

DAY OF AUTO RACING.

Six Events at the Fair Grounds Tomorrow.

Eight drivers and thirteen cars have been entered for the automobile races at the race track at the fair grounds on Saturday afternoon, the premier number of which will be attempt of Barney Oldfield, the world's most famous driver, to break the world's mile record of 1:14 for a circular track.



Kid McCoy and Barney Oldfield.

The entries are as follows: William Taylor, 3 Rambler cars; Mr. Woodward, 1 car; J. M. Padgett, 1 car; Mr. Swearingen, 1 car; Mr. Patterson, 1 car; Geo. Burghart, 2 cars; Mr. Matthews, 1 car; Dr. J. C. McClintock, 1 car; Barney Oldfield, Peerless Green Dragon and Peerless Red Rover cars.

The events for Saturday afternoon's program are as follows:

1. Two mile race for single cylinder machines.
2. Two miles free-for-all.
3. Two miles, start and stop.
4. Touring car novelty race.
5. Five miles handicap.
6. Barney Oldfield driving Peerless Green Dragon against world's record from one to five miles on one-half mile circular track.

The races will start promptly at 3 o'clock. The following officials have been chosen: Referee, William Taylor; judges, J. M. Padgett, E. D. Osborne, Frank Billings; timers, Chief of Police Goodwin, Charles Samson, Ralph Montgomery; starter, O. P. Updegraff; scorer, George Burghart.

Mr. Oldfield was on the track this afternoon and speeded several miles in his racing car, going the distance of a mile in 1:15, just a second more than the world's record. He says that the track is the finest of its kind in the west, and that he thinks that he can drive a mile on Saturday in 1:11. "I am sure that I can elip from three to four seconds off the record here in Topeka," he said this afternoon as he left the track.

OLDFIELD IS HERE.

Famous Automobile Racer Arrives in Topeka.

Prepares to Smash Track Records Saturday.

HE IS TIRED OF IT.

Will Give Up Auto Driving for Good.

Never Knows When an Accident Will Happen.

Barney Oldfield, big, handsome, debonaire, is at the Throop hotel. The most famous professional automobile racer of them all will appear at the race track on the fair grounds Saturday and Sunday afternoons in an effort to lower the world's record for a half mile circular course.

"I don't like driving," was his astounding statement.



Barney Oldfield.

"It is too dangerous," he continued. "I don't think that I shall be in it longer than this year. Had a man told me in 1904 that I would still be behind goggles at this time this year, I should have pronounced him crazy."

"In speaking of the sport being dangerous, what do you mean?" was asked of him.

"We have to take chances," was the reply. "It always seems that an accident is impending. We never know what will happen. If a man is just right, the element of danger is to a big extent eliminated. But with nerves a little off, with weather conditions so that the dust absolutely precludes vision, you can never tell when the call will come."

"Driving must be hard on a man, then?"

"No, it isn't exactly," was the reply. "As I said, if you feel all right and make your turns, everything is lovely. But men get off sometimes, you know."

"Does the tremendous speed through the air check your breathing?"

"No, that is all newspaper talk," was the answer. "It does not affect a man's breathing in the least. I don't know how the talk got started that fast riding shuts off your breathing apparatus. That is not the case at all. I never had any trouble in getting all the air I wanted. That was the least of my difficulties."

"But then," he continued, "driving hard day after day, without any rest will do a man up. Proper rest must be taken between fast drives. That is what caused my accident at St. Louis last summer at the World's fair in August. I had been either driving, or on the train for two weeks before that time, going as hard as I could to meet engagements. When I ran for the Louisiana Purchase trophy at the World's fair city I got away nicely, but in attempting to turn Webb, another driver, the dust lifted, my nerves left me, and I went through the fence on the side of the track. Two spectators were killed outright, and I went to the hospital with a crushed chest, and lay for two days between life and death. While the dust was in a great measure responsible for the mishap, I attribute most of it to my nervousness from meeting to many race engagements in the weeks just previous."

"Does driving break a man down?"

"Yes I imagine it would in time," he replied. "It gets on a man's nerves. That is about all that I can say on that score." While at the first glance it would appear that Mr. Oldfield is not suffering much physically, yet closer scrutiny reveals a quick nervous action on the part of the man, both in his bearing and his talk. His face has deep lines, which become so marked while driving, that "Barney Oldfield's automobile face at two miles a minute" has become famous. Robert Edgren's cartoon on the subject in the New York American, is used by Oldfield as a window advertisement in his present tour.

"So you propose to quit the sport?" was asked.

"Yes," he answered, "I do not think that I shall be in it longer than this year. I want to save up my money and get a little ahead and go into some business for myself. I can do that by the end of the year if everything goes all right. It is too dangerous."

Oldfield is a good dresser. He likes diamonds evidently. His Elks' button in the lapel of his coat is framed with the precious stones. A large triangular sparkler flashes from his necktie. His fingers have the same kind of ornamentation.

Oldfield carries three men with him to look after the business end of his trip, and a machinist to care for his cars. Probably a better bunch of story tellers never traveled together in one squad. "Their jokes are the bane of my life," says Barney. Kid McCoy, the famous prize fighter, is a great

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