

THE NATIONAL VEHICLE.

COMRADES.

Out from the city's sound,
From the cares that daily hound
So swift we fly,
We leave all care behind,
Sweet rest and strength to find,
My wheel and I.

Away from work and strife
Where gold is more than life
Or suffering's cry;
We ride at early day
O'er pavements rough and gray,
My wheel and I.

We know where brightness reigns
Down grassy, winding lanes
'Long which we fly:
Where bird and tree and brook
Entice to tempting nook,
My wheel and I.

Under the oak's cool shade,
Flecked by sunbeams strayed
From clear blue sky;
Near the brooklet's shining stream
We stop to rest and dream,
My wheel and I.

Against the trees' rough bark.
In shadows deep and dark
My wheel doth lie;
By brook on bended knee
I drink to souls care-free,
My wheel and I.

—Mary Sargent Hopkins in 'The Wheelwoman.'

A BLOOMER DANCE.

On a recent evening in Chicago, at the Jackson Park pavillion, a bloomer dance was given which was called the "first bloomer dance on record." As a matter of fact this may be true from the fact that it was gotten up and participated in as a bloomer dance only. But the ladies and gentlemen of the Capital City Cycling Club have to my knowledge had two impromptu bloomer dances in the auditorium of the little theatre out at Lincoln Park and enjoyed them.

The Chicago bloomer dance, however, was a pre-arranged affair and was participated in by members of some of the best families in the city. The subscribers were E. A. Brush, E. Noble, E. I. Wolf, W. Weist, George McKay, George W. Little, E. F. Little, C. F. Bowers, M. H. Fisher, H. Kuepper, A. W. Gobrecht, A. J. Nicolet, F. E. Tyson, W. C. Overland, H. M. Fuller, Fred Fairmon, D. H. Fisher, E. S. Marcus, C. H. Goodrich, H. J. Jacobs, Frank Osmun, F. Spaulding, H. Lichtenstadt, J. N. Bowers, W. G. Jerrens, Dr. W. S. Fowler, George N. Hunt, Frank Thus, Charles Macklin, R. B. Chase and E. E. Vossiller.

The function was attended by over four hundred cyclists and five thousand people viewed the gathering and were bewildered by the spectacle. Then they strolled out to the shore of the lake and proceeded to recall their thoughts from the trip of wool gathering on which the sight of more than two hundred maids and matrons in bloomers had started them.

That the girl in bloomers enjoyed it right through is admitted by every member of the press in the city of Chicago. That she was chic and captivating in the costume was also admitted. She danced with the same enthusiasm that she rides her wheel and was not the least bit conscious. The girl who went to the dance in the conventional skirt—and there were a number of them—did not enjoy herself hugely either when the music was playing or when the musicians were resting. She was not sought as a partner and the general expression of the spectators was that she was just a little out of place.

The dance was limited to cyclists. It was at first decided by the committee that no girl or woman not wearing bloomers should be allowed on the floor. But the committee finally admitted any who wished to participate, whether in skirt or bloomers. There

were one or two young women in knickerbockers present, but they were naturally not considered "just correct" by the bloomer girl.

An idea of the varied character of the costumes worn by those present can be gathered from the following paragraph which appeared in the *Record* of the morning following.

Mrs. C. W. Barr wore a brown cap, black leggirs, red sweater and bloomers.

Miss May Alexander was dressed in a blue broadcloth Eton jacket, white shirtwaist, black leggins and bloomers.

Miss Edith Brandt wore a white sweater, grey leggins and grey worsted bloomers.

Mrs. H. F. Palmer wore a jaunty cloth jacket and bloomers.

Mrs. M. G. Simon wore a red sweater and brown bloomers.

Miss Fleta Harris was "gowned" in gray worsted bloomers.

Miss Stella Westlake wore a white shirtwaist and gray bloomers.

The dancing was kept up until midnight and then the bloomer girls and their escorts went to 57th street and Stony Island avenue where their wheels had been checked and rode home discussing the events of the evening.

The gathering was the result of four weeks work on the part of an enthusiastic cyclist who conceived the idea and who when he confided it to his friends was promptly sat down upon.

"The girls will wear bloomers when on their wheels all right," they said to him, "but you won't get them to participate in a dancing soiree in that costume."

"Just you wait and see," said the enthusiast with the idea.

And the result more than justified his prophesy.

And the men? They were just captured in a body by the fair, dancing bloomers.

"Bloomers beat dresses all to pieces," said one of the men who danced. "They don't interfere with the fun, you can't step on them, nor tear them and you don't have to get a carriage to take the girl home. Bloomers are all right."

"That dance would have cost me seven dollars under any other circumstances than going and returning on the wheel," said another escort. "As it was, I mounted my wheel, called for my best girl and we peddled out and back, and enjoyed the whole evening and I did not have to face the expenditure of half my weeks salary either. I hope bloomer dances will become popular."

CARE OF THE WHEEL.

It has been claimed that a wheel is expensive because of constant repairs. That may be true in some cases, but it is only where the wheel has not been given the proper care and attention. Most people who ride wheels seem to forget that they are machines, and many of them of very delicate working parts, too. The work of properly caring for a wheel is not great, and a few simple rules carefully followed out would save many dollars in repair bills.

First, clean your wheel every day it is in use. Wipe the dust carefully from the frame, and especially from the axles, pedals and crank boxes.

Keep the chain clean and well oiled. It should not be too tight nor too loose. Once a week the chain should be taken from the wheel, soaked in a little coal oil or gasoline, wiped clean and then soaked in cycle oil, so that all the many joints may be well oiled. This will prevent a broken chain, and perhaps a broken limb. If a chain is in need of oil it will become tight on the sprocket

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wheel and the wheel will run hard. Whenever that occurs it should be given oil at once, and as soon as possible it should be taken off and thoroughly washed and oiled as described above.

If your wheel runs hard it is an indication that it has not been properly cared for, and if it is given attention at once it may save a large repair bill.

A good wheelman should be machinist enough to take his wheel apart and once a month, when a wheel is in constant use, it should be taken apart and the bearings thoroughly cleaned and oiled.

The busy clerk can easily find the fifteen minutes to attend to his wheel each morning and his expense need not exceed 50 cents per month. Of course there are accidents to look for, but the careful rider seldom has one. Punctured tires can easily be mended, and most accidents seldom result in more than a broken rim, which, if wood, costs about \$1.50 to \$3.00 for new rim and repairs. Avoid scorching unless in the open country where you have a good road and plenty of room, and accidents will be few and far between if you have taken proper care of your wheel.

COUNTY COURT.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

First Publication July 13.
In the county court within and for Lancaster, county, Nebraska, May term 1895, in the matter of the estate of Austie Lowry deceased.

To the creditors of said estate:
You are hereby notified, that I will sit at the county court room in Lincoln, in said county, on the 15 day of November 1895, and again on the 15 day of February 1896, to examine all claims against said estate, with a view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is six months from the 14th day of August A.D. 1895, and the time limited for payment of debts is one year from said 14th day of August 1895.

Witness my hand and the seal of said county court, this 10th day of July 1895.
I. W. LANSING
County Judge.

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