

NEWS AND NOTES FROM FIELD OF AUTO OWNERS

Latest Automobile Gossip of This and Other Lands— Interesting Bits of Information Gleaned Here and There About Chug Wagons and Drivers.

There are more than \$1,000,000 worth of automobiles in San Francisco. It is believed that there will be at least 125 entries for the Glidden tour. Cleveland has a city ordinance forbidding the practice of leaving engines running when cars are stopped. In an automobile the trouble with a little trouble in the mechanism is that it will not remain little. According to consular reports a very successful trade in American automobiles can be cultivated in Mexico by the proper methods.

automobiles into France during the first four months of the present year, largely as a result of the victories achieved by Italian cars in European racing events last year. A steam ambulance, capable of a speed of 45 miles an hour, is being tested by the medical department of the army at West Point. If satisfactory, it is said the army will adopt such cars for general use. The success which so far has attended the Peking-Paris run through the great Asiatic desert has demonstrated that automobiles may easily be employed in regions heretofore traversed only by camel caravans.

France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Austria. In retaliation for the stopping of Sunday baseball in Worcester county, New York, the managers of the White Plains Baseball association threaten to stop golf and the running of automobiles on Sunday. Another learned English judge has decided that an automobile is a "nuisance on the highway," and has held the owner liable for damages for accidents occurring while the chauffeur was disobeying orders by taking a drive for his own pleasure. Motorists' organizations of Hampshire, England, will hold a gymkhana at Southampton in an endeavor to popularize both automobilism and motor cycling in a district where police prosecutions and accidents have thrown both into disfavor.

There is a possibility that motor buses will be barred from London, or at least from some sections of the city, as two of the Metropolitan councilors have under consideration complaints that big vehicles are damaging buildings by vibration.

Paris makers are planning to build their 1908 chassis wider than heretofore, making it possible to have stronger, lighter and more comfortable bodies, give their cars better balance and to reduce the danger due to taking corners at high speed.

One thousand dollars in gold coin, to be divided between the two drivers of the winning team, and a gold and silver trophy for the owner of the car are the prizes offered to the winners of the 24-hour race at Brighton Beach track, New York, August 9 and 10. A New York automobilist has found many endorsements to his proposition that hereafter the owners of automobiles participate in Memorial day exercises by providing the victrolas in which to ride during their parades to and from the cemeteries.

The Royal Automobile club of Great Britain is conducting an interesting series of dust contests over a road specially coated with finely powdered limestone rock. Photographs of the dust clouds produced by the different cars will be used to determine the winners. Miss Victoria Godwin, the woman motorist of international fame, who recently returned to England after a short visit in this country, announces that she will again visit America in September, and pilot a 60-horsepower car in the international cup races on Long Island.

The new hill on Schooley's mountain, in Morris county, New Jersey, which will be used hereafter for climbing contests, is a terror. It is two miles long, and is well studded with water breaks. The grade averages 20 per cent.

There is perhaps nothing which better illustrates the healthy condition that exists in the automobile industry today than the fact that some of the manufacturers already are building 1908 models. The 1907 product has been closed out and a rush is on to produce the new machines.

The first automobile railroad ferry in the country has been established between Atlantic City and Ocean City, New Jersey, and it now is possible for motorists to drive the entire length of the state without getting out of sight of the Atlantic ocean.

An armored automobile recently tried before the Kaiser and intended for use of officers in the field, is protected by armor six millimeters thick. It is en-

veloped by a steel hood, with two loopholes in front for quick-firing rifles. Inside it is fitted with leather pouches containing a small battery of quick-firing pistols.

The recent arrest of John D. Rockefeller because his chauffeur was breaking the speed law is giving New York motorists a laugh at the off-king's expense. Only a few days before he was held up by a rural constable he gave positive orders that his estate near Tarrytown be closed against all automobiles because some drivers were reckless.

By making a test case in court the Ohio Valley Automobile club has succeeded in having the charges on all toll roads reduced to a 2 1/2-cent basis for visiting automobilists as well as local drivers. Heretofore automobilists crossing the state line from West Virginia have been taxed 5 cents a mile.

Walter Stevens, a merchant, recently ran through a flock of chickens at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, with his car and an old rooster became entangled in the steering gear. The car crashed into a telegraph pole and was badly wrecked, while the rooster struggled out of the wreckage and marched away, crowing derisively.

There were more automobiles at the Sheepshead Bay track, New York, when the Suburban was run than ever have been together in this country, with the possible exception of the last Vanderbilt cup race. Of the 740 cars all but 250 were of American construction, representing the work of more than 50 factories. The value of the collection was estimated at \$3,875,000.

Important work in the line of erecting road signs is now being done by the New York Automobile association through its affiliated clubs in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New

Jersey, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin. Preparations are being made for similar work in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington. The automobile which the British explorer, Lieutenant Shackleton, will take with him when he starts next month to search for the south pole, will be supplied with several sorts of wheels adapted to the varying surfaces over which it will be driven. It will be used to haul the sledges, the members of the expedition having to walk. Benolite, or some other non-freezing liquid, will supply the motive power.

The autotrom suggested by the Kaiser, which will eclipse anything of the kind in the world, will be equipped not only with several straight-graded tracks for short-distance racing, but with a magnificent long-distance course, fully 51 miles long. There will be a series of dangerous curves, descents and hazards, while the grand stands will accommodate 1,000,000 persons. Privy Councillor von Friedlander is raising \$5,000,000 for the project.

IN THE AUTO WORLD. William Wallace, who helped to spread the fame of Portland as an automobile racing center by breaking a world's record on the Irvington track in June in a touring car, has formed a partnership with H. M. Covey of this city. The firm will be known in the future as the Covey-Wallace Motor company. Mr. Wallace has been connected with the Keats Auto company for the past four or five years and is well known in touring circles.

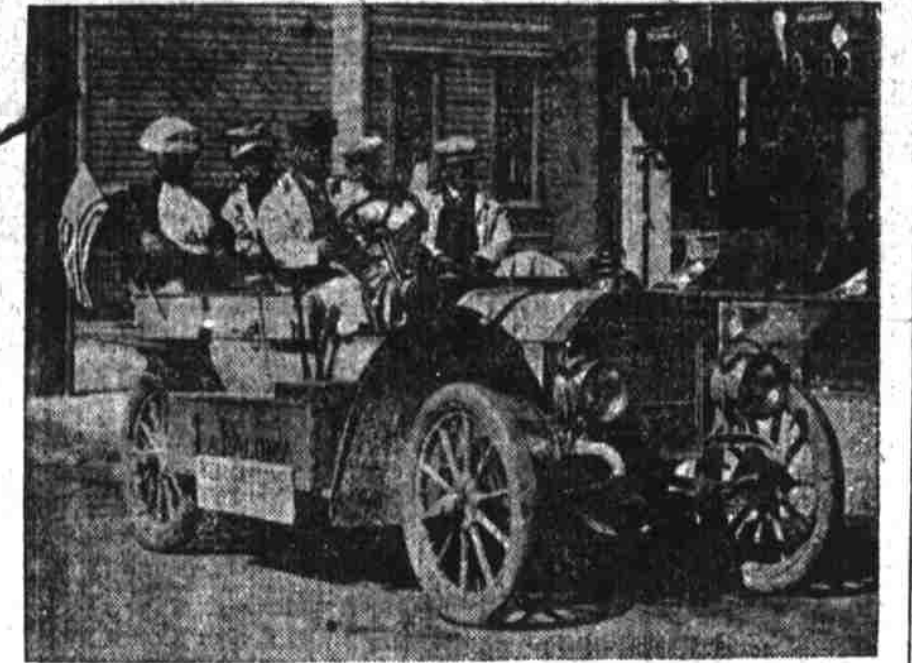
McGowan & Nichols of Burns, Oregon, have purchased a 20-horsepower four-cylinder Cadillac from the Covey-Wallace company and will use the car extensively this summer touring through eastern Oregon. A 15-horsepower machine, driven by a couple of young men of Boise, Idaho, reached Prineville last Thursday. The tourists were on their way to The Dalles. The trip from Boise to Prineville, a distance of 150 miles, was covered in 72 hours, and time was allowed for resting and repairs.

F. A. Bennett, local agent for Ford cars, is jubilant over the outcome of the 24-hour endurance race held at Detroit last week. The Ford six-cylinder 40-horsepower ran 1,135 miles in that time, beating the world's record 412 miles, making an average of 47 miles an hour. The 15-horsepower Ford runabout covered 798 miles in the same contest, which was within 25 miles of the previous world's record for any car.

The Covey-Wallace company has sold a 20-horsepower cylinder Cadillac to E. W. Ring, a 45-horsepower Pierce Arrow to H. L. Chapin, a 10-horsepower Cadillac to Tug Wilson and a similar car to C. E. Burgess sold a Stoddard-Dayton touring car to Frank Raley last week.

Dr. E. E. Cable purchased a runabout from the same firm and a semi-racer was also sold to Wright & Dickinson, proprietors of the Oregon hotel. A. D. Perkins, president of the Pullman Car company, states that automobile enthusiasm was never as apparent as at the present time. His machine shops are overloaded with work, auto owners showing every desire to keep their horseless machines in the best of condition.

The White company has just issued its Route Book No. 4, containing the detailed road directions of the "airline" route to the Jamestown exposition via Philadelphia, Wilmington, Dover and Cape Charles. Supplementing the road directions is an illustrated article full of useful hints to tourists contemplating a tour in that section. Road directions are also given for a tour from Baltimore, over the National highway to Frederick, and then by way of Harper's ferry to Halltown, West Virginia, where connection is made with routes north and south. A fine double-page map is another feature of the new booklet. Copies may be obtained, free of charge, on application to The White company, 369 Rose building, Cleveland, Ohio, or to their agent, J. B. Kelly, 313 Second street, Portland, Oregon.



J. W. Hainsworth and party of Seattle in 40-horsepower Oldsmobile touring car en route to Yellowstone park via Portland and Spokane.

To stop the incessant fracturing of the speed laws the authorities of Atlantic City will equip a squad of police with motorcycles. The Automobile club of Buffalo, New York is out for the Vanderbilt cup race, if it should be found impracticable to run it on Long Island this year. A feature of the next Paris Salon de l'Automobile will be a display of the various types of cars used since motoring became a recognized sport.

Twenty automobiles are to be put into operation on Fifth avenue, New York, this month, and 30 more will be added as fast as the makers can furnish them. President Roosevelt is an ardent advocate of international contests, whether of motoring, yachting or rowing, holding that they stimulate patriotic feeling.

Although the natives of Mongolia are greatly excited over the Peking to Paris race, which is now on there is no fear of any hostile demonstration. Two chauffeurs have been convicted in San Francisco under the new California law making it a misdemeanor to use an automobile without the owner's consent.

A three-months' automobile tour of Europe and portions of Asia is to be taken by a Chicago society belle in an endeavor to cure her of a serious mania for music.

The famous Five Million club, of Texas, is arranging a 100-mile endurance contest across the state from El Paso to Texarkana and will offer \$5,000 worth of prizes.

"What speed were you going at the time of the accident?" a motor-omnibus driver was asked, recently, in a London court. "Oh, I should say a gentle trot," he replied.

Nearly every one of Detroit's automobile factories supports a baseball club, making that city the only one in the world to have an Automobile Manufacturers' league.

Probably the most powerful automobile engine ever built has been constructed by a Pennsylvania firm. It is of 250 horsepower and will be used in a 12-meter motor boat.

The decrease in importation of foreign cars so far this year has been figured out at about 16 per cent. On the other hand exports have increased nearly 66 per cent over 1906.

From January 1 to June 1 this year 6,607 automobiles were registered in New York state. During May 2,275 cars were registered, as compared with 1900 cars in May, 1906.

Washington university, St. Louis, is preparing to establish a chair of motoring in its manual training department, the new feature to be added to the curriculum in the fall.

A feature of a "Neighborhood Touring Club" formed at Hartford, Connecticut, is that the members make at a point to take along their wives and strictly observe the speed limits.

Builders are just beginning to meet the demand for steering wheels, the cross-sections of the rims of which are oval instead of round, which gives a more comfortable and secure grip.

A bill recently passed by the lower house of the Wisconsin legislature, gives a motorist the right to pass a whetted horse or team if he thinks it necessary to avoid an accident.

The financial success attending the establishment of motor cars at St. Petersburg last year was great, but this year so many persons have gone into the business that no one is making any money.

Italy sent over \$2,000,000 worth of

Judge Fowler, of the circuit court at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, has ruled that an automobile may cross through a funeral procession in that city, although an ordinance prohibits vehicles drawn by horses or mules from so doing.

It is pertinently pointed out that while the 148 automobiles which composed the line on Orphan's day in New York seemed a "wooly number, yet it represented less than one per cent of all machines owned in the city.

In the recent show at St. Petersburg practically every big firm in France was represented. Belgium was represented by five makes of cars, the United States and Italy by three each and Germany by one, while Great Britain had none at all.

Although far behind the other European nations, Portugal at last has begun to import automobiles in sufficient numbers to interest manufacturers in the United States and nearer home. In 1903 there were but 26 cars in the country.

General C. M. Soltzer, the well-known banker, of Cleveland, who is touring Europe, accompanied by Mrs. Spitzer, expects to cover 5,000 miles in his car, traveling through England, Scotland,

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FORD AUTOMOBILES

The 6-cylinder Ford Touring car breaks 24-hour world's record at Detroit, June 22nd, covering 1,135 miles in 24 hours, beating previous record, 412 miles, averaging 47 7-24 miles an hour. Its little brother, the 4-cylinder 15 H. P., covered 798 miles, which was within 25 miles of previous world's record.

These cars will run four miles per hour on same gear without shifting clutch.

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