

## News from the Clubs.

To CORRESPONDENTS—Please make your letters brief and nowy, and then we will not be obliged to crowd out other letters of equal importance.

### THE TORONTO CLUB.

DEAR WHEELMAN:—

I am afraid you will be beginning to think that the "Torontos" have dropped completely out of existence from the fact that their regular and faithful correspondent has not been heard from for so long, or rather has not been heard from at all. However I am happy to inform you and their many friends that they are still alive, temperature and pulse normal, respiration easy and natural, and every indication that they will survive the drawbacks of winter, and come out next season with renewed life and vigor. As an indication of this, I might just here state that at our last regular meeting we had six members proposed, and for our next, on Thursday 14th, we have already eight, including that of our worthy friend Mr. W. G. Eakins, Chief Consul for No. 1 district, and one of the most active and efficient workers in the C.W.A.

While sympathizing with our Woodstock friends at the loss to them of so valuable a helper and genial a companion, we cannot but feel delighted at the prospect of having him with us, and we extend to him the right hand of fellowship, and are sure that our brother Club and all wheelmen in this city will be more than pleased at the desirable addition of so worthy a wheelman in our midst.

Not having a winter riding hall, our wheels are taking a rest, and in their place we have a skating branch of the T.B.C. which attends the different rinks in uniform, and if public patronage is any sign it is very popular with the ladies, and although the band of the wheel is a very firm one, yet there seems to be a stronger one in that it is quite unusual to see two uniforms skating together. However, as bicycling is such a selfish spirit it is only right that it should take a broader slope during the winter.

I was pleased to see a notice in the *Mail* agent the C.W.A. by secretary Donly urging the attention of wheelmen to the necessity of furnishing all possible information regarding roads &c. for the guide-book.

As an old tourist and one who has been debarred from several splendid rides on the supposition that the roads were unfavorable and attempted others with an opposite idea only to find them execrable, I can heartily and sincerely urge the necessity of this work. And I would here say to solitary wheelmen or clubs in outlying districts, if you want tourists to visit you, write up the roads in your vicinity and if you have a fine bit of natural scenery or other attraction, don't forget to put that in also, and you can depend on it that the very fact of having a knowledge of the roads and their condition will induce tourists to try them even though the report be unfavorable.

This requires immediate attention, and the result of such attention will be that we will

have an every day necessity instead of a much-talked-of possibility. If you, as remote wheelmen, have not received blank forms to fill up send immediately to H. B. Donly, Sec. C. W. A., Simcoe, and he will be only too happy to furnish you with them. If you are not a member of the Association (which by all means you should be) surely your well-wishes for the promotion of our best of all out-door sports will be strong enough to cause in you a desire that your part of the country at least shall be made known to the touring public.

Begging the Club's pardon for having thus shamefully neglected them, and yours too, Mr. editor,

I am, &c. the ought-to-be Club(bed) Scribe,  
VICE PRESIDENT C. W. A.

### BRANTFORD.

Brantford can now boast of two good-sized bicycle clubs, the last one of which was formed only a short time since with a membership of fifteen to start with.

We attend the rink every Tuesday evening in our club uniform, and the attendance on the first evening being comparatively small some ill-disposed person said that all those absent were afraid of the small boys. However, that may be, as it is an acknowledged fact that one member of the Club arrived at the rink some time before the rest and waited outside for half an hour for the rest to come.

I guess we can boast of the tallest captain in the Province, he standing six feet, four inches in his stocking feet. Who can beat that?

Our city council have at last recognized our right to ride on the sidewalk, having conceded to us two feet and a-half on the outside of all sidewalks in the city.

Yours truly,  
BRANTFORD.

### OTTAWA.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:

Press of business prevented my sending in January my usual letter. However, items interesting to bicycle men were so scarce with us that perhaps it was just as well.

On January 13th we lost one of our best riders, viz., Mr. E. G. Wilkins, who has gone to Hamilton, where no doubt he will continue to be the same enthusiastic wheelman that he was here. A large number of the members of the Ottawa Club will mourn his absence.

The only really bicycle event that has taken place here for some time was a joint "meet" of the O.B.C. and Hockey Club held in January, when members of both Clubs met at the rooms of the latter, and proceeded to the Rideau Canal, and thence up the Canal on skates to "Gurney's" about five miles out, where an oyster supper was waiting for them.

The meet was a great success, there being any amount of fun in the shape of singing, Hockey, etc.

The O.B.C. looks for a material increase in strength next season from the ranks of the Hockey Club, and next winter I would not be surprised to find the interests of both Clubs merged into one. I know of no better preparation for strong riding than Hockey playing, and *vice versa*.

At the Montreal Carnival, our Hockey Team made a splendid effort, defeating every club they played against, including the Victorias, the crack team; but owing to our Club having played a match on three consecutive days, the Victorias, (who had a two days' rest), defeated them in their final match for the cup. On the fourth day our boys felt the loss of the cup very keenly as they considered the contest, for it was so badly arranged, that their winning it became an impossibility, though they defeated all comers. Mr. Jenkins, Captain O.B.C., captained the team, Lieutenant Blythe, acting as umpire.

The question of costume is agitating our wheelmen; the Montreal dress seemed to strike our fellows as something very nice and neat. A change in the O.B.C. costume is spoken of and will probably be discussed at the next annual meeting which will be held in April.

Next month we expect to commence riding in the Drill Hall. We were given permission to use it last fall, but owing to the extreme cold no one has availed himself of it.

Can you tell me the best oil or combination of oils, for use in bicycle lamps? I have a "King of the Road" lamp, and have tried both sperm, and sperm and astral oil mixed, the latter in a proportion of astral 1, and sperm 7. I have also tried putting a small piece of camphor in the oil, which was highly recommended, my experience in all cases being that my light would burn brightly at first, gradually grow dim, and go out. Perhaps you could explain the difficulty. My experience has been that of most members of the club. Night riding is very largely indulged in by the O.B.C., and a solution of this question would prove a great boon to them, and to

Yours truly,  
"OTTAWA."

Ottawa, Feb. 18th, '84.

[NOTE.—Cannot some wheelman who has practically tried or experimented with the various oils used for hub lamps, give his views as to which is the best kind to use? —C.W.]

A small choral society has been formed by the Toronto Wanderers, for the purpose of introducing songs during club runs, etc. They meet every Tuesday evening in the club rooms, Mr. Geo. McKee presiding at the piano.

The wanderers, have started their club practice in the large riding shed placed at their disposal. Owing to the crowds that attend the meet on Saturday afternoons, some narrow escapes from collisions, etc., on the part of the fast ones, and of attempted suicide on the part of the learners are of frequent occurrence.