

News from the Clubs.

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

BELLEVILLE.

DEAR WHEELMAN:

I must apologize to you for not informing and keeping you alive to the workings of the B. B. C. The Belleville B. C. Club has gone to a great deal of expense in fitting up their handsome rooms and riding hall (which are at all times open to visiting wheelmen), and in order to strengthen the finances of our flourishing Club a grand bicycle meet and concert was proposed and met the approbation of all. A committee was appointed to make all arrangements for the holding of the meet and concert, and great praise must be given them for the energetic efforts and ultimate success in their undertaking.

The concert took place in the new Opera House, on Thursday, March 6th, under favorable auspices and a good large audience, there being about six hundred persons present. The tableaux given by the Club were admitted by all to be one of the most pleasing features of the evening, and the tableau in which Mr. Thos. Richie, on behalf of H. Corby, Esq., President of the B. B. C., presented a very handsome silver cup was decidedly pretty. Too much cannot be said in praise of the singing. The ladies especially sang well, and it would be hardly fair to particularize; but I think it would be an injustice not to mention the singing of Mrs. Wallace, late of London, whose full, rich voice and exquisite rendering of the selections sung by her were applauded to the echo, and received encores, although the Chairman, Mayor Dunnett, requested the audience not to encore. The recitations given by Messrs. Carmichael and Richardson were well received and the rendering by them would compare favorably with some of our best actors on the stage. The recitation (illustrative) in the sign language, given by Prof. S. T. Greene, entitled "The Amateur Bicyclist," was very amusing and received repeated applause. It seems almost necessary to mention every one on the programme, but your space is limited. Hrv.

MONTREAL.

ED. CANADIAN WHEELMAN:

DEAR SIR,—I have been surprised to read in your late issues, letters advocating the amalgamation of the C.W.A. and L.A.W. Those who were present at the meeting in Toronto in September 1882, called to organize the C.W.A., will remember that I then advocated the formation of a Canadian Division of the L.A.W., but that proposition was unanimously "scouted." My reason for doing so was because I thought, in common with the rest of the Montreal Club, that the wheel had not a sufficiently strong hold in Canada to support such an association. That view has, I think all will admit, been

proved incorrect and the history of the American League has not warranted the abandonment of our own National Body in favor of an alliance with the L.A.W. I think it is time to adopt a distinctive badge for the members of our Association and with that end in view I have had a number of designs made to submit to the proper authorities for their approval.

Messrs. Ross, Trug, Miller, Davis, and myself have sent an order home for a "Centaur" Four-in-hand Tricycle, which will be the first on this continent, I believe.

Messrs. Lane and Hill will ride a Rucker Tandem Bicycle this season.

Charlie Merrill has ordered a Premier Sociable and Bob Darling has purchased a Chelyesmore Double. With these, the American Star and the Sociable that went to Springfield, the Montreal Division will shew considerable variety in the parade in Toronto, 1st. July. The boys are talking about it already, and I fully expect fifty men to accompany us on the trip.

We have lately refurnished and decorated our Club Rooms at an expense of over \$250, and I hope no Western wheelman will visit Montreal without giving us a call. The large oil-finished photograph of the Montreal Club, taken in 1831 before Suley left us, has just come back from the Boston Exhibition, and once more adorns the walls of our club room. We have started a weekly riding school in our gymnasium hall every Wednesday evening according to our usual custom for several years past at this season, and already several recruits have joined our ranks.

I notice that Canada has recently been erected into a separate division of the 'Cyclists' Touring Club; but I have not heard who has been appointed Chief Consul. I received a letter from a friend in the Old Country, who is on the council, telling me that the names of Messrs. McBride and Webster, of Toronto, had been mentioned and also my own. I should be glad to see the position accorded to Mr. McBride, who is a most enthusiastic wheelman without a doubt and would work hard for the success of anything he undertakes, I am sure.

The CTC does not conflict with national organizations, such as the C.W.A., L.A.W., N.C.U., &c., being of a purely international character and principally designed to assist wheelmen in touring throughout the length and breadth of the rideable world.

By the time this sees the light the presentation to "Billy" Ross will no longer be the secret it is as yet. Several of the boys, desiring to manifest their affection and esteem for "our champion," have imported a "Rudge" racer which is to be presented at a special meeting to be held next Friday evening. The machine has arrived, and everybody has been to Carnival House to inspect it, and it is a beauty without doubt. Jack Low and Fred. Holden have ordered duplicates "on sight."

Our genial Secretary, Jim Miller, who has recently returned from a short business trip west, reports that a host of new racers will be in the field this season (according to Mr. Moodie, of Hamilton,) and that they intend to make Ross look sharp after his laurels. The Ross family are all celebrated in some branch of athletics. Phil. as an oarsman, Jimmy as a snow-shoer, and Billy as a bicyclist, and are as fine a trio of brothers as you will find between here and the Rockies.

Rather more attention will be paid to fancy riding here this season than of late years, I judge, from present indications.

H. S. Tibbs, C.C., Dist. 4.

THE ARIEL TOURING CLUB.

DEAR WHEELMAN:—

"Gentle Anito" can't be far off now and no one will hail her with more delight than the "Ariels." The coming races, tours, and tournaments are the chief topics around our fire nightly, but the all-absorbing one is our intended tour to Montreal, which will take place early in August. Arrangements and details will be down to a fine point in a short time, as our letters of inquiry along the route have been answered promptly and courteously, which speaks well for the eastern 'cyclists and is fully appreciated-by-us. Our present plan is train to Toronto, wheel to Montreal and back by boat to Hamilton and train home. Time about ten days. The club motto has now been changed to "Economy is the road to Montreal."

Our bugle arrived last week and was "officially" brought forth from the box that Mr. C. W. Hutchinson, Springfield, Mass., had buried it in and was most "unofficially" "tooty-to-tooted" by the patient president for one straight hour (it is rumored he would have "tooted" some more if he had not burst the band on his new(?) spring hat, for which he had exchanged a very dilapidated one on his last visit to the barber's) and was duly handed over to the bugler who after emptying out the pint and a-half of saliva, pronounced it a "duisy."

W. G. Ross' Photo (16x20,) presented to us by that gentleman, was the big card in Trebilcock's window the other week. It has been handsomely framed and adds greatly to the appearance of our room.

Considerable excitement was caused the other night by one of our members, (left hand top man in club photo) whose daily bread is earned by representing a wholesale firm of this city, in Waterloo County, bringing up a cake of pure unadulterated Limburger cheese and depositing same in Secretary's desk. That illustrious gentleman having a bad cold "failed to connect," tilted his chair back, and calmly wondered why the boys asked him if he was sure he was quite well and why they edged their chairs near the door. But the Limburger knocked his cold out in the second round, and with a sweet, Christmas-what-is-it expression on his face, announced that a pole cat had got under his desk. Search was immediately instituted and the real cause found and gently assisted out by the club sport (right hand top man in club photo) who thinks it strong enough to knock out Sullivan in half a round. He intends to take it to Toronto on the 1st. July to help to keep the crowd back at the gates.

Our great female impersonator (centre man, bottom row in club group) better known to the London public as "Tilly Muggs," appears for the last time this season in St. Thomas this week, closing a very successful engagement with the Muggs Buggs Company. Tilly made quite a hit this year and was appreciated.

Our "Club masher" (top row, second man from the left) is once more in trouble. A short time ago he received a huge poster advertising another Ingersoll carnival with the short but meaning verse,

"Be sure and come Jimmie,
Or you'll break the heart of Minnie."

As Jimmie was "troubled with the shorts" at that time he didn't attend, and now Minnie, who is visiting here "never speaks as she passes by."

The rest of the Club are in good health, due no doubt to the untiring attentions of our janitor (Lost January 4th, 1884—reward offered for his recovery.)

Yours as ever,

MICKIE.