

**MOTORING & CYCLING.**

(CONTINUED.)

**RECKLESS DRIVING.**

**CORONER ADVISES CARE.**

At the inquest concerning the deaths of Arthur Eglinton, Alfred E. Penny and Frank Kidman which followed a collision near Palmerston North, the coroner (Mr. E. Goodbehere) said that it was his duty to consider the evidence given at the enquiry as to the cause of the deaths of the three persons mentioned, and it was also his duty to decide on the evidence available what blame was attachable to any person concerned. In the first place he complimented the police on the full evidence they had managed to collect, stating that they had apparently obtained all the evidence available. It was a most lamentable affair that three lives had been hurled into eternity so suddenly, and if there had been any carelessness or recklessness on the part of any individual it was quite right that he should suffer the consequence. As in most cases of the kind, the different persons in the accident gave different versions, as it was difficult for them to gauge accurately and truly the position, and they were apt to jump to conclusions; and for that reason it was difficult to get at the truth. The evidence in this case was very difficult indeed. That given by the surviving persons who were in Mr. Eglinton's car and Mr. Eglinton, junr., was emphatic in stating that the lights were burning in Eglinton's car and that it was on the correct side of the road, while the evidence of the five persons in Newth's car was that Eglinton's car had no light, and some of them stated that it was on the wrong side of the road. It seemed a miraculous thing that one car should be coming along and crash into another car, even if it had no lights, and that the first thing to be known was the crash itself. It seemed to him that an experienced driver looking out could not fail to see another car at least a few yards before he reached it. The evidence given regarding the position of Eglinton's car, continued the coroner, strongly pointed to it being on the correct side of the road. Evidence had been given by several witnesses that that was so, and Mr. Mitchell, who was a dis-interested witness, and whose car was the first on the scene, said that this was so. He (the coroner) found that Eglinton's car was on the right side, and that up to a minute before the crash occurred Eglinton's car had lights burning. As to the speed at which the cars were travelling, it was difficult to come to a conclusion on that point as the evidence varied very much, but, he could assume that Eglinton's car could not have got up such pace as it had been been at a standstill 300 yards away. The other car was travelling at a speed of 25 miles an hour, and probably more. There was no other evidence of the speed except the time taken in travelling from the racecourse, but that was not reliable as they could not tell exactly what time the car left Wanganui or what time it stopped at Turakina. He did not think the pace could have been more than 27 to 30 miles an hour right throughout the journey. He did not consider that 30 miles an hour or even a little over was excessive in that particular place, and there was nothing to show what the pace was except that given by those in Newth's car, and they were agreed that it was

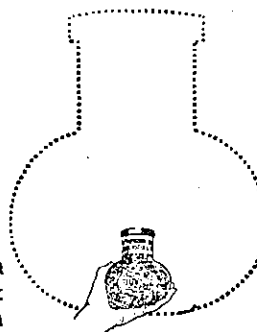
from 25 to 30 miles. He (the coroner) did think that there was a failure on the part of the driver of Newth's car to keep a proper look-out, as it was quite clear to his (the coroner's) mind that Eglinton's car lights were lit when he left his gate. If the other driver had taken ordinary care, he must have seen the lights and have been prepared. Therefore, he found that there was some negligence shown on the part of Newth in failing to keep a proper look-out. Under the circumstances, all there was for him as coroner to do was to bring in an open verdict that the deceased died from injuries sustained in a motor collision at Sanson on May 20. The coroner then brought in a formal verdict to that effect, specifying the dates on which the deceased died and the injuries sustained by them.

The coroner added that he would like to remark on the reckless driving which undoubtedly was carried on throughout the country and which caused the accidents they read about so often. To his mind, these accidents were the result of recklessness or carelessness. It was very necessary that some action should be taken to prevent reckless driving, for if a man drove slowly and carefully there would be no accidents. If the authorities took action these painful accidents that they were so constantly hearing of would be at least minimised.

The secretary reported at a meeting of the committee of the Wellington Automobile Club that the City Engineer had intimated his intention of erecting motorists' school signs in

the city. It was resolved that it be a remit to the New Zealand Automobile Union that a uniform sign, warning motorists when approaching schools, should be prepared and submitted to the union at the annual meeting, with the object of making the sign of a uniform nature throughout New Zealand.

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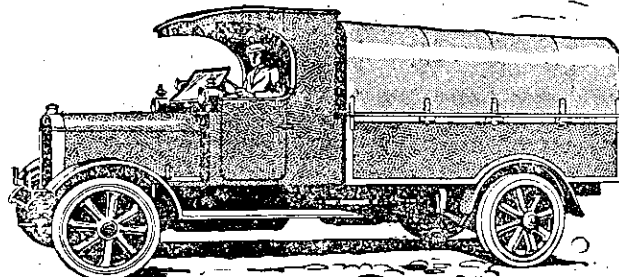
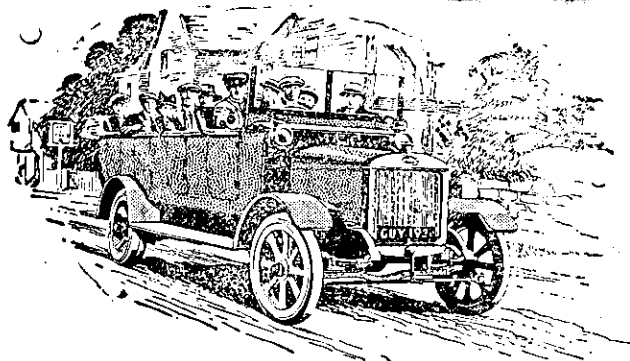
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