



BICYCLING.

BETTER ROADS AND MORE TOURING.

THE "Knights of the Wheel" have been having a right royal time during the bright summer months that have rolled by apparently with the same lightning speed as the flashing spokes of the swift wheels that this grand division of the great army of "Outers" has been driving throughout the length and breadth of the land. We are very glad to see the increasing taste for quiet, industrious, observant touring that seems to be permeating the masses of honest wheelmen, as evidenced by the number of letters we receive from all parts of the country, telling of long and interesting tracks of carefully explored country, or the confident aspirations of brave parties of three and four who have mapped out a journey of many hundred miles, and are anxious to know what price OUTING will give for MSS. describing the incidents of the tour, in order that means may be forthcoming to prolong the glorious recreation they are anxious to begin. To these ardent scribes OUTING wishes to say that it will be ever ready to receive all accounts of such trips, will read the manuscripts carefully, and will gladly use, for the interests and furtherance of this healthy amusement, everything that seems really worthy of a place in the history or literature of cycling.

And while on the subject of touring, it may not be out of place to point out again, as we have often done in the past, even at the risk of being tedious and as savoring too much of repetition to our readers, that the main object to be accomplished in order to make touring a perfect bliss, is to organize a concerted plan of action throughout each thoroughly settled State, for the purpose of improving the condition of the main thoroughfares of the country. Wheelmen may truly look and point with pride to the victory obtained by their New York brethren in securing free and untrammelled entry to all the roads and drives of Central Park. Now, how was this feat accomplished? Simply by

the *united* efforts and untiring, concentrated energy of Chief Consul Bidwell and the unanimous support of New York State contingent. And what have been the results? A fine expanse of riding roads for the exclusive use of New York riders? By no means, brother wheelmen, but the obtaining of the undoubted right for every wheelman in the country to view the beauties and enjoy the pleasures of one of the loveliest recreation grounds in the world in the way he likes best, astride of his "silent steed." Now, the same thing can be done on a broader, grander scale throughout the land. Let each State gather together its force of wheelmen and friends and organize a road-improving crusade, and the project is bound to be put through, and the result will be a credit and boon to the wheelmen of the neighborhood, and a comfort and pleasure to our traveling and touring brethren. *Verbum sap.*; my brothers, fall to.

CRICKET.

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE GAME AND THE GROUNDS.

THERE is but little doubt that the game of cricket is making rapid strides in the affections of the present and rising generation of those who are eager to adopt some healthy and wholesome form of manly exercise on which to devote their muscular energies; and it was only the other day we had the pleasure of hearing the following significant remark from one of the keenest amateur baseball layers, as he longingly watched some of the Staten Island Cricket Club at the nets practicing to the bowling of George Lane, and Tom Butler, the round professional: "By Jove! I only wish I had taken up "cricket instead of baseball when I began. "You seem to get so much more continuous "exercise from cricket than from baseball. "Baseball exercise is violent, spasmodic, "and is taken more like medicine, in three- "hour doses; while cricket means patient. "hard-continued effort and exercise, long

“drawn out and enjoyed, like your meals. “Yes! I wish I was a good cricketer.” This expression, we take it, is but one of the many straws which go to show which way the wind blows; and whilst we do not for a moment disparage one jot the skill, hardihood and dexterity required to become a proficient in the National Game, still we cannot but deplore the fact that the pursuit of the game, as a means of scientific recreation, has been largely relegated to professionals, pure and simple, who make their living at it—and a great deal better living it is, in nine cases out of ten—as does a carpenter, bricklayer or other mechanic. We do not pretend to say that the colleges of the country do not make a fine display of skill and science; they do; and many of the most noted players have had tempting offers to join the professional ranks after leaving college. But in the majority of cases a college man’s baseball ends with his college career, while, on the other hand, a college cricketer carries the game with him and finds in it an exercise that can be enjoyed and continued far into the encroachments of a green and healthy old age. With the increasing popularity of the game has followed a marked improvement in the style and excellence of play, especially noticeable in the batting and fielding features of cricket. These gratifying results, however, must not be put down entirely to the more enthusiastic devotion to the game by its votaries. It lies, in a great measure, in the fact that greater care and attention has been given of late to the scientific preparation of the cricket grounds, more particularly the wickets on which the men bat. his naturally leads to surer run-getting and larger averages, and heavier totals have been the outward and visible signs. With the increased perfection of the wickets, the power of the bowler has been somewhat curtailed, as he cannot take advantage of the inequalities or rough soots on the “crease,” but must rely solely on his accuracy of pitch and command of the ball. In this state of things it is manifestly an advantage to get the first innings so as to be able to get a perfect wicket on which to bat: for no matter how excellent may be the wicket at the commencement of the game, the knocking about it gets from batsmen and bowlers during a long innings spoils it past the immediate remedy of the roller. To obviate this advantage, which is gained by the luck of a spinning coin, it has been suggested that each XI. have a separate wicket to bat on, whenever the luxury be practicable. And this would, we think, be a far more efficacious method of bringing “the bat” and “the ball” on more even terms than resorting to any change in the height or width of wickets or bat. Cricket, if not conservative, is not anything, and we hope that conservatism will mark the dealings on the subject of amendments (if any are made), by the fathers of the game at the next M. C. C. meeting.

CANOEING.

THE A. C. A. CANOE MEET.

THE members of the American Canoe Association can congratulate themselves upon having one of the most perfect organizations of sport in existence. The mistakes in management have been very few, principally because all take an interest in the welfare of the Association, and the officers have always done their work unselfishly. The time devoted to business is very little, and all motions are passed upon or killed without any unnecessary delay. There has never been more than one ticket in the field when the annual elections occur. The constitution and rules have been most carefully framed, amended and added to from time to time, as the growing interests of the organization demanded; but a discussion of the rules, simply for the sake of controversy, has never occurred.

Probably no other body of men interested in one sport require so little managing. Yet all the business of the Association is conducted on true business principles, and the work is done promptly and well by those who have the matters in hand.

At the eighth annual meet, August 12th to 27th, at Bow-Arrow Point, Lake Champlain, 150 men were in camp. All were free to do pretty much as they liked, and the officers in charge of the camp were rarely seen in any official capacity. A bulletin board contained the daily instructions of commodore, secretary and regatta committee. No verbal orders were ever heard. The races were started, recorded, timed and judged, without friction, in the quietest and most methodical manner. Every man was at his post, always. When protests were lodged in writing, in case of fouls, they were promptly considered, witnesses were called and the regatta committee rendered a decision, from which there was no appeal. Camping usually brings out the sharp points of a man. The sharp points of the canoeists at the meet must be like foils with buttons on them, for no one was hurt by them. The large proportion of men of good social and business standing who make up the membership roll of the A. C. A. will account for the harmony and excellent management. Canoeing, being strictly an amateur sport, does not attract men who are on the make. All canoeists go canoeing for the pure love of it, and therefore avoid quarrels and bickerings as a useless waste of time.

The last meet was a great success in many ways. The place chosen was a specially attractive one. The racing interest was keen, and all took a hand in making the camp life enjoyable. The board of officers elected for the coming year is the very best that could have been selected, and is a guarantee in advance of a jolly meet next year. Mr. R. W. Gibson, the present commodore, is the champion canoe sailor of the world, a true

gentleman and a capital manager of affairs. He was commodore of the central division last year, and for several years previously has held offices in which his ability has been amply proved. His portrait appeared in *OUTING* for August.

Canoeing is making wonderful strides in this country and is destined to become a recognized national sport, if not *the* sport. The American Canoe Association has done much to further the interest of all canoeists, and is still doing it. Its rules and methods, originally taken from those of the yachtsmen, have gone so far ahead that now they are models which even the yacht clubs would do well to follow. The canoe seed did not fall in stony places, surely. An illustrated article will appear in the November *OUTING* on the canoe meet, treated in a new and attractive way. The cuts could not be made in season to appear in the present issue.

FISHING.

THE recent appointment of Professor G. Brown Goode as United States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, calls for no further comment from us at this late date; but *OUTING*, though late in tendering its sincere congratulation to Professor Goode upon the acquisition of his new honors, begs to assure him that they are none the less hearty and strong on that account. Everybody is aware that the professor's rare qualifications, valuable experience and unbounded enthusiasm in his particular line of science make him eminently entitled to the position. *OUTING* hopes he will hold it long, and looks confidently for great results in his administration. It is evidently "a Goode man in the right place."

PERHAPS many of our readers will be very much surprised when they find the October number of *OUTING* does not contain the usual monthly installment of Thos. Stevens' stirring adventures, "AROUND THE WORLD ON A BICYCLE;" but we have been forced by the pressure of other matter to drop the serial for this month. We trust that our friends will not become impatient at this delay, but will be ready to we come back the adventurous traveler in the subsequent numbers.

WE have already had many inquiries for "THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN CANOEING" in book form. We are, therefore, very glad to be able to state that the series is undergoing a very thorough overhauling at the hands of their author, C. Bowyer Vaux, who will elaborate the subject much more when presenting his work to the public in book form, and besides adding considerably to the letter-press, he will include in the illustrations many well-known canoes that *OUTING* could not publish for want of requisite space. The last division meets of '87, as well as the

A. C. A. meet at Bow Arrow Point, will be included, and the book will be brought down to the latest possible date.

As we are writings these notes, our world-famed traveler, James Ricalton, is sitting by our editorial chair, having dropped in to announce his safe arrival from Northern Africa. He assures us that his trip through Algeria to the Oasis of Biskra in the great desert of Sahara, was eminently successful, and we feel sure that the narration of his experiences will be most novel and interesting.

WE have had several applications for the copyright of Mr. Charles E. Clay's series of articles entitled, "A BOUT WITH THE GLOVES," which were so favorably received by the lovers and students of the "manly art" at the time they were running in *OUTING*. We have, therefore, decided to issue the whole set in cheap pamphlet form, and incorporate with them Mr. Eugene Van Schaick's interesting article on the subject of "Fencing with the Foil," which is the leading article in this month's *OUTING*. Both the subjects have the advantage of being profusely illustrated with accurate cuts representing the proper positions in attack and defense, and when published, will form an invaluable help to those wishing to become proficient in either science.

OUTING has in preparation a very attractive article on the "History of the Staten Island Cricket and Baseball Club," which will be most handsomely illustrated, showing the exterior and interior of the men's and ladies' club houses; the extent of the lawn-tennis ground and nets, with the game in full progress; groups of the prominent members of the two clubs; the cricketers in the field, etc., etc. This cannot fail to attract very general attention from all amateur athletes of both sexes throughout the country, as the growth of this popular club is a living evidence of the great strides that athletic exercises have taken in this country during the last twenty years.

THIS article is the first of a series of six which will embrace the history of all the most prominent organizations of a similar character in America, and will include the Staten Island Athletic Club, the New York and Manhattan Athletic Clubs, the Jersey City Athletic Club, the Philadelphia Cricket and Athletic Clubs and the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association of Canada.

THE well-known sportsman, G. O. Shields, has just issued the fifth edition of his popular work, "Rustlings in the Rockies," under the new title of "Hunting in the Great West." The book has been almost entirely re-written and is therefore almost a fresh literary effort. Belford, Clark & Co., Chicago, Ill., 75 cents.