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ELSEWHERE \$1.50 IN ADVANCE

THE GREATEST EVER.

THE OLD BOYS' REUNION A GRAND SUCCESS.

Thousands of Old Boys and Girls Gather at the Old Home Town.

IMMENSE CROWDS ATTEND THE CELEBRATION EXERCISES IN PARK.

Everybody Happy and Satisfied.

When the Old Boys' Reunion movement was launched in November last, August 19th and 20th, the dates fixed for the event seemed afar off, but to those immediately connected with the details of the celebration the time passed rapidly, and when the long to be remembered day arrived preparations were completed for the reception and entertainment of the thousands of homecomers and visitors that flocked to the old town.

Early in the week the old boys and girls started coming home in detachments, and by Saturday night, every town and city in Ontario was represented. Every province in the West, nearly every state in the union, and even distant Borneo.

The decorators arrived Thursday evening, and on Friday morning commenced the decoration of Main St. to the Park. The contractors were J. & J. Turner & Sons of Peterborough, who make a specialty of this business, and they performed their work in a thoroughly artistic and satisfactory manner.

In a few hours the leading business thoroughfares were transformed into a bowery of beauty. Hundreds of flags of all nations and banners were strung across the streets producing a gay and festive effect, such as had never been witnessed in this section before. Every few yards a welcome streamer was in evidence. "Welcome Old Boys and Girls," "Welcome Old Boys and Girls," "Whatever you do do never again 'Skipoo'," "The Old Home welcomes the Old Boys," etc.

The decorative effect was greatly enhanced by the handsome decorations on nearly all the business blocks on Main St. and every private house in town had some emblem of welcome, many of them being handpainted and profusely adorned with flags, bunting, and the Old Boys' colors purple and gold.

Sunday.

The majority of the old boys and girls had arrived on Saturday and spent Sunday in the homes of relatives and friends. Special services were held in the churches, former Watford boys preaching the sermons. Rev. R. S. W. Howard, Christ Church, London, occupied the pulpit in Trinity Church; Rev. J. Freeman, London, the Methodist Church; Rev. J. P. Gerrie, Stratford, Congregational Church, and Rev. Mr. Soune, Indianapolis, the Presbyterian. The services were largely attended and the sermons able and impressive. Special music was rendered by the choirs.

Monday Morning.

Monday morning ushered in the opening day of the Reunion. The weather conditions were ideal, and everybody looked happy, and felt as pleased as they appeared.

The Forest Excelsior Band arrived early on the scene, and met all trains. The morning train from the east brought a large contingent from London, Stratford and points east.

The Sarnia Old Boys arrived at 10.27 and were met at the depot by the reception band and a crowd of over a thousand people. There were over 200 strong and accompanied by the Concert Band, one of the finest musical organizations in the West. The Sarnia Old Boys had a complete organization and presented a splendid appearance as they marched up town. The familiar faces of many old Watforders were noted in the line, and they were greeted with salutations on every hand.

On arrival at the band stand brief addresses of welcome were given by President Farrell, Dr. Gibson, Hon. President, and Reeve Parker. They were told how welcome they were, and that the town was at their disposal. The Sarnia boys carried a number of banners that created much amusement. "Is the Old Pioneer Alive," "Pike's Spring or Bust," "Deer Lick for Mine" "The Old Navoo" etc.

Monday Afternoon.

At 1.30 p.m. the parade was formed at the corner of Main and Front streets and proceeded to the Park.

ORDER OF PARADE.

The line-up of the procession was as follows:—
Company No. 6, 27th Regiment.
Sarnia Band, followed by 200 Sarnia Old Boys.

Town Council in Carriages.
Forest Excelsior Band
Watford Firemen.
Old Boys from all towns.
Fraternal Societies.
Guests.
High and Public School Boards.
Speakers of the Day.
Public School Children.
Baseball Teams.
Floats.
Calithumpians.

The comic features of the parade were well brought out, Bobby Brock mounted on a fiery bovine led the way, and the antics of the Rube bands from Stratford and Watford kept the immense crowd in merriment. Fully three thousand people followed the parade to the park where the reception services were held.

President Farrell was the first speaker. He declared it was the proudest moment of his life to be present at the Reunion and welcome the old boys and girls. He expressed his pleasure at seeing so many present and was particularly delighted to see so many from a long distance.

"We have here today," said Mr. Farrell, "old boys and girls from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from every state in the union and every province in the Dominion, and to one and all we extend the right hand of fellowship in welcoming you back to the old home."

He called attention to many who had years ago left the old town and today were occupying prominent positions in public life. He wished all a pleasant time and hoped they might live to enjoy many such pleasant events.

Reeve Parker, on behalf of the town of Watford, said:
Ladies and gentlemen, old boys and old girls—This is positively the proudest time of my life to have the opportunity of extending a sincere and hearty welcome to the many former residents of our town.

"We consider this the happiest occasion in the history of our town to again meet and shake hands with friends we have not seen in years.

"During your time here have a good time, paint the town red or any color as everything goes during the Old Boys' Reunion."

HOME THE BEST AFTER ALL.

Rev. Mr. Horne spoke on behalf of the clergy of the town, and dwelt upon the fact that home to all after all was the dearest spot on earth. We might wander here and there and be separated for long periods of time, but the tie that binds one to the old home can never be severed. The old song "Home, Sweet Home" would bring up memories that would cause all to make efforts to be present on such occasions as this.

Mr. Potter, B. A., Principal of the High School, had seen many of his pupils go out into the world and attain success, spoke in an interesting manner of the record made by former pupils and the advancement made along educational lines.

Dr. Gibson, Honorary President, gave an historical outline of the history and progress of the town, since incorporation in 1874, relating many amusing incidents in connection with the growth and development of the place, reviewing the prominent features in that connection, and what had been accomplished during the past twenty years. He considered that all should take an interest in events of this kind, which would live long in the memories of all present.

Dr. James Newell, Chairman of the High School Board, and W. E. Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Public School Board, spoke along educational lines contrasting present conditions with the past. The inculcation in the minds of the young of a love for home was strongly advised, so that the old boys and old girls' reunion might remain a perpetual thing, and interest in such things always remain strong in their minds.

Mr. J. B. Lucas, the brilliant young member for South Grey in the Ontario Legislature, was the first to respond for the Old Boys. He made a rousing speech that elicited the admiration of all who had the pleasure of hearing one of the ablest and brightest of Ontario's coming men. He regarded it as one of the proudest moments of his life to have the pleasure of thanking the old boys of Watford for the warm and rousing reception that had been tendered all former residents of the town. He was pleased to again come back to the scene of boyhood days and meet many old friends he had not seen in years.

Mr. Lucas interspersed his address with many local reminiscences that were both entertaining and amusing and greatly delighted his host of friends in Watford and vicinity.

J. E. Armstrong, M. P., East Lambton's popular representative in the Commons, was in good form, and kept the crowd in the best of humor, describing the scenes and incidents of the early days.

James Bole, of Regina, Sask., one of the oldest old boys present at the reunion spoke in a reminiscent vein. He was one of the oldest pioneers of Warwick township, coming to Watford in 1832, when the town was nothing more than a straggling village, surrounded by bush and swamp. He had been a member of the first council in Watford. He told of the many difficulties encountered by the pioneers of that time in their efforts to build a home. In looking around today many of the old familiar faces he had so often seen had now vanished from the scene and were gone forever. Mr. Bole's remarks were listened to with deep attention, and scores of old friends were pleased to have the pleasure of hearing and seeing one who had been so prominently identified with the early history of Watford.

Ex-Mayor R. E. Lesueur, of Sarnia, followed in a neat speech recalling incidents of his early life in Watford, and the pleasure it afforded him of meeting so many of his old friends. He would always retain pleasant recollections of his sojourn in the old town.

D. W. Bole, M. P., the able representative of the Chicago of the West, an old Watford boy who has made his mark in business and political circles was the

next speaker. Mr. Bole had just returned from a trip to England, and came directly to Watford in order to attend the Reunion. He had anticipated with infinite pleasure this visit to the old town, and his anticipations were fully realized. He rejoiced to meet so many of the old boys and girls of the good old days. He commended the committee for their efforts in bringing together the old residents and hoped that all might live to enjoy many such happy occasions. At the conclusion of his speech he called for three cheers for all the "Old Boys" which was responded to in a hearty manner.

Sports for School Children.

Below is the list of winners in the foot races for public school children:—
8 or under, Boys—V. Johnston, B. Weight, R. Gibson.
Girls—Leila Gault, Etta Fuller, E. Blain.

10 or under, Boys—Geo. Parker, B. Cook, B. Brooks.
10 or under, Girls—L. Gault, J. Loehead, Etta Fuller.

12 or under, boys—W. Anderson, Fred Mathers, Frank Elliot.
12 or under girls—Leila Gault, Lizzie Wilcocks, M. McCormick.

14 or under, Boys—W. Anderson, Fred Mathers, H. Blain.
14 or under, Girls—L. Gault, B. Weight, M. Brisson.

Needle threading contest—Bertie Fowler, K. Anderson, L. Wilcox.
Biscuit contest—F. Elliot, R. Gibson, N. Harper.

BASEBALL.

The Arkona and Forest baseball match for the championship of Lambton County was pulled off during the afternoon. The play was fast and good exhibition of ball playing was put up by the opposing teams. The lineup:

Arkona	Forest
Towle	Jamieson
Smith	Waddell
Smith	Waddell
Casselman	Roche
Lankin	Scott
Smith	Webster
Bell	Shaw
Smith	Lundy
Utter	Valkenburg

Score by innings—
Forest—0 2 0 0 0 1 2 1—6
Arkona—0 0 0 1 0 0 0 4—5
Batteries—Arkona, S. Smith, Lankin & L. Smith; Forest, W. Waddell and L. Utter.

Umpire—Fred Restorick.
The main feature of the game was the wonderful rally made by the Arkona nine in the last innings when that team scored four runs.

The Old Boys vs. the Home Boys—After the Arkona-Forest game the Old Boys game with Vern Newell at their head started in to show the younger home boppers how to play ball. Newell and Stapleford constituted the battery for the demon athletes and opposed to them were Lethbridge and Dodds for the home brawlers. The Old Boys forgot a few things about the game with the exception of the fat shorts from London, who was noisy as of yore. The demon pitcher was not quite as swift as he used to be, but he managed to keep the air cool by making six of the home brawlers faint. J. Jamieson knocked his old team mate all over the park when he was in front of the platter. He managed to score one run out of three hits but his main batting stunt was his long drive into the crowd. Fowler tried all kinds of tricks, but Oh, My! too much avoidupois. Uncle Alex fielded like a professional and at the bat he had Lajoie faded. Cliff Abbott handled the in various noises and at all times was in continual danger of losing his hearing by the noise created at short.

"Curly" Fowler had the following write up of the game in the London Advertiser:
The great event of the afternoon was a baseball game between visiting Old Boys and the home boys. The latter rang in a real ball team on the visitors, and there was plenty of amusement at the efforts of the old-timers to play the great game. The battery for the visitors was Dr. Vern Newell, West Branch, Mich., and Sanford Stapleford, two players who made baseball history in the village. They were great once—but, well, enough said. The shortstop was from London. He had fifteen chances, and all he accepted was an invitation to dinner. "Toby" Jamieson, Amherstburg, was a picture of grace on first base, but not a moving picture. Dr. Harry Abbott played second, and declared he enjoyed the scenery very much. Alex. Saunders the orator of the outfit, caught a number of compliments in centre, and was the demon hitter—perhaps. George Saunders, London, and Frank Lovell, Chesley, were real ball players in the outfield, and saved the Old Boys. Jack Brent, Berlin, was on third. He made a stab at a hit, and grabbed the weather. He could run well, but never got a chance. Jack Jamieson led the home hosts, and when it came to striking out, he made Casey look like fearful slugger. The game created no end of merriment. The home brawlers won 7 to 4. Dr. Cliff Abbott Sheppard, Mich., was a good umpire."

The lineup:—
Old Boys
Newell
Brent
Saunders
Stapleford
Fowler
Jamieson
Lovell
Abbott
Saunders

Home Boys
Jamieson
Willoughby
Gillett
McWaters
P. Dodds
Ferguson
Miller
L. Dodds
Lethbridge

Score by innings—
Home Boys—2 0 0 3 1 1—7
Old Boys—1 1 0 2 0 0—4

Monday Evening.

The entertainment for Monday evening was of a very high quality, and all the parts were artistically rendered, President Farrell, presided, in his customary genial and efficient manner. The following is the programme:—
Home Sweet Home.....Excelsior Band
Highland Fling.....Marie McDonald
Quartet.....Arion Quartette, of Berlin
Shanties.....Arion Quartette, of Berlin
Comic Song "The Poor Chinese,".....Bert Harvey
Selection.....Arion Quartette
Descriptive Duet, "The Handicap,".....Harvey & Kenny
Dances.....Marie McDonald
Selection.....Excelsior Band
Quartet.....Arion Quartette
Comic Song "Uncle Josh,".....Bert Harvey
Selection.....C. Lelloy Kenny
Playlet, "Seeing is Believing,".....Harvey & Kenny
Accompianist.....Prof. Geo. C. Phelps, London.
Auld Lang Syne

The renditions of Messrs. Kennedy & Haave were clever and entertaining and the singing of the Arion Quartette of Berlin was excellent. The dancing of pretty little Marie McDonald was exquisite. Marie is only ten years old but she has already gained a wide reputation as an artistic dancer and her performance was applauded on every appearance.

Tuesday.

Tuesday morning broke dull and heavy with drizzling showers at intervals that looked ominous for success. The management felt blue, as a wet day, meant a big deficit. The crowds kept pouring in despite the weather and by noon every available inch of stabling and hotel accommodation was taxed to the limit. The crowd present was a large one. Special trains were run from Sarnia and London, and a great number of visitors were present from Stratford, Kerwood, Wyoming, Forest, Alvington, Arkona, Sarnia, Port Huron and other points. The countryside came in a body, with the result that at noon, there was no stabling accommodation whatever, many farmers putting their horses up a mile out of town and walking in. It was the greatest crowd ever seen in town. The weather fared up about noon and gloomy forebodings gave way to cheerful optimism. The ball game between the American and Canadian Old Boys had to be omitted on account of wet grounds.

9:15 ARRIVES.

At 12.30 the 91st Highlanders' Band arrived from Hamilton and marched up town, followed by thousands of people, who cheered the "kilted laddies" to the echo on their way to the hotel. About 1 o'clock the streets were one solid mass of humanity, joking one another good naturedly in their eager efforts to see every attraction that was to be seen.

THE SPORTS.

The afternoon's programme was started on the arrival of the 91st Highlanders' Band from Hamilton. The Klites, under the leadership of Bandmaster H. A. Stares, marched up town, and created great enthusiasm. At 1.30 they led the procession to the Driving Park, where the programme of sports was furnished. The band rendered a splendid musical programme, which was thoroughly appreciated by the large crowd. The band was repeatedly forced to respond to encores. The braw Scotch laddies created great enthusiasm among the many old Highlanders from the township of Brooke and vicinity.

The sports were delayed for some time owing to the wet track, and were only partly finished by evening. The Richard's Soap Company's race for ladies was the piece de resistance and created no end of amusement. Fourteen ladies took part in it. The winners were Miss Christina Sharp, first; Miss Pearl McCormick, second; and Mrs. George Wise, Sarnia, third. The other events were well contested and had many entries.

The dancing contest was another feature that added much to the pleasure of the day. Some very clever little dancers competed and they were enthusiastically received.

The Port Huron Commandry Knights Templar, arrived on the 3 o'clock train from the west, and were escorted to the park by the Forest band. The commandry were in charge of Sir Knight Geo. Harvey and were 40 strong. At 4 o'clock the company gave an exhibition drill in front of the grandstand. The commandry is one of the best drilled organizations in the west, and did splendid work on the completion of their part of the programme they were cheered to the echo. The Knights gave another exhibition in the evening at 8 o'clock.

TRACK EVENTS SHORTENED.

Owing to the lateness in starting the events on the track only about one-half were finished.

The race which created the greatest amusement was the Richard's soap race, open to ladies only. The distance run was a hundred yards, with a cake of soap placed at intervals of 10 yards apart. Each competitor was to pick up a cake of soap and place it in an apron provided for the purpose. Fourteen ladies entered in this race, the first prize, a \$20 gold watch, being awarded to Miss Christina Sharp.

The crowd became so interested in this event that they crowded on the course, making it difficult for the ladies to reach the mark at the finish.
The wheelbarrow race caused a great deal of fun, the runners piling up in one

grand smash at the finish.

The smoking race was very much appreciated, the runners after lighting their pipes, running fifty yards. The winner of the race was introduced to the crowd as "the humane locomotive."

THE WINNERS.

The winners of the different dancing contests were:
Highland fling—1, Marie McDonald; 2, Jennie McPherson; 3, Amy McLeod.
Sword dance—1, Marie McDonald; 2, Amy McLeod and 3, Nina Leitch.
Shanties—1, Mabel McDonald; 2, Amy McLeod and Marie McDonald, money divided equally.

Irish washerwoman—1, Nina Leitch; 2, Jennie McPherson; 3, Ina Riddell.
The events run off during the afternoon and the winners are:

100 yards open to all—1, C. Wynne; 2, R. Rivers; 3, F. R. Radcliffe.
100 yards open to old boys—1, C. Wynne; 2, F. Dudson; 3, R. Walker.
Farmers' race—1, V. Tate; 2, F. A. Radcliffe; 3, M. McFedran.
Old girls' race—1, Flossie Johnston; 2, Pearl Fowler; 3, Christina Sharp.
Wheelbarrow race—1, Fred Kadey; 2, Frank Campbell; 3, R. E. Smith.
Soap race—1, Christina Sharp; 2, Pearl McCormick; 3, Mrs. Geo. Wise.
Travelers' race—1, J. F. Simms, St. Marys; 2, R. E. Smith, Hamilton; 3, Jos. Shannon, London.
Smokers' race—1, Geo. Higgins; 2, E. Malton; 3, S. White.

BASEBALL.

The baseball game between Forest and Stratford attracted a large crowd. Each town had sent down a large contingent of rooters, who cheered themselves hoarse at every good play.

Stratroy went to bat first and held the lead through the game until the first half of the ninth innings. At this stage of the game the score stood 11 to 5 in favor of Stratroy. Forest came to bat for the last time and as each batter stepped up to the plate the crowd simply became wild in their enthusiasm. Forest batted out five runs before the last man was caught out, with two left on bases.

The lineup:
Forest
Lundy
Jamieson
Waddell
Waddell
Roche
Scott
Shaw
Kimball
Shaw
Strathroy
Butler
Newton
Collier
Der
Cowan
Vokes
Holt
Carr
Piefer

Batteries—Forest, Waddell, Lundy; Stratroy, Carr, Vokes and Butler.

Score, 10-11, in favor of Stratroy.
Umpire—Davis, Stratroy.

The interesting feature of the game was Dier's remarkable running left hand catch in left field.

Tuesday Evening.

Over two thousand people attended the concert which was furnished by the splendid band of the 91st Highlanders. In addition to the band music the famous Premier Octette of Hamilton delighted the audience with their vocal selections and little Marie McDonald danced the sailors boogie pie in a way that enthused everybody.

The drill by the Pt. Huron Commandry Knights Templars, was the finest exhibition ever witnessed in this section. The grace and precision with which the complicated evolutions were executed reflects the highest credit on the commander, Sir Knight Geo. L. Harvey, and his company of gallant knights. The drill was one of the best features of the program and elicited hearty applause.

"God Save the King," played by the 91st Highlanders' Band, followed an instant later by three mighty cheers for the "Old Boys and the Old Girls" from 6,000 people, closed at 10 o'clock one of the greatest demonstrations ever held in the history of this town.

The committee, in speaking of the reunion, expressed themselves as more than satisfied with the success of the gathering. President Farrell stating that the demonstration had in every respect far exceeded their most sanguine expectations. "The gathering from start to finish has been particularly free from accidents or other unpleasant features, which sometimes occur on occasions of this kind," said Mr. Farrell.

Special trains for the east and west carried the crowds away. At 11 o'clock they were all on their way, and a singularly happy and successful affair was closed. Not an accident happened to mar the occasion, and unpleasant features were conspicuous by their absence.

AULD LANG SYNE.

Come back again Old Boys and Girls.

REUNION NOTES.

The Two Greatest Days Watford Ever Knew.

Dr. J. A. McPherson and son came over from Grand Rapids in their touring car.

The Watford Rube band had a capital make up, and made lots of fun for the crowd.
Bobby Brock fell off the cow in the parade, but neither the cow or Bobby bellowed.

A burlesque band from Stratroy did some funny stunts and created no end of merriment.

Mr. Walter Kelley's school won the special prize for largest number of pupils in the parade.

Rather cool for the booths on Tuesday.
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