

THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEET.

Well, the fifth annual meeting of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association is a thing of the past, and THE WHEELMAN hastens to give the story, both for the edification of those who were not there and for those who were. The latter may know all about it, but will be glad to hand down the record of how they employed and enjoyed themselves on Dominion Day, in the year of grace and jubilee, 1887.

As of yore, the sun shone brightly upon the Meet. For five successive years the C.W.A. has had Queen's weather for its annual gathering, a fact that has had no slight bearing on the financial standing of the Association. This year at Brantford the weather was intensely warm, but no one grumbled in seriousness. Wheelmen are accustomed to having red-hot times in this world, a sure omen of coolness and happiness in the next.

THE RECEPTION.

Brantford gave the visitors a right royal reception. Its wheelmen are not particularly numerous, but its pretty girls are, and the choice lunch which they so generously provided, and so graciously served, will long be remembered by all who found their way to the Agricultural Hall at the conclusion of the races. But prior to this manifestation of the hospitality of the ladies of Brantford, their fathers and brothers had given ample testimony of their good-will towards the wheelmen, and desire to do them honor. The local wheelmen were unremitting in their attentions, and the city fathers gave the Association a formal welcome to the city, a graceful act which was a new experience to the Association.

Prior to Friday, the eventful day, a large number of rooms at the hotels had been secured in advance by intending visitors, who commenced to throng the city on Thursday afternoon, and by Friday noon Brantford seemed to have surrendered unconditionally to the omnipresent bicyclist. The hotels all did a large business, the Kerby House being especially busy. By some miscalculation it was utterly unable to cope with the great number who desired dinner on Friday, but the boys took matters philosophically, and the riot act had not to be read.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

The annual business meeting of the Association was held in Stratford's Opera House, at 11 a.m., President Karn, of Woodstock, in the chair, and about 150 members present. Prior to the opening of the meeting, a formal welcome to the wheelmen was rendered by Mayor Henry and Ald. Reid and Rothwell. Mr. Karn made a happy reply, eulogizing Brantford, and briefly sketching the history and objects of the C.W.A. After the deputation, which had been introduced by Mr. Truesdale, of the B.B.C., had withdrawn, Mr. Hal. B. Donly, Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly approved, and also the following highly interesting and encouraging report:

To the Officers and Members of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association.

GENTLEMEN.—Another year has rolled around and once more I am called to address to you an account of my stewardship.

Like its three predecessors that I have had the honor of penning, this annual report is one only of congratulation. In fact, I think I can with confidence say that the year just closed has been much the most prosperous of any in the history of the Association.

The annual meeting of the Association, held one year ago now in the city of Montreal, has, of course, long since become history to all Canadian wheelmen; but I will be pardoned in making a last allusion to the great success which attended the efforts of the Montreal members to hospitably entertain their brethren from the West. The financial result of the races was not, however, so good as at former annual gatherings, and our cash account is short accordingly. The profits to the C.W.A. at Montreal were only \$85.00 as against \$206.00 at Woodstock the year before.

The latter figure we hope to see eclipsed to-day by Brantford.

On July 1st, 1886, there was in the hands of the treasurer a balance of \$319.79; from this balance, however, should properly be deducted the grant of \$150 made to Secretary-Treasurer for his services during the year 1885-6. This would leave the real balance on hand at that time \$169.79. Our cash account to-day shows a balance of \$202.02. This is certainly most creditable, considering that we have had to bear the expense of the Guide Book to the amount of \$145.25; this charge would be reduced by \$45 were all the advertisements paid up.

Our membership register is at the present time in an exceedingly healthy condition. On the 1st of April, 1887, at which date we began to issue tickets good for next year, we had in the Association 612 members; since then I have received in all 401 members' fees, of which 174 were renewals; this leaves the net membership of the Association 849—a considerably larger number than we have ever had before at the end of a year.

This membership is divided among the several clubs as follows:

Forest City, London	35	Winnipeg	10
St. Thomas	28	Victoria B.C., Mon-	
Simcoe	22	treal	12
Torontos	43	Peterborough	10
Wanderers	30	Trenton	21
Brantford	36	Montreal Jr. Club	13
Woodstock	47	Listowel	5
St. Marys	6	Eastern T.C.	14
Hamilton	37	Napanee	10
Ottawa	19	Colborne	8
Montreal Sr. Club	80	Cobourg	11
Newcastle	5	Kincardine	16
Kingston	20	Welland	6
St. Catharines	36	Chatham	9
Paris	9	Dunnville	8
Stratford	52	Norwich	5
Berlin and Waterloo	11	Walkerton	16
Ramblers, Belleville	46	Orillia	6
Cornwall	8		
Bruce Co. Wheel-			789
men	11	Unattached	60
Newmarket	20		
Westminster T.C.	8		849

members per club roll-book.

Of these clubs, Napanee, Colborne, Cobourg, Kincardine, Welland, Chatham, Dunnville, Norwich, Walkerton and Orillia have joined this spring.

Membership Register shows 1,023 members for the year, less 174 renewals; making 849 members, made up of clubs as given above.

On September 1st, 1886, the following clubs were suspended for non-payment of dues and forfeited their standing in the Association: Guelph, Ariels, of London, Seaforth, Norwich, Mitchell and International Wanderers, of Niagara Falls, the majority of them, however, being small clubs.

In the early part of the year the Board of Officers divided the Province into five districts, viz.: The Huron, Niagara, Toronto, Midland and Ottawa, in place of the former three divisions. This change has been found to be most beneficial, giving the Chief Consuls much better command over their constituents and leading to a more active work in the interests of the Association on their parts.

The election of Chief Consuls and Representatives this spring attracted very little attention at the hands of the Association. There was not a single contested district, and the Board of last year was practically re-elected.

At the spring Board meeting the President and Secretary of the Association were instructed to meet a representative of the Brantford Club, and, providing a guarantee was given that the club would do all in its power to make it a success the Meet of 1887 should come to Brantford. The President and Secretary accordingly met Mr. Fitch, the captain of the Brantford Club, and I think that the very complete arrangements for to-day that we are enjoying at the hands of the Brantford wheelmen bear ample testimony to the manner in which Mr. Fitch's promise has been fulfilled.

The Guide Book published in April has been in great demand, and has certainly met with a most flattering reception. It is only to be regretted that the great length of time that elapses between the starting of the book and the publication, caused altogether by the slowness of the receipt of road reports, make it impossible to get a more creditable typographical appearance. Printing it by fits and starts precludes the possibility of sending it to be done in a city printing establishment.

The Association is to be congratulated upon its good fortune in having so able and experienced a practical journalist as Mr. Brierley in charge of its official organ. The vast difference to be seen in the financial conduct of THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN and any other athletic association organ is in no small degree due to his splendid management. It is, indeed, a highly satisfactory state of affairs for me to be able to announce that instead of our organ being this year a draw upon our treasury, we have paid nothing towards its support, and Mr. Brierley announces a balance to good of \$126.17.

The vigilance of the Membership Committee is attested by the expulsion from the amateur ranks during the year of five wheelmen found guilty of professionalism.

The Racing Board pleasingly report that our one mile bicycle record, so long almost disgraceful in its slowness, has been put down to the respectable figure of 2:42 1-5 by the ability of one of our Canadian champions, Mr. Fred Foster, who in the race in question led over the score Mr. W. G. Crist, of Washington, D.C., one of the leading amateur flyers of the U.S.

The energetic Chairman of the Transportation Committee, in the last edition of the Guide Book, is able to report a large increase in the number of railways that carry wheels free of charge.

To sum up, we have this year presented to our members a most useful Road Guide Book, have sent free once a month a well-edited wheel paper, have protected the Amateur rule, taken full charge of Canadian wheel championships and racing generally, have obtained concessions from railway lines, steamboat lines and hotels, and all for a membership fee of one-half dollar per member. Gentlemen, I would ask you has any athletic association in the world done as much at so small a cost to its members?

In conclusion, let me return my thanks to the members of the Board of Officers who so generously met my request that the office which I hold should be a remunerated one. I should have preferred to have continued in the service of the Association without recompense, other than the thanks of my brother wheelmen, but the ever-increasing encroachments made by the work connected with the office upon my time rendered it impossible for me to do so.

It has been my endeavor in the year gone by to so perform my duties as to please the majority. If I have not satisfied all, I have only been human, and I would ask from all those whose purposes I may have appeared to have crossed as much of their consideration as they can be induced to give to a brother wheelman whose errors, whatever they may have been, have only been of the judgment, but whose best wishes have and ever will go with the C.W.A. and its members.

Fraternally yours,

HAL. B. DONLY, Secretary.

This report was unanimously adopted, its reading having been frequently interrupted by applause.

Abstract Statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association for the year ending 30th June, 1887,
H. B. Donly, Treasurer.

1886.

DEBITS.

July 1—Balance on hand, June 30, '86. \$319 79
Sept. 30—Profits of C.W.A. Meet, Montreal. 85 00

1887.

June 30—Membership Fees, July 1, '86, to June, '87. 38 200

\$786 79