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DOOM OF THE HORSE.

Electricity the Coming Motive Power for Vehicles.

Not Only Street Cars, But Wheeled Conveyances of All Kinds Will Be Propelled by the Unseen Force That is Revolutionizing the World.

From present indications it will not be surprising if within a few short years the electric motor will have superseded the horse generally, if not universally, as a motive power, says the Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette. Within three years it has taken its place on all the street railways in the city, with a single exception, that were not using the cable. The same is true of every other city in the country. Even country towns and thickly populated country districts have electric roads. In this way hundreds of thousands of horses have been displaced within the last five years. The cable came first, but it is being superseded by the electric motor, as it is less expensive and more easily handled.

Many of our readers will be able to recall the cry against steam railways that they would do away with stage coaches and horses, thereby throwing thousands of drivers, hostlers, horse buyers and tavern keepers out of employment. It is said that this cry was so loud as to keep the Baltimore & Ohio railroad out of this state. Had it not been for the turnpike influence the first line would have come to this city, and thence to Wheeling, instead of going over the mountains from Cumberland to Wheeling. The stage horse was doomed, however, and had to go. Is it not possible, or even quite probable, that the carriage horse and the draft horse are likewise doomed? Within two years from the present time carriages, buggies and light wagons will be scudding along our streets propelled by electricity, and it is not improbable that the same power may be applied to heavier-wheeled vehicles.

In a recent letter Thomas Shields Clarke, the artist, who has been in Paris for some time, says:

"Do you realize that the days of our equine friend are numbered? Carriages propelled by electric or naphtha motors are already a common sight on the streets of Paris and becoming more numerous every day. Not being a great lover of horseflesh I shall be glad when it is gone. What nice, clean streets we will have when it ceases to hammer them to pieces with its iron shoes. More capacious carriages can be used and many men can own their own conveyances when propelled by a motor that only uses a few cents' worth of electricity, in naphtha, per day, and costs nothing at all for feed or attention when not in actual use. Every man may then be his own driver. It looks very much as if this new order of things will be established before the close of the present century."

There are none, or at least only a few, who will take issue with Mr. Clarke on the subject. The electric motor and storage battery have been brought to such perfection that it is quite safe to predict a general if not universal decline in horse power. During the coming harvest a number of agricultural machines, such as reapers, mowers, thrashers, plows, harrows and rakes will be operated by storage batteries instead of horses. This is rendered possible by late improvements in the storage battery. A five-horse-power battery, good for ten hours' steady work, occupies a box no larger than an egg case, and weighs no more than one hundred and fifty pounds. These can be transported any distance, and may be returned and recharged at small cost.

A battery of this size and power will propel a farming carriage continuously for fifty hours, or at least for ten days if only used five hours each day. So it will not cost nearly so much as a carriage horse, nor require either feed or attention when not in use. There is no reason why it should not become very popular.

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RHEUMATISM AND LAMENESS CURED. Portland, Oregon, April 15, 1893. Dr. A. T. Sanden, Dear Sir - I got one of your belts two weeks ago for rheumatism, from which I suffered for several years. For the past six months I had not been able to walk. Your belt has placed me in almost perfect health in the two weeks I have used it. I can walk comfortably, and feel like a new man generally. M. E. GILBERT, Proprietor International Hotel.  
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