

FIRST CALEDONIAN GAMES HELD IN 1890.

The Dutton Caledonian Society was formed in 1890. Duncan McMillan was largely responsible for its inception and the success which attended it. It was a very strong society due largely to the absence of other similar societies in the district, and to the necessity of being a member of some such organization if one wished to participate in Caledonian Games in the States. This gave the Dutton Society an International reputation and some of the best athletes and dancers in Canada were enrolled in it. Mr. McMillan had a great devotion to Scotland and its institutions and lost no opportunity to encourage them in Canada. He was also one of Canada's best musicians on the bagpipes. In 1893 he was elected to act as judge on piping and dancing for the Scotch Games at the World's Fair.

In 1890 Mr. McMillan's efforts bore fruit and the inaugural meeting of Dutton's Caledonian Society was held in the McIntyre House which, while not largely attended, was representative of the Scotch element. The officers elected were:- Chief Duncan McMillan; first chief, James Duncanson; Second chief, Hugh McMillan; third chief, John A. McKay; treasurer, A.M. McIntyre; secretary, John D. Blue.

To carry out a program of sports, subscription lists were placed in circulation and were responded to so liberally that it was decided to hold the first games on August 27, 1891, and Messrs. Pool, Leitch, and McMillan were named to look after it. The games exceeded all expectations and definitely settled the future existence of the society. Some of the best dancers and athletes in the country participated. The prize winners were, -J.D. McPherson, M. O'neil, J.D. McColl, E.W. Teasing, T.R. Teasing, Moore, Devine, Campbell, Wilson, Ruthven, Bellwood, R. Ireland, Munroe, Matheson, Katie Ash, Aggie Rankin, Valeida Taylor. In the evening a program was held in Leitch's Hall where the Rankin family provided an excellent program. The receipts were \$148 for the gate and \$86 from the concert.

The names of those composing the first teams of the Tug- O'- War were--
Dunwich T. Kerr, James Bennett, A. Mitchell, Daniel Graham, J. Sifton,
S. Meteor, J. Galbraith, Alexander Gordon, James French, and Alex McDougal
Aldbrough-- D. McLean, K. McLellan, D. Campbell, M. Bass, George Danley
D. McColl, D.G. McPherson, Archie Leitch, D. Scotch, J. Welch,
Southwold-- D. Campbell, A. Turner, W. Turner, D. Turner, D. Wrightman,
A. McCallum, J. McKillop, A. McLellan, and R. Turner.

Special mention was made of Chief McKinnon and Mr. Ireland for their assistance in making the Games a success.

The first annual meeting was held on January 28, 1891, on the birthday of the Scottish poet, Robbie Burns and this became a fixture.

The year 1893 was most important in the history of Dutton for in that year the Caledonian Society carried off the World's Fair medal which is said to have been the finest trophy ever put up in the world for competition in the Caledonian Games. The medal was set with a large diamond with gold mounting and was the gift of the San Francisco Caledonian Society. It cost \$250. It was to become the property of the Society who won the greatest number of prizes at the Caledonian Games held at the World's Fair at Chicago in July, 1893. The Dutton Society were justly proud of their achievement and it was decreed that this medal should be worn by the Chief on all public occasions as a badge of honor.

THE HIGHLIGHT.

In 1896, the Caledonian Society reached the highlight of its history, when Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Aberdeen appeared at the games on the invitation of the Society. Dutton recognized the fact that this was the greatest distinction ever paid to the village and they prepared to meet it suitably.

Business houses and residences were decorated with flags and bunting and evergreen. Twelve hundred dollars was appropriated to meet expenses. Mr. Henry Hollingshead erected an arch of barrels joined by lattice work and ornamented with bunting near the mill. There were five other arches on

Main Street. A large white flag surmounted by a large Scotch thistle floated over the store of D. H. Taylor.

The Governor- General and his lady arrived from St. Thomas on the M.C.R. train No. 23. at 11 a.m. and were met by the 25th Battalion, 200 strong, in charge of Col. Stacey, and headed by the 25th band. The procession was headed by the marshall, James Murchison, followed by the 25th Battalion Band, officers and members of the Caledonian Society, members of the Elgin County Council, pipers, their Excellencies' escort, Lord and Lady Aberdeen, citizens in carriages and on foot.

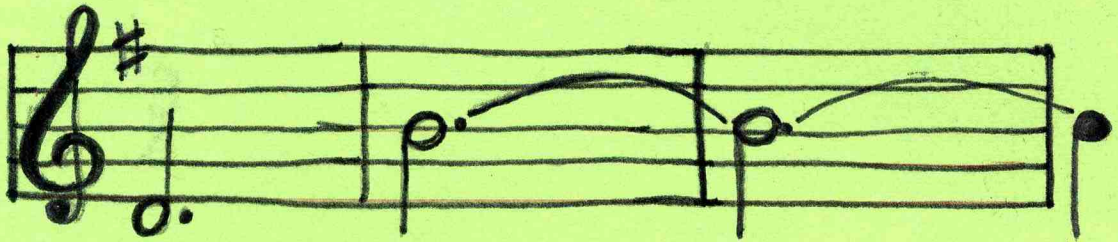
After the Games their Excellencies were entertained in a large tent provided for that purpose. William Newport, well-known caterer, prepared the luncheon. Chief McMillan was toastmaster. This was followed by a reception for all who wished to meet their excellencies.

Whenever the older citizens of Dutton reminisce about Dutton's bygone days, they dwell with enthusiasm on the memorable occasion when Lord and Lady Aberdeen visited Dutton.

From this time on the interest in the Games gradually declined and finally stopped. They were finally revived in 1952 under the auspices of the Dutton and Dunwich Chamber of Commerce. That year, Lord and Lady Elgin were honored guests, they having come to Canada to attend Elgin County Centennial.

Mrs. Herb GREEN.

1891



And the band played on . . .

In 1869 the enthusiasts of Wallacetown suddenly decided that a brass band would be a good assistance to their town, as well as a good entertainer to its citizens. Consequently a subscription list was circulated and in a short time the necessary sum was subscribed to warrant the purchase of a set of band instruments from Peter Grossman, band instrument dealer in Hamilton.

The next thing required was the boys to manipulate these instruments. A public meeting of the citizens was held, when the following were chosen to form

the charter members of the Wallacetown Brass Band.

Oliver Cruise, E.b bass, J. E. Crane, Bb baritone, Dan McBrayne, Eb, alto, Dan Campbell, 1st Bb cornet, John A.C. Blackwood and Robert Stevenson solo Eb cornets, Wm. Morrish, bass drum, James Bradt, snare drum, Prof. Walker, who was already instructing bands in Iona and Fingal, was chosen as teacher and on July 6th the instruments were distributed. A more pleased audience never listened to the best professional bands than listened to that small band on its first appearance on the street about three months after

organization. Brass band concerts were by no means so common then as today, and it is not any surprise that the citizens went into ecstasies when they heard their own band play, crude though that playing might be.

As is the fate of every village band, the Wallacetown band, through loss of members, found it very difficult to maintain an existence, until in 1875 it finally expired from lack of membership. Dutton a thriving village on the M.C.R. situated about three miles north of Wallacetown sprung into existence about 1870. In 1889 it also began to feel the want of some public musical organi-

zation, so, through the efforts of the members of Court Nelson I.O.F. instruments were procured and on Good Friday the Dutton I.O.F. brass band was organized. The Charter members were, John Kiefer, A. N. Patterson, C. Patterson, M. L. Miller, John Wren, Andrew Ferguson, Harry Shore, George Gusterson, Walter Fletcher, B. J. Schultz and John E. Clark.

In 1890 Mr. Campbell (the same Dan Campbell, who in 1869 identified himself with the Wallacetown band), joined the band and in October 1891 was appointed band leader, which position he held for many, many, years.



DUTTON BRASS BAND — 1892

BACK ROW: D. Saunders, H. Schwartz, W. Fletcher, J. Sifton, H. Davis,
W. Saunders, D. Campbell, A. Lutz. FRONT ROW: E. Sutton, R. Camp-

bell, R. Waite, N. Campbell, J. Saunders, W. Cape and B. Schultz.