

THE FIFTY MILE RACE.

The fifty mile bicycle race for the "Invincible" trophy offered by T. Fane & Co. came off on Wednesday, Sept. 16, on the Rosedale Grounds, Toronto. There were scarcely a score of persons present when the start was made, and less than a hundred witnessed the finish. Out of twenty or more entries, eleven riders came to the scratch. The names of those who started are: M. F. Johnson, Toronto; Craib, Summerville; H. W. Clarke, Woodstock; H. Davies, Toronto; F. Campbell, Toronto; R. Daniels, Toronto; W. Bowers, Toronto; — Thompson, Toronto; H. Kent, Newcastle; H. Beattie, Toronto; and F. Capon, Toronto.

At fifteen minutes past 3 o'clock the word was given and the eleven wheelmen were in motion. Johnson at once took the lead, and before two miles had been completed he was a full lap, or one-quarter of a mile, in advance of the next best. Beattie occupied second place, and Clarke third. The others were strung out in a line, but each one close up to the man immediately in front of him. The positions of the three leaders were maintained up to the sixth mile, when Beattie fell behind and Clarke came into second place. Johnson was still a half mile ahead, but already his pace was beginning to tell upon him, although he bravely attempted to keep it up. Occasionally Clarke and Davies (the latter had been gradually drawing near) caught up on him, but every time he put on a spurt and rode away from them again. It was evident, however, that the two flyers last mentioned were reserving their strength, and could readily have left Johnson behind at any time. The first five miles were completed by Johnson in 17.43, being about half a mile in advance of the second man.

When Craib, of Summerville, had put eight miles behind him he concluded that he had done enough work for one afternoon, and consequently retired from the track. The ten miles were completed by Johnson in 36.4, Clarke and Davies being close upon his hind heel, and all the others fully a mile in rear. Entering upon the fifteenth mile Davies and Clarke finally passed Johnson, and from thence to the finish rode rapidly away from him. About this time Thompson, who was already miles in rear of everybody else, announced to all concerned that he knew when he had enough, by jumping off his bicycle and leading the tired steed to a convenient corner. Davies was first to finish fifteen miles, and did it in 54.22, with Clarke hanging close behind in a most provoking manner. The twenty miles was completed by Davies in 1h. 11m. 53s., and Clarke followed a second later. Johnson was still third, but a mile and a half behind the two leaders. Capon took pity on his bicycle when he had covered twenty miles, and dismounting, put it to rest. Davies was still leading when the blackboard announced 25 miles completed, and his time was 1h. 30m. 2s. Clarke glided over the line a second later. Johnson, who was looking sadly fagged, was going behind with remarkable rapidity, and helping the next man, Campbell, to creep up on him. Bowers finished 25 miles, and retired to receive the congratulations of his friends. He was not ambitious to complete the 25, and would have been

satisfied with 20, but he was urged to keep on and did so for five miles longer. Another man who seemed ready to wish evil to the day upon which he saw a bicycle was Kent, of Newcastle, and Beattie also looked somewhat unhappy — Neither did Daniels wear a particularly pleasant expression. There were now only seven riders on the track, and at least five of those looked as if they would rather have been somewhere else. Davies completed his thirtieth mile in 1h. 48m. 13s. from the start, and a couple of seconds later Clarke went rolling by. Campbell had taken third place, and Johnson had fallen behind to fourth place. Beattie was fifth, Daniels sixth, and Kent last. Davies and Clarke had each covered 33 miles in two hours from the start. At this point Daniels woke up, and began to roll around at a lively rate.

Thirty-five miles were completed by Davies in 2h. 7m. 36s., with Clarke a second or two later. These two riders had been keeping the same relative positions from the fourteenth mile, and every one looked for a keen race between them. In fact, the whole interest of the contest was centered in them. Davies continued to lead Clarke by a couple of yards; and although the latter occasionally spurted and drew up almost level, he was unable to pass the leader, and invariably fell behind again. Beattie had 29½ miles to his credit when he also retired.

Forty miles was next announced as completed by the first man; Davies was still leading, and his time was 2h. 27m. 16s.; Clarke was a yard or two behind; Campbell, 3rd; Johnson, 4th; Daniels, 5th, and Kent, 6th. On the second lap of the 43rd mile Clarke suddenly spurted, and passing Davies with great ease, soon led him by a quarter of a mile. In three hours from the start Clarke had covered 47¾ miles, with Davies a lap behind. When 45 miles were called for Clarke, the time was 2h. 43m. 55s.

The fifty miles were completed by Clarke in 3h. 7m. 22s.; Davies was then a lap and a half behind, and when he finished the others had completed the following distances: Campbell, 45 miles; Johnson, 42½ miles; Daniels, 40¼ miles, and Kent, 38 miles. The latter had dismounted several times, and had endeavored to rest himself by walking for a few minutes each time. The following table will give the time for the leaders for every five miles

Leader.	Distance.	Time.
Johnson.	5 miles.....	17.43
Johnson.....	10 "	36.04
Davies.....	15 "	54.22
Davies	20 "	1.11.53
Davies	25 "	1.30.02
Davies.....	30 "	1.48.13
Davies.....	35 "	2.07.36
Davies	40 "	2.27.16
Clarke.....	45 "	2.43.55
Clarke.....	50 "	3.07.22

The other competitors were told, when Davies had finished, that if they were satisfied to accept the positions they then held the prizes would be awarded without asking them to finish the fifty miles. A chorus of "Yes" was the answer, and the contest came to an end.

It is stated that Fred Westbrook is going to devote his time to professional racing. He ought to make a good one.

Wheel Tracks.

The Royal City Bicycle Club of Guelph has in view a week's trip through Western Ontario.

Messrs. Jenkins, Henry, Roy and Harrison, of the Ottawa Bicycle Club, rode from Quebec to Riviere du Loup in 13 hours.

Employment of bicyclists as scouts for Austrian intelligence department in militia manoeuvres proved a great success. They surpassed horsemen in endurance.

A bicycle club has been formed at Newmarket, Ont., to be known as the Newmarket Bicycle Club, with the following officers for the current year: J. E. Fogarty, president; J. Ashworth, captain; R. Gains, secretary and treasurer.

M. Guy, a French velocipedit, has just accomplished on his bicycle a journey of 1400 miles, which took him a little less than three weeks to accomplish. The average rate of travelling throughout was eighty miles a day.

A bicycle race took place at Toronto, on Sept. 18, for the Boustead championship medal, valued at \$60, with \$10 added. Three started — H. W. Clarke, Woodstock; W. H. Brown and F. H. S. Westmacott, Toronto. Clarke came in first, with Brown 15 yards behind, and Westmacott a bad third.

R. Howell has lately made several trials on the Hampden Park track, Springfield, Mass., to beat Fred Wood's world record for a mile of 2.35 55 on a bicycle. On the afternoon of the 21st Sept., with John Brooks, of Blossburg, Pa., as pace-maker, Howell succeeded in cutting one-fifth of a second from the record.

The fall meeting of the board of officers of the League of American Wheelmen was held at Springfield, Mass., on Sept. 9th. The treasurer's report showed a cash balance of \$1,240. The report of the secretary showed a flourishing condition of the League, with a membership of 5,200. The racing board were recommended to inaugurate a strict system of classification.

T. J. Richardson, superintendent of drawing in the Minneapolis public schools, certainly believes in the practicability of the bicycle. Over three years ago he disposed of his horse, and ever since has used constantly a Columbia bicycle. Summer and winter it has taken the place of a horse; and for over two years he has ridden his rounds, as a professional man, on a bicycle, averaging ten miles a day.

George M. Hendee, the amateur champion of America, at a public and official trial at St. Louis, on Sept. 23rd, under the auspices of the Ramblers' Bicycle Club, lowered the world's amateur records for half mile, three-fourths of a mile and one mile. The time made was as follows: Quarter, 38 seconds; half, 1.15; three-quarters, 1.55¼; mile, 2.38¾. The record for the half mile lowers any previous time made at this distance, either professional or amateur. The previous best amateur mile was 2.39. The weather was raw and foggy. Hendee will attempt to lower the world mile record, 2.35 2-5, at a later date.