

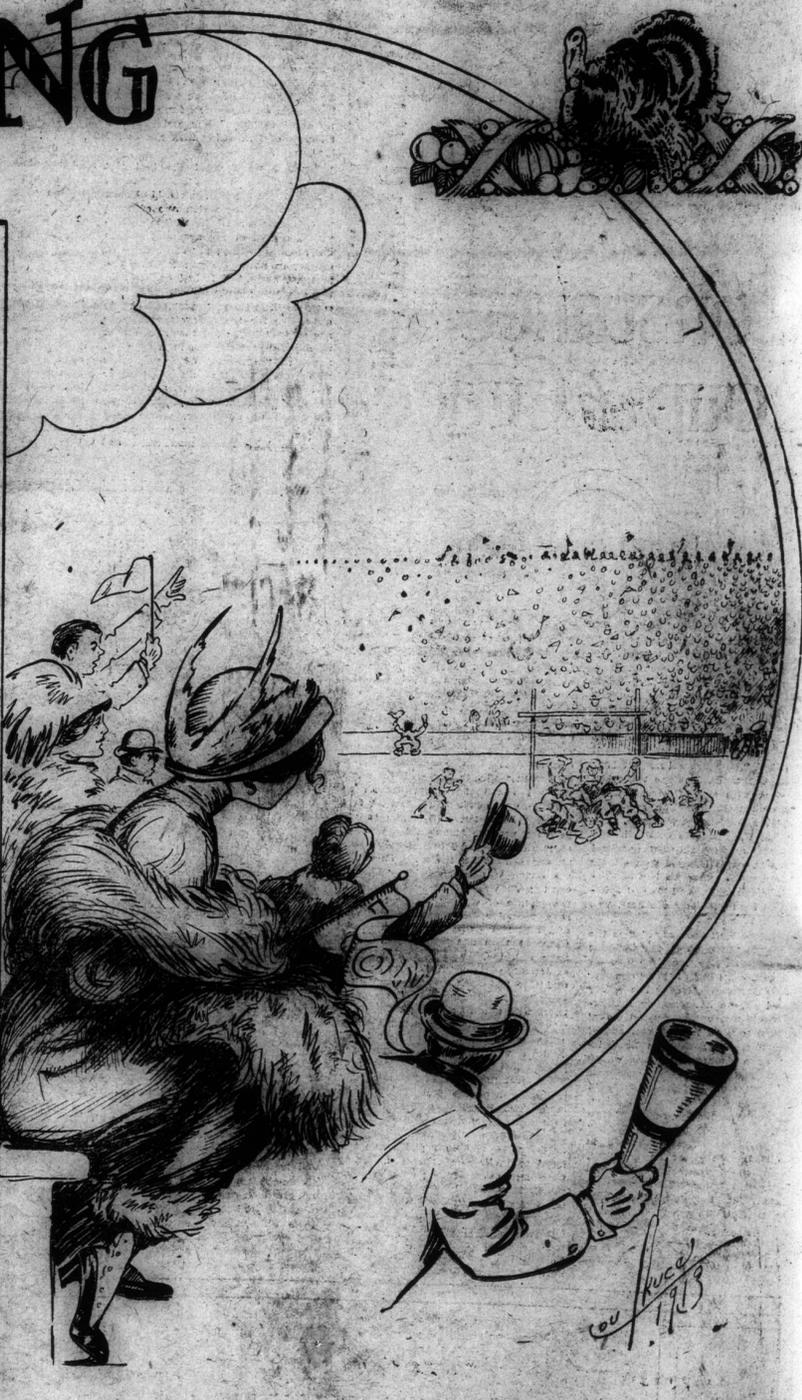
THANKSGIVING

OLD and NEW

By Donald G. French.

THANKSGIVING Day as celebrated thruout Canada partakes largely of the nature of a harvest-home festival, and it is, no doubt, to the influence of that time-honored institution in the Old Land that we may attribute the establishment here of this annual national observance. Historically, however, we may trace it back to the Pilgrim Fathers who settled in the New England States in 1620, and many of whose descendants came later to Canada, after the Revolutionary war and were known as the United Empire Loyalists.

Turkeys and Thanksgiving are always closely associated but the reason is not generally known or thought of. For the explanation we must go back to the founding of the day in America. It was after the first ingathering of the harvest by the Pilgrim Fathers in their home in the New World. And it should be noted that the harvest had not been a particularly abundant one, and, further, that the day was set apart to consider not only the immediate mercies as represented by the harvest, but the blessings of providence extended to them thruout the year. Four men sent out by Governor Bradford to shoot wild fowl, that the colony "after a more special manner rejoice together". And because the wild turkey, no doubt, garnished the feast at the first Thanksgiving dinner, his domesticated relative now holds the place of honor on many Thanksgiving tables.



FOR many years the autumnal "feast of ingathering" was merely an occasional festival, as unexpected prosperity or unhoped for aid in adversity moved the Pilgrim Fathers to a special act of praise. During the Revolutionary war the feast became a national one in the States and was observed annually, but after 1784 when a general thanksgiving for peace was held, it lost its national character, and except on a few specially proclaimed occasions was observed only in the New England States until 1863. In 1863 and 1864, during the Civil War, President Lincoln issued proclamations recommending annual thanksgiving, and since that time a day of thanksgiving has been regularly proclaimed every year thruout the United States.

FOLLOWING the custom of their New England relatives the people of Halifax in 1763 proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving for the conclusion of the peace that gave Canada to Great Britain. Thruout the colonies of British North America days of Thanksgiving were frequently proclaimed, but these were on special occasions and not as an annual observance. The first Thanksgiving Day in Lower Canada was proclaimed on the 22nd of December, 1758, and observed on the 10th of January, 1759, "in signal victory over our enemy and for the manifold and inestimable blessings which our Kingdoms and Provinces have received and daily continue to receive." The first proclamation of a day of Thanksgiving in Upper Canada appears to be dated the 17th of May, 1816, and was observed on the 18th of June, 1816, for the end of the war between Great Britain and France. After Confederation the first proclamation was issued on the 1st of March, 1872, for the restoration

of the health of the Prince of Wales. The first of the annual Thanksgiving Days, which are now observed, was proclaimed on the 9th of October, 1879, and observed on the 6th of November, 1879. Since that time proclamations have been issued every year. For some time the date was made to correspond with that observed in the United States, but it was generally felt that this was too late in the year to serve the purpose of a harvest festival and also that it fell too near the celebration of Christmas. It was, therefore, put back to October, being observed usually on a Thursday. Representations made by commercial travelers resulted in the government's selection of Monday to enable the commercial men to spend the holiday at home as well as to allow many city folk to eat Thanksgiving turkey at the old homestead. The turkeys are now warned to be ready for the third Monday in October.

ALONG the Pilgrim Fathers, Thanksgiving day was primarily a religious function. It was a feast day, not for the sake of feasting, but for the purpose of and "to thank". Religious exercises were the important feature of the day. As the observance continued, other characteristics were added so that the day as now observed in Canada has a three-fold aspect. The festival side which is not so pronounced here as across the line, combines with its religious and social functions. Our churches at least some of them, provide for the proper observance of the day with religious exercises for those who desire to attend.

THE annual Thanksgiving shooting match which was the "regular thing" in almost every Canadian community a couple of decades ago may be the natural consequence of Governor Bradford's "sending four men

out to shoot fowl", or it may have been simply the result of the desire and the opportunity. Small game was then still fairly plentiful in most portions of the country and one form taken by the shooting match was choosing of sides under captains, points being given for the different kinds of game. The shooting period began a week or ten days before Thanksgiving and wound up by a grand tally of results on Thanksgiving evening when the side making the least number of points put up the expense of an oyster supper or some similar entertainment, which was followed by dancing or games.

Where small game was not plentiful enough for this kind of a match, or the boys were not prepared to give more than one day to leisure, target-shooting took the place of hunting game, and ducks, geese or turkeys were given as prizes. This was individual rather than team shooting, for each contestant paid his fee in the competition for each bird, and the best shot took the feathered prize.

Quite common, too, some few years ago, altho reputed to be "against the law" was the Thanksgiving Eve raffle. Such an occasion was about the only one upon which you saw members of a strict Canadian community handling the dice-box. For ten or fifteen cents a throw you had the chance of winning a goose, duck or turkey for tomorrow's Thanksgiving dinner. The raffle quite customarily was followed by a dance or entertainment of some kind so that the ladies might share in the evening's enjoyment.

Thanksgiving shooting matches of the olden kind, and Thanksgiving raffles are pretty much things of the past and have been replaced, especially in the larger towns and cities by the Thanksgiving football game. The shooting match, if there is one, resolves itself into the hunting festival that lurks in the breast of man shows itself in the Thanksgiving Day croquet of the

small boy and the growing youth to the highroads and woodlands armed with all classes of weapons from the death-dealing catapult to the latest make of rifle.

FOR what, as a nation, should Canada be thankful in this year nineteen hundred and thirteen? If we consider only material prosperity, there is much to be thankful for—an abundant harvest, in practically every part of the land; increased returns from many other branches of national resources; a steady advance in the opening up of our newer lands; a buoyant confident hope in the future of our country. It is true that the year has, in some respects, been one of adversity, but the adverse conditions should have the ultimate effect of bringing about a saner, more fruitful and more certain national growth.

This year there has been much preliminary celebrating of the "Hundred Years of Peace" between Canada and the neighboring republic. While other countries in America and in Europe are being devastated by the horrible agencies of war, it behooves us to be grateful that we are so far removed from even the probability of such dread occurrences.

Let us be thankful, too, for what progress Canada has made during the year in other than mere material affairs.

There are Canadians, few it may seem, but possibly as many in proportion to the general population, as any other country has, who are "following the gleam" of a spiritual vision in the fields of art, literature and science, and accomplishing what is more lasting than the production of money-making things—they are making permanent the world of ideas and knowledge as a heritage for future Canadians.

It has been a goodly year in a goodly country. Be thankful that you are a Canadian!

FIRST SECTION

FORTY-FOUR

FIRE DESTROYED THE

Early Sunday Morning
Wool—Buildings
Loss

COMPANY TO RE

A fierce and costly fire in Brantford early on Sunday.

The establishment of T. Limited, hide, wool and leather, was the scene of the conflagration. The premises were on the south side of the street. The blaze must have been in some time before it was discovered. Then someone, unknown, rang an alarm from box 62, at the corner of King and Colborne Street. The contents largely wool and greases, contributed a fire and when the brigade arrived and quick run, they were confronted by a roaring mass of flames from the end of the structure to the street. It was one of the hottest ever recorded in the city. Members of the department just about roasted. As usual, ever, under the able direction of Chief Lewis, they tackled with their accustomed vim and lessness.

The brigade had six steam engines, reinforced by one from Scarfe factory and another supplied by Chief Mattice of the Harris factory. This made a number and they needed it. The fight was kept up until a fore absolute control was secured that time buildings and contents either been destroyed or else damaged.

Scarfe Factory Saved

One of the main portions of work was to save the Scarfe factory which adjoins. For a time it was momentarily feared the inflammable contents of the building would ignite but by water playing between the further disaster was avoided. Those who saw the brigade will agree that they never did or more disagreeable work.

SOME BIG POST OFFICE FIGURES

John Bull's Mail Department Shows Wonderful Increase.

[Canadian Press Despatch] NEW YORK, Oct. 21—A cable says: The British Post Office's annual report gives enormous figures of the national business. The number of letters delivered reached 3,500,000,000, a decrease of 300,000. Postal cards a decrease, indicating the effect of the pictorial card.

The number of postal packages delivered owing to absence of efficiency of addresses, is estimated over 33,000,000.

More than 88,000,000 letters were sent.

LEAVES \$140,000 TO PROTESTANT

MONTREAL, Oct. 21—A will totaling \$140,000, in which the Protestant and non-Protestant hospitals and charitable institutions in Canada are to be provided in the will of Hughson, founder of the Watson-Wall Paper Company, of Quebec.

The beneficiaries are: Presbytery of Montreal, home fund of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, Queen's College, K. foreign mission fund of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, Presbyterian College, Toronto (\$10,000); board of French education of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, aged and infirm fund of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, ministers' widows' orphans' fund of the Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian General Hospital, Western Hospital, Homeopathic Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital for the Verdunde; Y.M.C.A., Montreal real dispensary; Protestant Sailors' Institute; MacIntyre for Protestant Deaf and Blind, Montreal; Montreal Bible Society; Presbyterian Halifax and Manitoba Presbytery, Winnipeg, each \$5,000.

Township Court of Revision

At the Township Court of Revision held Saturday afternoon in the view school, 235 names were on the voters lists and 6 names struck off owing to having township or having been dead.