

to be 'that which carries, especially on wheels; a vehicle.' " As noted on a previous occasion (ante, p. 680), an automobile is not a carriage within the meaning of a statute requiring towns to keep their highways reasonably safe and convenient for travellers with their horses and carriages, and that the town is not liable for failure to make any special provision for automobiles if its highways are reasonably safe and convenient for travel generally.

UNFRUITFUL LAWSUITS.

Many men, level-headed enough about other things, seem to lose their wits entirely when they get tangled up in a lawsuit. In a case recently concluded in the German courts a Berlin business man paid out over \$900 to recover the value of a five-cent postage stamp, and now everybody is laughing at him because he didn't even get the stamp back. It seems as if this claimant had justice on his side, too; he had written a polite letter asking for an address and enclosing postage for reply. Failing to get an answer, he sued for the stamp.

The famous Missouri watermelon case was just as trifling and even more disastrous. The seed was planted on one farm, but the vine crept through a crack in the rail fence and the melon grew on the outer side. Both farmers claimed it, and instead of seeing the joke they went to law. To add to the puzzle of ownership an additional complication, the fence was on a county line, and a question of the jurisdiction, of course, was involved. The farmers bankrupted themselves without deciding the question of ownership. The melon worth about ten cents in the first place, had disappeared long before.

The Iowa case which concerned the identity of a red and white heifer calf, was equally disastrous, says the Chicago "Tribune." It is said that subpoenas were issued for more than two hundred witnesses, who attended court after court and received their fees and mileage. The question of who owned the calf grew from a joke into a neighbourhood tragedy. Per-