

THE PATRONS' PIC-NIC.

A Gala Gathering in the Grove at Lakelet.

Great Speeches, Lively Ball Games, and a Monster Attendance.

The Patrons of Industry have reason to feel proud of the success which attended their pic-nic in the beautiful grove on the western borders of Lakelet on Friday last, July 1st. The weather was all that could be desired, there being just clouds enough crossing the sky to prevent Old Sol from making the day uncomfortably hot while the gentle breeze made the atmosphere of the woods delightful.

The committee had taken great pains in preparing the beautiful pleasure grounds so that the visitors, who must have numbered fully 2000 persons, were not only greeted, on their arrival, by the "Welcome" stretched across the entrance on a large streamer, but the underbrush had been cleared away so that there was comfort in roaming through the grove, while swings, booths, dancing platforms and every means of pic-nic enjoyment was provided for all. At the east of the grove was the romantic river and lake which has made Lakelet so desirable as a pic-nic resort, and boats were provided for those who wished to enjoy this pastime, while many traversed the winding streets of this picturesque little village and envied the denizens of the cozy residences which greeted the eye in passing. No prettier spot could be selected in which to spend a few weeks in holiday retirement, and the quiet restfulness which seemed to abide upon the place stamped Lakelet as a veritable Saints' Retreat.

THE SPEECHES.

The great attraction, on the pic-nic grounds, was at the speakers' platform, in front of which seats had been arranged for the immense gathering of interested listeners who drank in the wisdom and eloquence of the orators. The speeches were entirely free from the arrogance which has occasionally in the past been heard from the Patrons' rostrum, and which has done much to injure the cause. There were no political "axes to grind," but from first to last the speeches seemed to be pervaded with an earnest effort to point out the best interests of all classes of labor and society.

Mr. J. T. Winters, the genial young District President, occupied the chair, and opened the proceedings in a few well-put, spirited words, showing that he not only has a thorough grasp of the subject but has happy abilities as a speaker which may some day land him in parliament as the Patrons' representative for East Huron. At the conclusion of his remarks he called upon

Mr. Pritchard, of Redgrave, County Organizer, who gave a brief but encouraging review of his recent work. Several new branches had been established, but a previous organizer had somewhat retarded the growth of the organization by his methods.

Mr. Jas. Mitchell, of Gorrie, gave an address in his usual happy style, full of information and eloquence which was closely listened to and warmly applauded.

He was followed by Grand Vice-President Miller, of Glenmorris, who held the close attention of the audience throughout his powerful address. He referred to agriculture, mining, the fisheries, and the forest, as the four great natural producers of wealth in Canada, and the farm being the greatest of these had a right to a full share in its distribution. He urged the encouragement of manufacture for the sake of the help it gave—all should go hand in hand in the building up of the nation's interests. At present agriculture is not receiving its full share of the benefits, and combines have been formed which are injuring the farmer. He believed these combines should be met by co-operation on the part of the farming community both politically and otherwise. The Patrons should make no war on the retail men, and there is nothing in the platform warranting this course. The Patrons and the merchants should go hand in hand; the principle "PAY CASH" is the watchword that will help every party and get the very cheapest and best bargains while binding instead of estranging the cordial relations between the farmer and the retailer. He believed when the merchants get acquainted with the Patrons' principles they will be gratified and pleased with them. The Patrons strike at the law which permits oppressive combines to exist, and if it becomes necessary to form a political party they were prepared to take even that step. He spoke in a clear and pleasing manner and took his seat amidst hearty applause.

Grand-President Mallory, of Warkworth, was the last of the speakers. He is a rapid, brilliant, fiery orator, and has an emphatic way of clinching his arguments that carries at once the convictions and enthusiasm of his audience. He "waded right in" as the saying is, and handled his subject without gloves.

If the farm represents the great bulk of the wealth of the country then it should have a proportionate share of the country's prosperity. He did not believe it right that manufacturing interests should get a preference over agriculture. He had long ago dropped his party political leanings and was out squarely on the Patrons' platform. The time has come when the farmers must ask the government for what they want, and they must let the government know that they not only had a right to get their rights but they had the voting power to back up their demands. The government will listen when their requests are put in that shape. If the French can get what they want from the government by holding out for it with a balance of power in parliament; if the various manufacturers can have the tariff altered to suit them by petitioning the government, then the farmers by combined efforts—and with all their voting power behind them—surely can do the same. He did not blame the cabinet for neglecting the farmers in arranging the tariff, because the farmers had not petitioned for anything, thus leaving the Ministers to think we are satisfied. But now, with our splendid organization throughout the Dominion we can reach the Premier's ear with no uncertain sound, through mighty petitions and delegations to Ottawa. If we are not then listened to we can show them in the ballot that they cannot stay in office, and then they will give us what we demand. Show a solid front that will have heavy force, and agriculture will soon be rid of the burdens imposed by combines, etc. He favored the bringing out of Patron candidates and so getting the balance of power. The farmer has fared badly in the past, but there is a wave of enthusiasm among Patrons greater than ever before, and if they stand shoulder to shoulder, better times are in store. He was vociferously applauded on taking his seat.

At the conclusion of the speaking cheers were given for the Queen, the Patrons; and votes of thanks were tendered to the speakers and chairman by hearty cheers.

Between the speeches Mr. A. W. Haladay, the popular boot and shoe dealer, of Lakelet, charmed the audience by his fine singing. He was accompanied on the organ by Mr. Myles Scott.

Among those on the platform, besides the speakers, were Deputy-Reeve Johnstone; ex-Deputy-Reeves Nay and Wilson; Messrs. Wm. Montgomery, James Galbraith, Wm. Allen, Jno. Hamilton, John Johnston, Jas. Ball and others whose names we could not get.

Immediately after the speaking the Grand Officers and others from a distance were regaled with a tempting lunch, and your reporter owes a subsequent billions attack to his inability to resist in time, the tempting collation; and if the affable Vice-President did not suffer from a similar contingency then he certainly has a superhuman anatomical construction.

THE AMUSEMENTS.

In a spacious open field just south of the pic-nic grounds a large crowd enjoyed the ball contests.

Early in the afternoon a base ball contest between Redgrave and Lakelet proved rather one-sided, the boys from Scarff's Corners doing up the Lakelet nine by the score of 22 to 9.

The Midway and Lakelet football teams then faced each other as follows:

Midway.	Lakelet.
P. Haack.....Goal.....	J. S. Akina
Lehoua.....Back.....	W. Ferguson
Weiler.....Back.....	J. May
Ernevein.....Half Back.....	Ed. Mahood
Lesauier.....Half Back.....	W. Johnston
N. Yandt.....Centre Forward.....	W. Sanders
Shulteis.....Right Wing.....	J. Darroch
Shurter.....Left Wing.....	W. Watters
S. Yandt.....Left Wing.....	Ernest Mahood
Noos.....Ed McLaughlin	

This proved to be a very exciting game, the play being fast and furious. Darroch's boys evidently got the best of the play and fairly stormed the Midway goal at times. In the second half Watters by brilliant work got the ball up and made a shot which many thought went between the flags, but the referee failed to see it so the goal was not allowed and the match ended in a draw, neither side scoring. This is the second time these teams have met this season, each resulting in a draw. The best of feeling prevailed throughout.

In a fine grove east of the road a dancing platform was erected, and here the young people heartily enjoyed themselves all the afternoon till dusk.

The pic-nic was one of the largest and most enjoyable ever held in the township, and too much praise cannot be given to the committee who had the affair in charge.

Winnipeg's inland revenue returns for the fiscal year just closed were \$100,000 greater than for the previous year.

In the district around Quebec city prayers are being offered for a cessation of rain, while in Rimouski the supplication is for a few showers as the crops are in danger from drought.

Hanlan defeated Hosmer in a three-mile skulking race last Monday evening. The time given is 18 minutes and 16 seconds.

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