



The ...
...Motor.

MOTOR NOTES.

By "ACCUMULATOR."

Slim Jim, the speedy little Auckland vessel, has been sent to Picton where, from all accounts, she beats everything at that port.

There are over 100 motor launches afloat on Auckland harbour, and several new cruisers of from 8 to 10 knots are on the stocks for completion during December.

A curious anomaly exists all over the Dominion, in the matter of speed designation. For some reason boats when running over a course in harbour, are stated to have attained so many miles per hour, at sea it is knots per hour. The confusion, arising over this want of a common designation for distances run, is so great at times that one would think motor-boat owners would resolve to deal finally with either knots or miles. When the unthinking confuse a knot, 6080 feet, with a mile, 5280 feet, they are giving credit for a material distance which has never been run.

An official trial of the Wanganui Borough Council's new Straker motor waggon was held on the 12th ult. The Mayor and Councillors Carson, Harkness, Harris, and Poynter, drove out in a cab to Hylton's pit, where they watched the operation of loading the waggon and trailer; a load of nine yards of gravel was put aboard and the waggon took it with

A 26ft cruiser for Paeroa. The engine will be a 5 h.p. Monarch.

A 26ft. twin-screw launch for Mr. Gillet, Auckland. The motive power will be derived from two Brooke engines, aggregating 12 h. p., and the fittings are to be of the best.

Fatal Accident at Brooklands.

The first serious accident at motor track racing in England occurred at Brooklands on Sept. 13th. The wrecking of the *Minerva* car entered by Mr. Moore-Brabazon for the sixth race was attended by fatal consequences. Mr. Vincent Hermon and his mechanic Slade, were thrown out with terrific force on to the cement track. At first they were reported to have escaped with quite minor injuries, considering the nature of the accident, the former had a broken right arm, while the latter was badly cut about the face and head. Mr. Hermon, however, died at 8 o'clock the same evening.

The accident was due to the *Minerva* car turning turtle on the banking while going at between 60 and 70 miles an hour. When the car upset the occupants tried to gain their feet, but were hurled down with terrific force. An immense crowd flocked to the scene. A curious incident was the summary ejection from the grounds of a journalist for trying to "Kodak" the scene for his paper.



MOTOR CARS AT RICCARTON RACE COURSE ON NEW ZEALAND CUP DAY.

By the *Mamari* a 20 h.p. Daimler car fitted with limousine body has been imported by Mr. Joseph, of Wellington.

The handsome motor yacht *Vanora*, sold through the instrumentality of *PROGRESS*, to Mr. Lindsay Cooke, of Auckland, is at present on "the hard," preparing for summer cruising.

Stale or dirty gasoline should never be poured away into the gutter, etc., as a burning match or cigar may easily ignite it. It should always be poured or drained into a special can, with safety wire screen under the filter opening and kept for cleaning purposes.

The belief, held by many motorists, that blow-outs of their pneumatic tyres are frequently due to excessive internal pressure, is absolutely erroneous. Pneumatic tyres are manufactured to stand at least three times the pressure to which they are ordinarily inflated, and the increase of the pressure in the inner tube, due to the heating of the tyre is of no practical importance. The fact can be easily demonstrated.

The new "Invincible" reported from Sydney, is said to travel at 25 m.p.h., thus making her the fastest power boat in the Dominion. Much interest will centre round this craft when she comes to be pitted against Mr. Cecil A. Whitney's *Grey Witch*, for the latter boat has had the old engine removed, in readiness for a new 4-cylinder English Antoinette machine, which, the owner confidently expects, will drive the *Witch* at 20 knots.

case. In the streets of the town it kept ahead of the Council's cab, which was driven at the usual speed. The trailer (containing three yards of metal) was then uncoupled, and the waggon, with its six yards load, ascended St. John's Hill road, stopping several times to allow vehicles to pass, and starting again quite easily.

The first motor car procession seen in England was on November 14th 1896, three months after the Act repealing the road flag law had passed the House of Lords on August 14th 1896. There were 9 Panhards in the parade, 11 Daimlers, 2 Leon Bollee cars, 3 Britannia electrics, 2 Beestons, 1 De Dion, 1 Duryea, 3 Roger cars, a breakdown van, and a sort of freak on wheels called Pennington. The route was from Westminster Bridge to Buxton Hill and a huge crowd turned out that foggy November morning to witness the novel spectacle.

Messrs T. M. Lane and Son have in hand the building of the following motor craft —

A launch to be fitted with a 24 h.p. 4-cylinder Britannia engine, for a Wellington firm, dimensions 36ft. 9in. long x 6ft. beam, wheel back 12ft. long, glass cabin 10ft. long, and cockpit 10ft. long. The boat is intended for pleasure cruising and is expected to average a good two knots more than the speed usually found amongst launches of the cruiser type. The hull will be of the two-skinned, diagonally-built type, kauri being used for the keel, ribs, and planking. The cabin fittings will be of cedar. The engine possesses two vaporisers, one for kerosene, the other for benzine, and the lubrication is of the splash type, with an auxiliary pump lubrication for the main bearings.

A 32ft. cruiser, to be fitted with an 8-h.p. Union engine, for Mr. W. Reed, Ponsonby.

The "Road-Hog."

The fiend of the motor world is the "road-hog." He has covered Europe and America; he has appeared in the Dominion; and wherever he comes the inhabitants want him to go. Frederick Harrison voices this want in the *London Times*. Having been driven by the "road hog" from his beloved country roads which furnished him with exercise, and inspired him with philosophy, he has rushed into protesting print. His first shriek is an eye-opener:—

"Unless something be done to check the nuisance and peril caused throughout the country by the recklessness of certain motorists, we shall have very serious local outrages and disasters. Those who drive cars at 30 miles an hour are all law-breakers in fact, and manslaughterers, *in posse*; and the majority of cars are constantly being driven at that or higher speeds. The injury to house property and shops along the roads, the wearing of the public roadways, the lowering of rateable values, the slaughter of animals, and the terrorising of young and old—all this causes positive amusement to these brutes who recklessly injure property and endanger life for their own idiotic sport."

Having described the crime, this master of English goes on to threaten a punishment to fit it.

"Before long the public, which is in the proportion of a thousand to one, will be roused to protect itself and will treat the 'road-hog' as a mad dog, to be suppressed by all available means."

But after all, he is merciful, as befits the wielder of that weapon which is mightier than the sword. He ends by offering a "scheme" which on the one hand saves the "road-hog" from well-merited execution, and on the other, secures protection to the law abiding motorist from the natural hostility of an outraged people.