California, weighing 14,000 pounds, and measuring 32 feet. The mouth, opened, was two and one-half feet across. July—After four years' watching and guarding its growth at the foot of an old oak, E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., harvested a 25-pound mushroom. August—The largest elephant's tusk ever brought out of Africa was shipped to London. It measured something over 19 feet in length and was valued at \$200. September—The largest passenger steamer and the largest battleship yet launched took water, British built and British owned. The New York liner Laconic and H. M. S. St. Vincent. October—The largest of submarines was launched at Cherbourg. She is 28 feet long, of 65 tons displacement, and 15-knot speed.

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THE ROUTE TAKEN BY THE 1,131 BOY-MEMBERS OF THE Y.M.C.A., WHO, IN JULY LAST, RELATED A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MCCLELLAN OF NEW YORK TO MAYOR BURRIS OF CHICAGO COVERING 1,092 MILES IN JUST 10 DAYS, 11 HOURS AND 11 MINUTES, AT AN AVERAGE OF 107 MILES A DAY AND A HALF AN HOUR

Some Fake Schemes of Expert Wrestlers

Easiest Sort of a Bunco Game Foisted on Rural Sporting Men and a Gullible Public.

THERE is more hippodrome bustle in the wrestling game than in any other line of sport," said an old-time referee the other night to a number of friends at an uptown hotel. "In fact, there have been very few wrestling matches which have been pulled off strictly on the level. Many of the great grapplers of the past and present have done much to kill the game with their fake matches," says the New York Sun.

There are hundreds of minor wrestlers who are making a catch-as-catch-can living by hippodroming through the small cities and towns. They travel in pairs and manage to clean up a few dollars with their trick schemes. A couple of these fakers from the Bowery last Winter, tired of living on free lunches, made their way to a building down over in New Jersey. They met a saloonkeeper who wanted to be a leading light in the sporting world and to him they unfolded their scheme. He agreed to get them some printing and engaged the hall for the show. But that was all. On the strength of the show bills they secured a room in a second-class hotel and spent a couple of days killing the town themselves. They sold a few tickets—meal tickets to them, for they were good and hungry. They had only one sweater between them, so that while one was in bed the other, donning the sweater, would run through the main street just as the factory hands were going to work. Then the other faker would put on the sweater about the noon hour and do another stunt near the factories. In a few days the match was the talk of the town. The local newspaper sent a reporter to their room one fine morning and he found both in bed, tired out after a long sleep with the bear kept. But one of the wrestlers was quick-witted enough to jump out of bed and say to the pencil pusher:

"You see, my trainer is asleep. I ran him off his feet early this morning and the poor fellow is all in." Then the fake wrestler, while his pal hid his face under the bedclothes, poured a wonderful tale into the reporter's ear about the proposed match. The young scribe was thoroughly impressed, to wit:

"At what hotel is your opponent stopping?" asked the reporter as he was leaving.

"What hotel? Why, that fellow is

to mean to stop at a first-class hotel," was the reply. "He's one of those saying 'KUH' and 'He's probably in, sorry, freight car down at the depot.' The local paper gave the match a good spread that evening and a big crowd attended, ignorant of the fact that it was a "frame." The wrestlers lived there on the fat of the land for another week and then came back to the Bowery with new clothes and \$200 each. The sports of that same Jersey town are still talking about the great wrestling contest and are anxious to have a return match.