

MAKING THEIR RECORD.

THE RAMBLERS CYCLE CLUB HAVE A RATHER HOT SESSION.

President Hoare Submits a Report in Plain English—Several of the Members Join in a Bout With the Executive—New Officers for This Year.

HALIFAX, Jan. 23.—Probably the most exciting athletic meeting ever held in Halifax was that of the Ramblers Cycle Club Friday evening. The meeting was called in response to a petition signed by ten members of the club. It is claimed that the president and executive had violated their trusts in more ways than one.

The petitioners alleged that they were ignorant as to the financial standing of the club, and were of the opinion that a detailed statement of the finances should be furnished at once. They had reasons for believing that the state of affairs called for immediate action. These members wanted to learn why the club had disgraced itself by holding electric light sports and then refusing to award the promised medals to the successful competitors.

The meeting opened with an extraordinary message from the president of the club, A. M. Hoare. Some extracts are given:

I must call the attention of the club to the numerous items that have appeared of late in the Mail, Echo and Recorder newspapers of this city, pretending to give details of private business of the club, and giving the officers before the public in a most ridiculous light. I must also inform you that in not a single instance has a reporter for either of the papers come to the executive for any information, good or bad, in reference to these matters. I must recommend that the club take some action in this matter, and I give an expression of my opinion in regard to the principle of club members giving information, as in this case, or even the truth regarding the private affairs of the club, to newspapers, to the injury of the club and its members individually.

Dec. 20th, in the afternoon, the secretary presented me with a petition, calling for a special meeting on Dec. 28. This curious document, which appears more like a valentine than anything else, is laid on the secretary's table to night. It will hardly be necessary to explain to the majority of the club the action of the executive in this matter. But for the sake of those who can not or will not exercise their wits, we will give our reason for so acting.

In the first place the document is drawn in such a ridiculous way that one can scarcely be expected to treat it seriously, and had it come from any other person than the one who originated it, would have been treated as a joke concocted in very bad taste. As it was we took it just as it was intended, and attempted to treat it according to the usages of the club.

Had we done the thing on the strict lines of technicality, we would have called the meeting and the only things that could have come before it would have been Mr. Duggan's protest, a consideration as to whether the club would receive a detailed report from the executive committee on certain matters and a consideration of the club's financial standing with nothing to help it along in the way of data and a discussion of the ways and means of getting prizes for the night sports. To do this would have been simply a waste of money and time, for nothing could have been accomplished.

Had we attempted to do what possibly the promoter wanted us to do, would simply have been to call the annual meeting, minus the election of officers. To do this in the time (barely one day) allowed by the petition, that is call a meeting of the executive, prepare reports, financial statements, &c., &c., in fact, prepare the annual meeting, was out of the question, not to speak of getting post cards printed, addressed and distributed in time to notify the members of the club before the hour of meeting.

On the other hand not to call a meeting on a petition of more than five members no matter how frivolous and vexatious the thing might be in and of itself was to establish so dangerous a precedent, that your committee did not dare to do it, while in view of the future welfare of the club. Only one thing remained to do, and that was to comply with the letter of the law and ignore the spirit of it. This we have done, and it requires no prophet to see that when this annual meeting is over there will be nothing left for any special meeting to discuss.

To prevent a repetition of such foolish action in the future it will behoove the club to consider well that portion of Mr. Hart's motion which refers to this subject so that members who wish to amuse themselves and vent their spite at the expense of the club shall have the added privilege of paying for the room and light in which to do it, while at the same time members who have a real grievance may have this meeting, and the club as a whole will bear the expense.

So far as the question of the pretended information sought after is concerned they could have any of them got it by applying to the officers in the regular and proper manner.

To the man who solemnly asserts that the three mile race of three years ago on the Wanderers track is his idea of a model club meeting, I can only say you are welcome to your opinion and further to the man who is so suspicious of all mankind, that he must needs lock his place of business, because no one can be so bold to keep it open and not steal his goods or money, I say to such a man, that we did not expect anything but suspicion, and to assure him that we really haven't stolen a cent of the club's funds from anyone but himself.

I regret exceedingly the necessity of thus expressing myself on this, the last clause, I will have of officially addressing the club. I need not say that I and in fact, all the members of the executive club, have been sadly wronged in this affair. We are all young men, and I trust honest young men. Most of us are either in business, or occupying honorable and responsible positions in the community, and have done so for years. Our records stand before the public unquestioned, and yet we are here tonight, to a certain extent as criminals, charged with the meanest of crimes—the violation of a trust and the appropriation, shall I say the embezzlement of funds entrusted to our care by a club of our fellows. Is that harsh? Read the daily papers and see if it is. Does that sort of thing annoy us? No, gentlemen, it hurts. It stings like the very devil himself, and I would not today, for any consideration be placed in this position, could I have foreseen it twelve months ago. But live and learn. We are older than we were, and we know more of man's ingratitude. Time, money and brains we have used. We have our reward, and why are we not satisfied? Do you answer why?

But I may be met in this way by the question, why blame us all for the actions of a few? Because as the whole executive must needs suffer in order to get even with one or two of its members so must the whole club accept the responsibility of such utterances as have been placed in the public print until it shall by a decided vote repudiate those utterances. It is published that the "petitioners and other members of the club" presumably a large number have made these charges. It is published that "From what many members of the Ramblers club say &c." Until that is denied by the vote of the club and the denial given equal publicity, the public are at liberty to draw upon their imagination and in fact have so drawn for all sorts of possible errors and discrepancies in the management of the club's business.

Respecting the prizes for the electric light sports

I may say that but for the unfortunate state of affairs caused by this agitation the prizes would have been awarded some time ago. When the matter took this phase, the executive were barred from doing anything further in the matter than report the amount on hand and leave the club to carry out its own wishes.

We regret that the protest of Mr. Duggan coming in as it did, after the race was finished would not be entertained and while we would feel badly if any injury had been done Mr. Duggan in this matter we know that his name was inadvertently left off the first list and we have further to say that it was placed on the list and he knew that his handicap was in sufficient time for him to have started in the race had he wished to do so.

The question has been asked why we did not purchase the medals from Mr. Cleverdon. We have already explained this matter quite fully. Mr. Cleverdon did not look after his business, while Messrs. Brown & Co. did. Besides, as a matter of fact, it was better in the interest of the community to have that work done and the money left in Halifax, to giving it to Mr. Cleverdon to send to Toronto. Especially is this so in view of Mr. Cleverdon's claim that he did it gratuitously consequently suffering no loss by the work staying here. It is strange, in view of Mr. Cleverdon's claim, that we really got better medals from Messrs. Brown & Co. for less money than Mr. Cleverdon could furnish for the Toronto house with no profit to himself.

But perhaps the worst feature of the whole affair is the fact that to amuse these amateur humorists the club has to lose the services of one of the best secretaries it was ever my lot to associate with, and as white a man as ever mounted a wheel. To him I have only words of praise and thankfulness to utter, and even in the trying moments of the last three months his whole expression has been that of sadness and regret, without a tinge of resentment.

To him the club owes about all it owes, and his reward has been a travesty on the civilization of our city and club.

W. Cleverdon, one of the members attacked in the above document, is the well known Barrington street jeweller, who figured prominently some time ago in a customs seizure in which Detective Bonness was the principal mover. At the meeting Cleverdon was charged with giving club secrets to the press and also with supplying information which had no foundation in fact. Cleverdon repudiated the charges. He felt that owing to the "unclean fountain from which they flowed" that a sense of decency prompted him to take no action; but as the president had also taken the liberty to refer to his private affairs he felt it his duty to reply to the unwarranted attack. He denounced the President as a man unworthy the position he occupied and in Mr. Cleverdon's opinion the sooner the club relieved him of his duties the better.

George Smith moved that the member who gives the information to the press be expelled. Cleverdon believing that he was the person referred to took a hand in and a lively debate ensued. At one time the excitement reached fever heat. The executive rose in a body and resigned, and refused to offer for re-election. Quietness was restored with difficulty, but only for a time.

R. Duggan, the auctioneer, claimed to have a grievance. He felt that his rights as a member of the club had been ignored in his not being placed as a competitor in the handicap race.

The president thought Duggan needed cooling off. He said Duggan was handicapped in sufficient time to start in the race, of which fact he was well aware. The president could not understand why members supposed to have some brains would formulate complaints without evidence to support such.

The executive refused to state the price paid for the services of the military band, claiming that they had pledged their word with the bandmaster that the terms would not be made public.

The bout ended in favor of the executive, and they alone know what the music furnished on the occasion of the sports cost.

The executive were of the opinion that the electric light sports prizes should not be awarded, as there was no money on hand to purchase them. A member wanted to know what had been done with the cash taken at the sports. The executive stated that a subsequent meeting had eaten up all the receipts.

An entire new set of officers were elected as follows: President, Chas. F. Smith; vice president, A. A. Haliburton; secretary, H. Hill; captain, W. Forbes; first lieutenant, F. O. Creed; second lieutenant, R. Matheison; bugler, C. Kelly.

AS SMART AS CHIEF CLARK.

Wonderful Detective Skill Shown by the St. Petersburg Police.

Not long ago, an English governess in the family of one of the Russian royalties was expressing her disbelief in the wonderful stories told of the St. Petersburg detectives. Her companion was the chief of police, who seemed much amused at her incredulity.

"Very well, madam," the official said; "as you are so sceptical I will prove the powers of our police when I next see you—say this day week."

The lady laughingly agreed, and thought no more of the matter until she met the chief again.

"Now, sir, for your proofs," she said. The official consulted a note book, and then said that he could account for every moment of her time since the week before.

"You went to such and such a shop on Monday, for a walk on Tuesday, &c. You have been reading George Meredith's 'Egoist.' You had a letter from your home, and your sister wrote that your mother was unwell. You sent such and such articles to the wash—to Mrs. X—, You have been reading about the Stuarts with your pupil, and so on."

Everything the lady had done or seen the chief of the police told her. Unknown to her, a watch had been kept all the time. She was convinced against her will.

"But how did you know the contents of my letter from home?" she asked. "I did not notice that it had been tampered with."

The official, amused at the lady's amazement, explained the process whereby, with a fine instrument, the top of the envelope containing it had been cut and then re-fastened.

WITH THE STARVING MAJORITY.

Some of the Sights and Scenes in the Wild and Woolley West

OMAHA, NEB., Jan. 15.—There has been very little change in the general run of things since I last wrote you, there still remains the starving majority, but I am thankful to say, that the people of Omaha have shown themselves to be very charitably inclined. They are responding very generously to the appeals for relief, and several of our large retail department houses are devoting ten per cent of the sales in certain departments to help swell the poor fund. Of course there are a few black sheep among the many who apply for aid, but supt. Clark of Rescue hall has at last hit upon a scheme for sifting them out. He applied to the city for a number of picks and shovels, and also obtained permission to put his men to work on all ungraded banks and streets within the city limits, so now each man is given a ticket for the amount of work done and he can obtain three square meals a day and a night's lodging.

Since inaugurating this system, there have been five absentees, but that is not very many for such a multitude as daily apply for aid. They are required to work for four hours each day, and their ticket is equivalent to \$1.00. I hear that several of the "low down" saloon men of this city have enquired of superintendent Clarke as to the value of these tickets if the men tender them for drink. It is almost needless to say that in such case they are worthless.

Talking of drink puts me in mind of a little affair that happened on what is known as Sixteenth street, which is barred between five and six in the evening, with people going home from work. I happened to be hurrying along there last Thursday evening, and was just passing the Y. M. C. A. building when I noticed a rather sanctimonious looking young man standing in front of the door and handing out cards. That was nothing strange, but somehow something in his make up caused me to linger and watch him I noticed he did not hand any to the ladies who passed him nor to all the men, one could easily see he was selecting his victims. Presently a man, whose ragged and dusty clothes gave him a decidedly hungry appearance came walking slowly and aimlessly along. He had a dejected look in his eye that indicated home sickness, an empty stomach and perhaps a longing for a better life. Certainly here was a chance for a little missionary work, for a fitter subject for a prayer meeting and a square meal could hardly be imagined. The young man seemed to realize this, for his sanctimonious countenance assumed an encouraging smile and forward he handed the forlorn stranger a card. The stranger was slow to take it but finally he did, and his forlorn look—changed to one of sorrowful disdain. Still he held on to the card until he reached the corner where there was a bright light, holding it up he saw in plain bold type—

Blank's Little Daisy Saloon, A Big Hot Wiener with Every Glass of Beer, From 6 to 10 P. M.

His face brightened up, and he pushed his hand away down in his pocket, pulled out what may have been his last coin, and with one more look at the directions on the card, he started on a stiff heel and toe for the hot werner and glass of beer.

Such is life in the wild and woolley west times are brightening, a little, at least I think so. The weather is all any one could desire, nice balmy days or sunshine all the time. It is a God-send for poor people.

I gave my last copy of PROGRESS to an old Canadian who lives here. You should have seen how delighted he was. He thinks PROGRESS is the only paper and between you and me he is not far wrong.

AT A CALIFORNIA FAIR.

The Attraction at the Exhibition Which is to Open Today.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Jan. 15.—Although according to the original announcement the Mid Winter Fair nominally opened Jan. 1st, the official opening has been postponed until the 27th inst., to give time for the delayed foreign exhibits to arrive from Chicago.

A good many of the concessional features however have been in full operation since the first. That day was beautiful and could not have been improved upon. Eastern people here for the first time, were delighted over a New Year's Day, so much like a day they could only expect to see at home in April or May. In the Golden Gate Park in which the Fair is situated flowers were blooming in every hand. This a special feature of the fair and a very pleasing one it is.

Among some of the novelties peculiar to this Fair are the Santa Barbara Sea Lions, and Boones wild animal arena. The former, promises to be one of the great drawing cards of the exposition. Did you see Hayenbecks show at Chicago? Well, Boones rivals his in every particular, and surpasses it in many.

The scenic railway does a great business, the crowds who seek its attractions being really more than can be easily accommodated.

An old time stage driver named E. A. Halsey, of Oroville, who has driven his six in hand over the snow capped peaks of the mountains of Eastern California, is arranging to exhibit snowshoes used by his horses

in the snowdrifts and familiar to those visiting Yosemite Valley in winter.

Many visitors consider the account, of snowshoes used by horses as a California fiction. Mr. Halsey will place some stage horses, shod with snow shoes, in the 49 mining camp, where they will be made to run over quicksand to illustrate the use of horse snow shoes.

Taber, the photographer, whose beautiful scenic photographs are well known to those of your readers who have visited California—is the official photographer of the Exposition. One of the most attractive buildings of the group is yet to be erected for his occupancy. In this gallery all of the official picture making in connection with the fair will be carried on.

Two stories high, with a frontage of sixty feet, the building will be handsomely ornamented within and without. A hall thirty feet long will lead from the entrance back into an immense open fire place. Adjoining will be parlors and reception rooms, where ladies may rest after the fatigue of sight seeing.

Around the hall will run a large gallery, on the walls of which will be hung thousands of Pacific coast views. Every pane of glass will be a transparency of some photographic view. The value of these transparencies alone will be over \$3000.

A very interesting exhibit is the display of all the woods of California. A very fine collection made by Thos. Hatch, of the Columbian exhibition, supplemented by a number of private collections.

A specially fine collection of redwoods, are to be seen here. One very handsome bubhl, cut in Humboldt county for a table top is especially attractive.

From the mining counties there is a block of gold quartz weighing 3000 pounds, and a complete outfit of machinery, tools and implements used in mining, all in operation. This noble exhibit is most instructive and interesting.

Not a Bad Idea.

Johnnie—(in bed for being naughty.) Mamma, I wish I was twins, then when one of me was punished, the other could go out and play.

For breakfast.

Get Rolled Wheat Flakes or "Petti Johns Col Breakfast Food" and Evaporated Cream, they are most delicious.

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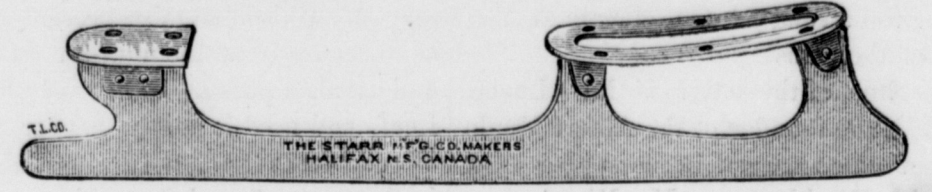
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