

## THOUSANDS PRESENT AT FIRST PICNIC OF RETURNED MEN

Veterans and Families at  
Port Stanley.

## FOUR BANDS WERE ON JOB

Merchants Co-operate With  
Officers of Depot to Make  
Affair Success.

The returned soldiers of Western Ontario held their picnic at Port Stanley yesterday, and the affair was one of the most successful held in this district for years. There were over 5,000 in attendance, consisting of returned men with their wives and families, and various other persons, who seemed unlimited. With ideal weather conditions, the sports program was run off without a hitch, the events for the men being mainly aquatic, with foot races for the women and children.

Four bands were in attendance, the Canadian Guards, the 1st Regiment of Western Ontario Regiment band, dispensing music from the beach to the roof of the cafeteria, while the large crowd gathered on the beach to witness the aquatic events. The 1st Regiment of Western Ontario Regiment band, dispensing music from the beach to the roof of the cafeteria, while the large crowd gathered on the beach to witness the aquatic events.

One very amusing event was walking the greasy pole, open to returned soldiers. A large crowd gathered around the pole, and the participants were required to walk as far as possible on the pole, and those losing their balance received a ducking in the water. Lieut. Col. G. Nelson, officer commanding No. 1 District Depot, and originator of the picnic, was on the scene, in a rowboat, giving a fine exhibition of classical rowing for the benefit of the crowd.

The tug-of-war was a spirited event, teams being selected from the list of entries for this contest. The winning team was victorious twice in succession and it was generally conceded that the cheering on their favorites who vainly endeavored to gain a foothold in the hard sun-baked sand. The victors worked very hard for the prize box of cigars, but had they not been fortunate enough to obtain a two-hundred-pound returned man for their anchor, the result would no doubt have been reversed.

At the conclusion of the sports program, the picnic committee in charge having made arrangements to feed only the military contingent, the returned men were present at the outing yesterday. In the evening a grand display of fireworks was set off, and that the committee deserved great credit for the exhibition, was the unanimous opinion of those present.

Merchants Co-operated. The merchants and proprietors of refreshment and other establishments at Port Stanley co-operated with the committee in making the affair a success. The picnic was a success, and the returned men were present at the outing yesterday. In the evening a grand display of fireworks was set off, and that the committee deserved great credit for the exhibition, was the unanimous opinion of those present.

The committee in charge of arrangements is indebted to the following local merchants for the donation of prizes: R. J. Young, Serg. Davis, Richmond Hotel, (C. Cook), J. H. Chapman, McCormick Hardware Company, T. A. Scandrett, Hay & Groceries Company, McCormick Grocery, Jerry McDonald and Mrs. Anderson.

The following were winners in the various events run off: Pole—1, Pte. Gilling; 2, Corp. Stark. Reg. race in water—1, Pte. Graves; 2, Serg. Donald; 3, Corp. Bray. Pick-a-back race—1, Pte. Gilling and Serg. Donald; 2, Corp. Jones; 3, Corp. Lamond and Pte. Barbour. Tug-of-war—1, Pte. Barbour; 2, Serg. Donald.

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## DIED ON THE FIELD

Thomas, who was killed in action on August 8, Pte. Wimbush, 12 Marion street, St. Thomas, was only 17 years old at the time he enlisted. He was employed at the Journal printing office. His father returned from overseas some time ago.

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The principal is optimistic. Of course, the opening ceremonies will be deferred for several weeks, but things are in the shape of a steady stream in the course of ten days. The furniture in the school is being installed as soon as the fixtures are installed.

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