

Canadian Flyers—1.

W. M. CARMAN, whose photo appears in connection with this biographical reference, is the present Ordinary champion of Canada. He is twenty-four years of age and was born in the village of Norwich in the county of Oxford. Mr. Carman commenced riding a bicycle in 1886. His first appearance on the race track was at Woodstock, on the 24th of May of that year, when he won the green race for ordinary roadsters. Having had such good success in this his first race, he decided to follow up bicycle racing with one grand object in view, namely, to become champion of Canada. In this desire for bicycle fame he had many difficulties to contend with. He had such noted flyers as Clarke, Foster, Davies, Rossicoe and others to compete with, which made his chances in this particular direction look rather difficult if not discouraging. But, even with these strong barriers in the way of progress, he was not one of the kind to be discouraged. He had an ambition to gratify and a strong constitution, together with a nerve of iron, to back him up. So that, while his progress was slow and at times almost disheartening, on account of the meagre facilities for training which were at his disposal, yet he never gave up, but stuck to the task like a man, and was rewarded with many a hard-earned race as well as a number of narrow defeats. However, under all his difficulties, which were not few; for he had not only the disadvantage of training on a gravel road, but often felt the need of a more modern machine, both of which were difficulties of a discouraging character; he was always on hand, and one thing that was always a credit to him, was this, that he never allowed fast company to frighten him away from the scratch, and always rode his races to a finish no matter whether he was to the front or not. W. M. Carman's entry in any race was always a guarantee that there would be no loafing, and the good racing and sharp contests that have always characterized Canadian races may in a large degree be attributed to the pluck of our present champion. During the three years subsequent to his debut he trained hard as best he could with the disadvantage of no track, and was always found on hand wherever there were races of any importance, and although he did not succeed in making any great records for himself as a very fast rider, yet he did succeed in making a record for himself as an honorable and straightforward young man in every particular, always endeavoring to do

his best, and thus he earned the good will and respect of all the bicycling fraternity. In the year 1890 Mr. Carman appeared at Woodstock on the 24th of May with his first racing machine, a 56in. Rudge, and it can be said to his credit that although his machine was much too large for him, that he was the means of forcing Windle to reduce the Canadian records, especially that of the five mile, which was lowered to 14.42. Having done so well, and having shown what a wonderful rider he would be if he only had the advantages necessary, he was invited to join the Woodstock Club, and the W.A.A.A., which he did, and in a very short time developed a considerable speed. He kept up a thorough system of training at Woodstock, and on July 1st, at Ottawa, was rewarded with the greatest honor to be achieved by any Canadian rider, that of champion of Canada. At Hamilton in the same year he won four open events—all the races in which he started. At the Meet of the Toronto Bicycle Club in August, he did not do so well on account of a series of unfortunate accidents to his machine, in one of which he took a serious header, which almost incapacitated him for racing during the balance of the season. However he plucked up courage enough to go to the L.A.W. Meet at Niagara Falls, and succeeded in making a very good showing against the fastest American cracks. During the present year he competed at Woodstock on May 25th, at which Meet he won all the open events, and on July 1st at Hamilton won all the open events in which he started—the Canadian Championship included—lowering the one mile record to 2.42, and that against the most formidable rider in Canada—ex-Champion Foster. His next appearance was at the L.A.W. Meet in Detroit, where, considering the fact that he was compelled to ride an old-fashioned solid tired Ordinary against such men as Zimmerman, Githens, Murphy, Taxis, Burnham and many other fast men on Pneumatic machines, we must admit that he did himself and the C.W.A. as well great credit in taking a close third place. With a record such as this we believe that Mr. Carman will yet be heard from, and that before another year rolls round he will honor himself and honor his country with the Championship of America.

Willie Windle writes to the *Referee* that starting with the Rochester races he intends riding the full circuit, finishing at Peoria. He has taken to the pneumatic safety.