

River Road Women's Institute
September 19, 2001

In June, Mary was quite interested in the fact that Brad had bee hives and some of the circumstances that he was experiencing. At that time, two of his 19 hives had swarmed. One swarm headed up 45 to who knows where and the other went to a pine tree in our yard. We were able to save the swarm by putting the whole mass into a spare frame.

Brad purchased his first complete hive in the summer of 1999. He was able to extract honey in the fall. He sold all of it and immediately thought "what a money making thing this is". He did everything by the book to protect the hive over the winter but, alas, the next spring every bee was dead. He didn't know the cause, but was not prepared to take any chances with potential disease or other problems to be left on the property. It was very upsetting to him to have to stand over the boxes and watch them burn. After all, it was his \$150.00 lost.

Brad had to face the grim fact that he had to start over... So, in the spring of 2000 he ordered and received three new nucs. Each consisted of a queen and a few hundred bees. Now the process starts with more capital investment to build hive boxes. It's a good thing that Tom already has a basement full of power tools. Brad also purchased 15 new nucs this past spring. More capital investment. Now this "money making" thing has really impacted on Brad's bank account. Be patient, be patient, be patient. Isn't that what all agricultural participants say?

A hive is populated by approximately 50,000 bees (a queen, workers and drones). The sole purpose of the drones is to mate with a maiden queen. After mating, death occurs to the lucky guys and the rest meet their own demise eventually.

The queen spends her time laying eggs for constant repopulation of the hive. She is methodical in her efforts. The bottom one or two "supers" are intended as brood supers and usually consist of 9 or 10 frames. Anything above is intended as a honey super. The honey super is put in place once the brood supers are full. The queen is usually too fat to go up into it but there are exceptions. A stainless steel queen excluder is put in place to keep her out.

The worker bees collect nectar to manufacture wax and produce honey. The wax is secreted and peeled off the belly of the workers. It takes a long time to draw out each cell. Approximately 7 lbs. of honey is required to make 1 lb. of wax. The queen will usually lay eggs in the centre of each frame which has been drawn out. Each frame also has capped cells full of honey. Of course, this honey is their food supply. The queen will not walk over capped cells. She will, however, lay eggs in any uncapped cell.

The worker bees have a relatively short life span. Perhaps a month or two depending on the workload. The better the queen, the heavier the workload. Some of the workers find a source of nectar and pollen (up to about 5 miles of scouting) and come back to the hive each with a specific dance to inform the rest where the source of the day is. We know, of course, that pollination is needed for all crops to grow. Bees collect nectar from anything and everything. Corn is pollinated but does not end up being a good source of nectar, rather a good source of pollen.

Since man "interferes" with the natural order of things in a bee hive, he must also be responsible for the well-being of the bee hive. He must keep rodents out. He must medicate for various things such as varroa mite, Nose-ma, tracheal mite and foul brood. Good gracious, more money.

The world average of extractable honey is 50 lbs. per hive. Of course, the amount is based on hive viability, climate and sound practices and procedures. Brad expect to average 80-90 lbs. of honey from each of his hives this first year. Remember, he has to leave about 50 lbs. of food for them to overwinter.

The cartoon that I brought today is kind of cute, although my first impression was that they look like tired old drones, not eager to go female worker bees. The photos are of Brad's great great grandfather William Henry Metler's hives in Fort Erie, circa unknown.

I hope that this presentation has been of some interest to all of you. This is still a "learning experience" for Brad but one that he fully intends to keep going on. The one thing that is for sure, "where's the money".

Lathy Look
6993 Riddle River Rd.
St. Thomas, ON

October 13, 2004

Prepared by: Cathy L. Cook

DIVERSIFICATION IN AGRICULTURE

Over the decades farm crops and methods of land preparation have evolved to such an extent that, unless you experienced it, you wouldn't believe such things were possible.

Today, Lena Cook-Irvine writes "I loved to climb the steep narrow stairs to the attic, open the dormer windows and look out over the wide countryside. I still have a clear picture in my mind of Father plowing each spring with the one furrowed plow up and down the rows, day after day until the whole ten acres were turned over and ready for cultivation". Her father, Will Metler, came to the family farm in 1920 with absolutely no experience in farming. At his farming retirement party in the 1960's he is quoted as saying to friends and neighbours "You fellows wondered what kind of a farmer I would make and how I would know what to do. Well, I'll tell you. I had a pair of binoculars and each morning I'd use them to look around and see what you fellows were doing and then I'd go and do the same, and I got along all right".

For many, the mixed farming enterprise on 100 acre properties couldn't last forever due to high input costs, machinery costs and even higher land costs. Up until the 1960's or so our general area was planted in corn and soya beans. Some farmers had to diversify and diversify they did. At the same time, they bought up acre upon acre of the traditional family farm. We can drive around our own community and see the different crops. We're seeing specialty beans such as kidney, lima and turtle beans, more and more sweet corn, decorative Indian corn, tomatoes, peas, gourds and pumpkins and even grapes for wine making.

A little further away we see peanuts and ginseng growing on what used to typically be tobacco land. In other areas large expanses of sunflowers are growing for the production of oil, bird seed, edible snacks and cut flowers.

Farm market stalls are still selling seasonal crops to the drive-by shoppers but some of the vendors have managed to come to agreements with local and upscale restaurants to supply both common vegetables and specialty items. Although more expensive, organic produce is a hit with many consumers. Soil has to be free of herbicides, pesticides and raw manure for a number of years before foodstuff can be considered organic. We all want to buy perfectly shaped, blemish free produce. Organic fertilizer such as fish emulsion may be a practice. Organic pest controls such as dishwashing detergent and water (1 to 40 parts) or ground garlic and water (1 clove to 1 cup) strained are good remedies. We can all participate in companion planting whether it be in vegetable gardens or flower beds.see page 224 The Complete Herb Book. Herbicides are also a no-no in organic methodology. What is the solution for that in an large scale operation? I'd hate to guess. My personal solution would be on hands and knees with the most lethal hand held tool I own.

Herbs and flowers have reached new heights. There is an ever growing market for them in both fresh and dried forms. Certain plants were used thousands of years ago for medicinal purposes and for personal use. Store shelves are filled with tubes, bottles and jars containing modern applications of many of the plants. Take the time to read some of the labels to see just what the ingredients are. Why not go back to the "old way" where possible. An entrepreneur from Belmont has created creams, shampoos and bath products from natural products. The Complete Herb Book illustrates and properties of many herbs that we are familiar with. The New Flower Arranger contains approaches to floral designs using both fresh and dried flowers with a section on plant preservation techniques. (Pg. 106)

Crop diversification presents itself in many ways. I can implement some of it in my yard. So can you. As an aside, John Palmer likes to have plants that attract birds. I have offered thistle plants to Marg, absolutely free of charge. But, she keeps on refusing them. So today I'm giving each of you a cut flower. As you put it in water, think of Marg and the thistles and remember that it is indeed a result of "diversification in agriculture".

BALL

TO BE HELD

AT LONDON,

IN HONOR OF

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

The Prince of Wales.



THE CITIZENS OF LONDON AND Inhabitants of the County having resolved to get up a GRAND BALL, to be held at LONDON, on or about

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13th,

On the occasion of the Visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, have invited H. R. H. to attend, which invitation has been graciously accepted.

The Executive Committee have determined that this Ball shall be the most brilliant of the kind ever attempted in London.

A SPACIOUS BALL-ROOM is being built at the rear of the Tecumseh House (the quarters of the Prince when in London). An entrance will be made from the Hotel to the Ball-room. Two large Drawing Rooms will likewise be fitted up for the occasion. The Supper will take place in the large Dining Hall of the Hotel, and a suite of apartments as Dressing, Girdak, and Retiring Rooms, will likewise be appropriated for the accommodation of the visitors.

The Committee, being desirous that the residents of the various towns and villages around London, should have an opportunity of being present on the auspicious occasion, have determined to appropriate 300 tickets for that purpose. Persons desirous of obtaining tickets will, therefore, apply at once, as the number is limited, and the demand is expected to be large.

BAND OF ROYAL CANADIAN RIFLES WILL ATTEND ON THE OCCASION.

Tickets for the Ball and Supper.....\$10
(TO ADMIT LADY AND GENTLEMAN.)

Extra Ladies' Tickets - - \$5

It should be mentioned that the Citizens of London, being determined that no effort should be spared to ensure the complete success of the Ball, have raised a

Guarantee Fund of \$2,000.

to be applied, if necessary, towards the expenses.

Weekly Dispatch

St. Thomas, Thursday, August 23

GRAND BALL AT LONDON—THE PRINCE TO BE PRESENT.

We beg to refer our readers to the advertisement of the London Royal Ball Committee which appears in another column. The Forest City is determined not to be behind its sister rivals in their efforts to do honor to the Heir Apparent to the British Throne, and concluded some days since, as the most suitable manner of entertaining the Prince of Wales, to invite him to a Ball on the occasion of his visit to that city. This invitation has been graciously responded to, and the Prince will be present. The Committee have considerably set apart 300 tickets for sale in the towns and villages around London, and which can be now had on application to the Secretary; double tickets, \$10; extra ladies' tickets \$5. These will, of course, include supper, &c. We observe that the Committee request that a list might be made up at each place, of persons likely to require tickets. We would therefore suggest that a meeting be held at the St. Thomas Hotel, on Monday evening next, when the matter may be taken up, and the names forwarded. At any rate we trust that our town will not be unrepresented at the approaching Ball. The Londoners are now on their mettle and seem determined not to be left lagging in the race of competition to do honor to the Prince, an occasion in which our fellow townsmen are invited to participate. Who will take an interest in the matter? The Ball has our hearty wishes for its success.

Gentlemen resident in the outlying towns and villages will oblige the Executive Committee by making up lists of persons who take tickets, and forward the same at the earliest possible moment to the Secretary. No Ticket will be issued without the cash in advance.

Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Secretary; and all registered and other letters should be addressed to him.

Tickets are now prepared and ready for distribution.

By order of the Executive Committee,

W. O. M. KING,

Hon. Sec.

Invitation To A Royal Ball 1860

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SECOND DAY LONDON

THE LEVEE

Shortly after four o'clock, His Royal Highness and suite, escorted by a troop of cavalry reached the City Hall, where a guard of honour was awaiting the party. Passing through the arcade, they squended to the large hall, at one side of which a dais was erected for His Highness. The hall was rendered as comfortable as possible and was beautifully decorated. The Prince was surrounded by his suite and the presentations commenced. The first in order was the Lord Bishop of Huron and his clergy; his lordship stood at the left of the Prince during the entire levee.

The Warden and County Council of Elgin being next in order were introduced and presented the following address;

To His Royal Highness Albert Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, etc. etc.

May it please your Royal Highness

We the Municipal Council of the County of Elgin in Council assembled

Beg leave respectfully to congratulate you on your safe arrival in Canada and to give you a cordial welcome.

Your visit to this portion of the British Empire, on the invitation of the representatives of the people in the Parliament of Canada is very gratifying to us, as we have no doubt it will be to all the people of British North America.

The knowledge you will acquire during your sojourn amongst us, of the customs and manners of the people of this Country, of the liberal institutions we have established and are enjoying, of the healthful climate and productive soil of Canada, will we trust materially assist you hereafter to encourage and promote such enterprises in Canada as may have a tendency to develop the abundant agricultural, manufacturing and mining resources of a young country, destined to be the happy home of the present and future age of the young and enterprising Youth of Canada and the British Island. On your return to England, you will please convey to Her Majesty, your Royal Mother, our expressions of continued and heartfelt loyalty to Her Person and Throne, that we hail your arrival amongst us, as a declaration from our beloved Queen and Councillors of the Great Empire over which she so successfully Reigns, of the deep interest manifested in our progress and welfare, and we ardently hope our increasing facilities of intercourse and communication with the British Islands, will be long perpetuated.

We trust when you return to England, that under the guidance of Divine Providence, you may long live to be useful to the people of the Mighty Empire over whose destinies we hope you will be at a future day successfully preside.

Signed by order and on behalf of the Municipal Council of the

County of Elgin.

Signed JAMES ARMSTRONG, WARDEN

William McKay, County Clerk St. Thomas
County of Elgin, 14th of June 1860

Names of persons from St. Thomas and Vicinity Presented
to th Prince.

J Beggreeve of Southwold; H. Caldwell; Dr. St. George
Caulfied; G.T. Claris; Rev. EK. Davies, Vienna; Jas Farley;
H. Gustin, J.P. Vienna; D.J. Hughes; E. Horton; George Kains;
WK Kaines; D. Luton Yarmouth, W. Lipsey; R.J. McNaughton,
Staffordville; Wm. McKay; Rev. W. McCulloch; John McAusland,
Aylmer; Peter Murtagh; John McKay; M.T. Moore, Rev. D. W.
Rowland; Peter Roe; Chas Roe; G. Suffell, reeve of Vienna,
S.B. Smith, Vienna, G. Southwick, reeve of ST. Thomas;
W.C. VanBuskirk; W.J. White, J.P.; G. Youel Bayham.

To Which his Royal Highness through His Grace the Duke of
Newcastle has been graciously pleased to reply by special
communication to James Armstrong Esq. the Warden of the County
Elgin. London C.W. 14th September 1860

Sir:

I have the honour to convey to you the thanks of His
Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for the address
presented to him by the Municipal Council of Elgin.

I am sir your obedient Servant

Newcastle
James Armstrong Esq. Warden

~~J. Thomas Home Journal Aug 22nd 1860~~

"A Special Meeting"

Of the Village Council will be held at the Town Hall,
on Saturday the 25th day of August, Instant at 8 o'clock P.M.
G. Southwick Reeve.

Drafted ~~speech~~ address for Elgin County Council to give
to Prince of Wales in London Ont.

Youell- Reeve Bayham. Suffel- Reeve Village of Vienna.
Dr. Southwick- Reeve Village ST. Thomas. McDougald-

copy
To His Royal Highness Albert
Albert Prince of Wales Duke of Cornwall &c

May it please Your Royal Highness

We the Municipal Council of the County
of Elgin in Council assembled

Do please respectfully to Congratulate
you on Your safe arrival in Canada
and to give you a cordial Welcome

Your visit to this portion of the
British Empire on the invitation of the
Representatives of the People in the Parliament
of Canada is very gratifying to us as we
have no doubt it will be to all the people
of British North America

The Knowledge You will acquire
during Your sojourn amongst us of the Customs
and Manners of the People of this Country
of the liberal institutions we have established
and are enjoying of the healthy climate
and productive soil of Canada will we
trust materially assist you hereafter
to encourage and promote such enterprises
in Canada as may have a tendency to develop
the abundant Agricultural Manufacturing and
Mining resources of a young Country destined
to be the happy home of the present and
future ages of the young and enterprising
Youth of Canada and the British Islands

On Your return to England You
will please convey to Her Majesty Your
Royal Mother our expressions of Continued
and hearty loyalty to her person and
throne and that we hail Your arrival
amongst us as a declaration from our
beloved Queen and Counsellors of the

1860

COUNTY OF ELGIN.

of the Great Empire over which she so
successfully reigns of the deep interest
manifested in our progress and welfare
and we ardently hope our increasing
facilities of intercourse and communication
with the British Island will be long perpetuated

We trust when you return to England
that under the guidance of Divine Providence
you may long live to be useful to the people
of the Mighty Empire over whose destinies
we hope you will at a future day
successfully preside

London CW
14 Sept 1866

Sir

I have the honor to convey
to you the thanks of Her Royal
Highness The Prince of Wales for
the Address presented to Him by the
Municipal Council of Hgini.

I am

Sir

Yours Most Obedt Servt

James Armstrong Esq.

Cardiff

To His Royal Highness Albert Edward
Prince of Wales Duke of Cornwall &c &c

May it please your Royal Highness

We the Municipal Councillors of the
County of Elgin in Session Assembled

Big leave most respectfully to tender
our sincere congratulations to your Royal
Highness on the attainment of your Majority
hoping that that important event may be
the commencement of a long and illustrious
career

When you visited this distant portion of the
British Empire You secured our personal esteem
and respect the remembrance of which will
long be cherished with heartfelt Loyalty and
regard And we entertain a hope that if
under Divine Providence You are hereafter
called to preside over the Great Nation on
which the sun never sets the Knowledge You
then acquired from actual observation of the
unbounded resources of the British North American
Provinces will hereafter tend to their Welfare
and prosperity Situated as we are in the midst of
an Agricultural Community and knowing the feelings
and sentiments of the Inhabitants as their Municipal
Representatives We have no hesitation in declaring our
continued Loyalty and attachment to the Throne of
our illustrious Queen and our great and sincere
respect for your Royal Highness

1862

rien marasal, and his quiet spoken gracious lady, gowned in grey and wearing a floral hat of shaded lilac.

In contrast to the wooden platform and coach-and-four of the preceding century, this royal party stepped from a crimson-lined parapet into a shiny low-slung maroon limousine, graced with the regal standard. But there was no less warmth in the heartfelt cries of greeting, and there was no less sense of loneliness when their special train pulled out of the station an hour later—than when the King's grandfather ended his two-day visit in 1860.

57-Minute Visit

Between those two occasions Londoners welcomed other princes and dukes. George V, the "Sailor King," came to Western Ontario as Duke of York in 1901, in one of the shortest official visits in history. He stayed just 57 minutes, during which time, clad in the uniform of honorary colonel in the 7th Fusiliers Regiment of London, England, he presented colors to the 7th Fusiliers Regiment of London, Canada.

October 1919 saw the city in holiday regalia again as school children, off for the day, crowded Victoria Park for the reception honoring the Duke of Windsor, then Prince of Wales. Tea at Queen Alexandra Sanatorium nurses' residence and inspection of returned soldiers and presentation of decorations and medals were highlights of his stay.

A sunny August day in 1918 greeted the arrival of Prince Arthur of Connaught, then Governor-General of the Dominion, who was paying his second visit to the city. (He stopped fleetingly in London in 1869). On an official military tour, he inspected troops in training at Carling Heights and met officials of military institutions. On that occasion too tea was served at the Sanatorium nurses' residence.

Canada's present governor-general, Viscount Alexander, with Lady Alexander visited London on May 29, 1947, and in June of 1942 their predecessors, the Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice, were welcomed with cheering ovations at a civic reception at the city hall.

Prince of Wales

But of all the royal visits, probably that of Edward VII as the charming young Prince of Wales, most closely touched Londoners. "The demonstration on that occasion was said by one who accompanied the Prince to have been superior to anything else in Canada," said the London



The handsome Prince of Wales, who later became Edward VII, danced his royal way through Canada and the United States in the "Sixties" leaving memories of the most lavish parties of the century on this continent.

Illustrated News after his return home, and accounts of the two-day stay in the London, Canada, press recall the feelings of the 20,000 Londoners and the 30,000 loyal subjects from outside the city who gathered to greet him.

The enthusiasm of crowds which met him on his arrival resulted in a deafening roar of voices drowning out his own short address, and he was said to have "looked on with an air of wonder" as the crowd continued to cheer lustily and upset all plans for formal words of greeting from district dignitaries.

Fireworks and a torchlight

procession marked the evening ceremonies, but the most exciting of all the events arranged in connection with the Prince's visit was the ball at the old Tecumseh House on the second night, when elaborately gowned wives and daughters of London's leading families found their hearts beating just a little faster as they shared waltzes, quadrilles, polkas and lancers with the visitor. The gallant Prince joined in all of the 21 dances on the evening's program.

Prince's Dance Program

His program was as follows:

1. Quadrille Miss Moffatt
2. Polka Mrs. Watson

3. Waltz Miss Becher
4. Lancers Mrs. Howell
5. Waltz Miss Prince
6. Galop Miss Askin
7. Quadrille Mrs. Judge Small
8. Waltz Miss Hamilton
9. Lancers Mrs. W. L. Lawrason
10. Polka Miss Jennings
11. Galop Miss Meredith
12. Quadrille Miss Bell
13. Waltz Miss Gzowski
14. Galop Mrs. Rivers
15. Lancers Miss Gzowski
16. Galop Miss Hope
17. Quadrille Miss Dalton
18. Waltz Miss Paul
19. Lancers Mrs. Taylor
20. Waltz Mrs. James Daniel
21. Sir Roger de Coverly Miss Brough.

We have previously given a brief description of the ball-room fitted up specially by the citizens for this grand occasion. When lighted up, the scene was splendid. The gas-lights were carried round the entire building, and these, with the three chandeliers in the centre, threw out a volume of light more than rivaling the splendor of the noon-day. The ceiling was beautifully decorated with flags, evergreens interspersed with roses, and around the sides of the room paintings and mirrors were tastefully arranged. The ball room at each end was raised in the form of a gallery, and seated with sofas and chairs furnished by our citizens. From this position, when the dance was going on, the scene was very magnificent. The dancing party began to arrive at half-past nine, and the Prince and suite made their appearance precisely at ten o'clock. His Royal Highness, amidst the acclamations of the people, was conducted to the dais at the west side of the room, surrounded by the Duke of Newcastle, the Earl of St. Germans, the Governor General, General Williams, Col. Bruce, Major Tisdale, the Hon. Mr. Cartier, Hon. Mr. Rose, Hon.

C. Morrison, Hon. Sydney Smith, and the Hon. George Sherwood. The Prince and his suite were dressed in their full military uniform, according to their respective ranks. On the opposite side was the orchestra. The band of the Canadian Rifles was selected for the occasion, and the music was the finest and most soul-inspiring we have ever heard. About three hundred couples were present—all the citizens in full dress as civilians, which when mingled with the military costumes of the royal party, produced a fine effect. We have to congratulate our city belles upon their enchanting appearance as they stood before the Prince. They had evidently done their best to show him what Canadian ladies can do, and some of the dresses—but we will not particularize—were tasteful, rich and beautiful. This, when added to their own native personal charms—which we have the vanity to think cannot be excelled in any city in Canada—formed a scene fit for a Prince to look upon, and from the manner in which he seemed to enjoy it, we could fancy him saying to himself, as he smiled graciously upon all around him, "Well, what an assemblage of beauty this far distant Forest City can produce!"

The Prince is a most indefatigable dancer—and an excellent dancer he is. The programme contained twenty-one different dances, and His Royal Highness took part in them all but one—dancing from ten o'clock until four in the morning, just six consecutive hours—we do not believe he has gone more heartily into it at any other ball in the Province. We shall now give the different dances, and the names of the ladies whose good fortune it was to be selected as partners for the Prince in the different dances. His Royal Highness opened the ball, having as his partner Miss Moffat, the interesting daughter of his worship the mayor.

NAMES OF THE LADIES THE PRINCE DANCED WITH

1. Quadrille, National, Miss Moffat.
- *2. Polka, Albert Edward; Miss Goodhue.
3. Waltz, Queen's, Mrs. Bechori.
4. Lancers, Mrs. Howell.
5. Waltz, Queen of the Ball, Miss Prince.
6. Galop, Politechnicker, Miss Askin.
7. Quadrille, Queen's Canadian, Mrs. Judge Small.
8. Waltz, Marlen, Miss Hamilton.
9. Lancers, Mrs. William Lawton.
- *10. Polka, Viva la Jole, The Prince did not dance.
11. Galop, Laughing, Miss Meredith.
12. Quadrille, Bonnie Dundee, Miss Bell.
13. Waltz La Traviata, Miss Czanski.
14. Galop, Fredrick, Mrs. Rivers.
15. Lancers, Miss Gotschewski.
16. Galop, Ever of Thae, Miss Hope.
17. Quadrille, Palmero, Miss Dalton.
18. Waltz, Nachtwandler, Miss Paul.
19. Lancers, Mrs. Taylor.
20. Waltz, Beloved Star, Mrs. Daniel.
21. Sir Roger de Coverly, Miss Blough.

THE FIREMEN'S TOURNAMENT

This ball, as we anticipated, proved a most successful affair, and realized the wishes of all. The number present far exceeded that of any previous ball of that kind in the city, and from what we can learn, there were no less than one hundred and fifty couples present. The ball-room was decorated in a very handsome manner, on the front wall hung a very handsome strip of cloth, with the words "Canada, our future king;" at one end was another strip

The prizes were a Silver Cup, presented by the City of London, to be competed for by first class engines. The second was a Silver Fruit Basket, presented by the "Phoenix" Company of London, to be competed for by the second class engines.

The "Phoenix" and "Torrent" were entered for the Cup, and on the signal being given by the chief, the Phoenix was drawn to the Bridge. At the word "ready" the brakes began to play, throwing one of the prettiest streams we ever saw. The distance thrown was 190 feet.

The Torrent was then taken to the Bridge, but from some untoward circumstance, she was not well worked, not throwing within thirty feet of the Phoenix. As the Torrent had not wet the paper and on the ground, it was impossible to say what distance she did throw, but 100 feet, we should say, would be within bounds.

The engines for the second prize were then ordered to get ready, and the "Excelsior" from Chatham took position. The following is the list furnished us by the Chief:—

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Excelsior, Chatham— | 155 feet 8 inches. |
| Beaver, St. Thomas— | 103 " 10 " |
| Victoria, Stratford— | 149 " 8 " |
| Protection, Ingersoll— | 159 " 8 " |
| Rescue, London— | 155 " |
| Triumph, St. Mary's— | 155 " 4 " |

Most of the Companies made a second trial before leaving their position; but the "Beavers" were satisfied with throwing only once, feeling confident that 103 feet 10 inches would win the basket.

As the men were proceeding to "limber up," and get into line for their return to the city, Mr. Labatt sent a barrel of his excellent beer to the thirsty Firemen; for which, the Beaver Company, when opposite his Brewery, halted, and gave him three hearty cheers. The Companies, on arriving at Headquarters, backed their engines to one side of the street, and entered the Hall, where refreshments were waiting for them. Having satisfied their hunger the Chief called the men to order, and on behalf of Phoenix Company No. 2, of London, presented the Fruit Basket to Captain Drake, of Beaver Company No. 1, of St. Thomas. Captain Drake replied in a very happy manner, and declared that he was no Spenser, but that he felt more than he could express. The Chief then presented the Captain of the Phoenix Company with the cup, who returned his thanks to the citizens of London in a short speech, after which, the Companies separated, to prepare for the festivities of the evening.

Previous to leaving London, the Rescue boys affixed a "Broom" to the St. Thomas Engine—signifying that they could sweep the Phoenix and second class engines. The "Broom" is fastened to the Flag-staff on the Town Hall.

On Saturday evening the Beaver and

the ball-room, and the citizens were disappointed. His Highness did not make his appearance. The dancing was kept up with spirit during the whole time, and the happy party broke up at an early hour Friday morning.

The Firemen's Tournament.

On Thursday forenoon, the various Fire Companies formed in front of the Exchange Buildings, and proceeded down North Street to the Phoenix Engine House, where the "Torrent" from Port Huron was put up; after leaving these Companies the procession passed on to Richmond street, and thence to the Firemen's Hall on King Street. When each Company had manned the ropes, they returned to head-quarters, on Ridout street; everything having been got in readiness the procession again reformed and marched through some of the principal street, and then to the "City Mills," where the grand trial of skill, between the

THE HOME JOURNAL, ST. THOMAS, FRIDAY, SEPT. 13-20, 1861.