

## INTRODUCTION.

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THREE YEARS AGO a number of the Choir leaders of the towns of Galt, Berlin and Waterloo happened to meet together, and the idea was suggested to have their respective Choirs unite in an Excursion and Picnic.

Goderich was the point chosen, and the Choirs of that place invited to join in. A Committee, composed of R. T. Williaras, Galt; E. P. Clement, Berlin; S. P. Halls, Goderich; and C. A. Winter, of Waterloo, completed arrangements for trip, after which a circular was sent out inviting all the Choirs from intermediate points to participate.

The result was a party of 1,200, requiring two special trains, and the rendition of a number of hymns and choruses by 600 voices, accompanied by the Preston Musical Society Band of twenty-two pieces, and an Orchestra of twelve pieces, and a number of anthems by one or more Choirs from different points, conducted by their respective leaders.

By vote it was decided to make the affair an annual one, and a Committee was appointed to arrange a Programme for the next.

A circular was sent out early, inviting Choirs to join, and asking vote for choice of place, with the result that Sarnia was the point selected.

It required seven large special trains to convey the party of 1,200 singers and their friends; and a number of mass choruses were rendered by the largest chorus ever gathered in Western Ontario. Among the numbers given was the "Gloria" from Mozart's 12th; "Hallelujah Chorus" from the "Messiah," by 800 voices each; the Glee, "Let the Hills," etc., by 160 male voices; the "German National Anthem," by 700 voices; and the "Hymns" by 1,200 voices, accompanied by the Band of the Waterloo Musical Society, thirty-five pieces, and an Orchestra of twelve pieces. One number was given by the fine Choirs of St. Peter's and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Churches and Wellington Street Methodist Church combined, of London, conducted by Prof. Pococke.

Last year the vote gave London a slight majority, with Sarnia second, but as the time was too short to get arrangements completed for London (as it is a business centre and competing point) the third outing was also held in Sarnia.

This time the citizens worked hard to make up for their apathy the previous year, and were rewarded by seeing a gathering of between 4,000 and 5,000 people, and hearing a number of mass choruses rendered by some 1,500 voices, accompanied by the Water-