

HERE'S THE MOTOR COMEDY

It's Written Around the Vanderbilt Cup and Oldfield Will Help Supply the Thrills.

The automobile play has "arrived." It will stage under the title "The Vanderbilt Cup," an "eight cylinder musical comedy, with three shoes and eight tubes." It is now on the road—"being tried on the dogs," is the theatrical expression—preparatory to its presentation at the Broadway Theatre, New York City, during the automobile shows. It is billed for two weeks hence, when "Veronique" will vacate the Broadway.

Although their names do not appear in the cast it is understood that Barney Oldfield and Tom Cooper will make their debut as real actormen and supply the climaxing thrill in the second act, which represents the scene in front of the grandstand at Mineola at the finish of the race for the Vanderbilt Cup. These two racing "cracks" will drive real racing cars on rollers and to give the touch of realism to the scene the moving picture machine will be brought into play. It will be remembered Oldfield went through a fence—it was a paper one, though—at Poughkeepsie last summer, while a moving picture camera recorded it. The cast includes some well known stars and catchy songs without limit. There will also be lots of ulsters, leather caps, goggles and the like. Miller, the New York supply man, having furnished some \$400 worth of such "artistic touches."

Some idea of the magnitude of the elaborate production may be gleaned by a perusal of the artists in the cast as well as the synopsis of scenes:

Newt. Offut, a hill climber, Will T. Hodge; Mrs. Willetts, mother of Dorothy, Grace Gaylord Clarke; Theodore Banting, an equitable attorney at law, and other things, Otis Harlan; Miss Carstairs, Dorothy's music teacher and chaperon, Marie Stone; Dorothy Willetts, Elsie Janis; Dexter Joyce, a lightning conductor, Aubrey Boucicault; Clerk of the Marjorie Wellington Hotel, Charles Abbe; Mrs. Hillrave, Blanche Chapman; Mrs. Sylvester, Kate Mayhew; Mrs. Filestrom, Grace Griswold; Mrs. Herkimer, Blanche River; Mrs. Dillenberg, Sallie Berge; Mrs. Ostrand, Marie Messner; (Stockholders in the Marjorie Wellington Hotel, known as the Six Crusty Dames.) Winnifred, first bell girl of the M. W. Hotel, Violet Duval; Gwynne, second ditto, Edith Spofford; Pearl, third ditto, Margaret Love; Celeste, elevator girl of the M. W. Hotel, Kate Buckley; Kate Crooks, the porter, Ella Hatten; Inkie North, Western Union Messenger girl, Lillian Nicholson; Gaspard, an honest French chauffeur, Henry Bergman; Curt Willetts, who "got rich quick"; uncle of Dorothy, Henry V. Donnelly; Clarinda Larkspur, who objects to a speed limit, Edith Decker; Senator Boxwood, of the State of Washington, Jacque Kruger; Arthur, his chainless hopeless, F. Newton Lindo;

Rose, Dorothy Kent; Lily, Annette Steele; Violet, Eloise Steele; Pansy, Elsa Rhinhard. (Four flowers of the comic opera.)

Synopsis of Scenes—Act 1.—Scene 1. The Willetts's Home—(No Gasolene). Scene 2. En Route to New York—(Get a Horse). Scene 3. The Marjorie Wellington Hotel, New York City—(An Up-to-Date Garage).

Act 2.—Scene 1. The Veranda of the Garden City Hotel, L. I.—(The Perfect Clutch). Scene 2. Parking place at Mineola, L. I.—(space \$50 a foot). Scene 3. In front of the Grand Stand, Mineola, L. I.—(100 Miles an Hour).

Act 3.—Scene 1. Boat Loft at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Converted into a Reception Hall. Scene 2. Another Part of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Scene 3. Launching a Battleship.

Oldfield Gets the Medal.

Barney Oldfield has been presented with the gold medal emblematic of the National Circuit championship of the American Automobile Association, which petered out to as near nothing as possible before the season's end. He scored 26 points. The others who figured in the running and their scores are as follows: Louis Chevrolet, F. I. A. T., 13 points; Webb Jay, White, 10; Charles Burman, Peerless, 6; Dan Wurgis, Reo, 6; Guy Vaughn, Decauville, 4; Emanuel Cedrino, F. I. A. T., 4; Earl Kiser, Winton, 2; Herbert Lytle, Pope-Toledo, 2, and Montague Roberts, Thomas, 2.

"Bell's Palsy" a Winter Affliction.

"Bell's palsy" is the latest affliction to visit itself upon the motorist, and a physician is authority for the statement that it is the result of driving an automobile in winter weather when one side of the face is exposed to the cold more than the other. The most recent sufferer is said to be suffering from paralysis of the entire left side of his face and is not alone in his misery, for he is claimed to be the third victim. It apparently travels in threes, for the doctors state that three weeks are required in which to gain relief.

Milwaukee Pays a Motorist's Bill.

Because workmen carelessly left a manhole unlighted the city of Milwaukee, Wis., will be forced to pay for the automobile of Dr. A.C. Sidler, which was completely demolished in a collision with the standpipe. The blame has been sifted through the various heads of the departments until it finally has been placed upon the men who last worked on the manhole. Therefore the city will pay the cost rather than fight the case.

Coplay Exacts its "Blood Money."

Taking advantage of the present discussion anent Pennsylvania's new automobile law, the borough council of Coplay has enacted a law to mulct motorists while it may be providing for an annual tax of \$3, limiting the speed to eight miles an hour and stipulating the usual regulations regarding lights, brakes and horns. Violations are punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100 or imprisonment of not more than thirty days.

MOTOR CARS AS BAGGAGE

Result is a Railroad Car of New Design—May be Used for Horses, also.

It has been a problem of growing importance for the railroads how the elaborate equipment annually carried to the summer home is to be transported, particularly when the distance is represented by the stretch from Chicago to Bar Harbor or something similar. The matter has been brought to a climax by the appearance of the automobile as one of the most important of these household chattels for which special provision must be made and some of the Down East lines are already planning ahead for next summer's demand. This is true of the Boston and Maine Railroad, which has already ordered a combination automobile, carriage and horse baggage car that will form part of the regular express trains, so that together with his trunks and band boxes, the summer visitor may have his stud of both cars and horses dumped on the platform when he alights at his destination.

On the outside the car will look like an ordinary baggage coach having a "monitor" roof with ventilating windows on each side above the curved part. At the ends of the car will be large double doors opening out from the middle, seven and a half feet wide and eight feet one inch high. On each side of the car also will be doors, two of them, one eight feet and the other four feet wide. Inside will be sliding stalls for the accommodation of sixteen horses; and gates to shut the horses in are also provided. When there are only a few horses, or when carriages or automobiles are to be shipped instead, the unused partitions for the stalls will be slipped back against the sides, giving a clear passage through as large a part of the car as desired.

There will be, of course, a man to travel with the horses and feed and water them or to look after the carriages and automobiles. The private coachman or chauffeur will be allowed to watch his charges closely.

Reduced Rates to Florida.

Reduced freight rates on automobiles to Florida will prevail from now until spring. The Florida East Coast Railway is to grant a half rate of \$1.93 per 100 from New York or Boston to Ormond, Daytona, or any other point on the line of that railroad. This rate will hold throughout the winter and is not limited to the twenty days embracing the tournament season.

Hemery Cracks Kilometre Record.

Cables from Paris report that on December 30, Hemery, driving an eight cylinder, 200-horsepower Darracq machine, from a flying start, covered a kilometre in 20.35 seconds; equivalent to doing a mile in slightly over 33 seconds. This beats the previous record by four-fifths of a second. The dispatch does not state where the trial was made or whether it was officially timed or not.