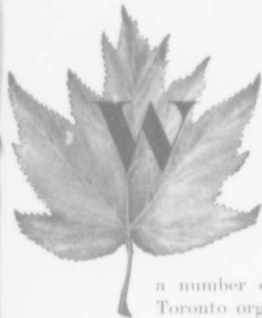# The "Old Boys" Movement

WHAT honor attaches to originating the "Old Boys' Reunion" idea certainly belongs to London. It was in 1895—just thirteen years ago—that the first homecoming was held in the Forest City. In that year a number of ex-Londoners living in Toronto organized and carried out most successfully an excursion to the home of their boyhood. It was the success of that outing that gave the Old Boys Movement impetus, and in the year following a number of former residents, then living in Toronto, Detroit and Windsor, got together and organized excursions to the old town on the civic holiday, the first Monday in August. The affair was such a huge success that at a joint meeting of present and former residents, held in the City Hall during the visitors' stay, it was decided to make the reunion an annual event. At that meeting the International London Old Boys' Association was organized and steps were taken to

have the matter brought to the notice of former Londoners residing in various parts of the continent.

In 1895 a movement was carried out with great success, having for its object the presentation of a testimonial to the veteran school teacher, Mr. Nicholas Wilson, on the occasion of his attaining his fiftieth year as an instructor of the youths of London. In his half-century of faithful service, Mr. Wilson had endeared himself to thousands of former London schoolboys, now scattered all over the American Continent. Indeed, there is scarcely a city, town or hamlet in either Canada or the United States where there is not one of Mr. Wilson's former "boys," many of them now gray-haired, but all cherishing fond recollections of "Old Nick," as he is lovingly called. News of the proposed testimonial spread all over and contributions came from everywhere. By this means the Committee in charge were brought into communication with many former residents who had been almost forgotten, and note was made of the addresses of absent ones. These addresses materially aided the International Association in the work of spreading