

## OUR RACING MEN.—W. G. ROSS.

W. G. Ross, the amateur five-mile champion bicyclist of Canada, was born in Montreal on August 6th, 1863, being now 21 years of age. His height is 5 ft. 9 in., and weight, when in condition, 140 lbs. His first appearance in public was on skates in Feb., 1880, and although not taking first place, he made remarkable good time. His snow-shoe races were all run in the spring of 1883, when he met with considerable success. The bicycle, however, seems to have been his forte, as out of all his Canadian races he has been beaten but four times. The four races in which he was beaten in the United States were all at the Springfield meet in Sept. Ross was third in two of the races (in one, beating the previous mile record) and fourth in the other two, in one of which the record for two miles was lowered. Perhaps the best race he rode during the year was the mile race at the opening of the Point St. Charles Driving Park, near Montreal. Eight men started in the final heat. Ross led for half a mile, when he fell, and was left by the others, but he remounted and won the race, passing six men in succession in the last quarter.

At the first annual meet held in London in 1883, Ross, before unheard of outside of Montreal, won both the one and four mile championships, and surprised every one by his extraordinary spurts and speed. Early in the season of 1884 he was severely injured by a fall from his machine, both wrists being sprained, which, although not preventing him from entering the annual races, was considered the main reason that he did not make a greater struggle for the one-mile championship, although he afterwards won the five-mile trophy. Socially, Mr. Ross is a great favorite with the members of his club and all those acquainted with him, on account of his retiring and gentlemanly manner.

Appended is a list of the races which Ross has won :

1882.

June 15.—Three mile (handicap).—Ross, 1st; time, 12m. 15s.; start of 1m. 15s.

Sept. 2nd.—Three mile (club cup).—Ross, 1st; time, 12m. 7s. Same date.—Combination, one mile.—Ross, 1st; time, 7m. 7s.

Sept. 7.—Five mile Ross, 1st; time, 20m. 20s.

Sept. 23rd.—One mile.—Ross, 2nd; no time kept.

Oct. 7th.—Five mile.—Ross, 2nd; time, 20m.

Oct. 14th.—Two mile (handicap).—Ross, 1st from scratch; no time kept.

1883.

Montreal, June 2.—One mile handicap, five starters—Ross, 1st, 3m. 42s.; Hill, 25s. start, 2nd. Same meeting, five mile handicap, four starters.—Ross, 1st, 19m. 10s.; J. H. Low, 20s. start, 2nd.

Montreal, June 16.—Handicap road race Montreal to Valois, 15 miles, eleven starters.—Hill, 20m. start, 1st; Ross, scratch, 2nd; H. 9m. 50s.

London, Ont., July 2.—One mile, championship of Canada, heats, three starters.—Ross, 1st; best time, 4m. 10s.; J. Westbrook, Brantford, 2nd. Same meeting, five miles, championship of Canada five starters.—Ross, 1st, 22m 15s.; P. E. Doolittle, Aylmer, 2nd.

Montreal, July 16.—One mile, five starters.—

Ross, 1st, 3m. 36s. Same meeting, five miles, four starters.—Ross, 1st, 18m. 38s.

Montreal, Sept. 7.—One mile, open, three starters.—Ross, 1st, 3m. 47s. Same meeting, five miles, open, three starters.—Ross, 1st, 18m. 47s.

Springfield, Mass., Sept 18.—Ten miles, amateur championship of America, ten starters.—G. M. Hendee, Springfield, 1st, 33m. 43 1-5s.; A. H. Robinson, England, 2nd; H. D. Corey, Boston, 3rd; Ross, 4th. Same day, half mile dash, fifteen starters.—Robinson, 1st, 1m. 25 1/4s.; E. P. Burnham, 2nd; Ross, 3rd.

Springfield, Sept. 19.—Two miles, nine starters.—Robinson, 1st, 6m. 2 1/4s. (breaking record); Corey, 2nd; C. D. Vesey, Eng., 3rd; Ross, 4th.

Springfield, Sept. 20.—One mile, seven starters—Corey, 1st, 2m. 51 3/4s.; Robinson, 2nd; Ross, 3rd; Hendee, 4th (all breaking previous record of 2.54).

Montreal, Oct. 6.—One mile, 6 starters.—Ross, 1st, 3m. 30s. (fastest track time). Same meeting, five miles, ride over for Ross in 18m. 30s.

Montreal, Oct. 8.—One mile, heats, thirteen starters.—Ross, 1st, 3m. 42s.

Toronto, Oct. 13.—One mile, two starters.—Ross, 1st, 3m. 13s. (fastest Canadian record); F. Westbrook, Brantford, 2nd.

Toronto, Oct. 20.—One mile, open, four starters.—Ross, 1st, 3m. 29s.; F. Westbrook, 2nd. Same meeting, three miles, handicap, six starters.—Ross and Westbrook dead heat from scratch, 10m. 58s. (fastest Canadian record). Same meeting, five miles, open, three starters.—Ross, 1st, 20m. 8s.; P. E. Doolittle, Aylmer, 2nd.

1884.

Toronto, July 1st.—One mile, championship of Canada—C. F. Lavender, 1st, 3m. 9 1/2s.; Ross, 2nd. Same day, four miles, championship of Canada.—Ross, 1st, 17m. 14 1-5s.; C. P. Lavender, 2nd.

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## PRINCE BEATS WOODSIDE AT CHICAGO.

The race meeting of the Hermes Bicycle Club, on Dec. 25th, in the Exposition building, was largely attended. The track was seven laps to the mile, and the racing was excellent. After the amateur races, John S. Prince, of Washington, and W. M. Woodside, of New York, met to decide the professional championship of the United States at fifteen miles. The stakes were \$100 a-side. Prince had claimed the championship, and Woodside, who was champion of Ireland, challenged him for the title. The race was hotly contested every inch of the way, and the excitement was intense. Neither man allowed his opponent to secure a decided lead at any point, and they indulged in spurt after spurt to break each other up. On the last lap Prince took the lead, and won by 6 feet in 53m. 9 1/2s. Woodside's time was 53m. 9 3/4s. The performance is remarkable for the size of the track, but is slow in comparison with Morgan's record of 49m. 15s. for the same distance, made on a half-mile track.

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We call attention to the advertisement of Chas. Robinson & Co., of Toronto, on the second page, wherein they forecast, in a confidential way, their intentions for the spring. We believe they have placed a large order with Rudge & Co., for spring delivery, including some of the new Rudge Safety Bicycle, for which great speed and lightness is claimed.

## Literary Notes.

The *Cyclist & Athlete* commences the new year with its new heading, which is very appropriate, its general appearance also being improved.

*Wheeling* issues a very handsome Christmas annual, which, although not illustrated, is well stocked with splendid reading of all styles for the lovers of the mysterious steed. It is stated that it met with an enormous sale.

Another journal that aspires for Christmas honors is the *Sporting and Theatrical Journal*, whose bicycling column is well filled with newsy items, the holiday number containing a portrait of John S. Prince. The *S. & T. Journal* is one of the best all-round sporting journals now published.

At Christmas time, one of the chief efforts of the journals of sport is to vie with others in their various spheres in producing the brightest and most readable holiday number. *Turf, Field and Farm* is among the list, and comes replete with good reading for all lovers of sport. The cycling column, necessarily, is not large at this period of the year, but, in season, cycling receives a very liberal share of attention from this journal.

Through the kindness of the publishers, we are in receipt of "Our Camp," the Christmas number of *The Cyclist*. Without doubt, it is one of the best cycling publications ever brought out, the general get-up and illustrations being a great improvement on former Christmas numbers. A feature of the work is the sarcastic, but witty, reprints of the various cycling journals, the *Bicycling World* being the only American journal favored.

The holiday number of *Outing* greets the new year with a feast of jollity and good cheer. "The Wheelman's Vision" forms a very unique frontispiece, followed by Arthur Gilman's "After the British on a Tricycle," a delightful historical article, illustrated by Edmund H. Garrett. John Boyle O'Reilly contributes an enthusiastically-written paper, "Down the Susquehanna in a Canoe." This number also contains "The Wheelman's Song," by Wm. J. Stabler. The harmony of this composition is beautifully blended, and the melody is exceedingly pretty, but the addition of a chorus would make it more taking as a cycling song. Altogether, this is one of the best numbers of *Outing*.

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The farmers of America treat wheelmen fairly when on the road, and wheelmen have no cause to complain. In England things are different, if a recent statement in a leading wheel paper may be taken as a sample. Two noted wheelmen called at a farm-house one day and inquired for the customary glass of milk, no one being in but the trusty servant, who eyed them very closely, and having satisfied herself with their appearance, very generously handed them their fill. The ever generous wheelmen insisted upon paying the fair maiden, but she steadfastly refused, saying that her mistress's instructions were: "If any tramps applied for milk to give them all they want, as the milk was not very good, two rats having been found dead in it." Exit wheelmen for pasture new.