



The 1898 meet club of Indianapolis, which has charge of the national event of the League of American Wheelmen, has arranged its program. The city will be declared open to wheelmen on August 3, and according to the mayor, it will be theirs until the night of August 14. The headquarters will be at Tomlinson's hall, where badges and souvenirs will be given to members after registration. At the same place will be a bureau of information, where advice concerning hotels and boarding houses, roads and routes will be furnished. On Tuesday evening, August 9, at 8 o'clock, Governor Mount, known all over the country as the "Good Roads Governor," will hold a reception at the capitol building. The riding will begin on Wednesday morning with a century run to Dublin that is billed to start at 5 o'clock. There will be other runs on Wednesday and on every morning during the week. The track races will begin on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock. Trials will be run in the mornings and finals in the afternoons. A musical festival has been arranged for Wednesday evening at Fairview park, and a second one at Garfield park. A special run for women is scheduled for Thursday morning. On Thursday evening a vaudeville entertainment will be given at one of the theaters, admission free to League of American Wheelmen members, while a "snooker," to which women are not invited, will be also in progress. On Friday there will be what the executive committee calls a "sort of picnic affair," explaining its expression by saying that it does not like the word barbecue. It will occur at Broad Ripple park. After the runs of Saturday morning and the afternoon races there will be a reception and luncheon for the veterans and others prominent in the league.

The Inquirer of Philadelphia is spreading pointed editorial attacks and spears on the pathway of the wheelman who makes a spectacle of himself by lowering his handlebars to the utmost limit and by putting a hump on his back in order to reach them. The spectacle is accentuated by a wad of gum on which the wheelman's jaws work while his ears wag in unison with his jaws. The Inquirer insinuates that the attitude is supremely ridiculous. More than that—it is disgusting. There is an apparent reason for the peculiar posture of the wheelman and the hump in the shoulders. The first is supposed to be the most effective preventive of dryness of the mouth and the second is supposed to be productive of scoring, the American rider usually being seated in the early period of his development with the desire to become a scorcher. A better reason for the ungainly attitude is that it is the American fashion, just as it is the fashion to do without gear cases, a fashion which exposes what may be called the vitals of the wheel to clogging with dust and mire, and until some recognized authorities start differentiating the present ones are likely to prevail.

A festive mule entered an emphatic protest against the popularity of the wheel at Chicago last week. The mule was browsing along one of the boulevards attending strictly to business, and occasionally wiggling his back in order to become a scorcher. A better reason for the ungainly attitude is that it is the American fashion, just as it is the fashion to do without gear cases, a fashion which exposes what may be called the vitals of the wheel to clogging with dust and mire, and until some recognized authorities start differentiating the present ones are likely to prevail.

A bicycle bell that rings itself is put out by a New York concern. It is set in operation by pushing a button, and rings continuously until the pressure is removed. Cyclists who find that in sudden emergencies it is difficult to maintain a constant ringing will find it useful. The motive power operating the bell is a tightly coiled spring, fastened at the bottom of the bell, and connecting with the hammer by means of a combination of gearing wheels. The spring once wound up will ring the bell for ten minutes continuously. The touch button may be shifted to suit the rider, and almost any position around the circumference of the bell by changing a few screws. The whole contrivance is small and weighs less than the majority of bells.

A western inventor has patented a canopy for bicycles. It has a roll clamped to the head of the machine with a ball and socket joint at the upper end, which allows the canopy to be set in any position. The device may be folded and stored in a small case when not in use.

A Providence (R. I.) inventor has advanced an attachment for automatically cleaning the chain of a bicycle when it is in motion. The inventor claims to have provided a device operating with practically no friction, and simple in construction. It consists of a rotary brush on the arm attached to the lower stay on the sprocket side of the wheel. The lower portion of the sprocket chain passes between the forks of the arm, rests upon the brush, and as there is always more or less slack in the chain at this point, its own weight keeps it in contact with the brush, which is made to rotate and clean the chain as it passes over it.

It hardly becomes American critics to deal harshly with the capers of the Spanish populace during the war. Incidents show that we are not above doing small mean tricks at home, and ought, in justice to remove the beam before magnifying the mote. At Chicago on Decoration day a wheelwoman appeared in a costume consisting of a bright red coat with gold military trimmings. It was lined with yellow. Black knickerbockers and stockings completed the colors that were objectionable to the patriotic sentiments of Memorial day bicyclists. A military cap sat jauntily on her head. Spinning around the race track in Garfield park, a number of boys began to follow, calling her "Spaniard" and hooting at the colors displayed by her garments. To avoid this annoyance she turned into the Jackson boulevard with a woman companion. The boys followed and others joined, both men and women. A spirited pace was not of frequent leaving her pursuers, and when she turned into Sacramento street their number had increased. East in Congress street to Western avenue her wheel flew, and her tormentors kept pace with the lady who pursued Tam O'Shanter. As she turned into Western avenue the street to her hysterical mind seemed to be filled with riders, following close behind or jostling at the side of her wheel. Her companion had been left far behind when she stumbled and tattered into a store. For two hours she fared in a paroxysm of hysteria and fright. At times two or three persons could hardly hold her. When her condition improved a carriage removed her to her home.

Some seasons ago a man in New York achieved the feat of riding 5,000 miles on a bicycle in sixty days. His weary recuperation from the effects of the strain and a few days ago died of consumption. He gained

the glory he sought and paid for it with his life. This sort of ambition is a little too costly for men who wish to live, and for poorer worth, and its essential folly would be ridiculous were it not for the tragedy it involves.

Mr. Allen, United States consul general in Corea, reports that two former cabinet ministers of that country may be seen on the streets of Seoul on wheels getting more pleasure out of their machines than they ever got out of their offices. The consul general thinks there is a good field in Corea for American bicycles, which already constitute a majority of those owned in that country.

Motor vehicles are evidently bound to come into more general use in this country. It is clear, however, that carriages of the kind in order to be practically serviceable cannot be made to sell at the prices of horse-drawn vehicles, and the highest type of automobiles will be used only by people who can afford luxuries. It is probable that the story of horseless traction will, in a sense, repeat the history of bicycling, which made small headway during the first few years following its introduction. When the real demand came it developed suddenly and manufacturers found it extremely difficult to meet.

When riding it is best never to let the strength run down for want of food, or great difficulty will be found in taking any refreshment at all and the rider's power will eventually give out. An ordinary rider should take nourishment, no matter how small the quantity, after every twenty-five miles or so, as if a longer distance is ridden without food exhaustion is likely to set in, which will spoil the ride and harm the rider.

WHEELING CHAFF.

He—Do you know there is a trick in riding a wheel?

She—Of course I do, I tumbled first thing.

"You don't seem to take much interest in war affairs."

"Me? Huh! I've got a new bicycle."

"I thought you were going to the war?"

"So I was, but the heartless recruiting officer wouldn't allow me to take my bicycle along."

"My bicycle runs like a thing of life this morning," said the Cummins boy.

"That is because you have pumped it with tires full of this braising air," replied the young lady.

Mrs. Watta—Going to get a chainless wheel this year?

Mrs. Hys—No. The chain wheel is so much handier. Every time one wants a new skirt, all one has to do is to let the old one catch in the sprocket.

"A man always thinks his bicycle the best," said the Cummins boy.

"Certainly," said the man who had come in for a quart of kerosene. "And his dog. And his watch. Then why does the rule fall when applied to his wife?"

INDIANAPOLIS AND THE BIG MEET.

Hoosier Wheelmen Getting Ready for the National Event.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., June 1.—(Special.)—Interest in bicycle racing is rapidly increasing in Indianapolis and for the first time in the history of the city the people will be privileged to see bicycle racing at its best at the National meet next August.

While Indianapolis has always been a great wheel city and probably has more bicycle riders in proportion to its population than any other city in the country, there has never been a suitable track on which to hold a race meet. Several years ago when Zimmerman was the great rider of the country, a two days' meet was held at the state fair grounds and attracted all of the crack riders at that time, but racing on a mile horse track is very different from speeding round a three or four lap track. In 1896 another attempt was made to hold a big meet and Cooper, McDonald, Loughhead and Sanger were brought from Louisville and were held on a five-lap dirt track one afternoon and evening. This meet attracted a good crowd, but the conditions were not favorable to fast riding and since that time there has been no attempt to bring the crack riders of the country to Indianapolis. The solution of the track problem in the way of making Indianapolis a great bicycle racing town, has been finally solved through the efforts of Mr. A. C. Newby of this city, and the fact that Indianapolis secured the '98 meet. For three years Mr. Newby has been trying to get Indianapolis a first class bicycle track. He almost succeeded a year ago, but just as he thought that his plans would be carried out there was a hitch and he gave it up in disgust. After the return of the Indianapolis delegation to Philadelphia last August Mr. Newby was again asked to take up the question of a new track. He at first refused, but finally promised to see what he could do. It was not easy to interest business men in an entirely new venture, particularly as the holding of race events in Indianapolis had never brought their proper returns. Mr. Newby after once taking hold of the work, however, did not let up and succeeded in four months' hard labor in raising \$2,000 with which to build the track. With this amount he is confident that Indianapolis will have one of the finest bicycle tracks in the world and he expects to have it finished in time to hold a state race meet on July 4. The new structure, which was built from plans prepared by Herbert Foltz, a member of the League of American Wheelmen Race board, and under the supervision of Charles Ashinger, the veteran track builder, will be thoroughly tested.

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WITH THE RACING MEN

The present season is going to be a phenomenal one for the racers, and before it is very far advanced the probability is that a number of new records will be made. All the speediest professional racers have gone through a thorough course of training and have been in the best of condition for the numerous events scheduled in which they are interested. The following matches have been arranged for the month of June, on the dates named, in all of which keen interest is felt:

June 11—Toronto, Ont., Edward Taylor-Toronto rider, twenty miles, paced; New York-Linton-Major Taylor, twenty miles, paced; New York-Holt-McDuffie, ten miles, paced; St. Louis-Bill McCarthy, one mile, paced.

June 14—Rochester, N. Y., Edward Taylor-A. E. O'Dell, fifteen miles, paced.

June 17—Boston, Major Taylor-McDuffie, thirty miles, paced.

June 18—Buffalo, Edward Taylor-Ray Dier, twenty miles, paced; New York-Titus McDuffie, twenty-five miles, paced.

June 25—Boston, Elkes-Martin, fifty miles, paced.

Jacquelin, the French champion sprinter, has issued a challenge to the world for a race at five kilometers, equal to about 3.1 miles, in which the rider who is first to pass the

kilometer post three times in the race is to be declared the winner. Being well backed up with money, this challenge certainly demonstrates Jacquelin's confidence in himself, a confidence that has made him one of the very best short distance riders in the world, if not, indeed, the best.

It is said the Frenchmen who are racing in this country disregard all the rules of etiquette considered essential by American riders. They regularly drink wine, brandy, absinthe and beer with impunity.

Walter Sanger has again for the last time announced his retirement from the track.

Tom Linton and Harry Elkes, who succumbed to the prowess of Linton, and to superior pace-making in the "thirty-mile contest" Decoration day, will be matched for an hour race, paced by an unlimited number of riders, and for a 15-mile bid. Elkes posted \$20 last night, and today's action accepted and will cover the money at once. Dave Shafer will back Elkes. It is rumored that Linton's first meeting with Michael, his greatest rival, will not be until August 13. He has lately booked a second race with Titus at fifteen miles on June 18, at King County Wheelmen meet. Linton will meet Scott at Hills Grove on July 9, at twenty-five miles, with twenty-one pacemakers.

The ease with which Sager and Swansborough were defeated by Gougeon and Lamberjack is explained by the fact that the sprocket on the tandem of the American riders was loose in a way that prohibited any sprint.

That some warm riding will be seen during the summer is suggested by the work done by some of the fast ones last Monday and by the way records flew. Linton smashed the figures for two miles to eight inclusive, at Waltham, while the world's record for five miles was tied by Vernier at Philadelphia and a new one of 5 minutes 21.5 seconds for three miles was created by him. All the middle distance men, from Michael down, are riding in the form for so early in the season, and the game of paced racing has a rosy prospect.

WHISPERINGS OF THE WHEEL

Decorations day and Wednesday, the opening day of the expected season, were marked around Omaha more enlivened by cyclists than has been the case on any week day or holiday during the spring. It was plain from the varied character of the machines abroad that it was the opening of the riding season for many. Wheels, which were just out from the factory, and were new and full of life, were seen in the streets, and many of them were wearing new bicycle suits, were numerous. One evidence of there being many out on wheels that had been stored all spring was the number of persons seen who were in trouble over one or another adjustment. In several instances men were noticed riding with the more perplexed frowns that indicated they did not understand where the difficulty was. One individual seemed to think that the uncertain action was due to the backlash of his chain and he was seen to dismount and examine it critically. In the more particularly with the "clatter" of the wheel would have enabled him to locate the looseness and a moment's work with a wrench would have remedied it. Others were observed tightening saddles and nuts in different places or setting up bearings, all because they had not properly seen every part of the machine. Two were seen carefully kept, there is apt to be a certain amount of dirt and rust gathered in the parts of a wheel during an idle period of several months, which causes nuts and other fittings to work loose when the machine is put into service again. The best thing in the spring when buying a new wheel, if you are a thoughtful rider, is to have the wheel laid to thoroughly overhaul it, take it apart, clean and oil the parts and then reassemble them so that they will fit properly. For those who do not understand their cycles well enough to do this the wisest course is to seek a reliable repair man and have done. A spring of mounting is as fit a thing for a bicycle as for a residence.

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A little more than two centuries ago, relates the Philadelphia Record, the delightful situation of Matanzas was occupied by the populous Indian village Yucayo. In 1623—just 200 years after the discovery of the island by Columbus—a Spanish Hidalgo named Manzaneda purchased from Carlos I a few hectares of land, including the then long-deserted Yucayo, and settled thereon with thirty families of Canary Islanders. The colonists arrived on a Saturday in October. The next day being Sunday, Bishop Compostello changed the heathen name of the place, with mass and solemn ceremonies, to San Carlos y San Severino, and on Monday, the third day, the colonists were laid out of the cathedral and the castle of San Severino—the most remarkable instance of expedition on record in this land of Manana—"tomorrow." The colonists afterward acquired considerable more space in the adjacent Yumuri valley for a cattle range and devoted themselves to the raising of beef for the Havana market. Thus the place became known as El Matanzas—"the slaughter pen." In time the names of the saints were left off altogether, and not only the settlement, but the bay, the district and the whole province rejoiced under the name of "the slaughter pen."

Eighty through the middle of the city runs the San Juan river, the portion on the south side of it being known as Pueblo Nuevo (New Town), and that on the north as Versalles. Several handsome stone bridges cross the river, among them the notable Puente Belem. The New Town contains the railway station and many beautiful buildings. It is situated directly adjacent to the city, the Galzedo de San Estaban, lined for two miles with imposing residences, all with pillared porticoes in front, paved, with the terraces, with mosaic of black and white marble, or blue and yellow Venetian tiles. These areas of the old city are all surrounded by the most magnificent, but each filled with palms and flowers, surrounded by tall iron railings and stone pillars topped with urns.

The worst calamity that ever befell her was the great conflagration of forty-three years ago. After that the well-to-do citizens had their residences on the heights above the city, where ocean breezes blow and the widespread bay forms a delightful picture. Two railway lines connect Matanzas with Havana, one of them running via Juncos and Gardens, the other coming from the southeast, through Villa Clara, Sagua and Gampagos, intersecting at the city. Much of the land is planted in sugar, a large amount of freight to the coast for shipment. Both lines are American built, draws by American engines, equipped with American cars and will no doubt soon be run by American engineers.

A few years ago Matanzas province was the richest in Cuba, ranking in the possession of 478 sugar estates in operation, besides 528 stud farms and some 3,000 other plantations of various sorts. Its rapid decadence from a luxurious center of wealth and fashion, as well as of productive industry and commerce, renders its present poverty all the more pitiful. Much of the best plantations of the old aristocracy were years ago confiscated. Others passed into the hands of Spanish adventurers and immigrants, who kept up the exhausting struggle as long as they could against a system grounded upon violation of every economic law; and the torch of war finished the rest.

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