

Public Buildings to Fort Mifflin road	9 m.
Public Buildings to Fort Mifflin	7 1/4 m.
Public Buildings to Bell and Tinicum roads	8 m.
Public Buildings to Essington and	
Lazaretto roads	12 1/4 m.
Essington Crossing to Moore	4 m.
Moore to Darby	3 1/2 m.
Darby to Paschalville	3 m.
Paschalville to Tinicum road	1 1/4 m.

Should any reader imagine that winter cycling must needs be confined to our asphalted streets, let him follow me on the following ramble; it was taken for his especial benefit.

We start, as usual, from the Public Buildings and steer down South Broad street.

"Ah, you should remember the time," said an old Philadelphian to me a few months ago, "when your asphalted South Broad street, as you call it, was our favorite 'Summer Road,' with trees on both sides of it; and we used to drive down that way and cross the river by the 'Rope Ferry' to have a good time shooting reed birds on the islands on the other side! That was not so long ago, either, say, forty-five years."

What changes have been wrought hereabouts in those forty-five years, however.

Not until we near Porter street do we see any relics (and such scanty relics!) of the grand old times alluded to above. These once belonged to a shady avenue that led to the Dutch

from which it has been separated merely by the action of the water upon the softer soil around it.

As early as 203 years ago its peculiarly advantageous position was recognized by the land company of London, and a fort was there and then erected on it.

A century later, in 1783, the island was annexed to the State of Pennsylvania, along with Mud Island, Hog Island and Little Tinicum. In 1802 the city of Philadelphia purchased it for a sum of \$510,000 and presented it to the United States Government for the purpose of a navy yard. Its present condition, in view of the munificence of the gift and in comparison with the development of Philadelphia since that period, is to put it mildly, a mortifying sight for Philadelphians. Why is it called "League" Island? They say on account of its length, in



A RAMBLE AROUND THE ISLANDS AT OUR GATE—The Stroke Line indicates the Trip Described.