

The Canadian Wheelman:

A JOURNAL OF CYCLING.

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The *Bicycling World*, in its issue of the 19th December, has an article on "Professional Mendacity," which, without making a direct charge, implies that the captain of the Wanderers' Club of Toronto had indorsed "Patterson" of Toronto in his tricks which he played on the Omaha Club, racing as an amateur, while knowing him to be the notorious Fred. Westbrook. If the writer of the article mentioned above had paused a moment for reflection, the thought might have dawned on him that possibly there was a member of the Wanderers named "Patterson," and that Westbrook had used the name of "Patterson" as a blind, or, if any inquiry had been made of the Wanderers (which should have been done), the facts of the case could easily have been brought to light, and not have allowed the stigma to have been cast upon the character of the head of the Wanderers' Club. The facts of the case are simply these: H. P. Davies, the captain of the Wanderers, was laid up at the time, and Geo. H. Orr was acting captain. A telegram was received from Omaha by Mr. Orr, addressed to the captain, no name being mentioned, asking whether Patterson was an amateur and eligible to race. An answer was sent that he was all right. (As there are two Pattersons in the Wanderers, one of whom does considerable travelling in the United States, Mr. Orr supposed that he was the one referred to.) We append Mr. Orr's remarks and explanation:

"Imagine my surprise when I found that the Omaha Patterson was none other than Westbrook, who was a member of our club until dismissed for professionalism, and who was, perhaps, aware that our Patterson did some travelling, and took his name as a good blind. When I found this out, I wrote to the Omaha Club apologizing for the blunder, which was impossible for me to know in time."

It will thus be seen that no one is to blame in this matter but Westbrook, who did all the scheming. The Secretary of the C.W.A. has been written to regarding the matter, and undoubtedly the captain of the Wanderers will come out all right when "his action is looked up" by the C.W.A., as stated in the *Bicycling World*.

THE WHEELMAN is by no means a supporter of professionalism, but, when professionals place

themselves in a disreputable position by their mendacity, we do not like to see others, who are not in the least to blame, drawn before the wheeling public as partners in the trickery.

The Ramblers, of Belleville, are to be congratulated on the success of their first ball, the feature of which was the appearance of the cyclists in their uniform. But *The Bicycling World* disbelieves the practicability of wheelmen attending balls, and makes the following remarks, with suggestions:

"Now that the festive season is full upon us, and cyclists are threading the mazes of the merry dance, it may be well to speak of the clause which generally finds place upon the invitations to the dancing parties, to the following effect: 'Wheelmen will please appear in uniform.' To dance with a man in an oil-stained or perspiration-soaked garment can hardly be pleasant for the ladies who are in their best attire, and such garments would be equally objectionable at a dinner table. Could all cyclists afford to keep a cyclist's dress suit for such occasions the idea might be a good one; but they can't, and the result of such invitations will be to bring to the ball-room the travel-stained garments worn on the wheel, which are as much out of place as would be a mechanic's apron or overalls. A company of well-dressed men in dress suits, the distinguishing characteristics of which would be the knee-breeches, would make a pleasing sight in a ball-room, and the time is not far distant when we may expect to see it, but these suits would be as inappropriate for wheel use as is the present costume which gentlemen wear in society."

We have a suggestion to make which might prove beneficial. Already, the club-room talk of the various clubs is turned towards the prospects of getting up tournaments for the 24th of May next. In Canada, we cannot well afford to run seven or eight successful club meets on the same day; and the prospects are that as great a number will be attempted. Would it not be well that some arrangements were made between neighboring clubs, so that the number of tournaments would not amount to more than two, or three at the most, and make that number all successful ones?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Which club will be the next to follow the example of the Belleville Ramblers in providing entertainments for their patrons?

We will esteem it a special favor if every one of our readers will send us the names of cyclists of their acquaintance who have not yet seen THE WHEELMAN, and who would possibly subscribe if furnished with sample copies.

In another column will be seen a department of sale and exchange opened for the convenience of our readers who may at any time be desirous of selling or exchanging their wheels. Now is the time to patronize it before the opening of the wheeling season.

THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN for December is at hand, looking brighter than ever, and is now up to the standard with any wheel journals in this country or England.—*Western Cyclist*. [Thanks for the compliment. That is the standard we have worked for, and we hope to keep there.]

By another column it will be seen that we have commenced a series of articles entitled "Our Racing Men," in which will appear from time to time sketches of all our well-known fliers. It is the intention to make this feature very interesting, and we therefore ask the co-operation of all Canadian celebrities.

Now that the dreary spell, which always comes between the end of the riding season and the commencement of winter club-life, has been broken by the Belleville Club giving a grand ball, it is to be hoped that all the clubs will enter into that spirit of enjoyment which wheelmen are so well known to possess with greater zest than ever.

To say the least of it, *The Wheel* has not displayed good taste in parading before the cycling public, in its issue of Dec. 19th, a photo engraving of a communication (showing full name and address) from a L.A.W. member, who, unfortunately, is not blessed with being either a good grammarian or writer, as an example of the argument which it upholds. It could easily have been done without.

The latest additions to our ever-increasing collection of cycling portraits are two views taken of the Illinois division L.A.W. meet at Rockford, Ill. One of the photos represents the wheelmen in line ready to mount, and the other is a large group taken on the grounds previous to the races, and contains quite a number of celebrities, prominent among them being B. B. Ayers and J. O. Blake, of Chicago.

In comparing the L.A.W. with the C.W.A., there is one very marked difference. Through some unaccountable flaw in the formation of the C.W.A., it does not provide the necessary wrangling that seems to be continually going on between various members and officials of the L.A.W., and in which the American cycling journals frequently take part. Whether this is a fact to be deplored or not has yet to be found out.

The testimonial which the members of the C.W.A. voted to the very able and indefatigable Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Hal. B. Donly, at the annual meeting in July, was received by the recipient just in time to be appropriately termed a "Christmas box," and Hal. is highly pleased with the gold chain and locket which was the "tangible expression" of the appreciation in which his services are held by his associates of the wheel. The locket bears the C.W.A. badge on its face.

Mr. R. H. Lea, representing Singer & Co., Coventry (Eng.), who is making a business trip around the world, paid London a visit on the 13th ult. in the interests of his firm. Mr. Lea's trip has been a noteworthy one, he having visited various parts of Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand during the past fifteen months. He extends a cordial invitation to all Canadians to visit Coventry at any time, and feels sure that they could not spend a holiday in a better place than Coventry, where everything would be made enjoyable. It certainly shows enterprise in the firm he represents in sending a representative around the world to call on the various agencies.

St. Johns, Newfoundland, has a bicycle club.