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#### THE CITY COUNCIL

Refuses to Further Change the Date of Civic Holiday.

Deputations From the Sons of Scotland and the I. O. O. F. Present-Mr. McKellar's

Letter. In consequence of the following letder from the Sons of Scotland, Mayor Emith called a special meeting of the city council for yesterday afternoon at 220 to settle the civic holiday problem, there being present besides His Worship, Ald. Fleming, Scane, Marshall

McCoig and McKeough: L.A. Smith, Esq., Mayor of Chatham: Dear Sir,—I desire to recall to your mind the fact that a deputation from Carryle Camp, S. O. S., waited upon the their regular meeting i on the evening of Monday, June 25th, and informed the council of their intention to hold their annual Caledonian games on Monday, August the 13th, provided the civic holiday, fixed by hy-law for that day, were changed to another suitable date, giving as reasons for their request that the railto a city on civic holiday, but on the contrary offered the inducement of excursion rates to other places out of the city, and that owing to these regulations on the part of the railways our games for 1899 resulted in h loss of \$400 to the Camp. This deficit was games for 1899 resulted in a loss of \$400 to the Camp. This deficit was gromptly paid by the members of Car-byle. Camp and a determination was then arrived at to repeat the games and establish them as an annual event, forwighing healthy and gleasant furnishing healthy and pleasant smusements to our citizens and the throngs of visitors we hoped to attract to our city, provided all obstacles to their success could be removed. The deputation were gratified by the cour-iesy and sympathy manifested by the council in the efforts of the S. O. S. to establish a healthy recreation for our citizens and to assist in convincing wisitors that Chatham is both progresgive and attractive, which we aspired to do without asking aid from the August, would be a suitable day from our point of view for the civic holiday. We replied that the date mentioned replied that the date mentioned be entirely satisfactory to us. Upon this Aid. Stephens gave notice that at the next regular meeting of the council he would move to amend the civic holiday by-law by altering the date to the third Monday in Aug-ast. I can assure you, sir, that the

pledge they had received from honorable men had removed the last obsta-ele from the pathway leading to a successful celebration of their games. Confidently relying upon the prom-ise we had received not a moment was lost in vigorously commencing our greparations for a successful gathergreparations for a successful gathering. Committees were struck, the Athletic Park leased for the day, correspondence opened with Woodstock, St. Thomas and Windsor, who hold their civic holiday on Monday, the 13th of August, with the view of inducing the citizens of those places to select of August, with the view of inducing the citizens of those places to select the Maple City in which to spend their holiday. Negotiations have been opened with military bands for the purpose of engaging one of the best for an open air evening concert. In fact the thousand and one things necessary to insure success were done or were being done up to the time our committees met last night to compare notes and report progress. It can hardly surprise you to learn that having read in the evening papers the proceedings of the city council at last Monday night's meeting, we were amazed and indignant to learn that the city council had violated the promise made to

deputation left the council chamber with exultation and confident that the

ell had violated the promise made to as, that Monday, the 20th of August, would be the date of the civic holiday, and in defiance of that explicit pledge the date was fixed for the 9th of August, leaving just three, clear days between the civic holiday and the date mittee work was done, but the indig-nation felt by every member of Car-syle Camp was freely expressed and there was perfect unanimity of senti-ment that unless the council consent-at to reconsider their unwise action

the games should be abandoned not only for the present but for the fu-ture, and the enterprise of attracting visitors to Chatham assigned to any one humble enough to gather up the cold fragments of a civic holiday

By resolution I was duly authorized, on behalf of the Camp to forward this communication and request you to call a meeting of the council for this evening for the purpose of receiving a dep-utation from the Camp. I trust, sir, you will accede to this reasonable request, as prompt action is necessary for us in either event, whether to go on with the games or inscribe over the portals of our gates "Sic transit Caledonian Games." An early reply is respectfully desired to enable me to notify the deputation. On behalf of Carlyle Camp, S. O. S., I am, yours

P. D. McKELLAR.

DELEGATIONS PRESENT. The I. O. O. F. were represented by O. L. Lewis, O. B. Hulin, Wm. Wanless, C. A. Austin, C. Dingman, Lewis An-drews, H. W. Smith, J. W. Webb, and

A. M. Lafferty. elegation were P. D. McKellar, E. J. Macintyre, Dr. Charteris, F. W. Charteris, R. M. Paxton, Wm. Robertson, and W. R. Rannie.

The mayor in opening the proceedings, said his action in calling a special meeting of the council had been called in question, but when requested, had been his duty to do so. hoped it would as short as possible, and the deputations would be limited

to two speakers.
P. D. McKellar was the first speaker eard. On behalf of the Sons of Scotland he said that on the 21st of June, he had had the honor of heading a deputation that had waited on the council and they had requested that body to change the civic heliday from the first Monday in August to some other date. After listening to the deputation's reasons, the council had acceded to their request. The Sons of Scotland were asked if the third Monday in August would be suitable and they gave the council every assurance that it would. Ald. Stephens, Mr. McKellar stated, them arose and said that he would give notice of motion that the third Monday in August be fixed in the by-law. The deputation left, feeling satisfied that the prommunicipal treasury or pecuniary asstance from our fellow citizens. We camp Carlyle. So confident were asked if Monday, the 20th of the S. of S. that the council would do as promised, that they at once proceed-ed to appoint committees, etc., and they have already done a great deal of preliminary work in regard to holding the games, and have incurred some indebtedness. Everything seem-ed bright till the Planet was read on Tuesday evening last when the S. of S. found that the council had not ful-filled their pleage and had named the the their piesge and had named the 9th of August as civic holiday. At first this could hardly be believed. Conviction finally came to every member that they had been deceived and such an injury inflicted that the games would have to be abandoned. On that evening a meeting of the games committees was held and it was decided to ask the council to reconsider the date of the holiday. The speaker was further asked to write to the council, and he did so. The Stot Si were in the field first. After the games last year, it was announced through the press that on the same date of the following August, the Scottish games would be held. As soon as it was decided this year to go ahead as it was decided this year to go ahead with the games Camp Carlyle had come to the council and asked them to clear away an obstruction in the shape of civic holiday. They had, however, again placed a serious obstruction in the way of the sports, after having promised to remove it, and unless the matter, was reconsidered, the ing promised to remove it, and unless the matter' was reconsidered the games would be cancelled, not only for this year, but for the future. The sons of Scotland's proposition as against the other is vastly superior. They intended to put up \$800 of their own money to furnish games such as would provide amusement and bring as many; visitors as possible to the city. Woodstock and St. Thomas hold their holiday on the day the S. of S. proposed to hold their games, and visitors were expected from these places. There would be many people attracted here and much money spent. It was the aim of all citizens to put forth such attractions as would bring visitors here, and \$300 had been spent for this purpose on the 2nd of July. The S. of S. didn't ask for a cent, only that the way be left clear for the matter was reconsidered the

If successful this year they be made an annual event, and

in addition, this was not a matter of favor but had become a matter where the honor of the city was at stake. The council had made a promise that they would change the date of the civic holiday to the 20th of August, and if this was not done the honor of the city would suffer. All the S. of S. asked was that the pledge the S. of S. asked was that the piece given be redeemed. The S. of S. were willing to agree to any other date af-ter the 13th of August. The Sons of Scotland were not going to risk fin-ancial loss and put their hands in their pockets this year as they had

THE I. O. O. F. SIDE. O L. Lewis on behalf of the I. O. Q. F. said that order were not in competition with any other society. The only opposition they thought they had was from the Sons of England who were negotiating also for an excursion to Cleveland. According to the minutes of the council the Sons of Scotland had not stated whether they desired civic holiday before or after the 13th of August and it was the impression that this cry had just arisen since the council fixed the date.
P. D. McKellar—That is not so.

Mr. Lewis continuing said there was another side to the question. The I. O. O. F. had come to the council board with their request for the 9th. They came not as the 1. O. O. F. They came as citizens with a petition signed by fifty or more ratepayers. No petition was presented by the Sous of Scotland. It was considered customary to turnish a petit on. The I. O. O. F. were anxious to have the fruits of their excursion. They as a fraternity were heavy tax-payers and as such were separate from any

other society in the city.

Civic holiday, as Mr. Lewis understood it,
was one for the citizens to spend outside
the city. If Mr. McKellar's contention were true, citizens shouldn't go away but should spend civic holiday at home. The objection of the Sons of Scotland that the holiday would injure their sports was fallac-ious. The only person whom it would keep away would be the ordinary working man. They only desired to charge 25 cents for the evening entertainment and if the labor-ing man desired to see the games he had the

ing man desired to see the games he had the wages of Friday and Saturday.

The I. O. O. F. had, on the faith of the by-law, passed by the city council, guaranteed \$250 to the Lake Erie. A date had to be chosen sustable to the railway company, and if they had to give up their excursion they would be an for \$250. The I.O. O. F. endeavored to meet the S. of S. half way and had offered to get the holiday changed to offered to get the holiday changed to the Monday or Tuesday preceding the games, but fortunately had received mor response to their advance. The I. O. O. F. were assessed as a lodge for \$20,000 and had 500 voters amongst them. The speaker could see

no good and valid reason for making no good and valid reason for making the change. The inference had been given that the I. O. O. F. had acted an an underhand way. They had gone along the streets with their petition and the papers of the Tuesday evening preceding the council meeting had preceding the council meeting had spoken of the excursion and the peti-tion. Why hadn't the S. of S. raised an objection before the council made the change? The I. O. O. F. had acted in good faith and above board, and there should be no change.

Dr. Charteris said that the S. of S re not in any way opposed to the I. O. O. F. Camp Carlyle had on the 25th of June asked that civic holiday be made after the 13th. Chathiam was in the circuit of the Caledonia games and a good day's sport was anticipat-The question had been asked at the council meeting of the 25th of June if any day, after the 13th of Auguist would be convenient and the Scotchmen had answered that it would, Committees had been struck and negotiations entered into with the railroads which would cost Camp Carlyle \$50 to back out of. The question was, had the council any right, after promising that the civic holiday after promising that the civic holiday would be on the 20th, to decapitate the Scotchmen by appointing August the ninth civic holiday. Many citizens had spoken about it and no games would bring such a crowd as the Caledonia games would. The S. of S. hadn't circulated a petition because they didn't think it necessary. The I. O. O. F. had claimed they had had but one refusal to the petition. The S. of S. knew of several. One member of the S. of S. had asked an hoar to look into the petition, and he member of the S. of S. had asked an hoar to look into the petition, and he hadn't seen it since. The best way out of the difficulty would be to aban-don civic holiday and let the I. O. O. F. run their excursion and the S. of S F. run their excursion and the S. of S. hold their games. The Scotchmen asked for no holiday, and were willing to take their chances. Unfortunately last year there was a large deficit which the members made good out of their own pockets. This year, if the the request of the S. of S. was not acceded to the games would be abandoned.

WOULD BE NO CONFLICT. Mr. Austin said in reply that he wa one of those who went around with the petition and he thought, that the L. O. petition and he thought that the I. O. O. F. would in no way conflict with the Caledonia games. He had discussed the matter with a namber of persons and all concurred in the idea that it would be a great mistake to make civic holiday on the 20th of August. Everyone knows that Labor Day follows too close. It was said that a number of citizens had signed the petition without knowing what they were signing. The Sons of Scotland had only asked for some other day and had not said whether they wanted it before or after the 13th. A reference to the minutes of the council had proved this. Mr. Austin had been one of those who went round with the petition. The refusal referred to was se who went round with the pe of those who went round with the petition. The refusal referred to was not in reality one. The young man had said that he would like to see his father before signing, and the committee hadn't time to see him again. As a matter of fact, the F.O.O.F. never considered that they were conflicting with the S. of S., and they cannot yet see why their excursion should. They could go ahead with it and have just as successful games as if there were no excursion. The I.O.O.F. were loth to believe that what they were doing would conflict with the plans of the S. of S. They would do all they could to help the S. of S.

Mr. McKeliar in answer said that a great deal of stress had been laid on the petition but it was an easy matter to get a petition signed for any purpose. They had not told however the refusals they had met with. Great importance had been laid on the financial side of the question but this was as nothing compared with the honor of



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the city, and a promise made so the poor man was as binding as any made to the rich The I. O. O. F. said they would be out \$250. They had a membership of 500. The S. O. S. would be out at least \$50 and in all probability a hundred dollars. Their membership was only a hundred so to could easily be seen on whom the matter of the holid y would fall the heaviest. The council had made a promise to the S. of S. and they desired to hold them to it. If the civic body did not do so the Sons of Scotland would take good care to let the citizens know how they had been treated.

Mr. Austin telt that a reflection had been cast on him and clearly explained that when asking for signatures he had done none of the things which had been imputed to him.

THE COUNCIL'S VIEWS. Ald. McKeough said that it appeared the onor of the council was at stake. honor of the council was at stake. He had understood that all the Sons of Scotland required was that civic holiday should not be on the 13th of August. Had the council been bound to make the holiday after the 13th, it would have been mentioned at the last meeting of the council when the by-law passed. The clerk had the minutes it would be good to read them.

Mr. McKellar stated that he had examined the minutes but it said nothing

amined the minutes but it said nothing about the Scotchmen having asked that civic holiday be named after the 13th. The Planet, however, had it in their report and he thought it had been accidently dropped

from the minutes.

Ald. Scane said he had a distinct remembrance of the whole affair. The third Monday in August had been mengave the notice of motion no date was mentioned. He was quite satisfied that the minutes were correct. It seemed unfortunate that the difficulty had arisen but the trouble had all been caused by the changing of the date of civic holiday. The date had been fixed some years ago just to avoid such trouble as this. It was too bad that neither party could recede without loss and the color of the date of the date of the date had been fixed some years ago just to avoid such trouble as this. It was too bad that neither party could recede without loss and the color of the date of the that neither party could recede with-out loss and the only solution was to abolish civic holiday altogether, and Mr. Scane moved to have no civic holi-

day.

The Mayor—Your motion requires a notice and will have to be dealt with at the next meeting.

Ald. Scane—If you rule that way
there is no use of us meeting.

there is no use of us meeting.

The Mayor—A two-thirds vote will suspend the rules.

Ald. Scane—I move that the rules be suspended in order to introduce a bylaw for no civic holiday. Dr. Fleming seconded and the motion carried. TO ABOLISH THE HOLIDAY. Ald. Scane moved that there be

civic holiday this year and that the bylaw be so amended.
Dr. Fleming said; in seconding the motion, that he felt it was a great calamity. When the Sons of Scotland were at the council they went away satisfied that their request would be granted. On the other hand the I. O. O. F. had strong claims and the doctor didn't desire to do them any harm.

He felt, however, that the council were under an obligation to the Sons of Scotland. He had seconded Ald. Scane's resolution as the best and easiest way out of the difficulty.

Ald. Marshall said that he was not in accord with the motion. If the Ald. Marshall said that he was not in accord with the motion. If the council had made a mistake, it would have to be abided by. The doing away with civic holiday was a poor order of procedure. Many citizens looked forward to that day as a day of outing. It would be absurd to think of doing away with civic holiday.

Ald. McKeough said that by a unanimous vote of the council the holiday had been appointed and he would abide

had been appointed and he would abide

had been appointed and he would able by it.

Ald. McCoig said he was a member of both lodges, and regretted very much the trouble that had arisen. He had supported the change of date from the 13th to some other day and he had supported the 9th for civic holiday. If the council continues making changes they won't please anybody. It was to be regretted that all the council were not present. They should have been on hand. As for Ald McCoig he was prepared to abide by his action on both occasions.

The motion was then put and lost. Mr. Lewis said that the I.O.O. E. didnt' want any hard feeling, and were willing to do all they could to make the Caledonian games a success.

Mr. McKellar said he could assure the souncil that there would be no games. The S. of S. were not in the games for profit as were others but the Sons of Scotland were merely undertaking the games for the purpose of benefitting the city of Chatham the Sons of Scotland were merely un-dertaking the games for the purpose of benefitting the city of Chatham and Camp Carlyle. The council, by its action, had inflicted a direct injury

on the city.

The council then adjourned, leaving the holiday set as it was, for the 9th. Old pipe or tea lead wanted at The

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#### THAMESVILLE.

July 13 .- J. Stewart and W. Lee went to Bothwell Wednesday, to at-the baseball match between that town and the Chatham League team.

A. Pickard, of St. Louis, is paying a paying a visit to his friends of this vicinity. He returns home on Satur-

Mrs. Brown, of Leamington, is the guest of her brother; D. Pickard.
A good many went to Chatham yesterday to the Orangemen's celebration. All report a good time.

Mrs. Charteris and Mrs. (Dr.) Stewart and family have gone to Port Lambton, where they will spend a few weeks' vacation. Rev. Mr. Tolmie, of Windsor, was in

town on Wednesday.

Misses Aggie and Maggie McPherson are visiting friends in Adrian,

Michigan.

Victoria Ave. Methodist Sunday school will hold their annual excursion to Belle Isle next Tuesday, 17th Come and enjoy a good day's outing. Bicycles carried sfree.

#### DRESDEN.

July 13.-William Aikin and wife of Detroit, are visiting in town.

Mrs. T. E. McDonald, of Portland,
Me., is the guest of Mrs. I. N. Carsoni-Jas. Caister has arrived home from

The Epworth League of the Methodist church held a social at the church grounds to-night. Admission 15c.
Owen Wright, of Cleveland, is home.

Orders for bookbinding should be left at The Planet Office. It is surprising how nice a volume can be made of magazines, even though they are somewhat soiled from much handling. Books, magazines, or periodicals bound or rebound in any style at very reseasonable prices.

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