

## Wheelman Centres.

### TORONTO.

To nickel or not to nickel,  
That is the question.  
Whether 'tis better to cover up the imperfections that bikes  
are heir to by soaking them in plater's bath  
Or paint them over at a cost of a dollar.  
To paint? Spokes and all?  
Ah! there's where the rub comes in when my C.W.A. suit  
comes in contact with the fresh paint—and ruins its  
grayish complexion.  
Guess I'll compromise on enamel.

A pathmaster in one of the back townships was greatly alarmed the other day by reading the following contents of a postal card:

DEAR SIR:—We will repair your backbone, mend neck, and paint head for \$6.00. Send them by express.  
Yours truly,

HAMMER & TONGS,  
Bicycle Repairers.

He was on the point of sending it to the village doctor as a fresh evidence of the cheek of medical quacks when a wheelman called for it and explained away the mystery.

Harry Davies intends devoting a good deal of time to the track the coming season. I have no doubt but that he has his eye on Clarke, whom he ran pretty closely last season. Harry is a good rider, having the necessary qualifications of pluck, physical strength, and power of endurance. I also heard it whispered the other day that George Orr, of the Wanderers', has made up his mind to tackle the cinder-path and the records.

Our League Baseball Club has purchased ground near the Don, south of the Kingston Road. It would be a good idea if the city bicycle clubs could combine to have a first-class cinder-track built if arrangements could be made with the Baseball Association.

The Wanderers' Bicycle Club held their annual meeting on the 18th inst. Mr. Chas. H. Riggs, a prominent dentist, was elected Captain, and Frederick Strange, music publisher, Secretary. Several new members were added to the roll. The prospects of the club for 1886 are excellent. The Rota Club will hold their annual meeting shortly for the election of officers, etc.

George H. Hill, who is on the road for Chas. Robinson & Co., has been giving fancy riding exhibitions in Montreal, Ottawa, and other eastern cities.

Lavender is expected back from England soon. It is to be hoped he will have fully recovered from the effects of his accidents of last season.

Toronto, March 23, 1886.

PETE.

### SIMCOE

I suppose many of the members of the various clubs throughout the Province think that the Simcoe Bicycle Club isn't much of an institution, or they would occasionally see an article from us in THE WHEELMAN; but let them keep on thinking so, only if they ever come round this way they will find out their mistake, as I feel certain Woodstock and Brantford will testify. Well, I will admit we haven't any very able scribes amongst us, save the Secretary of the Association, and he won't bother himself with such small potatoes as writing club news; but when there is any fun going on, or a meet to be attended, we are there every time. Even Seaforth will tell you that we were at Buffalo, and I wonder if we didn't help stripe

the town. Eh, Dude? Western as we are, we are glad to see that the meet is going to Montreal, so that we can show our loyalty by being *thar*.

We are all going to Woodstock on the 24th of May, and if we are not met at the station by a good large deputation, it will be because the old Woodstock boys are dead and new ones have stepped into their shoes who are not capable of filling them. We have no racers of note amongst us, but for fancy riders we take the cake, as all of "Alfy's" acquaintances well know.

Our club is not what you could call large, but it is progressive. In 1882 it organized with a membership of six, and each year since it has steadily increased, until this year we have promise of putting twenty-five wheels in line. The question of building a track receives considerable talk among the boys, and from the tone of it we feel sure it wishing for one would get it we would have had it long ago. But, alas! "wishes aren't fishes;" and as we have no millionaire in the club, and the outsiders who could assist us don't appreciate us to the extent they should, I am afraid we will go without one till we make enough by concerts, and if all our concerts are as financially profitable as the last, that day will not come for some time.

We hold our annual meeting for election of officers on the first Friday in April, and from the talk we hear you may look out for a keen contest, especially for the office of pace-maker in club runs, for which I am an applicant. We lead, others follow. Our club has already decided to adopt the new uniform of the Association; and if our long-legged Secretary is as prompt in filling orders as the boys were in giving them, we will all come out in gray uniforms on the 24th of May. More anon.

Simcoe, March 18, 1886.

D. H. F.

### OTTAWA.

Very many members of the press are active cyclists, and were it not that those of the daily journals have little time to spare, the ranks of wheeling pressmen would be largely increased. Looking over the muster-roll of the Press Gallery of the Dominion Parliament, and including those of the official debates, I recognize the following-named as bicyclists: P. D. Ross, of the Montreal Club; F. Cook, late of the Imperial Club, Leeds (Eng.); A. Horton, M. F. Johnston, A. J. Magurn, of the Toronto Club; and H. W. Laird, of Toronto. There are doubtless others sufficient to form a Parliamentary Wheel Club as a sort of annex to the Ottawa Club. Some of us have our wheels here, and, through the kindness of members of the local club, are enabled to enjoy a little riding in the Drill Shed. The Ottawa wheelmen are worthy fellows, with the true fraternal spirit, judging by those I have met, and that they form an active, energetic club is well known. They will doubtless go down *en masse* to the C.W.A. meet at Montreal, and shake hands with their brethren from the west. There is no reason why, either, they should not put one or two men on the track. If the north does not put forward some specimens of pluck and rugged endurance, where will we look for physical perfection?

Ottawa, March 15, 1886.

A. J. MAGURN.

### WOODSTOCK.

Looking out of window to-day, it seems as if any one suggesting bicycling as even a possibility would be regarded as a *crank* of the richest kind. I, however, actually rode home to dinner one day last week, and was fairly howled at by a brother cyclist, who seemed to think I had gone wild. Never mind, boys! possess your "soles" in patience for a short time longer. I do not know what the feeling may be in other places, but here everything points to a very lively season, and all the riders talk as if they meant to have all the fun possible out of wheeling.

Since my last, we have had further letters from American riders, both amateur and professional, who seem as if they were going to come and see us in force on the 24th of May. Our own Canadian flyers also seem, like "Barkis," to be "willin'," and if the sometimes agreeable, but more frequently disagreeable, clerk of the weather gives us a fine day on that occasion, we shall have a grand day's sport without a doubt.

We have not yet moved into our new headquarters, but expect to do so in a week or ten days. If any reception or jollification is given on the opening night, we may have some brother wheelmen and athletes from other towns to see us. If so, the old motto is still to the fore in Woodstock when we expect visitors—"the more the merrier."

The directors considered the matter of the appointment of a janitor of so much importance that it took three sittings of that body to decide it. The choice fell upon Mr. C. A. Pyne, former manager of the roller rink, an energetic and pushing gentleman, whose selection seems to give as good satisfaction as can reasonably be expected where there are 200 members and 10,000 ideas to be suited.

While on the Association topic, I see that one of our most pushing towns in this vicinity (Tilsonburg) is agitating that question. If they succeed in establishing it they will never regret it, for, looking back to old pre-association days here, it would seem like a return to the dark ages to have them again, so much pleasant sociability and spirit of good fellowship has it created amongst our young men.

I hope the interest in touring will be as great during the coming season as it was last year. The issue of the new guide-book of the C.W.A., with the full information as to roads, etc., which it will contain, will be a great boon to intending tourists. No one who intends doing anything in that line, in or through Canada, whether a member of the C.W.A. or not, should lose any time in procuring one, so as to give himself ample time to consider *where* he will go. They should also be in the hands of every American rider who intends passing through the Dominion, as so many did last year. It would have saved them much trouble and many vexatious delays, and some profanity (barring, of course, the clerical party), if they had had better information about the country. The road map issued a year ago is also very useful in connection with the guide-book, showing as it does leading routes, etc., in simple form, while the book will give details.

What on earth ails all the leading clubs, that