

With the Clubs.

THE WANDERERS' ENTERTAINMENT.

The second annual entertainment and "at-home" of the Wanderers' Club of Toronto was held in the Granite Rink on the 13th October. The affair was an immense success, the large rink being crowded to its utmost capacity. The performance opened with a club parade and drill by sixteen members in uniform. Club-swinging, horizontal bar-performing, and a tug-of-war on bicycles made up the first part of the programme. The "tug" was very exciting. Two couples, mounted on their wheels, with handles caught, were placed opposite each other and facing opposite ways, ropes being attached to the back bones. Now, the object of the "pull" was, on the word being given the couple which could pull the opposite couple over would be declared the winner. Messrs. Orr and Duff won the "tug" in two straight heats from Messrs. Capon and Rogers.

In the second part, W. G. Hurst, the Wanderers' fancy man, gave his wonderful exhibition, riding on one wheel around the rink with apparently as much ease as on the two. There are very few tricks which Canary performs that Mr. Hurst cannot do. He handles his wheel with great agility and surprising easiness. Unfortunately, Mr. Hurst broke a fork when scarcely half through, to the disappointment of himself and the audience, who tendered him round after round of applause.

Next followed the "Club Eight," who gave an exhibition which would be hard to excel. The names of the riders were: Orr (captain), Duff, Fitzgerald, Riggs, Rogers, Hara, Capon and Hurst. They executed some seventy difficult movements, with a whistle signal, and without an error, wheeling in eights, with handles caught, arms extended, and stopping all abreast. The pivot wheeling was especially good. One of the features of the drill was the building of pyramids. The eight stopped in the centre of the rink with handles caught: at a given signal four of the number sprang upon their saddles and extended arms across the heads of the sitting members who held the eight wheels. Similar movements were done in fours, riding and standing.

After the entertainment the floor was cleared, and dancing was kept up till an early hour.

GEORGIUS.

THE OTTAWA RACES.

I have delayed sending you an account of the parade and races because they were very damp affairs, and I hoped they might dry up in retrospect, and seem a brighter theme for scribbling. The evil persistency of the weather has, however, kept in muddy remembrance its particularly nasty behaviour on the 24th Sept. last, the occasion of the parade and races.

Early in the morning of the 24th, the Toronto and Carleton Place tourists arrived to see shadowy forms of knee-breeched locals sitting about in a cold, drizzling rain, and looking, it must be confessed, not unlike chickens hatched out of season. After breakfast, things assumed a

healthier aspect. It stopped raining, and at 11.30 A.M. a parade was held on the only dry spot in the city—the City Park.

The following was the order of parade:

The Toronto Club, 10 men; Carleton Place, 4 men; Montreal, represented by Mr. Hill on a "Kangaroo;" and the Ottawa Club, 14 men. Captain Jenkins, of "Ours," was in command, and Sec'y Hawley, of "Ours," acted as whipper-in. The graceful riding of the Toronto Club was much admired, their wheeling four deep being particularly fine. After an hour's wheeling, the Exhibition Grounds, where lunch was in readiness, assumed a somewhat Canaan-like character, and how to get there, over inundated roadways, became a question of absorbing interest. The self-preservation instincts of the riders suggested something that would float with sufficient buoyancy to carry the crowd. After due search, a steamboat was found that seemed to fulfil these conditions, and the hungry cyclists were soon steaming up the canal in the "milk-and-honey" direction. On reaching the Exhibition Grounds, an attack was made on the lunch tent with that impetuous fearlessness of consequences that has made the bicycle-man dreaded by improvident victuallers. Here, however, they found a foe man worthy of their steel, and the struggle was a fierce one until 2 P.M., when the referee called time. All bets off, owing to the number of *fouls* in both sides.

At 3 P.M. the races were started, with results as follows:

One Mile—Open to all amateurs. Won by H. Roy, O.B.C.

One Mile—Open to all except those having a record of 3m. 40s., or better. Won by H. Ryrie, F.B.C.

Three Miles Open to all amateurs. Won by W. S. Odell, O.B.C.

The recent rainfalls had made the track, never a good one, almost unrideable, consequently the races (?) were tests of endurance and skill in rough riding rather than of speed. Indeed, I doubt if cyclists were ever asked to race on a worse track. No language can do justice to its muddy terrors. The contestants were started opposite the grand stand, and were almost immediately lost sight of. If they turned up again during the afternoon, it was called "a lap;" and the man who survived two or three such "laps" was as enthusiastically welcomed by his relatives and friends as if just returned from Egypt or the North Pole. The spectators enjoyed the headers in the same spirit that the boys enjoyed pelting the frogs. Great fun for the boys; but—

At 5.30 P.M. the wheelmen returned to the city, and were "dined" by the local club, after which they repaired, by special invitation to the residence of W. Fraser, Esq., to find "tripping the light fantastic" particularly pleasant after the heavy fantastic tripping operations of the afternoon.

The Carleton Place men left at midnight, generously expressing themselves as well pleased with the day. The Torontos left by train next morning. They proved genial comrades, and we were sorry to part company.

In conclusion, I wish to explain that the races were not our own affair. They were gotten up by the Exhibition Committee, who, at a late moment, put the management into our hands as

the proper parties to see them through. The O.B.C. will not hold its first race-meeting until it can control a cinder-path and a weather prophet.

AN OTTAWA BL.

HALIFAX, N.S.

The Wanderers' A. C. sports were held at Halifax, N.S., on September 27th, the following bicycle races being on the programme:

One mile race: best two in three heats—The entries in the first heat were F. Hillis, H. Temple, and W. J. Wallace. Hillis came in first, with Wallace a good second.

The entries in the second heat were H. H. Bell, A. Cogswell, and L. J. Fuller, Cogswell finishing first, H. H. Bell second.

The final heat between Cogswell and Hillis was an exciting race, and was won by Hillis in 3m. 44s.

The slow race was captured by Guy Stayner.

The one mile dash was well contested, W. H. Rennie winning in 3m. 28s.; E. G. Stayner 2nd.

Previous to the races, the sports were opened with a drill by the local club under the command of Capt. W. M. Black.

IMPORTANT TO "INFANTS."

John Cornforth, Pope street, Birmingham, manufacturer, sued Herbert O. Duncon, of the Common, West Drayton, professional bicyclist, to recover £21 16s., being £16 16s., the price of a bicycle, and £5 money lent. The judge had the assistance of a jury in trying the case.—The defence was that the defendant was an infant at the time the debts were contracted, his age at that period being only nineteen. The facts of the case admitted by the defendant were, that in February, 1882, he purchased a sixteen-guinea bicycle from the plaintiff, subsequently borrowed £5 from him, and had paid nothing whatever in return. Mr. Tanner withdrew the claim for the £5, which he could not legally support, and the question for the Court to consider was whether a bicycle was or was not a necessary. The counsel for the defence held that, being a professional bicyclist, defendant obtained the machine for the purpose of carrying on his vocation, and the amount could not therefore be recovered. The evidence, however, tended to show that defendant had described himself at the time of the purchase as an amateur bicyclist. He was at the time a clerk to a stockbroker, and said he wanted the machine to ride to and from his business. His father was a retired dealer. The jury found that, having regard to the defendant's position in life, a bicycle was a proper and suitable article for him to have, and therefore a "necessary;" and secondly, that he was not a professional bicyclist. Upon this finding, the judge entered a verdict for the plaintiff for 16 guineas and costs on the higher scale.—*Birmingham News*.

Mr. J. B. Dignam, formerly connected with THE WHEELMAN, has taken the road for A. E. Pavey & Co., of this city.

All the world's a wheel, and men and women merely wheelers.