



Much-travelled Motorists

—1905—

On the 9th of February 1905 an adventurous American couple – Mr. and Mrs. Glidden – arrived in Hobart from New Zealand, parking outside Hadley's to a bustling crowd. Few Tasmanians would have ever seen a car! Let alone one so famous!

Four years earlier, the Gliddens had set off to drive around the world their dark-green 24-horse-power Napier motor car.

They had travelled 21,000 miles in 21 countries.

Mr Glidden said the scenery in Tasmania was superb.

Travelling with their dependable engineer, he explained, "Since starting on our tour we have visited 7000 cities and towns ... During the whole of our tour, we have only had an hour's delay for mechanical purposes."¹

They were the first motorists to cross the Arctic Circle after an extensive journey through Sweden. Some of their journey was even made on railway tracks after the rubber tires were swapped to steel for a time.

Chasing a 40,000 mile goal for their world tour, they had far more driving ahead – seeing more of Tasmania, around mainland Australia, through parts of Asia, Southern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

References:

'Touring the World', *Examiner*, Fri 17 Feb 1905, p.5

'Much Travelled Motorists', *Examiner*, Sat 11 Feb 1905, p.5

¹ 'Touring the World', *Examiner*, Fri 17 Feb 1905, p.5