

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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TO CANADIAN WHEELMEN.

With this issue THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN enters upon a new phase of its existence. In September, 1883, it was established to fill the need, which was then urgent, for a periodical devoted to the interests of Canadian wheelmen, and during its first year its publishers had no reason to feel that their enterprise was unappreciated by the riders of the silent steed. Considering the size of its constituency, however, and its importance as a representative journal to every wheelman, the support received by it was not altogether what might be expected.

Recognizing the value of THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN, and believing that the influence of the Association should be exerted on behalf of an instrument of such great importance to the best interests of the sport in Canada, the Canadian Wheelmen's Association, some months ago, entered into negotiations with the proprietor of the paper, with a view to making THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN the official organ of the Association. These negotiations resulted in the assumption of the WHEELMAN by an unincorporated company, distinct from the Association, but composed of a number of its leading members, who will hereafter publish the WHEELMAN, now officially recognized as the gazette of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association and of the Cyclists' Touring Club in Canada.

To this brief explanation of the change in management of THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN, the publishers would add that it is their intention to make this journal in every respect one worthy of the large and prosperous Associations of which it is representative, and of the manly sport in whose interests it is published. It will be by no means local in character—the extent of territory over which the members of the Canadian Wheelman Company are scattered being a sufficient guarantee that in its pages the whole will be considered greater than a part. It will endeavor, by means of special correspondence from the principal cycle "hubs" of the Dominion, and by careful compilation of the world's wheel news, to keep its readers fully informed on all events of interest, and will, by every means in its power, editorially,

and otherwise, advance the cause of the gloom-dispelling, health-giving, life-preserving wheel.

It is unnecessary to say that the hearty support and encouragement of the wheelmen of Canada is looked for and expected. The members of the Canadian Wheelman Company feel that they are entitled to the aid of their brethren-on-wheels, and feel, also, that they will receive it. The success of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association has been great, almost phenomenal. It is an Association of which every member is proud, and only requires the exercise of a little more of that spirit of energetic enthusiasm which made the Association what it is, to give it a thoroughly representative journal.

PROFESSIONALISM.

One of the most dangerous of the rocks which lie in the course of associations formed for the purpose of fostering and regulating the different classes of sports is "professionalism." It is a danger to avoid which requires the utmost watchfulness and caution. It is not necessary here to go as far as to say that "professionalism," when confined strictly within its own bounds, is an evil; but it is not "sport," in the true sense of the term. The distinctive elements of the latter are completely lost sight of, and the monetary consideration becomes the leading feature. In this practical, money-making age, it is true, few men are found who prefer glory to cash, but in sporting matters they should not be the exception. The ancient Greeks and Romans have set us a good example in many things—in none more so than athletics. They had professional athletes, but the position of these was a clearly-defined one. The competitors in the great games wished no greater reward than a perishable wreath. It was glory, indeed, that they earned.

Modern civilization, however, has changed all this. Men seek to make money out of everything. The very "sports" which, as the appellation signifies, were intended for amusement and exercise, have been seized upon as a means for the earning of livelihoods. The men who obtain their bread-and-butter in this way can be numbered by the thousand. The gist of the matter lies in the fact that the amateur seeks to rest, refresh, and amuse himself, the professional means "business." There would, perhaps, be little evil in the business side of athletics, recognized as such, were it not for its bad surroundings. With these—the betting, the buying and selling of races, the hippodroming, etc.—the public are unfortunately only too familiar.

It is to be hoped that now, at the outset of its career, the C. W. A. will strive to keep itself clear of this growing evil. It has an opportunity for doing so which few other associations of a similar nature possess. Cycling is a pastime which has come conspicuously to the front within two or three years only. The associations which have been formed to regulate it, and to bind together its devotees, are almost in their infancy. It should not be difficult, with the exercise of ordinary caution, to keep the amateur records clear from any such stain. It is unfortunate that several cases of professionalism have come to light in the C. W. A. In one case the difficulty has been removed by the retirement of the offender from the amateur ranks. The others have chiefly been cases in which the offence was

committed ignorantly, and before the rules of the Association were generally known. Now, however, that the latter rule has been removed by the circulation of these rules among all the members, there is no excuse for their infringement.

The Committee which has been appointed to deal with all such cases is one that may be trusted to do its work fearlessly, impartially, and with an eye solely to the good of the Association. It can, however, act only upon the material that is brought before it, and it is the duty of every member to aid in the good work of making our amateur standing unimpeachable, by bringing to the notice of the Committee any breach of the laws. This can be done by means of a protest sent to the Secretary of the Association. The measures adopted may seem rigorous and harsh, but it must be apparent to all that in no other way can we maintain a standard that will be accepted by other and larger Associations with whom we wish to place ourselves on an equal footing. Let us thus keep ourselves "above suspicion."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Clarke should put in an appearance at Springfield next year.

Hereafter, the WHEELMAN will be issued earlier in the month.

Hurst, Toronto's fancy rider, is not far behind Canary. The rapidity with which he picked up several of the latter's tricks was astonishing.

Cycling has taken a drop, so to speak, in Brantford; and as the tournament failed to draw a crowd, it was postponed indefinitely, thus resulting in a financial loss to the Brantford Club.

THE CANADIAN WHEELMAN rolls into your presence; directs your attention to his new suit; begs a little oil to keep the machine working smoothly, and promises to call again!

Talking about the Springfield meet, how natural it has come to be to think of it as a fixture! There would be a big hole in the bicycle calendar if the Springfield meet should drop out.

There are compensations! Montreal and Quebec may be charming places in which to reside, but their heart-breaking hills and boulder-laden streets make a western wheelman sigh for the smooth places of On-tay-rec-oh!

The new detachable handle-bars seem to be finding some favor on the other side of the line. The danger to be guarded against is their liability to detach from the machine at the wrong time; but that is a fault from which riders themselves are not always free.

The success which has attended upon the efforts of the Woodstock Amateur Athletic Association shows what co-operation and a few enthusiasts can do towards encouraging field sports. There is no reason why every town of 2,000 inhabitants should not follow the example of Woodstock.