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The Swiss Automobile Industry

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It really existed. In parts it still exists!

The Swiss Navy is made fun of. Unjustly. Our country has a small ocean-going fleet. And the Swiss automobile industry? It, too, knew glorious times. It still exists ... just a little of it!

At the beginning of this century

With the motor-car it is not quite as simple as with the locomotive. There the historians are agreed that the Englishman, George

Stephenson, made the first model. The creation of the motor-car industry was a joint venture. Many Swiss are considered promoters of the industry whose development in the last quarter of the century is generally known.

Being fully conversant with precision mechanics and full of trust in the future of a new manner of locomotion, a good two dozen engineers launched themselves into the construction of the motor-car at the beginning of this century.

Against the wind

But the motor-car found resistance in all countries. The Swiss Automobile Club, for instance, recommends its members in 1912 «to avoid certain parts of the country where people are autophobic». In many parts, the local police installed special car traps. In the worst cases, drivers

One of the steamdriven cars of the brothers Meyer (1884).

