

Cycling

A MIRROR OF TORONTO BICYCLE CLUB EVENTS
AND DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
CYCLISTS IN GENERAL

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Our Thanks, Gentlemen.

WE feel somewhat elated, in a sense flattered, and certainly very much pleased over the expressions of praise and goodwill we have received from the daily press of this city, in response to the appearance of our first number. It is unnecessary to particularize, as all our friends—confreres may we say—have intimated their approval of our initial effort, and beyond expressing our appreciation, we would not have taken up the space for this purpose, were it not for the fact that our good friend, the Sporting Editor of the *Empire*, seems to think that by the insertion of the notice at the head of the advertising column of the T. B. C., we repudiate the reason given for the inception of the paper. We may not make ourselves clear, but the idea was simply to prevent any official utterances of the Toronto Bicycle Club from conflicting with reportorial or editorial matter. Looking at the question in this light, does not the *Empire* agree with us that we are right in providing for contingencies of various complexities which might arise at any time? We are, as set forth in our heading, "A mirror of Toronto Bicycle Club events"; and, moreover, with the Club every time, as long as it keeps to the right course; but we are not its "Official Organ," ready to uphold the Club's officers in whatever project at any future time might be undertaken by them. This is merely reiteration of the statement made in our first number, that whatever matter presents itself we shall endeavor to deal with it from an unprejudiced standpoint.

A Race Meet Absurdity.

EVER since we can remember attending a Bicycle Race Meeting, and, in fact, we

believe, such has been the custom from the earliest days of bicycle racing, there has been an entrance fee, a nominal sum, advertised as necessary to be paid by each contestant to the Treasurer of the Tournament, before taking his place on the track. This rule, for the reason that it has seldom been enforced, and also because human nature does not, in the majority of cases, voluntarily part with the current coin of the realm without solicitation or pressure, has been looked upon by racers as a dead letter and generally disregarded. Recently, however, a Canadian bicycle club was dunned for the entrance fees of some of its racers, evidencing that one particular organization, at all events, intended to assert its rights. Now, we certainly believe that this club had perfect justification in collecting the entrance dues, although some of their own members had themselves erred in the same respect; but we are of the opinion that this subject should be dealt with by the Canadian Wheelman's Association, either to enforce the rule in every case of an entrance fee being paid, returning the amount to the *bona fide* contestants, or do away with the trivial tax altogether.

The Topic of the Hour.

THE Racing Board of the L. A. W. has taken time by the forelock and created consternation in the ranks of the Racing fraternity by their action in suspending nearly all of the prominent American flyers. Such well-known men as Gassler, Campbell, Rich, the Murphy Brothers, Van Wagoner, etc., have been suspended, and later advices inform us that Willie Windle and his conqueror, Zimmerman, have been compelled to join their unfortunate brethren. This leaves to one or two of the present prominent riders alone the title of District Amateur Champion. The main reason presented for this wholesale decapitation is that these gentlemen, they allege, had their expenses paid, while in training, by the various Athletic Clubs represented. The matter has, no doubt, been brought to a focus now with the idea of thoroughly sifting the whole affair before the riding season of '91 commences. The majority of the accused are preparing a strong defence, and, without a shadow of doubt, the greater number, if not the whole, will be re-instated. But we are of the opinion that this action will, whether well-founded or not, have a wholesome effect upon the proclivities of the Racing men on both sides of the line, and prevent the growth of that professional tendency which is always the death-knell, sooner or later, to amateur athletics of any kind.