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BAD PRACTISE.

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AITKEN LOOKS LIKE FUTURE SPEED KING

National Company Driver Says Little, but His Records Speak for Championship.

MUST MEET BIG OBSTACLES

Johnny, However, Feels Confident His Racer Will Soon Outclass Oldfield's Car.

Johnny Aitken looks like a champion, but who is to be America's premier motorist at the end of the season of 1910?

At the present time Barney Oldfield has regained his old hold at the top rung of the ladder of fame in things that denote speed, and with his great German importation seems to have a firm hold. Still the students of the game can not forget the slump that Barney took for a couple of years and let George Robertson slip by him and had to be content on the lower rung with Strang and De Palma, although many thought that De Palma was entitled to the top rung and Oldfield and Robertson farther down. But be that as it may, the fight has left Barney at the top again, the perch he has held for many years, and now the wise fans are looking for new blood for first place.

The most likely candidate for the honor appears to be Johnny Aitken. Aitken looks like the real gloomy equine, but unlike most dark horses, Aitken is the one youngster the big fellows all fear.

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When Barney and Aitken both drove National cars last year it was noticed that Johnny got the most speed out of his. This could be attributed to many things. One can never tell just what an automobile will do. Two will be turned out just alike, but one will develop from that invisible nowhere just a little more speed than the other and all the coaxing will not add it to the car which is minus the necessary essential to cross the wire first.

Wins Fame for Aitken.

To the wise ones this scored a point for Aitken, and he was credited with being the best mechanic. This won him many friends, but perhaps his unassuming manners won him more.

Regardless of his numerous victories, Johnny was always able to purchase a car that would fit him and his careful driving did the rest. His coolness at Atlanta, when he drove past the grandstand with a broken steering gear and came to a clear stop, and his wonderful drive for the first hundred miles in the Wheeler-Schebler event at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, when he gave his teammate, Oldfield, a beating, are points to his credit.

In addition to being a comer as a driver, Aitken is connected with a factory in the National Motor Vehicle Company, which has done great things in the arena of speed.

National cars are about the fastest stock cars in the world and in their class are right at the top. A. C. Newby of the National Company is an enthusiastic sportsman of the auto game. The National will have a full team of racing cars this season. In fact, the number of cars and their construction is not causing the Indianapolis factory as much concern and money as the deciding just what their racing colors shall be.

Last year their racing colors were white, although Oldfield drove a car striped as a flag and called "Old Glory." It now appears as if the red, white and blue will be favored again, but not in the form of a flag.

Johnny Smiles and Smiles.

Red running gear, with one side of the car white and the reverse side blue, is one of the suggestions, but while the management is making a selection the racers are being tested out in a dark battle ship gray by Aitken and the other members of the team.

Johnny is saying little, but the happy smile that adorns his face indicates that he is perfectly satisfied that the cars will be fast enough to enable him to get a firm

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**COLE 30 PROVES LIGHT CAR:
PRODUCES LIGHTNING SPEED**

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