

RECEIVED AT MONCTON.

VICE-ROYALTY ENDORSED BY SOCIETY AT THE REED.

The People of the Railway Town Turn Out en Masse to Welcome the Vice-Regal Party—How the Reception Was Managed and What Sort of Thing.

MONCTON, Sept. 28.—For the second time in the history of their administration at Ottawa their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen have visited Moncton officially; and for the second time the city of Moncton has done itself proud in the matter of receiving them, and providing constant occupation, as well as entertainment for them during their stay. In fact so well was their time portioned out that it is a matter of speculation with the more thoughtful and considerate of the citizens whether the Vice-regal party got anything to eat in the middle of the day, or whether their sole refreshment consisted of a biscuit or two, which they had prudently secreted in their pockets, and surreptitiously partaken of during the brief spaces of time which intervened between their Excellencies' reception at the I. C. R. station, the inspection of railway shops, the laying of the corner stone of the new school house, the afternoon procession and the visit to the athletic grounds, where the distinguished visitors witnessed the bicycle races.

Unfortunately the weather was the reverse of Queen's the clerk of the weather serving out a very indifferent quality for Her Majesty's representatives and harsh cold winds, cloudy skies, and frequent showers rather marred the pleasure of the day.

The proceedings began punctually on schedule time when, at a few minutes before eleven the loyal citizens of Moncton chiefly those belonging to the female persuasion massed themselves in a solid phalanx on the green at the rear the government offices commanding a view of the railway station and prepared to enjoy at their leisure the inevitable procession of school children without which no public function is considered complete in Moncton.

Children? Well rather! There were children of all ages, sizes, complexions, and apparently of all nationalities. On they came in squads in companies in battalions, in regiments! First the tiny children from the primary grades who looked as much of a size that they almost have been turned out of a mould like candles, then the next size, and the next, in a gradually rising scale until the long line ended with the sturdy lads and lasses from the High School some of whom looked quite as big, and almost as old as their teachers. Some carried flags, others carried branches of reddened maple leaves, and just a very few carried handkerchiefs.

As they swept into view around the corner of the General Offices walking four abreast they seemed as never-ending as the pictures in a kinoscope, and the number and strength of the rising generation of Moncton was well calculated to impress a stranger. "What is your population?" gasped a St. John lady who had been standing in the crowd, her eyes growing larger and larger with amazement as the wonderful procession wound past. "Ten thousand" answered her friend promptly—"we always say ten thousand, it is such a nice even number, and so easy to remember—"Ten thousand!" murmured the visitor from the seaside city, in a hushed voice, "Two thousand adults, and eight thousand children then, I am sure. Why I don't believe we could do anything like this in St. John!"

Over from the railway shops came the deep mellow Mr-r-r-r-r. of the eleven o'clock whistle, and almost at the same moment the Governor General's train glided quietly into the station. Instantly all was activity and bustle. The guard of honor drawn from the ranks of the 74th lined up, the school children were grouped around the platform which had been erected in the centre of the green for their excellencies, the mayor and aldermen advanced to receive the visitors who were already being welcomed in their car by General Manager Pottinger. In a moment more the Vice Regal party appeared escorted by Mayor Robinson, the guard of honor saluted, the band burst into the national anthem, and their Excellencies passed through a crowd whose emotions were probably too deep for words, so singularly undemonstrative were they, to the platform prepared for their reception. Here a number of the influential men of the city and a few ladies were assembled.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen were accompanied by their daughter, Lady Marjorie Gordon, Lieut. Governor McClellan, and Mayor Hewett, private secretary to Lord Aberdeen. Immediately the Countess and Lady Marjorie were presented with bouquets, the former a handsome bouquet of Autumn flowers, by little Miss Eunice Welch, daughter of Mr. D. I. Welch, and

the latter with a beautiful shower bouquet of pink and white sweet peas tied with white ribbon, by little Miss Muriel Williams, youngest daughter of Mr. Thomas Williams, treasurer of the I. C. R. Lady Aberdeen kissed the little girls in a very sweet and motherly fashion, and the Mayor looked around for a convenient spot to deposit his hat, and after a preliminary cough which gave Their Excellencies time to arrange their features into an expression of eager anticipation, unfolded the address and began to read.

It was a very nice address and expressed in terms of the most fervent loyalty, but the wind was high and it blew His Worship's fair hair into his handsome blue eyes, and played havoc with the fluttering pages of the address besides carrying the words away almost before they had left his lips, not to mention taking liberties with Lady Marjorie's flowing bronze-brown locks, reddening the already cold noses of the spectators, and freezing the luckless little school children, most of whom were clad in white dresses, and thin summer clothes, to the very marrow of their poor little bones. The party on the platform felt the wind keenly, especially the gentleman whose uncovered heads caught the full fury of the blast; but it was soon over and after the Governor General had briefly but feelingly responded, two or three of the bolder spirits amongst the vast assemblage of school children led by Principal Oulton piped a few bars of My Own Canadian Home and waved their flags and branches vigorously. Three cheers for Lord and Lady Aberdeen concluded, the Vice Regal party returned to their car while the populace dispersed in search of its dinner.

The mayor had thoughtfully suggested that as the Governor General would arrive just at knocking off hour for the shops, the men should make a point of assembling at the station and welcoming him, but as the horny handed sons of toil have just as much pride as other people, they scarcely cared to greet Her Majesty's representatives arrayed in greasy overalls, and with faces smouched with the grime of honest labor, any more than his worship himself would so they did not loiter at the station for any length of time but very sensibly went home to their dinner. At a quarter past twelve the Governor General and party visited the railway shops, and the afternoon was devoted to a procession through some of the principal streets, the laying of the corner stone of the new school building on Botsford street by the Governor General, and the bicycle races at the athletic grounds which were under the patronage of their excellencies and Governor McClellan.

The procession was supposed to start at half past one, but it was three o'clock before it really moved, and the waiting citizens were cold and weary before the welcome skirling of the bagpipes announced its approach. It was a most creditable turn out the escort of cavalry lending that distinction which nothing but cavalry can impart, and the red coats of the infantry, the dark blue uniforms of the Citizen's Band, and the fire companies, and the flashing brightness of the fire engines, and accoutrements made a very pleasing picture. The procession was headed by a company of young lady bicyclists, followed by a contingent of wheelmen. In the Governor General's carriage were Lord Aberdeen, Governor McClellan, and Mayor Robinson. Lady Marjorie Gordon, Judges Hanington and Wells, and Major Hewett occupied the other post of honor.

Arrived at the school building Lady Aberdeen was presented with another bouquet by little Miss Iva Bourgeois, daughter of Mr. Joseph Bourgeois and a very pretty floral basket composed entirely of wild flowers, berries, ferns and mosses by little Miss Helen Bradley daughter of Alderman Bradley. The Countess seemed gratefully pleased and kissed the little girls warmly. An address printed on white satin was then read by Mr. David Grant Chairman of the School Board, and a very handsome silver trowel bearing the Aberdeen arms, was presented to Lord Aberdeen, to be used in laying the stone. After His Excellency had responded, and approved of the name of the new school.—The Aberdeen School—the assembled school children sang "The Red, White and Blue" and the corner stone was duly laid, Governor McClellan made a few remarks, and after singing God Save The Queen, the procession, re-formed and proceeded to the Athletic grounds where the Vice Regal party gave their entire attention to the bicycle races seeming deeply interested in all the events in spite of the cold, which was most unusual for the time of year.

It will probably interest the ladies to know that the Countess of Aberdeen wore a plain, but rich gown of steel gray moire and a gray, bonnet with a few pink roses a costume which was singularly becoming to

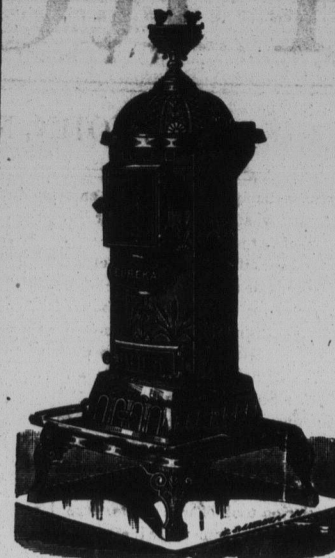
her. Lady Marjorie wore a dress of royal blue cloth trimmed with plaitings of black silk, headed with narrow jet passementerie, a cape of the same, and a little walking hat of black felt trimmed with a band of velvet, and a black wing and tuft of scarlet feathers at the side.

In the evening their excellencies held a reception in Victoria rink, being escorted to the rink by the Citizen's Band; and firemen bearing torches. Lord Aberdeen had announced that though evening dress would not be objected to it was not necessary, as he especially desired to meet the working people. Consequently evening dress was not conspicuous, except by its entire absence, and his excellency met the working people to his heart's content.

The rink was prettily decorated with flags and electric lights, a dias being erected at the upper part, covered with rugs and canopied with flags and very comfortably arranged as a little drawing room. Their excellencies had desired that it was to be quite an informal affair, and it was informal to the last degree, one gentleman even stretching the word so far as to smoke with the utmost nonchalance a short briar-root, during the entire proceedings. The vice regal party consisting of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, Governor McClellan, Major Hewett, Mr. Pottinger, Judge Wells, and Mayor Robinson, were of course all in evening dress, the countess wearing a dinner gown of rose colored silk veiled with a deep flounce of black lace. Owing to the cold of the rink, she wore a jacket and bonnet; after the mayor, the governor general and the lieutenant governor had each made a few remarks in a very happy vein, presentations were in order, but somehow they failed to materialize with that alacrity which one would have wished to see. Many who were burning to touch the Vice-Regal hand, hung back either from shyness or modesty, and things seemed to be approaching a deadlock.

Some of the occupants of the dias who had been with the vice regal party all day, and should have felt pretty well acquainted by that time, obligingly sacrificed themselves in the public interest by stepping down from their exalted places and showing the masses how it was done; solemnly advancing going through the form of presentation shaking hands, and then returning to their original position—it presented very much the appearance of "You get your tooth out first and show me if it hurts and then I will," but it was done with the best of motives, though without visible effect at first. After a while these amiable decoys scattered through the building to beat up recruits, and by degrees a few of the bolder spirits were lured from the crowd, led gently but firmly up to the platform, and presented, and though many required a good deal of persuasion their actions inspired confidence in the weaker brethren, and in time the ball rolled so merrily that the candidates were advancing in squads, and Their Excellencies must have been thoroughly reassured on the subject of the loyalty of the people of Moncton and their willingness to shake hands with a real Earl and Countess. There were children almost too small to reach the Countess's hand, handsome manly boys in groups of two and three, school girls in the same order, veterans, and one small boy who kept his cap pulled comfortably down over his ears during the ceremony and who failed signally to comply with order issued that all those who wished to be presented must bring a card containing their names legibly inscribed. Once matters were fairly started it seemed as if the entire town burned with an unquenchable desire to become acquainted, if but for one brief moment with Their Excellencies. There were ladies so anxious to meet the representatives of their sovereign that they cheerfully faced the ordeal of advancing in solitary state to the throne, rather than not advance at all, and others who approached in little groups keeping each others' courage up by the force of example. There were sturdy working men big and brawny, who looked frightened out of their wits, and had to make several attempts before they could make up their minds to go through the terrible ordeal.

Amongst the many prominent and distinguished citizens of Moncton who were presented, none attracted more attention than Mr. Charles Niles, who bowed over the hand of the countess with the grace of a Chevalier Bayard, and seemed as much at home as if earles and countesses were his daily companions. Their Excellencies were most kind in their manner of receiving everyone, frequently conversing in the most kindly manner with those presented, but it is scarcely to be wondered at that the Countess's kindly face wore a very weary expression as the evening wore on, and it was doubtless with feelings of sincere relief that she heard the first strains of God Save the Queen. It had been a tiring day for all concerned, but probably the most fatigued of all those who took part in the day's proceedings, were their Excellencies, the Governor General and the Countess of Aberdeen.



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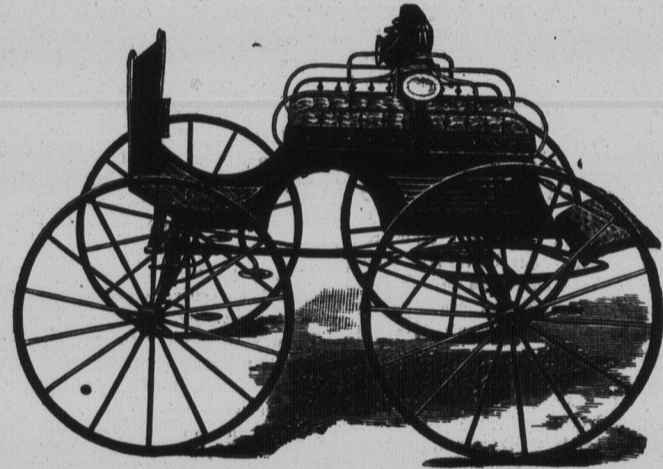
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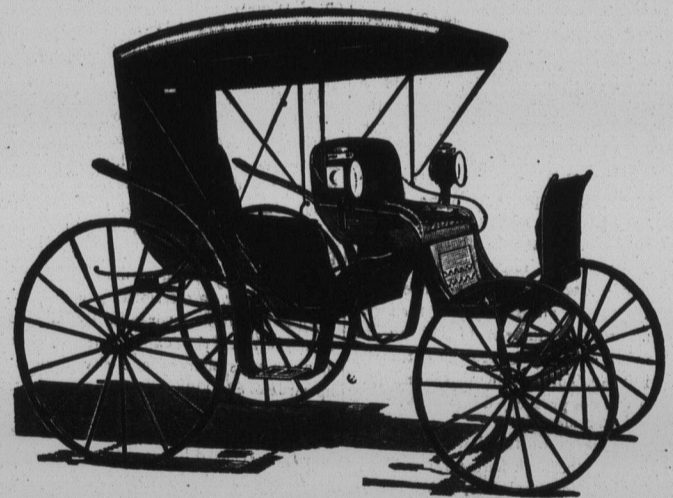
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