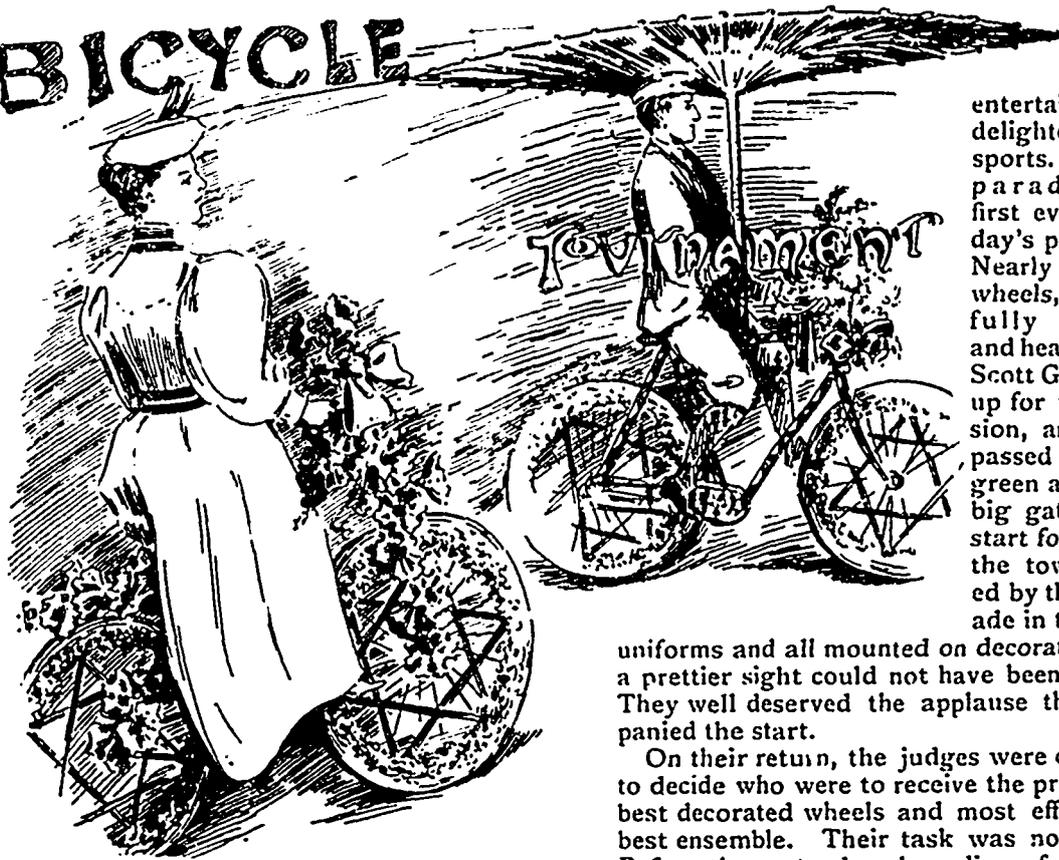


BICYCLE



THE hundreds of people of wealth and fashion from all parts of Canada and the United States who are in the habit of coming every season to pretty, picturesque little Niagara-on-the-Lake have become accustomed to expect great things in the way of sports. During July and August one tournament follows another—tennis, bowling, angling and golf, and each event seems a greater success than the last, and attracts a greater crowd of people. The managers of the Queen's Royal Hotel, on the beautiful green of which all the sports are held, have added to the list of tournaments a very novel affair—a bicycle gymkhana and battle of flowers, which they purpose making an annual event. Such things have been held in England and California, but never before here, until under the able management of Mr. Scott Griffin and Mr. Stewart Houston the people of this part of the world witnessed one for the first time on Friday and Saturday, the 14th and 15th ult. And a remarkably pretty sight it was. Rows and rows of spectators, representing the fashionable social circles of New Orleans, New York, Baltimore, Buffalo, Hamilton, Fort Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto, looked on and applauded from the terrace above the green—as pretty a spot, perhaps, as any to be found in the whole Dominion. On one side, not a quarter of a mile away, standing out on a point, and silhouetted clearly against the western sky, is old Fort Mississauga—a ruin of grass-grown ramparts and crumbling walls. Beyond that, and stretching miles and miles to north and east, are the blue waters of Ontario, spreading away in a wide, unbroken view. On the other side of the grand old river Fort Niagara stands in marked contrast to the ruins of Fort Mississauga and Fort George. Over here is a quaint, picturesque village with streets wide and tree-shaded, and tokens everywhere of the war of 1812. Across the line of blue stands a fort in perfect repair, surrounded by new barracks, new officers' quarters dotted along the river bank, and a glimpse of the Stars and Stripes floating high over the trees from the centre of the parade ground, while the beautiful music of the 13th band comes clearly over the water. Not a thing is wanting to make the spot a most beautiful and attractive one, and the hundreds who assembled to witness the first gymkhana were as charmed

with the surroundings as entertained and delighted with the sports. A floral parade was the first event on the day's programme. Nearly a hundred wheels, all beautifully decorated, and headed by Mr. Scott Griffin, lined up for the procession, and as they passed down the green and out the big gate on their start for a tour of the town, preceded by the fire brigade in their bright uniforms and all mounted on decorated wheels, a prettier sight could not have been arranged. They well deserved the applause that accompanied the start.

On their return, the judges were called upon to decide who were to receive the prizes for the best decorated wheels and most effective and best ensemble. Their task was no easy one. Before them stood a long line of wheels, all pretty, and all artistically decorated, and beside every wheel stood a rider with a bright, animated face and a costume in keeping with the style and colours of their bicycles. And confronted by such an array, the judges fully realized the dangers and difficulties before them. They came out with flying colours, however, and their decisions met with the full approval of the spectators. The tandem ridden by Miss Sibyl Seymour and Mr. Van Koughnet, of Toronto, won first prize by unanimous opinion. It was a most artistic thing, elaborately and beautifully decorated with pink and white dahlias, the canopy over head, a veritable work of art, underneath which Miss Seymour looked radiantly beautiful in a costume of white and pink. Her skirt, short and very wide, was of white duck, with a pink blouse, and white hat with pink band. Mr. Van Koughnet also wore a white suit with pink band on his hat. Both were handsome, both rode gracefully, and from the moment the procession formed no one doubted who would be the prize winners. First prize for best decorated wheel went to Miss Mattie Winnett, whose decorations were white and yellow roses, smilax and Japanese lilies. Mrs. Willie Boughton, of Buffalo, without a rival, won first prize for the best and most effective ensemble. The moment she appeared on the green a murmur of admiration announced the verdict of the spectators, and no one was surprised when the judges gave their decision in her favour. Her wheel was very beautifully decorated with quantities of bright scarlet poppies and smilax, the wheels intertwined with smilax and ribbon in a very effective design, giving the idea of double triangles crossing each other. A huge bow of scarlet satin ribbon fastened the poppies below the handle-bar. The charming little rider wore a white duck tam with a scarlet band fastening two white quills at one side, a white duck blouse with scarlet and white belt, a short, full white duck skirt showing a pair of small feet encased in beautifully fitting white shoes, and scarlet stockings. Her whole costume was complete, and the contrast of the scarlet and white was most effective, entitling her without question to first prize for ensemble.

Miss Althea Birge won first prize among the small girls for the most effective wheel. It was very pretty with sunflowers and smilax, and streamers of yellow ribbon. First prize for the

boy's most effective wheel was given to Rousseau Kleiser, whose decorations were yellow dahlias, golden rod and streamers of yellow ribbon. Mr. Guy Boughton won first prize for most effective ensemble. He wore a white suit, and white peaked yachting cap. His wheel was very pretty with golden rod and smilax, the wheels intertwined with green and yellow ribbon and a bunch of green and yellow streamers from the handle-bar. Covering his whole wheel and himself was a huge Japanese umbrella. Mrs. Fleischmann's team of six won first prize. Those riding in it were Miss H. Lantz and Mr. C. Brady, Miss Ella Fleischmann and Mr. Frank Stowe, Miss C. Fleischmann and Mr. De Witt. One of the sweetest mites on the green was a little tot of about five, Josephine Hoyt, who rode herself into the hearts of everyone. She wore white and pink, and her wheel was gay with pink and white sweet peas. Mr. Percy Papps, of Hamilton, won first prize for men's wheels. His decorations were red and black ribbons, maple leaves and gladioli. In the kindergarten race for girls under twelve, Miss Geraldine Beddome, of Hamilton, came in first; Miss Laura Hespeler second, and Miss Etta Fleischmann third. First prize in the juvenile race for boys was won by Hugh Labatt, of London; Roy Buchanan second, and Charlie Du Puy third.

On Saturday the events were well worth seeing, and as usual, the spectators were not long in singing out their favourites. Among them were Miss Seymour and Miss Gladys Buchanan, who looked lovely in a brown short-skirted suit, tan shoes and leggings, and her thick, long waves of golden brown hair falling loosely around her face and over her shoulders. She rode beautifully, especially in the side-saddle race, and was very graceful both mounted and off her wheel. Miss Pauline Foy came second to her in the side-saddle event. In the maidens' scurry Miss Buchanan also came in first, and second in the tortoise, with Miss Marie Foy first. The needle and necktie race afforded more amusement than any of the other events. Miss Seymour proved herself most deft at tying a bow, and Mr. Van Koughnet threaded his needle and was ten yards away on the home stretch before the others had mounted. Mr. Guy Boughton and Mrs. Willie Boughton came second, with Miss Fleischmann and Mr. Scott Griffin third. Another very pretty event was the tent pegging, in which Mr. Guy Boughton again came out first. He was certainly the favourite of the day, and as he came wheeling down the green with the troublesome peg securely stuck on the end of his spear, which he carried triumphantly over his shoulder, he was greeted with applause, which he well deserved. Mr. Van Koughnet came second, Mr. Griffin third. The tournament finished with the tankard race, and once again Mr. Boughton won, Mr. Van Koughnet second, and Mr. Ince third.

The prizes, which covered a large table and were all well chosen, were presented during the ball on Saturday by Mrs. Hardy. As usual, Mr. Griffin had a lot of very clever and amusing things to say as he called upon each one to come up and receive the prizes. And in spite of the heat, and the crowd in the ballroom, which was fully as great as at the International tennis ball, everyone was jolly and good-natured, and everyone enjoyed the proceedings immensely.

M. GRANTLEY.

