

The Canadian Wheelman :

A JOURNAL OF CYCLING.

The Official Gazette of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association and of the Cyclists' Touring Club in Canada.

PUBLISHED BY THE CANADIAN WHEELMEN'S ASSOCIATION, AT LONDON, CANADA, AND SUPPLIED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Subscription Price to Non-Members. . . . \$1.00 per annum.

All communications should be addressed to THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN, London, Ont.

LONDON, NOVEMBER, 1886.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The C.W.A. meet for 1887—where shall it be held? Don't all speak at once.

The Association's share of the net receipts of the Montreal meet was eighty-five dollars.

The decision of the officers of the Association to withhold the publication of the Guide Book until the spring will be generally approved. Mr. Way, who is one of the most energetic of officers, deserves thanks for his forethought in urging the idea upon his fellow-members. To publish the book now would be practically to bury it beneath the snows of winter. Let it arrive with the flowers that bloom in the spring, and it will appeal to every cyclist as an opportune publication, giving him also a very tangible evidence of the benefit of membership in the Association.

The letter from "D 322" we commend to the earnest consideration of the members of the Association. The writer is a gentleman who has taken an active and deep interest in the welfare of the C.W.A., and any suggestions he may make are certain to be dictated by a desire for the Association's advancement, and will be well worthy of discussion in club rooms and through these columns. A constant tinkering with the Constitution would have a most injurious effect, but fear of that contingency should not deter us from acknowledging defects when they are patent, and for casting about for a remedy. That the present system is defective in so far as the times of appointment of consuls and chief consuls are concerned, must be acknowledged. The reasons why are clearly and forcibly pointed out by our correspondent, and need not be repeated, and his proposition that the consular year should begin January 1 has many points to recommend it. It would be well if some of the members would ventilate their opinions on this important subject in the next few numbers of THE WHEELMAN, in order that action might be taken, if considered advisable, to place the subject before the next annual meeting.

Truly the tricycle seems the machine of the day. I hear the Salvation Army band have purchased three Marlborough Club tandems, with sockets especially fitted for carrying banners. This is, doubtless, a good move, and will add many more to their list, if it be only for the chance of an occasional ride.—Exchange.

A CHANGE WANTED.

Editor CANADIAN WHEELMAN :

SIR—While the founders of our Canadian Wheelmen's Association had hard and thankless duties to perform at the institution of this great Association (which now extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific), and should have the everlasting esteem and respect of all wheelmen, still the good work so ably instituted, should not be allowed to languish in the groove in which it was founded, if on a fair trial the Code of Laws adopted at the inception are found not to be in the best interests of the community.

One matter that strikes the writer is the elections and year endings. The great fault with our present system is, 1st : The Association year ends with June 30th, when Dec. might be preferable. However, the membership being the most largely represented at the annual race meeting held at the close of the financial year, July 1st, it may not be advisable to suggest any change, although racing men might be in better training three months later in the season, and be able to lower those Alpine figures called Canadian records.

This article, however, is aimed more particularly at the consular and chief consular year. The present system is : vote for chief, April 10th ; election declared May 30th (that being date of issue of THE WHEELMAN) ; sworn in at annual meeting July 1st. Then, and not until then, can he do anything with his district. He then, if a new man, gropes around the various centres for local consuls, and gets them partially filled by the time they expire, December 31st. He is forced to feel that his labor has been in vain. As he may not be re-elected in the following April, it would be very unfair to foist a batch of local consuls on his successor, so the district is a blank until the new chief is sworn in again.

A case in point : The recent gerrymander of districts made new chiefs and new divisions. The chief for my district (Midland, No. 4) was elected even later than the time appointed (owing to a protest), and has, since July 1st, to my knowledge written not less than fifty letters, besides innumerable circulars, to the various towns in his district, with the following result :

Secured—14 Hotels - - 27 Local Consuls  
Yet to obtain—23 " - - 10 "

and is now met with the close of the wheeling season, and an apathy on the part of wheelmen to even answer correspondence—an apathy which will only wear off with the balmy air of April next, when the present chief consul may find his light extinguished by the free and independent of the district.

How much more business-like would be the system that would make the voting for chief consul and representatives occur about December 10th, and have the chief take office immediately on election being announced in official journal. Then he might have all appointments filled by the time the season opened, and be able to attend the annual meet at the head of a tour from the district composed of enthusiastic wheelmen who had been brought together by the pen of the same chief, having with them their known racing men, and having their ideas enlarged beyond the narrow limit of a club to the size of a district and the Association in general.

To make the scheme an entire success would

require that membership should commence with January 1st and terminate December 31st, and that renewals should be allowable until May 1st. This would bring the bulk of the revenue of the Association into the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer before the annual meeting in July, and any members joining after Oct. 15th might be counted as members for the ensuing year, the same as the present April limit. The simple matter of the issuing of certificates in winter, when the members would be more lenient with the Sec.-Treasurer on the score of promptness, should insure that capable officer's support of this scheme.

Hoping that the members will give this their earnest thought and ventilate the scheme fully in THE WHEELMAN, and thanking the editor for allowing me to occupy so much space simply with my ideas, I am, etc., D 322.

THE GUIDE BOOK.

The following letter, lately sent to the officers of the Association, explains itself :

DEAR SIR,—The long-delayed Guide Book is about printed and ready to go to the binders. It contains 13 pages Revised Constitution and By-Laws ; 10 pages of Racing Rules ; 3 pages Sketch of the Association and its work ; 85 pages of solid Road Reports ; 8 pages Index to Towns and Roads ; 3 or 4 pages of Hotels ; 18 pages of Advertisements. The first form, to contain the Preface, List of Officers and List of Local Consuls, is not yet printed.

Our proposition was to print it at once and have the book in members' hands about close of this month. This morning we are in receipt of a communication from C. C. Way, of Belleville, and countersigned by Representatives Fenwick and Foster, proposing that sheets now printed be kept unbound until next March, when the last—or rather first—form can be printed with the latest revised list of Consuls and Officers, and the book bound and sent out. Their argument is, that if issued now the book will do little or no good towards increasing the membership, while for six months the present members will have no use for it whatever. If published as new early next spring, it will, instead of being an object of ridicule (as an unseasonable article), add prestige to the Association by its timeliness, and be a powerful lever with which old members can secure recruits.

Let us hear your ideas on the subject AT ONCE by post-card, letter or telegram. We must decide one way or another in a few days, so answer without delay and very much oblige

Your obedient servants,

W. E. TISDALE, } Editors.  
HAL B. DONLY, }

Simcoe, Oct. 14th, 1886.

The result of the vote of the Board of Officers on the proposition of Chief Consul Way to delay the publication of the Guide Book until March 13th, 1887, is as follows :

IN FAVOR OF DELAY—President Karn ; Vice-President Miller ; Chief Consuls Begg, Tisdale, Langley, Way, Knadinger and Coster ; Representatives Brierley, Goodman, Rylie, Fenwick, Fletcher, Ross and Barnes—15.

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION—Chief Consul Jennings ; Representatives Orr and Blythe—3.