

### Canadian Flyers—2.

A. W. Palmer, the present holder of the one and three mile Canadian championship, was born in Bewdley, Worcestershire, England, on August 24, 1868. He joined the Hamilton club three years ago, and is one of its most popular members. His first race was in May, 1890, when he started in a club handicap race for the club gold medal, which he won. In August, 1890, he forwarded entries to Toronto and the L. A. W. at Niagara Falls on the same day. His entry was duly accepted at the Falls when received, but the Toronto races, coming off on the 18th, caused trouble. He started in the three mile handicap at Toronto and defeated Gassler, the Niagara Falls flyer, who allowed him 300 yards.

Following up his entry at the L. A. W. Meet, he started on the novice race and defeated all his competitors; but Leavitt, of Cleveland, entered a protest over the Toronto race, and the Racing Committee of the L. A. W., without hearing Mr. Palmer, ordered him to return the medal to Leavitt (who finished second) under penalty of expulsion if he refused. The medal was returned.

At the club races held in Hamilton last summer he won the half-mile dash and a one-mile and a handicap race, and later on at the fall races entered in the mile open, which was won by Gassler, Palmer 2nd, and P. F. Ross (the holder of the safety championship) 3rd. Palmer also won the two-mile handicap race, being allowed 200 yards over Gassler.

This year the Hamilton club decided to encourage their riders, and a committee was appointed to devise a plan for training the racers. Mr. Jno. Hunter, lieutenant in the safety division, consented to look after the coming champion, and he is as proud of the result as the champion himself.

Mr. Palmer started off this year by again winning the club medal in a handicap race in which he started scratch. Then came the C. W. A. Meet and the breaking of the Canadian records. He had no difficulty in winning the one and three-mile championships and also the one-mile open. P. F. Ross, the ex-champion, entered but did not start, and Wells, Nash, and Hyslop had nothing to do with Palmer. He lowered the existing Canadian records for the one and three miles, and his victory was pleasing to his club mates.

The road race on July 2, 1891, was contested by teams of five men each from the Torontos, Wanderers, London, Ottawa and

Hamilton Clubs, and such strong road riders as Nasmith (the Champion), McClelland, Parr, Owens, Nash and Wells were entered, but Palmer made the pace from the start and won easily in the remarkably good time of 54½ minutes. The Hamilton Club then had the course measured and the actual distance proved to be 18 miles and 3 chains.

Mr Palmer entered for the two-mile race at Dufferin Park, Toronto, on July 18, and succeeded in establishing another Canadian record for two miles. He had no difficulty in defeating Hyslop and the others entered for this race.

He entered for the races in Toronto on Civic Holiday, but under advice from his doctor could not ride, greatly to his disappointment.

His next race was at Montreal on August 19, when he entered in the one and three-mile open, also the two-mile handicap. In these races he had for a rival P. J. Berlo, of the Manhattan Athletic Club, who has since made several American records. Palmer did not ride up to his limit, being too much afraid of his opponent, but after the races Berlo acknowledged that the one-mile race was the hardest event he has ever contested. In all of these races, which were quite close, Palmer finished second, and in the handicap he had almost a double handicap, because the tire of his own wheel became punctured and, through the kindness of Mr. Hyslop, he rode his wheel, which he was unaccustomed to.

His club is enthusiastic over him, and have entered him at Springfield, Mass., in the twenty-mile road race, also the half-mile dash open and the one-mile and half-mile on Friday, Sept. 11th.

We feel sure Mr. Palmer will uphold the reputation of Canadian athletes on the other side.

The road race on Monday afternoon for thirty-six miles between Toronto and Hamilton was his last race, and with a field of twenty of the best Canadian road riders Mr. Palmer finished first.

Like all other Canadian riders Mr. Palmer does all his training after six o'clock in the evening, and, had he the same advantages which the riders for the New York clubs have, we are quite confident, from the time he has made on the Hamilton track, that he would hold his own with Windle or Murphy. We congratulate him on his pluck in entering the half-mile open at Springfield against the pick of American riders, and anxiously wait the result.

Palmer is the most graceful safety rider we have ever seen, and on his wheel looks