

The Caledonian Society

of Dutton.

Oh, we'll be the Scottish tongue,
The language of mine,
As I'll be a song that's sung
In Scotland's happy days,
They make me think of happy days,
As I'll be a song that's sung,
There's something in my heart that says,
There's nae lan' half sae fair.

At this meeting it was decided to carry out a program of sports, and at a meeting held on Tuesday, Aug. 7, a program was drafted and subscription lists placed in circulation.

CALLOUS indeed must be the man whose nature is not inspired to thoughts of Auld Lang Syne by the "Land o' the Leal," or the graceful steps in the "Reel o' Tulloch." These Scottish songs and dances possess a tender charm for the native of the land of "brown heath and shaggy wood," and it is to preserve and encourage these institutions that brought into existence Caledonian societies, fostered in auld Scotland and engendered into the thoughts of her sons and daughters after they have set their faces towards other shores.

Besides the cultivation of national games, the society has for its object the encouragement of Scottish music, history, poetry and the uniting more closely of Scotchmen and those of Scottish descent. The society does not debar from membership other nationalities, but chiefly consists of Scotchmen and those of Scottish descent, and no one is eligible for membership under the age of eighteen. The officers of the society consist of a chief, first, second, third and fourth chieftains, the usual number being four, although any number of chieftains may be appointed, as is the case with the West Elgin Caledonian Society, in which the various townships are represented by chieftains. There is also a secretary, treasurer, two standard bearers and a marshal. Chieftains, in the absence of the chief, assume his duties in the order of their seniority.

Caledonian societies have been in existence almost since Scotland had a place on the map. They sprang into life in Canada with the earliest Scottish settlement. It takes a strong Scottish element, however, to sustain interest in the society year after year, since having only one object, each year is practically a repetition of its predecessor. Six years ago, when the West Elgin Caledonian Society was organized, Lucknow was the leading centre in Western Ontario for these annual gatherings, but lately interest has waned and they have ceased to be held. Toronto and Montreal possess strong Caledonian societies, but Dutton is now looked on as having one of the strongest, if not the strongest, organizations of its kind in Canada, and it is this fact that has prompted the JOURNAL to utilize the occasion to illustrate one of Elgin's most thriving villages.

The absence of any other Caledonian Society in Western Ontario, and the necessity of becoming a member of some such organization, in order to take part in Caledonian games in the States, has given the Dutton Society an international reputation by the enrollment of some of the best athletes and dancers in Canada.

To Mr. Duncan McMillan is largely due the credit of the inception of the society, and the success that has attended it from year to year, until this, when it will be honored by the presence of the first gentleman of the land.

Duncan McMillan was born in Kintyre, Argyshire, Scotland, in 1833, and is a descendant of a long line of Scotch ancestry. Here he received a liberal schooling, and at the age of eighteen he removed to Glasgow, where he spent two years learning saddlery. Coming to Canada with his parents, they took up land in Dunwich township, while the subject of this sketch settled in London, where he spent a year at his trade, before moving to Walltown, he continued at the same calling in the employ of the late Mr. Z. Rapelje, whom he finally bought out. After carrying on the business for several years he took a trip to Scotland, where he revisited the scenes of his boyhood days. After spending three months there, he returned to Walltown, and in the spring of 1883 he bought out the business of Z. B. Thompson, in Dutton, where he combined both stocks, and has ever since carried on a flourishing business, and secured an enviable reputation for honesty and fair dealing. The one characteristic of Mr. McMillan's life has been his great devotion to Scotland and her institutions, and he has never lost an opportunity to encourage them in the land of his adoption. He is himself one of Canada's best musicians on the bag pipes. In August of 1889 the West Elgin Caledonian Society was formed, and he has every year been unanimously elected to its head office. In 1893 he was selected by the committee of Caledonian games at the World's Fair to act as one of the judges on piping and dancing, having on previous occasions acted in a similar capacity at many important Caledonian gatherings in both Canada and the United States. Mr. McMillan's work and energy on behalf of his race is creditable to him, but he has the satisfaction of knowing that his interest in their behalf has been appreciated.

Mr. McMillan's agitation for the formation of a Caledonian Society bore fruit in 1889, and at a meeting held at the McIntyre House, on July 29th of that year, the organization took definite shape. Like most things which are finally attended by success, the society had a small beginning. The inaugural meeting was not largely attended, but it was thoroughly representative of the Scotch element. A. J. Leitch was called to the chair, and explained briefly the object of the meeting. Mr. McMillan was on hand with a fund of information. It was unanimously decided to organize the society, and Mr. McMillan was elected Chief, to which position he has ever since been re-elected by acclamation. The other officers elected were: James Duncanson, first chief; Hugh McMillan, second chief; John A. McKay, third chief; A. M. McIntyre, treasurer; J. D. Blue, secretary.

The public spirited citizens of the village responded liberally, and it was decided to hold their first annual games on Aug. 27th, and to arrange for the same the following committee, Messrs. Pool, Leitch and McMillan, was appointed.

The games held on the date set exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine Scotchman, and definitely settled the future existence of the society. Some of the best athletes and dancers in the country were present and participated in the events. The society was particularly fortunate in having the management in the hands of those who saw that everything was carried out to the

letter, and the result was those who participated were prepared to return to the village next year, until the society became one of the strongest institutions of its kind in the province. The Dutton Advance, in its issue of Aug. 28th of that year, thus refers to the event: "Time and space will not permit us to refer at greater length to the sports of the day. Chief McKinnon and his assistants, and others who took part in inaugurating these games, are to be congratulated on their success. Their conduct was above criticism, and we predict that in years to come they will have the pleasure of seeing one of the most prosperous societies in Canada springing from their pioneer effort. The thanks of the society are also due to Mr. Ireland, who gave his ripe experience and talent to the organization, and also to Chief McKinnon and others, who so ably contributed to the success of the games.

The prize winners in the various events were: J. D. McPherson, M. O'Neil, J. D. McColl, E. W. Johnson, Messrs. K. W. Tossing, T. R. Tossing, Moore, Devine, Campbell, Wilson, Ruthven, Bellwood, R. Ireland, Munroe, Matheson, Katie Ash, Argie Bankin, Valaida Taylor.

In the evening a concert was held in Leitch's Hall, where the Rankin family furnished an excellent entertainment, a fitting termination of a successful day, a

which was destined to be the forerunner of many like gatherings. The receipts of the day at the gate were \$148, and \$86 from the concert. Following are the names of those who on this occasion composed the first teams in the 'Tug o' war': Dunwich—T. Kerr, James Bennett, A. Mitchell, D. Graham, J. Sifton, S. Mestor, J. Galbraith, Alex. Gordon, Jas. French, Alex. McDougall.

Aldborough—D. McLean, K. McLellan, D. Campbell, M. Bass, Geo. Danby, D. McColl, D. G. McPherson, Arch. Leitch, D. Scotch, J. Welch.

Southwold—D. Campbell, A. Turner, W. Turner, D. Turner, D. Wrightman, H. Wrightman, A. McCullough, J. McKillop, A. McLellan, R. Turner.

ering was a credit to the society, the receipts at the gate being \$393 and at the concert \$120. At the second annual meeting, held in the McIntyre House on January 28th, 1892, Treasurer J. Pool reported that the total receipts for the year were \$925.01; expenditure, \$426.30, leaving a cash balance of \$198.71. At this meeting D. McMillan was again unanimously elected chief, and James Pool, in moving his re-election, spoke in a highly complimentary strain of his ability and energy in sustaining the interest of the society. The other officers this year were James Duncanson and D. R. Thompson, chieftains for Dunwich; J. H. McIntyre, chieftain for Dutton; T. W. Kirkpatrick and P. Stalker, chieftains for Aldborough; J. B. McKillop and D. Mc

on this occasion was the tug of war between the Sons of Scotland of Kintyre camp, of Dutton, and the Glencoe camp, composed of the following participants: Dutton—A. C. Gordon, D. Graham, T. E. Lilly, T. Kerr, Alex. Willey, Alex. McDougall, John Bennett, David Bennett, James Duncanson and D. Black, Glencoe—P. McAlpine, John McAlpine, John Fletcher, Alex. Stewart, W. Gordon, D. McKee, C. Dohis, D. Gillies, John Graham and John McEachern.

At the appointed time ten from each camp marched into the ring and took their places at the ropes. It was remarked at the time that twenty better men, physically, would be hard to find, even among Scotchmen, so noted for brawn and muscle. When the word was given these stalwarts bent to their work, and with the encouraging

The Dutton men were not so well constituted in the second pull, and although they made a hard pull were compelled to cross the crease. The third pull, which was to decide the contest, was the most desperate struggle of the three. Kintyre camp, encouraged by their former victory and the lively strains of the pibroch, succeeded in pulling the ribbon only an inch over the crease. Further they could not go, nor could the struggle of the enemy displace them from that position. But in this position they succeeded in holding the rope until the time allotted for the pull was called, and victory was accorded them. Chief McKinnon said it was the best contest he ever witnessed.

The report of the secretary on January 30, 1893, showed after all expenses were paid, a cash balance on hand of \$323.93. The following office bearers were elected for this year: D. McMillan, chief; J. Duncanson, first chieftain; P. Stalker, second chieftain; T. W. Kirkpatrick, third chieftain; A. J. Leitch, fourth chieftain; D. Macnish, fifth chieftain; D. McColl, M. P. P., sixth chieftain; A. C. Gordon, seventh chieftain; J. D. Blue, secretary; Jas. Pool, treasurer; D. McGregor and A. C. Graham, standard bearers; A. M. McIntyre, marshal; D. McEachern, piper.

The year 1893 was the most important one in the history of the society, since in this year the Dutton (or properly the West Elgin) Caledonian Society carried off the World's Fair medal, which is said to have been the finest trophy ever put up in the world for competition amongst Caledonians. A cut of the medal appears in another column, but the reader can only gather a faint idea of its beauty from this picture. The medal, which is set with a large diamond, with gold mountings, was the gift of the San Francisco Caledonian Society to the Chicago Caledonian Society for competition at the World's Fair Caledonian games. It cost \$250. The games took place finally of 1893, and a great many societies were represented. Upwards of \$5,000 was distributed in prizes, the first prize in every event being \$50, second \$30 and third \$20. The medal was to become the property of the society which carried off the greatest number of prizes, and it will thus be seen that the Dutton contingent has something of a task before them. When the games were over it was found that in the professional events Dutton had far out-distanced all other societies, but the Chicago Amateur Caledonian Society, by reason of having practically no opposition and being the only society numerously represented in its class, did actually score the greatest number of points, but even with the many advantages on their side they were but a few points ahead of Dutton, who had come in competition with the best athletes in America. It was evident that the Chicago amateurs had laid themselves out to keep the medal in the Windy City, and by reason of scoring the greatest number of points claimed and retained it for several months. They were hardly equal, however, to the wily Canuck, who upon investigation discovered that some of the amateur prize winners were not in good standing, having neglected to take the precaution to pay their dues. These facts

were laid before the Chicago Society, and on behalf of the Dutton Society a strong protest was put in by Chief McMillan against their retention of the medal. The medal was the subject of much cross firing between the two societies. At one time it was thought that the matter would have to be carried to the North American United Caledonian Association for settlement, but the Chicago Society finally admitted the justice of Dutton's claim, and the medal was forwarded and retained it for several months. They were hardly equal, however, to the wily Canuck, who upon investigation discovered that some of the amateur prize winners were not in good standing, having neglected to take the precaution to pay their dues. These facts



SOME OF THE OFFICERS OF THE WEST ELGIN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.

The following members of the Dutton Society were prize winners at Chicago on this occasion: Gilson Perry, Brussels; J. D. McColl, Parkhill; M. O'Neil, Ridgetown; Geo. Matheson, Hamilton; Frank Wilson, London; Chas. Curry, Parkhill; J. P. Watson, Toronto. A great many other members of the society competed, but the above were the only prize winners.

At the annual meeting in January of 1894 the treasurer discovered a balance of \$333.40, after an expenditure of \$74.13, showing the receipts for the year to have been \$1,137.53. The officers for the year 1893 were re-elected.

This year the Society was at considerable expense for a grand stand at other improvements, but after an expenditure of \$1,063 there was a balance left of \$13.

To crown their efforts it was decided to invite Lord and Countess Aberdeen to be present at their annual gathering last year, but since the invitation was sent to their Excellencies too late to be of much service to the Society from an advertising point of view, at his own request the visit was postponed until September 11th of this year. Appropriate preparations have been made for their visit, of which mention is made elsewhere. In connection with the history of the Society the fact is worthy of mention that Hugh McKinnon, of Hamilton, has, on each occasion, presided as manager of the games, and it is generally acknowledged that no man in America is better fitted for such an office. Mr. Collie McDougall, Q. C., has also, on every occasion except one, occupied the chair at the annual concert, the exception being in 1894, when Mr. Alex. Fraser, city editor of the Mail, performed that duty.

The present office-bearers, cuts of most of whom appear grouped in another page, are: Chief—Duncan McMillan. Chieftains for Dunwich—Jas. Duncanson, Alex. Willey and J. D. McDiarmid. Chieftain for Aldborough—J. W. Kirkpatrick. Chieftain for Southwold—D. Macnish, M. P. P., and D. McColl. Chieftain for Dutton—A. C. Gordon. Secretary—J. D. Blue. Assistant-Secretary—Dr. G. Ruthven. Treasurer—James Pool. Standard Bearers—A. C. Graham and D. McEachern. Marshal—A. M. McIntyre.

Had Been There Himself. Mrs. Groomair—What do you think? Lizzie Brown and Charlie Smith were married away last May secretly. Well, well, I married three months, and nobody the wiser. Mr. Graymair—I'll bet he was a whole lot wiser before he had been married for half that time. I was—Cincinnati Inquirer.