

sagas that the latter inflicted upon their foes decisive and overwhelming defeat. Then both parties were glad to make peace; they agreed to bury the hatchet and to call each other brothers for evermore; a special sign of friendship was established between them, an interlocking of the right arms. The Six Nations withdrew from the region north of the lakes. The usual exchange of wampum belts took place, and the treaty has been observed faithfully to this day.

After 1670, although the Grand River trail appears on many maps, the history of the bay ceases for nearly a century, when again we hear through Pouchot, the French commandant at Niagara, that a well-known trail extends from the head of the Lake all the way to Detroit. Over this route nearly forty years afterward Simcoe travelled with Talbot, Littlehales and Givens in the winter of 1793. At this time, as doubtless for many years before, this trail was the regular winter thoroughfare, and to the garrisons at Niagara and Detroit the annual "winter express" between these points was as familiar an expression as the Grand Trunk or Canadian Pacific Express is to us this day. But the conductor of the "winter express" made his way through an almost interminable forest, watching carefully the blazed trees that marked his course when the path was obliterated by the snow, and most of his journey was necessarily made on foot. The chief delicacy in his bill-of-fare was dried venison, varied with an occasional squirrel or raccoon, if chance threw one in his way. He was, sometimes at least, accompanied by persons journeying for pleasure or on business, who joined him both for company's sake and for greater security and comfort in travelling. And fortunate was the wayfarer if, on arriving at the head of the lake, he was able to share the hospitality of Richard Beasley, or Robert Land; for those were pre-eminently the days of the kind heart and the open door.

So much for our place of meeting. But who are we that assemble, and what are our objects? Let me answer in the words of our Constitution (here the speaker read from the printed constitution). The Council's annual report has given in some detail the operations of the year. I may be permitted to summarize them very briefly here.

The Canadian Historical Exhibition, which was in progress when our last annual meeting was held, was carried on to a successful conclusion under the auspices of this Society, by the Exhibition Committee, to whom great credit has been justly accorded.

The regular September meeting was held in a tent on the Industrial Fair grounds. The attendance was satisfactory, the members of