

Automobile Topics

Illustrated.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
AMERICAN AUTOMOBILISTS.

Published by AUTOMOBILE TOPICS (Incorp.)

THEO. DRAZ, Treasurer.

E. E. SCHWARZKOPF, President.

S. WALLIS MERRIHEW, Editor.

W. E. BALDWIN, Secretary.

Vol. XVI. No. 9.

NEW YORK, JUNE 6, 1908.

Price Ten Cents.

AUTOMOBILE TOPICS is published weekly, by Automobile Topics (Incorp.), Terminal Building, Park Avenue, and 41st Street New York. Subscription price, \$2.00 a year in the United States, and \$4.00 (gold) in advance in Canada or in foreign countries within the Postal Union. Advertising rates may be had on application.

Copyrighted, 1908, by Automobile Topics, Inc.

Cable Address—Autotopics, New York

Telephones { 5524 } 38th St.
 { 5525 }

The Curse of Horse Track Racing

“Sanction money is blood money,” was the famous and unerringly true declaration made by President William H. Hotchkiss, of the American Automobile Association, regarding the fees taken from the promoters of automobile races on horse tracks. So far as is known, Judge Hotchkiss has not recanted or changed his views concerning this matter; certainly he has never made any retraction or disavowal of the sentiments quoted.

This arraignment of racing on horse tracks by the titular head of the body controlling such contests is brought forcibly to mind by the horrible and harrowing occurrence at the Pimlico race track, Baltimore, on May 29. On that occasion another victim met the fate which has overtaken so many of the men who have achieved eminence in the handling of fast cars. Emanuel Cedrino knew that he was taking his life in his hands every time he drove at speed against time on a track built decades ago and designed for no higher speed than four-footed beasts could attain. Utterly unsuited to automobile races, these horse-tracks have been repeatedly condemned in unmeasured terms, and no later than last summer the A. A. A., in a desire to effect at least some measure of reform, placed this clause in its racing rules, where it still remains:

Investigation—A sanction for a track race shall be granted only after an investigation of the track, fences, buildings and adjacent grounds by the racing board or by a