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LOYAL

Canadian Society.



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OCTOBER, 1883.

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LOYAL CANADIAN SOCIETY.

Report of the Secretary for the
Year Ending October 13th.

1883.4 Nov. 5.30

CELEBRATION AT QUEENSTON.

The following is the report of the Secretary-Treasurer, J. P. Merritt, Esq., for the year just ending. It opens with an extract from the *Globe* of Oct. 17, 1882, referring to last year's meeting at the monument. The *Globe* says:

According to an understanding come to by some of the Canadian Loyal Association residing in the vicinity of Queenston, it was agreed to meet at that village on the anniversary of the battle. In consequence of this a meeting was called at noon on the 13th, and dinner ordered at Queenston House. After a stroll through the grounds surrounding the monument, visiting the old fort overgrown by weeds, views were taken of the monument and those assembled, the day being all that could be wished for. Mr. I. P. Wilson, of Welland, who had twice held office as President of the Loyal Association of Grimbsy, called the meeting to order, and addressed them for a few moments on the subject of the day. He paid a just eulogy to the departed veterans, who on 27th September, 1847, organized this institution

by appointing J. W. O. Clark, President ; R. F. Nelles, Secretary. They had met without fail to fight in memory this battle over again, until death had so thinned their ranks, there was no longer left a line to the foe. Under these circumstances he judged it his duty, and he was therein supported by Mr. McDonagh, that in his official capacity he should retire. On motion of Mr. Wilson the meeting approved of holding an annual gathering at this place, and that Mr. D. McFarland be called to preside for ensuing year. It was also moved that Mr. J. P. Merritt be Secretary *pro tem*, and that Mr. Henry E. Nelles be informed of the meeting and requested to obtain the concurrence and co-operation of the members, official and otherwise, of the Loyal Canadian Association of Grimsby. It was further moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Thomas Charles, that a meeting accompanied by a dinner be held at one of the public houses in St. Catharines on the 11th November (battle of Chrysler's farm), and the Grimsby members be invited to attend. It was omitted to mention that the outgoing President recited a couple of poetic effusions, one composed that very morning prompted by the appearance of the battlefield. One of the party had an uncle who received his death wound in this battle. It was generally acknowledged that not enough attention had been paid to soldiers; the report that their remains occupied a common trench near the gate of the en-

wrote

Collector

closure was not heard with satisfaction by those present, but the day was too far advanced to take action at this time.

According to the first resolution at the primary meeting in Queenston, last October, Mr. Henry E. Nellis was visited at Grimsby by your secretary, and requested to obtain his concurrence and co-operation.

The Thorold *Post* gave the following report of the commemoration of the battle of Crysler's Farm :—

CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE OF CRYSLER'S FARM. *write*

write
On Saturday evening last, the anniversary of the Battle of Crysler's Farm was celebrated by the Canadian Loyal Association by holding a meeting in the Springbank Hotel, St. Catharines. The President of the Association, Duncan McFarland, Esq., was in the chair. Amongst those present, we noticed the Hon. O. Mowat, who was staying at the hotel over Sunday.

After the secretary, J. P. Merritt, Esq., read the minutes of the previous meeting, and detailed the circumstances which called the meeting together, the following sentiment was proposed :

Collector
Moved by I. P. Wilson, seconded by J. P. Merritt, the pioneers and early settlers of Canada—may their loyalty and devotion be ever held by Canadians in respectful remembrance.

Mr. I. P. Wilson recounted the hardship and difficulties of the early settlers, and related some interesting anecdotes which

were told him by those who had experienced those hardships.

Hon. Mr. Mowat, at the request of the president, made a few remarks, stating his sympathy with the Association, and signified his intention of bringing the matter of erection of a suitable building for the society on Queenston Heights, before his colleagues.

The next sentiment was as follows :

Moved by J. P. Merritt, seconded by W. M. German, this day, being the anniversary of the battle of Cryslar's Farm, it is appropriate to especially remember the memory of Colonel Morrison, and in so doing we are also reminded of the hero of Chateauguay.

Mr. Merritt gave a detailed account of the battle, and of the circumstances which gave rise to it, and the subsequent events.

The following motion was then put and carried unanimously :

Moved by W. M. German, seconded by Clark Raymond, that it is desirable that as complete a list as possible of the names of the devoted men who fell at Queenston be obtained, and with that view a committee be appointed to make an effort to obtain such a list at as early a day as possible, and if such list can be obtained with sufficient exactness, a tablet be erected at Queenston Heights with such list inscribed thereon.

Mr. German, of Welland, spoke of the fact that while honor had been done to the officers at that action, the private soldiers had been left unhonored.

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tablet

Mr. I. P. Wilson made a few remarks on the question, and recited the following poem, which he had composed on the monument.

The gallant Brock who fought and died, ⁸
Our liberties to save,

In mem'ry ~~is~~ embalmed;

~~And brave Macdonald by his side,~~

The bravest of the brave. ²

And let it be proclaimed,

That other heroes, true and tried,

Who fought, and bled, and died,

On this ~~ensanguined~~ field, ^{to 3}

Shall be remembered, how they died! ¹

Nor can it be denied,

They never deigned to yield. ²

Then rally round the monument,

Erected high to show,

Canadians can feel

True loyalty's embodiment,

And give the world to know

A foeman worth their steel.

October's sun, yet shines again,

Where liberty was saved,

To Canada's fair fame,

Of brave pure blood there remain,

Those cannot be enslaved,

Or robbed of their proud name.

Then rally round the monument,

High o'er Ontario's wave,

Perpetual announcement,

That Canadians are brave.

Then rally round the monument,

And rally once again,

Where a Brock has entombment,

Macdonald's bones remain.

Moved by I. P. Wilson, seconded by W. H. Bone, that the president and secretary of this society be requested to bring under the notice of the Government the desirability of a building being erected upon the grounds at Queenston Heights, in which to hold meetings of this society and other loyal and patriotic assemblies, and that the grounds be free to the public.

The last motion was one which 'it is hoped will result in the desired house being built.

Both mover and seconder spoke to the motion.

The meeting then adjourned, to meet at Welland on the 30th of November.

The *Telegraph* in referring to this Welland meeting said :

CANADIANS, ALL !—The Loyal Canadian Society, which has for its object the promotion of Canadian sentiment and interests, and whose name is a sufficient introduction to commend itself to every Canadian, will hold a *Conversazione* in Orient Hall, here, on the evening of Thursday next, Nov. 30th, at 8 o'clock, as an anniversary occasion of the first opening of the Welland Canal, in 1829. Several speakers will be present, who will no doubt give many interesting facts relating to "this Canada of ours," of whose history many of our young folks and some older ones know really less than they do of many of the kingdoms of Europe, owing to our own country having been almost wholly ignored in our school books until within the past few years. Good music will also lend varied attractions to the occasion. The *Conversazione* will be strictly of a nonpolitical nature. Canadians by birth or adoption are eligible for membership in the Society ; fee \$1 per year, entitling to free entrance to all entertainments of the society. Ladies always free. — Non-member (except ladies) tickets to *Conversazione*,

50c. Duncan McFarland, Esq., is President of the Society ; and J. P. Merritt, Esq., of St. Catharines, Secretary. This Society is occupying a hitherto somewhat neglected field, and we hope to see it heartily supported and encouraged in its laudable and patriotic work.

The *Thorold Post* said :

On Thursday next the anniversary of a very important event in the history of not only the Niagara District, but the whole Dominion, takes place; we refer to the opening of the first Welland Canal, which took place on the 30th of November, 1829. We are glad to be able to announce that the anniversary will be duly celebrated by the Loyal Canadian Society, who intend holding a *conversazione* in the Orient Hall, Welland. It is expected that prominent gentlemen will be present and deliver addresses suitable to the occasion. For the credit of the old Niagara District it is to be hoped that there will be a large turnout of those individuals who feel an interest in the celebration of the anniversary of an event, the outcome of which has been increased prosperity to this District and the whole of our beloved country.

With regard to this meeting and the colation at Spring Bank, more favorable results however followed, than from the smallness of the turnout, could have been expected.

The idea of a commemorative association has only been realized in a few instances. If the collection of newspaper

extracts, and the filing of our own publications and proceedings may be commemorative.

It is to be hoped that the members will be more regardful of this object of our Society, and correspond to the resolution by writing and enclosing the Secretary the recollection of early events in our history.

The subject of the further erection at the battle grounds, and the monument to the militia and regular, has not as yet been accomplished.

The caretaker, it is hoped, will press it on the Minister, who was present at the meeting at which these resolutions were passed. The correspondence will show how little and how difficult the information about militia is procured.

The resolution respecting having the grounds free has been carried out and one society at least, have made these grounds their place of meeting in consequence of this liberal and patriotic measure.

The next meeting was at Welland as being the most central and accessible spot in the peninsula, as well as on a central part of the canal.

Too much credit cannot be bestowed on the agents of this entertainment. The report of the disbursements and receipts are filed.

On May 23rd, 1883, a meeting of the officers at Welland, resolved to notify a meeting on 25th July, according to precedent at the Battle Heights, as at that

season the affiliated societies especially the York Pioneers were wont to assemble.

An intermediate meeting was held at Welland, Tuesday 19 June, when it was moved to have the co-operation of the Volunteers at Niagara. This failed of accomplishment.

It is unnecessary to particularize on that occasion, through many in the neighborhood took advantage to gather there. The death of our old friend Mr. Playter made it a melancholy meeting. The Pioneers failed to attend.

The St. Catharines *Journal* thus noticed the meeting :

LOYAL CELEBRATION.—The Loyal Canadian Association intend holding a meeting and picnic at Queenston Heights on July 25th, at 1 o'clock, in celebration of the capture of old Fort Niagara, July 25th, 1759, and the battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1812. *Wellandville*

At the last meeting at Welland, Oct. 8th, 1883, some important matters were discussed and the old measure of Government aid to the collection of historical documents in British North America was ventilated. *on petition 25 Jan 1859. J. P. Merritt*

J. P. MERRITT,

Secretary-Treas.

St. Catharines, Oct. 10th, 1883.

THE SEVENTY FIRST. *year 9*

Second Anniversary of the Loyal Canadian Society, at the Battle Heights, Queenston.

Last Saturday morning—the 71st birthday of much of the liberty, we as Canadians now enjoy—dawned with clouds and rain. About nine o'clock the band from Fonthill entered the town, and after a parade met at the court house, and played stirring music. When the band ceased Mr. Wilson arose in his carriage, and in a few well chosen remarks gave vent to his feelings of loyalty. The party then made for the Battle Heights at Queenston, where assembled towards noon sundry reinforcements from St. Catharines, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Fonthill and other places. The society was called to order in the reception room of the keeper. Among those present were Rev. Wm. Walsh of Fonthill; I. P. Wilson, Esq., of Welland; Wm Kerby, Esq., D. Servos, Esq., D. J. Lowrey, Esq., of Queenston, J. O. Merritt, Esq., and others. At the election of officers for the ensuing year, which took place at 12 o'clock noon, the following gentlemen were elected:—Hon. President, Hon. Oliver Mowat, Toronto; President, Col. D. McFarland Niagara Township; 1st Vice-President, I. P. Wilson. Welland; 2nd Vice-President, W. Kerby, Niagara; Secretary and Treasurer, J. P. Merritt, St. Catharines. The Fonthill Band who had afforded their services gratuitously and were accorded the

hearty thanks of the Society, was then heard approaching and a move to the porch was made to receive them. After listening to the National Anthem with uncovered heads, the meeting reassembled and passed resolutions of condolence and sympathy to Mrs. Playter and Mrs. Charles, whose husbands were members of the Society. A resolution of congratulation was also passed to another member of the society—the Hon. J. H. Miller, on his accession to the Attorney-Generalship of Manitoba. After this business had been transacted and refreshments partaken of, the party marched to the front of the monument, headed by the Fonthill brass band. The President took the chair, and some instructive and appropriate speeches were delivered by Wm. Kerby, Esq., Niagara, I. P. Wilson, Esq., Welland, J. P. Merritt, Esq., St. Catharines, and Rev. Mr. Walsh (Methodist) of Fonthill. Three cheers were then given the Queen, Loyal Canada, our President, after which the meeting broke up. Many of the visitors took advantage of the splendid view which is to be had from the top of the mountain, and climbed the two hundred and forty-seven steps, and were well repaid for their trouble by getting an unobstructed view of one of the most fertile and picturesque expanses of country in Canada, including the beautiful and majestic Niagara River and Lake Ontario, which all combine to form one of Nature's grandest panoramas. As the visitor enters the monument to his

right he will find a brass tablet 10 x 20 inches, bearing the following inscription, "Underneath are deposited the mortal remains of lamented Major General Sir Isaac Brock, K. B., who fell in action near these Heights, on the 13th Oct., 1812, and was interred on the 16th Oct. at the Bastion of Fort George, Niagara. Removed from thence and reinterred under a monument to the east of this site on the 13th Oct., 1824, and in consequence of that monument having received irreparable injury by a lawless act on the 17th April, 1840, it was found requisite to take down the former structure and erect this monument, the corner-stone being laid, and the remains again removed with due solemnity on Oct. 13th, 1853." On the left of the entrance is another brass plate bearing the following: "Beneath are deposited the remains of Lieut-Colonel John McDonnell, P. A. D. C., and aide-de-camp to the lamented Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, K. B., who fell mortally wounded in the battle of Queenston, 13th Oct., 1812 and died on the following day. His remains were re-interred with due solemnity on the 13th Oct., 1853."

The proceedings were enlivened throughout by appropriate strains from the Fonthill band, the leader and some of the members of which are grandsons of United Empire Loyalists and members of the society. It is hardly necessary to add that the meeting was an entire success notwithstanding the untoward appearance of the

weather, and it is hoped that all reached their homes before the rain storm, which came down at 8, occurred.

The monument and grounds present a very clean and orderly appearance, which reflects credit on Col. McFarland, who has charge of the place, also his assistant, James Burns.

THE BATTLE OF COOK'S MILLS.

Pursuant to a notice in the WELLAND TELEGRAPH a meeting to commemorate the Battle of Cook's Mills by the Loyal Canadian Society, was held at that place on Friday, Oct. 19. Among those present we noticed Mr. Findlay, Mr. Currant, Mr. Bullock, Mr. Holder, Mr. Yokom, Mr. L. Boardman, Mr. German, Mr. Leslie, Mr. Merritt, and Mr. I. P. Wilson.

The commemoration took the form of a social gathering, at which the members and a number of the residents of the village and neighborhood were present. On account of the extreme inclemency of the weather, the party was small, yet the ample fireplace of mine host Boardman shed its warmth upon as loyal and appreciative a company as is often witnessed on an occasion like this. After half an hour had been spent in informal discourse upon the items of the battle, one result arrived at was that not a single contemporary remained, though several had but lately deceased. Supper was announced and the company adjourned to the hall, which was decorated with great taste for the occasion.

The cloth being cleared the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were received, chiefly with musical honors. Mr. Merritt spoke with great warmth to the toast "This Canada of Ours, and the Loyal Canadian Society." Mr. Findlay spoke to "Our Agricultural Interest" in a neat speech. Mr. Leslie, full of humor, replied to the toast of "Our Scientific Interests." He referred to the building of the new aqueduct, and spoke so well that as one thinks of his happy remarks on the subject, one wishes to hear a repetition of his lucid address. Mr. German was at home with the toast, "Law." Mr. Bullock spoke to "Our Mechanical Interests"

A resolution was passed adjourning the meeting till Nov. 5th, at the same place to commemorate the evacuation of Canada, and the final departure of the States troops from this Dominion.

The Battle of Cook's Mills and the Evacuation of Canada, 19 Oct., 1814.

Brown had come over to fight and annoy us,
 Izard succeeded to blow up and destroy us,
 Bold Drummond was posted on Welland's steep
 banks,
 Where he kept his brave soldiers close in their
 ranks.

Izard roamed up and down for a chance to pass
 over,
 Not a bridge, not a ford, could he discover,
 Not a raft, not a boat, not e'en a canoe,
 Said he to his men "this business won't do."

Unless we can swim, like the Niagara ducks,
 We cannot get over to strike these Canucks,

Besides we have eaten along this great river—
All the provisions here stored, so its "stand and
deliver."

Says Bissel, "we'll march, if us you will send,—
With riflemen, Dragoons, the spoil we will rend."
So his band it roamed round, and took at their
will,
All in the back country, but the flour in *Cooks
Mill.*

On the nineteenth October, they arrived at the
place,
Where the undaunted Glengaries they met face
to face,
The single Canuck two Yanks had to meet;
No disgrace. after fighting, they beat a retreat.

Fighting, not plunder, Yanks hands did employ,
So they thought it the best, Cook's Mills to
destroy.
To head-quarters they march with diminished
ranks,
Sans plunder, sans glory, with very small thanks.

A few days more the enemy linger,
But of our provisions they touch not a finger,
November the fifth, 'mid explosion of bastions,
They ferry across, and eat their full rations.

J. P. M.