

June 25, 1903

THE TRACK MILE UNDER A MINUTE

Barney Oldfield in Match Race at Indianapolis Meet Breaks 1 and 5-Mile Records, Making Mile in 59 3-5 Seconds

Two seconds clipped off the world's 1-mile track record and 23½ seconds off the world's 5-mile track record was the feat of Barney Oldfield at Indianapolis, Ind., last Saturday.

This record-breaking run was made in the last heat of a match with Tom Cooper, the fastest mile being run in 59½ seconds and the 5 miles in 5:04½. The previous world's records were 1:01½ for the mile and 5:28 for the 5 miles.

BOTH DRIVERS UNDER RECORD

In the first heat of the race both Cooper and Oldfield lowered the 5-mile record. Oldfield doing it in 5:17½ and Cooper in 5:24. In the last heat Cooper made the 5 miles in 5:18.

The track was in excellent condition and the weather so propitious that it was confidently expected before the race that some sensational records would be made. Over 5,000 people crowded the grand stand in anticipation of the event and the other races of the postponed program.

Three races were run before the big event of the day was announced. Then Cooper appeared on the track. His big yellow racer moved slowly away from the fence in front of the grand stand, and after he had driven a short distance Oldfield started from the grand stand. The timers started the race when the men were half a mile apart. Oldfield's time was taken when he passed the judges' stand, and Cooper's when he passed the half-mile.

THE RACE BY MILES

Oldfield did the first mile in 1:06 and Cooper in 1:04. The second mile Oldfield made in 1:02½ and Cooper in 1:03. Oldfield made the third mile in 1:02½, the fourth in 1:02½ and the last mile in 1:04. His time for the 5

miles was 5:17½. Cooper made the last 3 miles in 1:04½, 1:04½ and 1:06½, making the 5 miles in 5:24.

In the second heat Oldfield reached the half-mile post in 30 seconds and finished the mile in 59½ seconds. His time for the succeeding miles was 1:00½, 1:01½, 1:01½ and 1:00½; total time for the 5 miles, 5:04½. Cooper made the 5 miles in 5:18, lowering his record of the first heat by 6 seconds.

THE OTHER EVENTS

In the 5-mile race for cars of the 1,200-pound class Earl Kiser, with a General, won in 8:41, and Frank Moore, with an Oldsmobile was second in 8:42½. In the 5-mile, no weight limit class, Earl Fisher with a Winton, was first, his time being 7:45½. Edgar Apperson was second with an Apperson car, and Derange third with a Peerless.

The 5-mile handicap was won by Apperson in 7:48½, Kiser, second and Derange third. The 3-mile motor cycle race was won by Bert Corbet in 5:08½. H. Brandt was second and Harry Howe third.

AFTER OTHER STAR PERFORMERS

Officials of the Empire City Track Give Up Hope of the Match Race Between Winton and Fournier

The Empire City Trotting Club has issued a statement to the press declaring that owing to Alexander Winton's denial of his authorization of Charles D. Shanks to sign the contract for the races with Henry Fournier at the Yonkers and Cleveland tracks, it has abandoned all hope of the match between the two cracks forming a feature of its race meet on July 25 and will seek another star attraction. The statement sets forth the circumstances leading up to the signing of the contract, which with the contract itself were set forth in detail in *MOTOR AGE* at the time of the making of the match at the New York show.

PEERLESS CARS CAN CLIMB HILLS

This Fact Was Demonstrated in Pittsburg Contest Saturday by Winnings of Cleveland Machines—Interesting Events

Pittsburg, Pa., June 21—The rainfall last Saturday did not discourage the automobilists of this city, and a large crowd turned out despite the slippery condition of the streets, to see the hill-climbing contest over the Serpentine drive in Highland park. It was the first event of the kind ever held here and great enthusiasm was manifested.

The contest was held under the auspices of the Pittsburg Automobile Club, and there were seven prizes offered. The first six prizes, handsome silver cups, were offered in the six classes into which the machines had been grouped according to weight and horsepower. The seventh prize was offered to the winner of the finals, in which the two making the best time in the various classes were the contestants.

LONG WINDING COURSE

The course was 2,204 feet, stretching from the bridge near the zoo to Mt. Bigelow. The first 300 feet of the course are practically level. Then a grade of over 6 per cent begins at the opening of a curve of 175 degrees, whose diameter is 110 feet. The course is a series of grades and curves from bottom to top. The level of the finish mark was 150 feet above the level of the starting point. Thus the course was one which was calculated to test to the utmost the capacity of automobiles in climbing hills. The result of the tests made proved entirely satisfactory to those who participated, as well as to the lookers-on.

Because of the rain the driveway was not in the best of condition, but the course was prepared as well as it could have been under the circumstances. Over the top of the drive was about a quarter of an inch of mud, which made driving difficult, especially on the sharp

