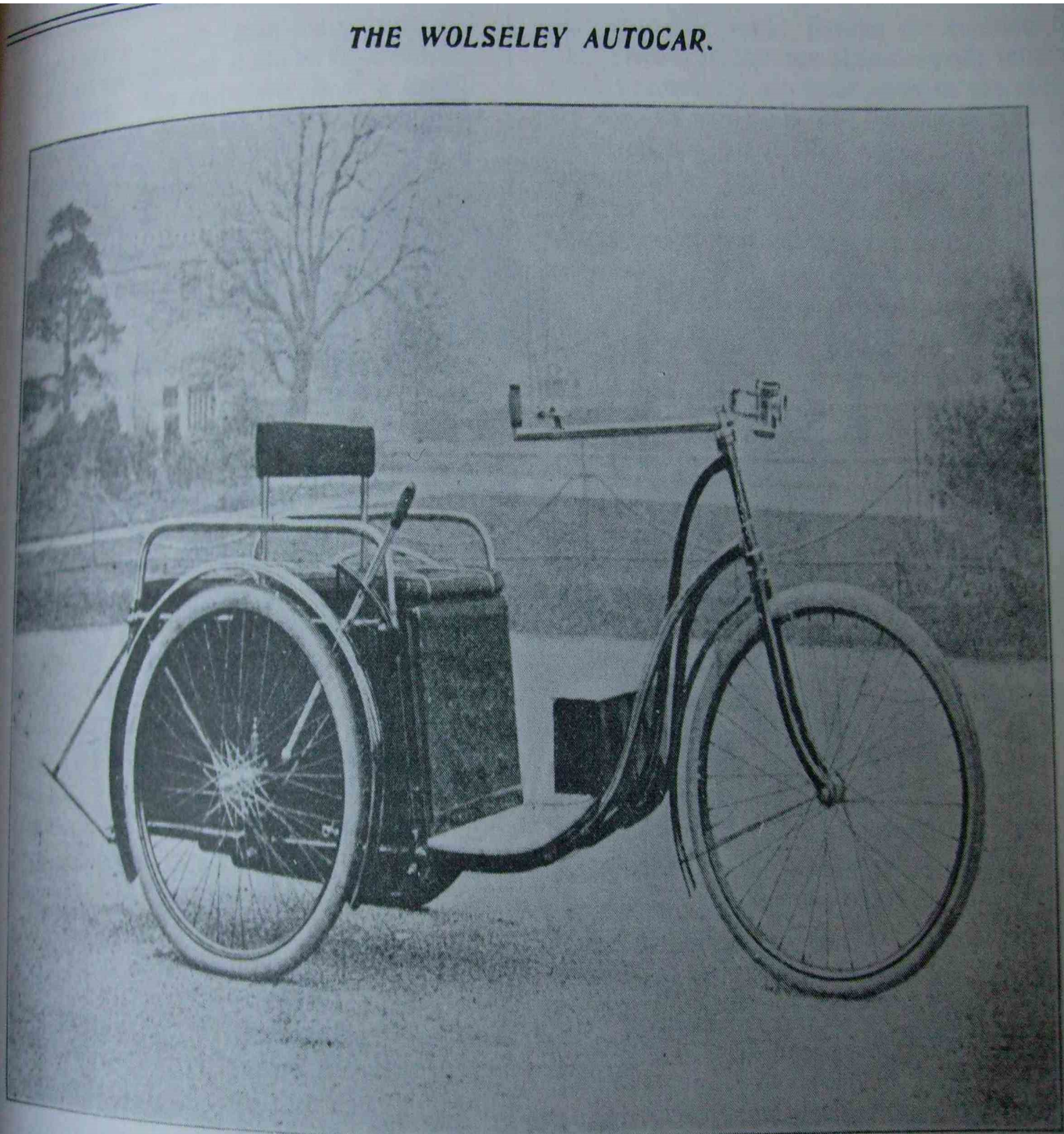


**"1896 CRYSTAL PALACE EXHIBITION ARTICLE-**  
**REPRINTED IN 1986 CLASSIC AUTOMOBILE-**  
**COURTESY RONALD VAN DER HOEK**

*THE WOLSELEY AUTOCAR.*





At the time of the National Show at the Crystal Palace last month, we described the Wolseley three-wheeled miniature dog-cart. The two riders sit back to back, and the front one drives and steers the vehicle by means of the long bath chair handle which deflects the front wheel as required. The carriage is a taking one, and excited great interest at the Crystal Palace. The frame is tubular, and very cleverly designed. The motor is a two-cylinder one; the cylinders are water-jacketed, and the tank for the cooling water is beneath the seat of the front driver. Each cylinder drives direct on to a crank pin, fixed one into each of the two fly-wheels. The gearing for speed, power, etc., is of a special design, which we hope to describe later on, and the whole of the engine and motion is concealed in the case beneath the seats, which forms the body of the vehicle. The light wooden sides of the case are lined throughout with thin sheet metal, so that the wood cannot be spoiled by getting soaked in oil from the motor or bearings. The small box just behind the steering wheel on the foot-board contains a small storage battery for supplying current of the electric ignition. A lever, it will be seen, is conveniently placed by the side of the driving seat, and by this one lever the car can be thrown into forward or backward gear, and the brake is also applied by it. The car and motor appear to be very nicely made, and in a workmanlike manner, with ample



bearing surfaces for all the working parts. Cast steel is used for the motor frame, and aluminium for the bed plate, while as we stated before, the frame of the carriage is made from weldless steel tubing. Speaking without a practical trial, this little autocar gives an excellent impression, though, of course, till we have ridden in it we are unable to say whether there is sufficient weight on the guiding wheel for satisfactory steering on bad roads. Speaking from past experience of other machines we are not prepossessed with the bath chair style of steering at any speed on bumpy or greasy roads, as it is somewhat too free for the amount of leverage at the driver's command. Nor do we know how the motor runs, but at the same time, from the amount of careful thought and attention that have evidently been given the designing and making of the machine, we have little doubt that the high opinion we have already formed of the Wolseley autocar will be enhanced by practical trial. The manufacturers are the Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machine Co., Ltd., Alma Street, Aston, Birmingham.



At the Drury Lane pantomime, Dan Leno, we hear, finishes a series of comic acts by leaving the stage in an autocar, at least it would appear to be a genuine mechanically-propelled carriage, though invisible wires may draw it across the stage.