

A RECORD OF THE MONTREAL BICYCLE CLUB.

BY "CLUB DAWG."

"On the second of December, 1878, Chas. J. Sidey and H. S. Tibbs met by appointment at the house of the latter, No. 33 Chomedy St., Montreal, and proceeded to the business of forming a bicycle club." So reads the first entry in the minute book of the club.

From this small beginning, and mainly through the indefatigable exertions of these two enthusiasts, the Montreal Bicycle Club, the second oldest on the continent, has reached its present membership of 59 mounted men.

At this meeting a constitution and by-laws were submitted, and it was decided that they should be adopted and remain in force until the annual general meeting to be held on the first Monday in May, and should then be submitted to that meeting for approval or amendment. These by-laws are substantially the same to-day as when first adopted, a striking tribute to the forethought and practical knowledge of the framers. They were signed by the founders of the club, Messrs. Sidey and Tibbs, and by five original members, A. T. Lane, H. M. Blackburn, Ernest Glackmeyer, Geo. R. Starke, and H. W. Becket. All of these gentlemen agreed to "adhere to and be bound by the foregoing Constitution and By-laws, subject to their ratification or amendment at the first annual business meeting, provided for in Rule VII."

On the 9th December, 1878, a notice of formation of the club was published in the Montreal *Herald* and on the 12th copies of this notice were forwarded to the Toronto *Globe*, Quebec *Chronicle*, *Field*, *Bell's Life*, *Sporting Gazette* and *Bicycling News*, most of which papers published notices of the organization of the club.

On the 17th January, 1879, a letter of congratulation was received from the Boston Bi. Club, together with a specimen copy of the *American Bicycling Journal*, of the 2nd February, 1878, containing the proposed By-laws and Regulations of the Boston Bi. Club.

The first annual meeting was held in the Montreal Gymnasium on Thursday, 29th May, 1879, at 8.00 P.M. Present, H. M. Blackburn, E. Glackmeyer, A. T. Lane, C. J. Sidey, Geo. R. Starke and H. S. Tibbs.

It was proposed that C. J. Sidey take the chair and H. S. Tibbs do act as Secretary of this meeting.—Carried.

The rules as framed by the founders were then discussed, and, with slight amendments, adopted.

The election of officers for the

ensuing season was then proceeded with, with the following result:

Captain, C. J. Sidey.
Sub-Captain, H. M. Blackburn.
Secy.-Treas., H. S. Tibbs.

Committee { G. R. Starke,
A. T. Lane.

Nothing of special importance occurred during this year.

A 2 mile race was contested at the Montreal Lacrosse Club's spring games in June, for a gold medal. Won by Secy. Tibbs.

Captain Sidey and Secy. Tibbs, in August, started on a trip to Kingston, Ont., but weather and roads being against them, had to complete their journey by boat.

Sub-Captain Blackburn and Secy. Tibbs rode to St. Eustace on the 25th Oct. (42 miles) the longest known distance for one day's ride in Canada up to this date.

These with our regular club rides on Saturday afternoons formed the club record for 1879.

No official record of the rides was kept, though the members enjoyed many a run to Lachine, Back River, etc.

It might not be out of place to mention here that Mr. A. T. Lane, one of the original members of the club, imported the first bicycle into Montreal about June 24th, 1874, and on July 1st, 1874 had his first ride on Canadian soil. This, to the best of my knowledge, was the first bicycle imported into Canada. It was a 50-inch Coventry with Roller Brake on the hind wheel, and is still in use in Ontario, a fact that speaks volumes for the way the first machines were made.

A special general meeting of the club was held in the Montreal Gymnasium at 8.00 p. m., Thursday, 25th March, 1880, at which the following gentlemen were elected members: A. J. Corner, Angus Grant, A. H. Hatchard, J. D. Miller, J. T. McCall and G. M. Smith; and the following were elected honorary members: J. G. Sidey, D. D. Sidey, Percival Tibbs, C. Bourne and Chas. E. Pratt.

On the 10th April, 1880, Secretary Tibbs addressed a letter to Sir L. Tilley requesting him to admit bicycles and tricycles into Canada free of duty, and the answer received was anything but favorable to the petition, so we are still paying duty on them as carriages, which I think myself is only fair.

The club made an important purchase this spring (1880) being nothing less than a club bike—not a Coventry Club but a machine for the use of the club. I really don't know what make it was, but it was a marvel of strength and possessed the grand qualification of a club machine in that "like a barber's chair, it fitted the fat or the lean." It had wooden handles and treadles, a tire about 21 inches in diameter, more or less, about 30 spokes, each of them nearly

1/4 inch in diameter, and great Scott! what a saddle! It was braced up with wood, and large enough to make three of the present size, and yet some of us can look back to the time when we thought no "small potatoes" of ourselves when we were able to push this self-same old bike round the track on the lacrosse grounds, where through the courtesy of the Montreal Lacrosse Club, we were allowed to practice from 6 till 8 A. M., every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

At a special general meeting held Wednesday evening, April 28th, 1880, in Secretary Tibbs' house, ten members present, eight new members were elected, and after some other business had been transacted, we were invited to sit down to a bounteous repast, provided through the kindness of Mrs. Tibbs.

The second annual meeting was held in the Montreal Gymnasium on Monday evening, 3rd May, 1880, fourteen members present. An invitation to visit Richmond, Que., was accepted. It was decided to hold the opening meet on the 8th inst., and that the club should assemble at Dominion Square, leaving for Lachine at 3 P. M.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing year: Captain, C. J. Sidey; Sub-Captain, H. M. Blackburn; Sec.-Treasurer, H. S. Tibbs. Committee, A. T. Lane, G. M. Smith.

A junior membership was organized on 19th June, by which boys under 16 were admitted to the club, on payment of \$1.00 but had no voice in the management of club affairs. On the 14th September, at a special general meeting, held at Blue Bonnets, it was resolved on motion of H. S. Tibbs, seconded by H. M. Blackburn, "that the whole active membership do join the League of American Wheelmen."

During the season of 1880, the club turned out 43 times, and covered a total distance of 500 miles; 39 rides were cancelled by that sometimes objectionable individual, the "clerk of the weather."

The total attendance was 170, making an average of 4 to each meet. The largest attendance was 8; smallest, 2. The largest possible, 16.

The following is a list of those who attended the rides most frequently: H. S. Tibbs, 38 rides, 462 miles; A. T. Lane, 27 rides, 285 miles; C. J. Sidey, 21 rides, 309 miles; C. A. Whitham, 20 rides, 251 miles; J. D. Miller, 18 rides, 190 miles. Of these and others, several rode daily to and from business, and in addition covered considerable ground apart from the club. The first two scored over 1,000 miles each. The longest club rides were: 1st July, 32 miles, 5 attended; 31st July, 36 miles, 4 attended; and Disraeli, the "Club Dawg," covered the whole distance "like a man,"