

The Motorist.

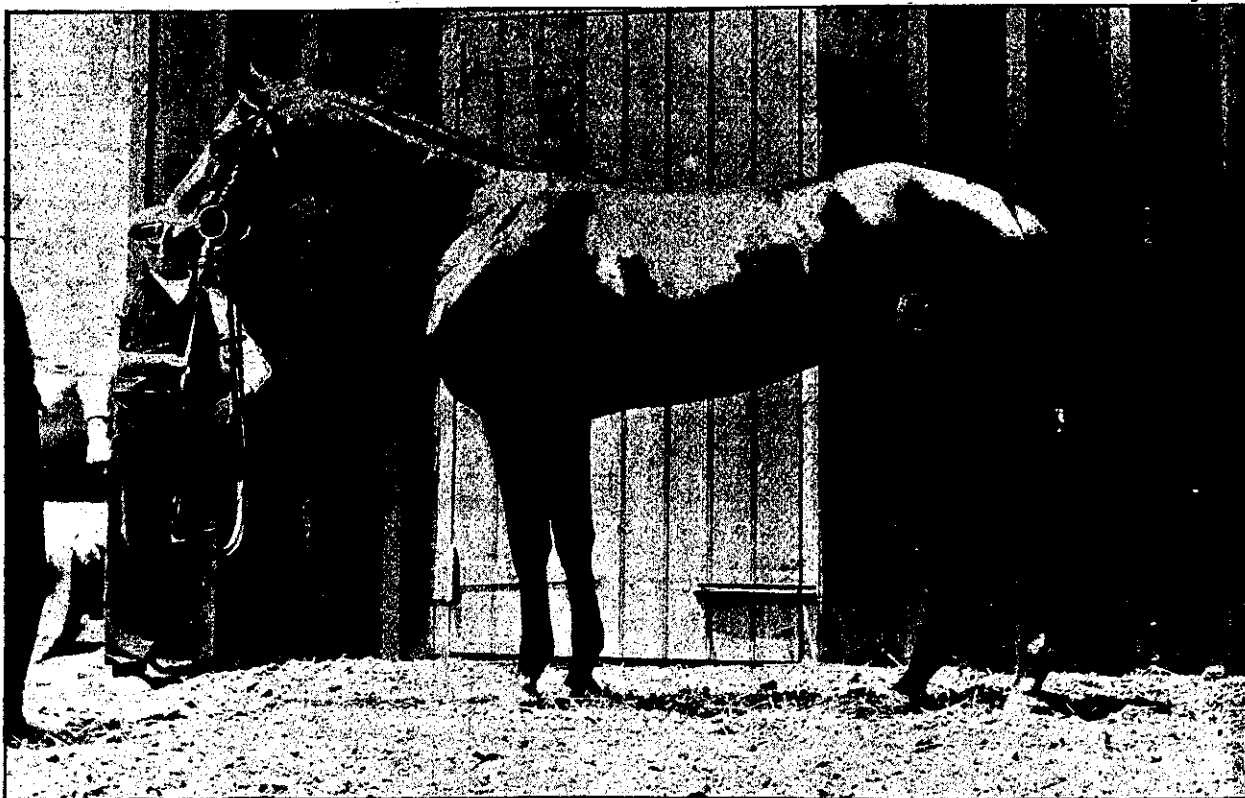
(By "PETROL.")

The English 1903 Motor Car Act expires this year, and there is a great deal of speculation regarding what form any new regulations will take. This depends, of course, almost entirely on the recommendations that will be made by the Royal Commission that is now sitting. Motorists are very hopeful that some of, if not all, their grievances will be adjusted; but even the most optimistic (according to London "Sportsman") does not really believe that the speed limit will be relaxed in any way, if at all. Nevertheless, it may be likely that police tactics in trapping motorists and the tendency of county magistrates to inflict exorbitant fines will receive a check.

There has been a large increase in England of late years in the number of cars fitted with brougham type bodies, arranged so that the passengers can travel with the greatest amount of comfort irrespective of what the weather may be. This, in the opinion of an exchange, may possibly explain the big demand there is at present for high-powered touring cars, for such bodies are very heavy and not suitable for placing on light chassis.

Many Auckland motorists have been away touring during the holidays, and these report a pleasant time, the roads being for once in a while in good order, although the dust nuisance still prevails.

The Austrian Government having received satisfactory assurances that the Vienna Daimler Company could turn out a desirable war-motor vehicle, recently had one equipped. Every portion of the motor, especially where the inmates would be enclosed, is protected by heavy steel plates, the wheels of the car even being sheltered to within a foot or so of the ground. The only weak-looking part in the turnout is in front, the bonnet seemingly being very poorly protected. The wheels also in front are exposed, the designers relying on their being covered on the outside by sheet steel discs. On the back portion of the car is a little turret, in which are studded several holes, where the muzzle of a rifle may be inserted in case the inmates wish to fire at an enemy.



Mr. E. J. Watt's STARSHOOT, winner of the Alexandra Handicap.

According to the latest files the road motor buses, employed for two years past as feeders to the Great Western Railway, England, carried in that time 1,436,071 passengers, and ran 667,640 miles. Throughout the entire period of running not a single fatal accident of any kind occurred to the passengers, the public, or the servants of the company.

One of the latest important English firms to turn its attention to the manufacture of motor buses is the Scott, Stirling Company, of Twickenham. The firm is at present executing an order for 100 buses for the London Power Omnibus Company, Limited. Each vehicle will be of the double-decked variety, and will be of British manufacture throughout. The car will seat 36 passengers. The engine will have four cylinders, and will give out 22 h.p. at 750 revolutions a minute. The power will be transmitted from the motor to the road wheels by

means of an internal expanding parallel clutch of special design, thence through the variable speed-gearing, and lastly to the differential box, which is mounted on a new combination axle. The gear box has three forward speeds and one reverse, the approximate ratio being 4, 8, and 12 miles an hour. The tyres are of the twin type, with a 3 1/2 inch section.

The final match of the New Zealand footballers, that against France, resulted, after what is described as an amusing match, in a victory for the visitors by 38 points to six.

The Management Committee of the Rugby Union have decided to accept the offer of the New Zealand Government to pay the cost of the return of the football team through Canada and the United States. It is possible that matches may be played in those countries, and the team will leave San Francisco for Auckland on February 15.

The result of the cricket match between Otago and Auckland is not to hand up to the time of going to press. Otago made 279 in the first innings, towards which Wilson contributed 137. Auckland started well, but the tail wagged feebly, and the first innings closed for 215. Going in again Otago made 238, Wilson again top-scoring with 88. Auckland want 302 runs to win, a task which seems a little beyond them.

Canterbury beat Wellington after the latter had a great winning chance. In the first innings Canterbury only made 71, to which Wellington replied with 152. Canterbury in the second innings did better, knocking up 166, and then the Wellington men giving a very feeble exhibition were all out for 50, and were thus defeated by 35 runs.

Hawke's Bay has beaten Poverty Bay by seven wickets.

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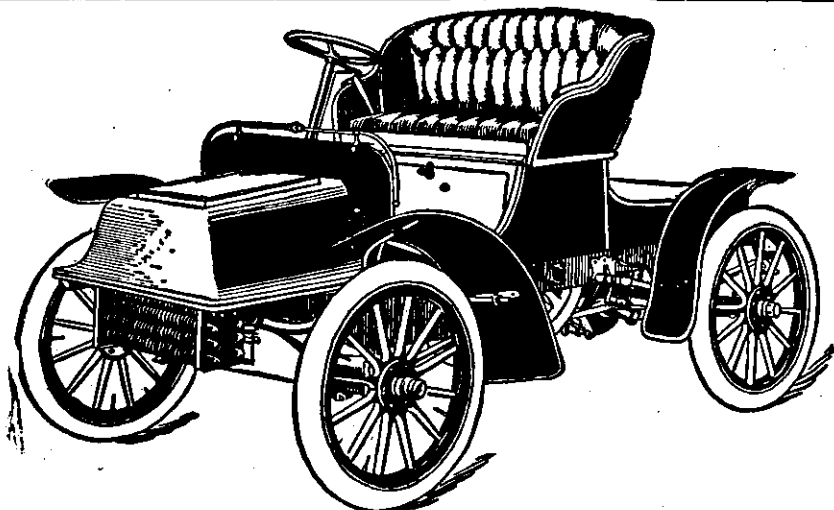
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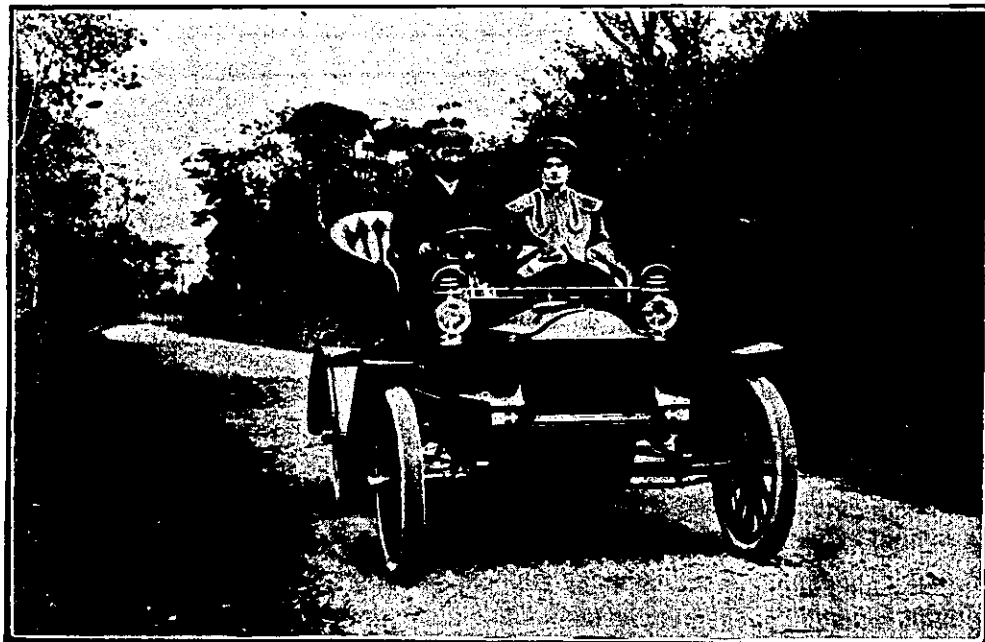
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