

# THE Canadian Wheelman.

VOL. I.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER, 1883.

NO. 1.

## PROSPECTUS.

TO THE WHEELMEN OF CANADA:—

In presenting to you this, the initial number of our journal, which we hope will fill a great want among our wheeling friends in Canada, we take great pleasure in stating that we intend it to rank with the best of this class of periodicals published, and it lies entirely within the power of all of you to make it so.

From the growing popularity of this sport our time of commencing is opportune, and many circumstances combine to present a fair outlook toward a prosperous career for our publication:

Firstly, as it is, at the present time, the only paper of its kind published in Canada; this alone should recommend it to everyone at all interested in bicycling.

Secondly, in commencing the paper, we have secured the best talent, possible, both in writing and engraving.

Thirdly, as often as possible we hope to publish the portrait of one of our prominent Canadian wheelmen, a specimen of which will appear next month, in the person of Mr. Perry Doolittle, who is well known to all our readers.

Fourthly and lastly, we hope to keep increasing our circulation till the paper reaches every person who is, at all, an admirer of the manly sport, and to that end we would respectfully ask that all our wheeling friends heartily respond by subscribing as soon as possible, and thereby help us to accomplish our aim.

We have been sadly disappointed by the engravers, in not having our heading, and portrait of Doolittle finished in time for this issue, but we hope to have everything complete for our next number.

In reply to several enquiries received, we might say that we have no connection whatever with the late Hamilton Bicycle, which, we are led to believe is now a thing of the past.

## OTTAWA NEWS.

OTTAWA, Sept. '83

MR. EDITOR:

I am glad to see the appearance of a journal in the interest of 'cycling in Canada, which speaks well for the progress of this sport. Ottawa Club wishes you success.

The first meeting in Ottawa, in the interest of 'cycling was held on Aug. 4th, 1882, when a club was regularly formed, called the "Ottawa Bicycle Club," with the following officers:—President, Mr. G. A. Mothersill, (now a member of the C. W. A. Board); Captain, Mr. M. Bayly; 1st Lieut., Mr. J. A. Seybold, and Mr. F. M. S. Jenkins, Hon. Sec.-Treas. At a later meeting Mr. F. W. Harrison was appointed 2nd Lieut., and the Club color and uniform decided upon, the former cardinal and the latter dark blue patrol jackets, knee breeches and ribbed stockings, with a gray hair-cloth helmet. The rules of the Toronto Bicycle Club were, with some modifications, adopted at this meeting.

On the 19th of the same month the "inaugural meet" took place at the Bank street toll-gate nearest the city and about half a mile beyond the city limit. There were about ten members present. That so distant a point of starting should have been selected was due to a feeling of consideration for the city horses to a certain extent, but chiefly to the existence of a slight feeling of uncertainty on the part of some of the riders, and an anxiety to be as far as possible from the public gaze. If I recollect rightly the hour was very early, perhaps for the same reason.

During the balance of the season of '83 the Club flourished, adding several new members to its roll, and "meets" were held regularly every Saturday.

At a meeting held in September the Club badge was decided upon. It consists of a silver shield with "OTTAWA," in relief diagonally across the face, and the letters 'B,' and 'C' above and below also in relief, the shield being worn on a rosette of cardinal ribbon. This year the badges of officers were somewhat changed, a silver bar on which is engraved the office of the wearer having the shield suspended from it by a little silver chain.

At the second annual meeting, held on the 19th of April this year, the officers for '83-4 were elected, Mr. Mothersill being re-elected President; Mr. Jenkins, Captain, in place of Mr. Bayly who resigned upon leaving Ottawa; Mr. W. C. Young, Hon. Sec.-Treas.; Mr. S. Woodburn, 1st Lieut., and Mr.

Blythe 2nd Lieut.; the latter two in place of Messrs. Seybold and Harrison, resigned.

The Club now numbers about twenty-one members, and is constantly increasing. It also belongs to the C. W. A. to the extent of fifteen, and will shortly add five more to the list.

Club "meets" are held regularly twice each month, (one afternoon and one evening) and they are for the most part successful in every respect.

At two large public demonstrations held here this season bicycle races were decidedly the feature. We possess some very stout and fast riders, though a member of the Oshawa Club succeeded in carrying off second prize in a three mile at the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows' sports here. Mr. G. A. Wilkins, of the O.B.C. taking first easily in 13:16, the track being eight laps to a mile, and partly sod, in fact, most of it.

The City Fathers are considering our prayer for a quarter mile cinder path in Dominion Park. We "hope we may get it."

Touring is decidedly the preferable phase of this sport indulged in by our members. Our roads are very good and scenery unsurpassed in Canada. Chelsea, high up among the Lorentian Hills, on the River Gatineau, Aylmer, on Lake Deschene; Cumberland, on the Ottawa, and Richmond, away inland, are all capital objective points, being distant from nine to twenty miles. Aylmer is, perhaps, our favorite run, distant about ten miles. This road is decidedly our best, and the town possesses accomodation (in the shape of Mrs. Ritchie's hotel) not often met with in small places.

Next Saturday about six of our members start off on a Western tour, Kingston being the objective point; but some intend pushing through to Toronto. If the weather is fine, they will have a delightful time, as they possess within themselves the means of making the halting periods as pleasant as when on the wheel.

Our Captain plays well, and does his duty in accompanying the songs of the "boys, among whom good voices seem to rule.

Messrs. Hillman, Herbert & Co., the well-known manufacturing firm of Coventry, England, are well represented in the O.B.C., there being no less than twelve of their machines in it, nine "D. H. F. Premiers," and two "No. 0;" the former give the best of satisfaction. Besides Messrs. H. H. & C. we have machines of the Challenge, Sansperiel, Florentine and Royal Canadian type, nearly all good machines.

Yours,  
"OTTAWA."