

Our Racing Men.

HERBERT W. CLARKE.

Herbert W. Clarke, one of the fastest of Canadian racers, was born at Woodstock on the 19th of April, 1867, and is consequently not yet 18 years old. His father was at that time a farmer just outside the corporation, afterwards engaged in mercantile business in the town, and now a resident of Seaforth. Clarke is a nephew of the late Thos. Oliver, M.P. for North Oxford for sixteen years. He is 5 feet 11 inches high, and weighs, when in condition, 150 pounds. He is an athletic-looking boy, erect and well proportioned. His chest measurement is 37½ inches.

Mr. Clarke rode a bicycle for the first time in 1883, but had very little practice during his first season. He first attracted some local attention at the weekly club races of the Woodstock Amateur Athletic Association early last summer. He rode for the first time in fast company at the Association's civic holiday games on the 25th August. He entered the one-mile race with Lavender and Davies, but dropped out before the finish. He afterwards rode in the five-mile race, coming in third, with Lavender and Lambie to the fore. This race satisfied all who saw it that Clarke was a good man. He rode a common 47 lb. machine, and was suffering from a severe sprain of the ankle. Clarke's plucky effort under adverse circumstances won for him many admirers, who shortly afterwards presented him with an Invincible racing machine. This he used for the first time publicly at holiday games on September 5th, when he made one mile in 3m. 4.5s., and five miles in 16m. 3.5s., thus breaking Canadian records. (It must be remembered, however, that the Woodstock track lacks seven feet of being a quarter of a mile.)

Clarke's feat so surprised the members of the local association that he was induced to go to the races of the Toronto Bicycle Club, at Rosedale Park, the following day. In the evening he found himself famous in the annals of Canadian wheelmen. Here, in the language of the *Mail's* report of the race, "he ran away with Canadian records in a way that made spectators rub their eyes. The races that he ran with Davies were the finest ever seen in this country, and created intense excitement." His record in the one-mile race was 2m. 59½s. In the five-mile handicap race, he had in the morning been offered a start of 200 yards, but declined, and started from the scratch with Davies, and after a beautiful race came in winner in 16m. 6½s., the last lap being done in 42m. ¾s. This gave him the fastest Canadian record, and won from enthusiastic admirers the title of "the Canadian Hanlan on Wheels."

Mr. Clarke's Woodstock friends think that he has never yet shown how fast he can ride, and that he will next summer prove himself the fastest man at all distances in the Dominion.

Personally, Clarke is a modest and unassuming boy, and is a general favorite among the young men of his native town.

W. G. Ross, the five-mile champion, intends doing some foot racing this spring, and is considered a very fast man at a quarter of a mile.

With the Clubs.

BRANTFORD BICYCLE CLUB.

On Wednesday, March 4th, the members of the Brantford Club held a meeting at the office of B. F. Fitch, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year and for the discussion of matters of interest to the welfare of the cyclists of the city.

The following officers were duly elected: Mr. John Harris, hon. president; Walter Webling, secretary-treasurer; L. T. Harris, captain; C. Fitch, 1st lieutenant; S. Slater, 2nd lieutenant; F. Fawkes, bugler.

The membership fee was fixed at \$2.00, all dues to be paid before the 1st of April, 1885.

Messrs. C. Fitch and W. J. Knowles were appointed a committee to interview the manager of the roller skating rink, with a view of obtaining the rink for club practice. The meeting then adjourned.

It is the intention of the club to go into regular training as soon as practicable, and keep steadily at work until the season opens. If this be done, some very good records will doubtless be made by the wheelmen of Brantford.

THE NAPANEE BICYCLE CLUB.

At the annual meeting of the Napanee Bicycle Club, the following officers were re-elected for the following year: Dr. G. C. T. Ward, president; W. C. Smith, captain; A. R. Boyes, 1st lieutenant; W. J. Trimble, secretary-treasurer; and the following were also elected: F. A. Roe, 2nd lieutenant; J. T. Loggie, bugler; Alex. Leslie, standard-bearer.

THE C.W.A. MEET DECLINED BY MONTREAL.

The committee of the Montreal Bicycle Club have decided not to invite the Canadian Wheelmen's Association to hold their annual meet in Montreal next July 1st. The Montrealers had the option of taking the meet. The reasons for their present determination are the uncertainty of being able to offer a good track, and because the League of American Wheelmen are to hold their annual convention in Buffalo on the two days (July 2 and 3) following that on which the Canadian gathering is to take place. The Montrealers name Woodstock now for the meet.—*Mail.*

Chas. Robinson & Co., of 22 Church street, Toronto, have issued a 20-page catalogue, which outrivals in neatness of typography and arrangement, and in the excellence of the cuts, the catalogue of any American or Canadian firm. The poet is brought into use, an apt quotation relating to wheels or wheeling being placed at the head of each page, Shakespeare, Byron, Young, Chandler, Dryden and other authors being represented. The firm advertise some new branches—such as "a news stand," where THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN and other cycling journals are kept on sale; the renting, storage and selling on consignment, etc., of bicycles, etc. A catalogue will be sent by them on receipt of a three-cent stamp. We call the attention of our readers to their advertisement on the second page of the cover.

THE L. A. W. ANNUAL MEETING.

THE MEET TO BE HELD IN BUFFALO ON JULY 2ND AND 3RD.

The annual spring meeting for the election of a board of officers of the League of American Wheelmen was held at the Grand Union Hotel, New York, on Monday, Feb. 23rd, President Beckwith in the chair. The following members were present: N. M. Beckwith, president; C. K. Alley, corresponding secretary; Eugene M. Aaron, recording secretary; S. Terry, treasurer; Dr. W. P. Tyler, chief consul; J. R. Torrence, Dr. G. C. Brown, E. T. Pettegell; representatives A. D. Claffin, W. I. Harris, of Boston, Henry E. Duckert, F. P. Kendall, T. S. Rust, J. G. Burch, J. W. Clute, W. S. Bull, Geo. R. Bidwell, W. G. Coleman, C. D. Williams, R. F. Hibson, A. E. Farquier, George Dakin, K. L. Clapp, John C. Gulik, Walter H. Parsons, F. B. Graves, H. S. Kidder, and Frank A. Egan.

A very pressing and hospitable invitation was read from the Buffalo Bicycle Club that the sixth annual meet of the League be held in that city on the 2nd and 3rd July. After a long debate, the invitation was accepted with thanks, and the President was appointed the chief marshal of the meet.

The treasurer's report showed the finances to be in a better condition than ever before. The receipts during the past year have been \$3622.94, and the expenditures \$2133.32.

Chairman Bassett, of the racing board, referred to many amateur wheelmen competing in professional skating contests, and urged that immediate steps be taken in the matter. There was a long debate, but nothing definite was done. The racing board were authorized to prepare a die for striking off championship medals.

The report of the committee on reinstatement of ex-Corresponding Secretary Fred. Jenkins was unanimously in favor of his reinstatement, expressing the opinion that an injustice had been done him. This report was accepted, and resolutions passed that it was for the benefit of the League that Mr. Jenkins become a member.

A draft of the new constitution and by-laws was presented by the committee on rules and regulations. The report recommended a number of changes, which were accepted. As two-thirds of the board were not present, the changes will have to be adopted by a mail vote. Among the most important changes are the charging of an initiation fee of fifty cents for membership; \$300 bonds to be given by the secretary and treasurer; placing the annual salary of the secretary at \$1000; none but League members to be allowed to participate in annual parade; giving the racing club full power in their own department; persons declared to be professional can be reinstated only by an unanimous vote of the board. The amateur rule is made more strict. The officers were authorized to draw back salaries. It was the desire of the meeting that the League publish its own *Gazette*, and a committee was appointed to report May 1.

THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN comes to us as bright and crisp as a new dollar. It is a charming paper, well edited.—*Springfield Wheelmen's Gazette.*