

The Canadian Wheelman:

A JOURNAL OF CYCLING.

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

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THE L.A.W. MEET.

Between the L. A. W. and the C. W. A., so far as we could ever see, there has always existed a most friendly feeling, and it is with great regret that we have noted the rise during the past few weeks of a controversy which, if persisted in, will eventually bring about a strained relationship between the two bodies that will be hurtful to both. We will briefly state the facts.

The "Big Four" is the name used to designate a number of wheelmen in the cities of Chicago, Buffalo, Boston and New York, who intend, in imitation of the Chicago tourists of the past two years, to set out from the city of Buffalo on the 6th of July on a two weeks' ride through Canada and New York State. In order to accommodate these gentlemen, it has been proposed by some of the leading spirits among them that the League meet be held in Buffalo on the 2nd and 3rd of July. Well, nobody objects to the holding of the League meet in Buffalo. In fact, with singular unanimity the wheelmen of the States have taken to Buffalo with a friendly feeling, and, without regard to sectional prejudices, seem to have settled that that city is the only available place for the meet of 1885. There is, however, one feature in this invitation which the Buffalo club, guided by "Big Four" influence, has extended to the Board of Officers of the L. A. W. Heretofore, invitations have been given without any mention of a date, leaving that to the officers to choose; and they have, on each of the few former occasions, selected the last two days in the month of May as the most suitable. Of the wisdom of this selection there can be no shadow of a doubt. It gives ample opportunity to adjust and reorganize the working of the League early in the wheeling season; it makes the parade and races contemporaneous with the annual business meeting, which, according to the By-Laws, must be held before the close of the League year, which is set down as the 31st of May; and lastly, it leaves wheelmen free to employ themselves in any way they may see fit on the 4th of July, which is the date principally

mentioned in opposition to the last of May, as on that day nearly every town in the Union has some celebration, in which bicycle races are included. Yet the wheelmen of Buffalo, regardless of the position in which they place the L. A. W. officers, have extended an invitation for the meet, taking upon themselves to set a date. And this is where the matter becomes of interest to Canadian wheelmen—a fact which does not appear to have escaped the attention of the Secretary of the C. W. A., and it is to the controversy now going on in American wheel papers over the action taken by him in the matter to which we refer. Mr. Donly readily saw what would be the consequences to our meet in the holding of the L. A. W. meet in a place so readily accessible to Ontario wheelmen as Buffalo, on dates so close as July 2nd and 3rd would be to the date of our meet. Had it been customary to hold the League meet at this time of the year, of course it would be necessary for the C. W. A. to put up with the rivalry of the L. A. W. in silence, and let our meet stand on its own merits. But to have the League change its date to one that would clash with, and detract from, ours, and come and hold it just over our line fence, was regarded by Mr. Donly as a most unfriendly action, and one that should meet with hasty antagonism from Canada; and we think that no right-minded man, be he of the C. W. A. or the L. A. W., will fail to consider Mr. Donly in the right when he wrote to the *Bicycling World* and *New York Wheel* reminding the Board of Officers of the L. A. W. of what the selection of July 2nd and 3rd at Buffalo for the meet would entail, so far as Canada was concerned. For our own part, we think Mr. Donly acted promptly and in the interests of the C. W. A., and that he should be upheld by the Association. We desire to maintain friendly relations with the L. A. W., and we are confident that the bulk of the members of the L. A. W. are of a similar mind towards us; but if their officers, in face of Mr. Donly's protest, accept the invitation of Buffalo, as it now stands, their action should meet with the strongest condemnation, and be taken as an open declaration of war.

It is especially interesting to read the different replies which Mr. Donly's letter has evoked. The *Bi. World*, by far the most influential wheel organ in the States, gives it importance as a strong argument why the date of the meet should not be changed. The *Wheel* takes three columns of its editorial page to answer it, and leaves its principal argument, viz., the injustice to the C. W. A., unanswered at last. The *Wheel* is edited by a gentleman prominently connected with the Big Four, which explains its course. The *Cyclist and Athlete*, another *Big Four* paper, also sees no reason why the C. W. A. should be considered; while Mr. W. S. Bull, of Buffalo, consumes three columns of the *World* to extol the advantages of Buffalo, and in a vain attempt to bury Mr. Donly beneath a torrent of withering sarcasm for doing what was eminently his duty. The whole thing, to our mind, is this: if the L. A. W. officials, to accommodate a mere handful of pleasure-seeking tourists, desire to put itself out by disturbing the existing order of things, they have a perfect right to do so; but

it can only be done, in this case, to the injury of the C. W. A., and will entail, very properly, the enmity of that Association, which, though Mr. Bull may affect to despise, is less valuable to the L. A. W. than its friendship.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Woodstock Amateur Athletic Association are first in the field with their tournament for Queen's Birthday.

We wish to draw the attention of advertisers to the fact that our advertising space is rapidly being filled up, and that the first applicants will be allowed the best spaces.

Our thanks are due the Springfield Bicycle Club for their kindness in sending a complimentary invitation to attend their fourth annual concert, exhibition and ball, to be given Feb. 23rd, which will undoubtedly prove a success, as all their undertakings are.

One of the difficulties which will be met with by Canadian cyclists who are anxious to attend both the Annual Meet in Montreal and the Big Four Tour is the fact that three weeks' holidays will be required to embrace them both, and very few young men in business are able to procure holidays of such a length. Several propositions have already been made, the following one being very plausible: After attending the Montreal meet on July 1st, return to Buffalo to the L. A. W. meet and join the Big Four Tour, accompanying them as far as the Thousand Islands, which point will be reached by Saturday, 11th July, thus enabling wheelmen to return to their homes inside of the required two weeks. Any other plans proposed in connection with this important tour will be given publicity with pleasure.

Karl Kron expects to exhibit, in the February issue of the *Springfield Wheelmen's Gazette*, a geographical summary of the localities representing 2400 subscriptions to "X.M. Miles on a Bi,"—similar to the article which he supplied for the May issue of the same journal, showing the distribution of the 1000 subscribers then pledged. He informs us that the enrolment of his foreign supporters, at the end of December, stood about as follows: Australasia, 36; England, 35 (all but ten of them Londoners); Scotland, 2; Ireland, Holland, Sweden, Germany, France and Mexico, each a single representative. Bermuda supplies 3 names; New Brunswick, 4; Nova Scotia, 39 (including 17 at Halifax); Ontario, 74,—making a total of 120. Quebec has not yet supplied a single subscriber. The "Special list of hotels where the look may be found" (arranged alphabetically by towns) now comprises nearly a hundred names, but the entire Dominion supplies only half a dozen of them, and four of these are in Nova Scotia.

Judging from their advertisement, Chas. Robinson & Co., of 22 Church street, Toronto, evidently mean business. It is certainly a gratifying evidence of the rapid growth of wheeling that a new firm should find a field for a large business after having only been in existence for a season or two.