

## News from the Clubs.

To CORRESPONDENTS—Please make your letters brief and nowy, and then we will not be obliged to crowd out other letters of equal importance.

### NEWCASTLE.

DEAR WHEELMAN:

The December number of the CANADIAN WHEELMAN has just been placed on the club tables, and it need hardly be said that it was read with avidity, my poor contribution seeming to lend still greater interest.

Since my last we have increased in membership to fifty-five—fifty-five members in three months, who can beat that? please excuse our "blowing," but really you must own that we have cause. Since our last was written we have had a little disturbance, that for a short time interrupted the serenity of the Club; it has however, it seems, ended, like the story books by the general or almost reconciliation of all parties concerned.

We have on an average fourteen or fifteen at the rooms every evening, and for a place the size of Newcastle, we think that number much better than could be expected.

Our library is, with the exception of a few, very few of the more studious, left unmolested. Our President, Rev. W. A. V. E. Patterson, is advocating our getting more books; we, however, should advise the Club to procure more games, fit up a gymnasium room, with boxing-gloves and clubs. We have spoken to several members as to this, and find the general desire of the Club is to have such a room.

A short time ago three or four of our members went out for an outing, our 1st Lieutenant, Mr. W. H. Chandler being in command, and 2nd Lieutenant, Mr. Edward Dayman acting as whipper-in. Our President who has not as yet bought a wheel went alone on horseback. They reached Bowmanville five miles west and learning that a foot-ball match was on the tapis, there concluded to get off and witness it. On the road up racing, was the "order of the day" between the wheels and the horse. It is needless to inform you that the "bikes" came off victorious every time. The only result being that the horse (which is a very fine tall speedy chestnut horse), was one mass of lather and foam. Our worthy president, who by-the-by is a most accomplished horseman, came to the conclusion that it was cruelty to the horse to attempt to catch the silent steed.

Yours truly,  
Nick.

### BELLEVILLE.

DEAR WHEELMAN:

I hardly know how to tell you what I have to say. As a Club we are all well as far as health goes; but, goodness, everything is apparently wrong. All riding is now over with us, as we have enjoyed nothing for the past six weeks but one long succession of snow and cold weather, the pleasure of the wheel is therefore out of the question. It is at this season of

the year that the clubable nature of the wheelmen shows itself. We have now a large hall 75 by 40 feet, to be used as a reading and club room. A noisier, jollier, better natured, and more enthusiastic crowd can hardly be imagined. The roads in and about Belleville for fifty miles in every direction, are of the very best order. The run to Tronton, distance twelve miles along the shore of the beautiful Bay of Quinte, the magnificence of the scenery along the way cannot, I believe, be surpassed. The serious business of missing the stones and ruts is pleasing to wheelmen as they are not to be found along the way. A rough and stony road may be conducive to health, but certainly does not I think lead wheelmen into that idea; a header is not the most pleasant sensation, especially when you see a star or stars, as it were, in the distance. It humiliates one, throws him in the sand, makes sackcloth and dust a luxury that we might do without; at least my experience has led me to think thusly, and I think my fellow wheelmen will certify to the accuracy of this conclusion.

Bicycling interests have not been very active in our city until this season. When I say "active" I mean lively and bustling. Our Club numbers twenty active wheelmen with some good racing men and long distance riders. We own also a fine bicycle track, completed through the exertion of our Captain, Mr. Retallick, situated in the heart of the city.

It would be a waste of words to speak of the attractions Belleville presents to her wheelmen. Her prepared track, her beautiful avenue and streets with the unrestricted freedom permitted to the wheel. I could go on and give you numerous adventures on the wheel, and the WHEELMAN readers will hear of some perhaps in future numbers. Trusting I have not occupied too much of your valuable space, and wishing the WHEELMAN success in every sense of the term, I am,

Yours Fraternally,  
BACKBONE.

### THE WANDERERS.

The Club Picture of the Wanderers Club of Toronto which is now in progress, is to surpass anything in its line yet produced in Canada. The size is to be five feet by two and a-half, and shall contain over seventy members in the well known grey and black suits of the club. The front figures of the group are eight inches high, the back figures being six and a-half. It is now nearly completed, and copies will soon be issued. Dixon the well known photographer has the thing in hand, and some splendid artistic work may be expected. Westbrook, who has resigned from the Brantford Club, will occupy a central position in the picture as the Club's "fast" man.

The Western Cyclist intends enlarging to sixteen pages before long.

### WHAT THE ARIELS ARE DOING.

Our annual meeting was held in our Club rooms on the first Thursday in the new year at 8 o'clock p.m., nearly all the members being present. The financial and riding reports were very favorable. Considering that we have only been five months in existence as a club, we have every reason to congratulate ourselves, our bank account showing a neat, handy sum to our credit, and the record of club-runs totaling up quite a respectable number of miles covered. Of the latter an interesting part is the summary showing each individual member's achievements—number of runs participated in, distance ridden, average speed, etc., etc. Next season this will undoubtedly be a strong incentive to the boys to turn out regularly to the runs, so as to have their names stand as high up as possible on the list; such remarks as these being general after the meeting: "I'll top that list next season or I'm a Dutchman," "I'll go you one better or call me Dennis," "The man who is ahead of me next summer will have to get up very early in the morning."

Among the places to which we have ridden are nearly all the neighboring towns and villages, including St. Thomas, Port Stanley, St. Marys, Strathroy, Ailsa Craig, Lucan, Exeter, and Goderich; and everywhere we have met with good treatment and had a jolly good time. On some future occasion, I will dilate on one or two of our best tours if you will give such "yarns" a place in your excellent paper. Our shortest run was to Hyde Park and return, twelve miles (by moonlight) and our longest, from here to Goderich, about sixty-five miles. The following officers were elected for the ensuing season: G. D. Cameron, Pres.; J. D. Keenleyside, Vice-Pres.; W. M. Begg, Sec'y.; J. A. Muirhead, Capt.; G. P. Lilley, 1st Lieut., and James Lamb, 2nd Lieut. A management committee was also appointed as well as a bugler, a standard-bearer and a club-correspondent.

After the transaction of all business we adjourned to the St. Nicholas restaurant. Every body knows the St. Nick, kept by Popham, and noted for its pretty waitresses, and the excellences of its free lunches. It is very handy to our quarters—not using that word to signify a current coin of the realm, of course, but as applying to our club-rooms; for, as I was going to say, we can pop out of our back-door right into Pop's, or milk-stew or anything, in accordance with the extent to which the generosity of the man who happens to be "setting it up," prompts him. This handiness, combined with its other good points mentioned above, makes it a somewhat pop-ular resort with us, and the name, mentioned in connection with oysters or cigars, has a tendency to de-pop-ulate our rooms so suddenly as to be alarming. This particular evening of our first meeting, in the new year we spent very pleasantly, as we all seemed to be in a very generous mood.