

As riding is out of the question this weather, we are doing the next best thing towards keeping ourselves in condition, namely, skating. Quite a number of our Club attended the carnival here in uniform, and eight of us visited Ingersoll on the 15th inst, and 'did' their carnival also in our "Club duds," as one of the eight (I will refrain from giving his name) called them on the way home; but as the night was chilly I suppose he had caught cold, and intended saying "duds," but found his tongue was too thick to get around the word properly. However, we all enjoyed ourselves heartily, both at the carnival and while putting in the four hours waiting for the train home, which was somewhat late. Fifteen of us, the other seven hailing from Ingersoll and Woodstock, sat down to a "spread" in Young's oyster parlors, where, after appeasing the cravings of our "inner man," we amused ourselves, and no doubt contributed in a high degree to the edification of everybody living within three blocks, until all the songs in our vocabulary were exhausted, when we were entertained for a while by the tricks and acts of Bayly's trained dog. This animal shows a degree of intelligence which is almost human, and so took our fancy that the boys now swear by "Bayly's dog," and any of them would back him in a contest with any dog alive, barring none, soft gloves or bare fists, to knock his opponent out in the first round or forfeit his share of the gate money. Even I, who do not pretend to be a sport, would go my pile on him in a hop-step-and-jump against all comers. However, "everything goes," so we wound up with a dance in the waiting room at the station, and Randy singing "Home Sweet Home" with nineteen variations.

The *Toronto Mail* in reviewing Sports and Pastimes for 1883 speaks thus of the progress of bicycling in Canada:

"In the Canadian Wheelmen's Association there are enrolled over 500 bicyclists. This time last year there were not 200. The first meet of the Association held at London on July 2nd, was successful in the most telling way—it paid. Next to this was notable the tour through Canada of the Chicago and Western wheelmen; and next notable were the admirably conducted race meetings of the Montreal and Toronto Bicycle Clubs. The Canadian amateur champion, W. G. Ross, went to the Springfield meet, and although winning no first prize, he was placed in two races out of four in the best company in America. The Canadian meet of 1884 is promised to Toronto, when the 500 bicyclists of the C. W. A. ought to take the town by storm."

The *Bicycling World* of Boston increases every week in popularity, and is undoubtedly the best weekly 'cycling journal published.

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Ex President Burns rose and said, "Gentlemen,—Most of you are doubtless aware of the dissatisfaction that has been felt in the C. W. A. by the Forest City Bicycle Club, since the first annual meet which took place in this city in July last—I refer to the unnecessary delay in the forwarding of the medals won by Mr. W. G. Ross, the present champion, as we had voted the C. W. A. the sum of \$75 00, which would more than cover the expense of the medals. However, as there is now a change in the officers, no doubt everything will be run better. I have been appointed one of the consuls of London, but have thought seriously of resigning as my knowledge of the roads is somewhat limited. Mr. Muirhead, the other consul, asked me, the other day, to help him to compile the report for London, but I recommended Mr. Wm. Payne, as he knew all of the roads. However, I will leave it to the choice of the Club whether I will act."

Some discussion now took place as to whether the Club should remain in the Association, and on motion of Mr. Jas. Reid, seconded by W. K. Evans, it was unanimously decided that the Club should remain in the C. W. A., and also that Geo. Burns accept the position of Consul.

The Chairman, in proposing the next toast, THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN, said that the Club ought to feel proud that two of their most active members were the promoters of such a spicy and new little paper, which he felt sure did a great deal to promote bicycling in Canada. (Applause.) When he had received the first number he read it because he had nothing else to do (Laughter.) Now he was only sorry when he had finished perusing its columns, and wished for more. He thought it deserved the encouragement of every wheelman in Canada, in a practical way, by each one's subscribing at once. He concluded thus: "Gentlemen,—I ask you to drink the health of the CANADIAN WHEELMAN and its promoters. Messrs. Evans and Dignam."

W. K. Evans, in response, said: "Gentlemen,—I thank you most cordially for the hearty manner in which you have drunk the health and prosperity of the CANADIAN WHEELMAN, and, whether Mr. Dignam responds to the toast or not, I am perfectly sure that he heartily agrees with me. In starting our little sheet, a good deal of doubt was felt by some as to our success, and, in fact, some doubt is manifested yet; but I can assure you that we are on a far better footing now than we had imagined when commencing. Financially, we have every prospect of our venture's being a success, and it only remains with you to say whether we have succeeded in our efforts to provide a pleasant medium for the exchange of each others ideas, for the promotion of the interest taken in our well-chosen pastime, and for an opportunity of seeing the graphic and brilliant accounts of President So-and-so's header, and Mr. What-you-may-call-em's capacity for eating while out on a tour; (I came nearly saying *tear*) although a good many, who

have gone through the ordeal, have not received the necessary notice in the WHEELMAN, for which we offer our apology for the neglect. Although the fact, possibly, may be unknown to you, we do not enjoy quite as large a circulation as two of our esteemed city contemporaries; still we do not feel in the least discouraged, and I say, if we received half as much encouragement in some of the other towns and cities as the 'cyclists of London have given, we would now be issuing successfully a sixteen or twenty page journal. I might add that the Forest City Bicycle Club will always receive their due share of attention in our columns, and anything that the CANADIAN WHEELMAN can do to further the interests of the Club, without any detriment to any other Club, will always be done willingly. I only hope that we may all enjoy together many returns of this evening, and again thank you for the manner in which you have received the toast of the CANADIAN WHEELMAN." (Applause.)

Mr. Dignam said: "Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—It affords me great pleasure to respond to a toast that has been drunk in such a hearty manner as the one just finished drinking. I will not take up your time in claiming for our paper the largest circulation or that it is the best advertising medium in Canada, (laughter), but I will say that it is the only paper devoted to the interests of 'cycling published in Canada, and as such it is entitled to the support and encouragement of every Canadian wheelman. I think that you will all agree with me when I say that after the collapse of the *Hamilton Bicycle*, the Canadian wheelmen had been badly in want of a paper devoted to the interests of their sport. To fill this want the CANADIAN WHEELMAN was started. In the place of long, windy editorials, we have substituted short, spicy letters from the various clubs, and by combining these with the latest bicycle gossip, we have endeavored to add a little interest to the club room by sending our paper there, and encourage that sociability which should always exist among bicycle clubs, and, gentlemen, we flatter ourselves, that we have, to a certain extent, succeeded, as in most cases our paper is a welcome visitor. (Applause.) In the future as in the past our highest aim will be to elevate the sport and encourage in every honest way bicycle and tricycle riding. Again thanking you for the high compliment you have paid our paper, I will merely add that the CANADIAN WHEELMAN is published monthly at one dollar per year, in advance." (Applause.)

The 1st-Vice Chairman now took charge of the toast list, the first one being

THE FOREST CITY BICYCLE CLUB  
coupled with the names of Jas. Reid and J. G. Dawson.

Mr. Jas. Reid hoped that the F. C. B. C. would step into its old place at the head of the list of bicycle clubs. (Applause.) He was sorry that he did not feel capable of accepting the office of President; but for the rest of the officers he knew that they would take a deep interest in the Club. (Hear! hear!)