

the falling coals and shingles. The McFate Mill was located on the north side of the M. C. R. tracks, west of the station.

Mr. D. A. Kirkpatrick's home was burnt and a number of other houses caught fire, but systematic action by the Bucket Brigade prevented its further spread. His house was on the lots where Mr. Hardaker's house now stands.

A. McKillop & Sons' Bending Factory and Saw Mills were being operated strongly during this period as well as the Flour Mill, the latter under the capable management of the late W. S. Whiting, well known to the earlier members of the Community. Truly the wood and lumber industry had much to do with the success of the town and district. This section of the township was remarkable for its timber lands. One may gather an estimate of the extent and quantity of its standing log timber when I tell you that at one time or other seven mills were in operation on Mill Street between the east Town Line and the Furnival Road. What a change forty years can make in a Community. Then seven fairly well equipped mills located in a lineal distance of about six miles--contrast that situation with just what happened the past summer. A boat builder at Port Stanley required one special heavy stick of Oak Timber for the boat he was building beside other thick and weighty plank. He found trees that suited his purpose down near Simcoe, but could not get a mill that could saw them inside of about eighty miles and he had to bring them to West Lorne to have them sawed. The only surviving mill in this district, all the rest have passed away and as Virgil would say, "have vanished into thin air". It is worthy of note that it is exactly eighty years this current year since its predecessor was operated by the McKillop Brothers, father and uncle of the present owners, and it was called "The Brock's Creek Steam Saw Mill".

In a former paper we referred to some of the early Trotting races held on the street of West Lorne which were discontinued on account of an accident, a little girl being knocked down and severely injured by one of the contestants. In this decade, a revival of interest in man's most useful servant and friend, the Horse, was stirred up. Well-bred stock had been imported from Kentucky and elsewhere by John A. McKillop and great interest was manifested. The result was the completion of a splendid Trotting Track. The ground was leased from Squire J. C. Schleihau at a very reasonable rental for a term of years, and while the time was not so fast, still there were many close finishes that pleased the large crowds in attendance. This track was where the Erie Flooring Factory and Lumber Yard now stand. A special matched race for \$50.00 a side was arranged between W. Tolmie's "Whistle Jacket" and Alexander Beaton's "Canada Southern". Considerable rivalry existed between the owners of these horses. The day of the race came. The track was dry and dusty. On the westerly side of the track was a sandy piece of ground and the sand was deep at this time. "Canada Southern" was a high-stepping, trappy gaited horse, but "Whistle Jacket" had the long low striding gait of the Clay Family to which he belonged. So on the smooth, level, and comparatively hard track "Whistle Jacket" could be half a length in advance, but the sandy portion of the track just suited "Canada Southern" and he would turn down the short stretch ahead of his game rival. The latter would close the gap and in each of the three heats came in lapped on his rival but always a loser by a neck.

This was the hey-day period of bicycles, and bicycle races also were held on this track. George Page, who still lives in the west end of the town, was the usual winner at this kind of sport.

Many good Roadster colts were raised in the district by the Schleihauf Brothers, Joe and John Schmeckenburger and the McKillop Brothers. The latter exhibited a two-year old colt at the Chicago World Fair in 1893, and carried off Second Prize in a large field. This was quite an honour brought home to this town, and as the brawny Scots team from Dutton won the men's Tug-of-War against the best that Yankee Land could produce, the Banner County of the Province, Elgin, received a well-meritted and lasting advertisement. In 1888 two valuable Roadster Sires were imported, "Solitaire" and "Grand Sentinel", the former from Kentucky by John A. McKillop and the latter from Michigan by C. Schleihauf. The former was the sire of the prize-winning colt at the Chicago World's Fair above referred to.

In 1888 the Town Hall, situated on the north side of the Track, was built jointly by the McColl Lodge of West Lorne and the Township of Aldborough, during the Reeveship of J. J. Stalker, and served its purpose well and truly for more than a score of years. McPherson and Co. had a large Department Store on the east side of Graham Street, and as before noted carried on a wholesale wood business as well. P. J. Lindenman had a General Store in the McKillop Building. This block was a handsome, three-storey building with basement, and was one of the finest buildings between St. Thomas and Windsor. Dr. Eaton had his office and apartment in this building. Just a few years previous to the period we are considering, a small pox epidemic broke out in West Elgin and one of West Lorne's residents contracted the dread disease and Dr. Eaton took charge of the quarantined house and brought the case to a successful conclusion. He went out West with the second Manitoba boom and settled in Carbery, Manitoba, where he had a very successful practice. In this building Skinner Bros. for a time had a private bank, and E. C. Harvey, now of St. Thomas,

operated a Drug Store. Mr. Thos. E. Montague, assisted by the Business Men of the town, and many of the farmers in the District, built and operated a Canning Factory, which did an extensive business in that line up to the time the Dominion Cannery took it over.

During the most of the time the Local Company operated, it was under the management of the late James A. Fuller, and on its assumption by the New Company, he was chosen as Supervisor of the Western District Factories, which position he held to the time of his death. At the beginning of the period we are considering, the West Lorne Public Library was started and its first Directors were A. Bridgeman, Lawyer, Robt. McFate, Dr. Brock, John A. McKillop and Archibald Carmichael. It is still continuing its useful existence and with the following officers: Pres., F. G. Balsdon, Sec. Treas., A. Petherick, J. P., and Librarian, Mrs. V. Norris. Near the beginning of this period our medical friend, Dr. Webster, took up his practice here. He had his office in the McKillop Building. This building had two splendid apartments in its second storey, and in its third storey a large Public Hall, even larger than our Community Hall, and on the other side Fraternal Halls with ante-rooms, occupied by the Foresters, Odd Fellows, Sons of Scotland and Royal Templers.

In the year 1891 the officers of McColl Lodge were as follows: E. Plastow, W. M., and Robt. McFate, Sec. In the I. O. F., E. R. Mogg was Chief Ranger and John F. Taylor, Sec. In the Royal Templers, Mr. Archibald Carmichael was Select Councillor and A. M. Munroe, Sec. The office of the Division Court was at this time and for many years previous in West Lorne. At first it had its office in the Roome Hotel, corner Main and Graham Streets, and Mr. Findlay McDiarmid, father of our late member, was the efficient clerk for this district. Mr. Philip Schmelz of Mill Street,

south of the Village, was the Bailiff, who genial and sunny disposition suited him admirably for the office. The office was afterwards moved to the McKillop Building, where the new clerk, Mr. A. N. G. Black of Dutton, held sway for some years, and the well-read and cultured John McCallum was the Bailiff, and you will remember that in a former paper we referred to him as being one of the founders of the village. George, son of the above-mentioned Philip Schmelz, for some years operated a photograph studio on Main Street, where the printing office now stands, and John P. Miller had a cooper shop for making barrels and casks of all kinds. It was also on Main Street.

The Misses McAlpine had a dressmaking establishment in this period on Graham Street opposite the Commercial Hotel, and the Misses Annie and Mary Gillies had one also on Monroe Street in the McKillop Building. Miss Annie still carries on her business in her home on Main Street.

It was in this busy and prosperous decade that the Catholic Church was remodelled and furnished anew in its beautiful and appropriate dress both internal and external. I believe the work was done by Mr. Thos. Daley, Contractor, who built many of the homes in West Lorne. He was the father of Miss Kate and Joe Daley.

In 1891 Mr. Colwell of Mitchell came to West Lorne and published its first paper, known as the West Lorne Herald. It was a very newsy, creditable weekly and filled the bill admirably for some years, when the Editor secured control of the weekly Wallaceburg paper and moved there. The family still publish it there.

John A. Cameron, principal of our Public School, then continued the paper around 1894 and carried it on under the name of "The West Elgin Pilot".

The clippings which I will read are taken from the sixth issue of the West Lorne Herald, June 11 - 1891, and may be of interest to some or all of us.

PERSONALS

Judge Palmer spent last week visiting his sister, Mrs. Armstrong, who resides near Newbury. (Judge Palmer was father of Mrs. Peter McGregor.)

Miss Christy Gillies of Middle Street is visiting her cousin, Miss Annie Gillies, this week.

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Mr. James Bolsby, who has been in Chicago for the past few months, is home visiting his parents for a few weeks.

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Mr. Ben Partridge, the genial landlord of the Commercial Hotel West Lorne, is taking in the sights and scenery of London this week.

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Mr. Stephen Cook, Townline, has been improving and putting up his barns and sheds, putting a new roof on several buildings. (Mrs. A. Gammon's father.)

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Mr. John Easton is plastering up Mr. Ed. Cahill's new kitchen just erected in rear of his private dwelling. (Now Dr. Webster's dwelling.)

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Mr. John Easton, our town paper hanger, was decorating the walls of Mr. Lang's private residence at Eagle last week.

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This week our sanctum was visited by Mrs. D. McKillop and Mrs. W. Whiting. We invite every lady in town or country to call and pay a visit

to the Herald Office. They will at all times be welcome guests to our sanctum.

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Frederick Clayton sheared fourteen sheep for Duncan Carmichael which weighed 126 pounds, an average of 9 pounds to the fleece. Beat this if you can.

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The M. C. R. issued excursion tickets to Detroit on Saturday last at reduced rates. Mr. John McCallum, Miss Melissa Rose, Mrs. Gus Thomas and pensioner Dan McCallum took advantage of the cheap rates.

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If one of our faithful and industrious carters would conceive the idea and act upon it and canvass the front street for subscriptions, we have no doubt but enough money would be subscribed to sprinkle the front St. from McPherson Bros. store to Peter McGregor's and it is just what we need during June, July and Aug. This is a suggestion that should be acted upon at once.

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The Dominion Co-operative Association of the Disciple Church of Canada held its session in Toronto, - The Misses Christie and Bella McKillop, daughters of our worthy postmaster, were delegates from the West Lorne Disciple Church, and have been attending the session last week and this week in the great City of Toronto, the metropolis of the Dominion. We hope the young ladies may enjoy a pleasant as well as a profitable time in this, their mission of love.

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A week ago Sunday the comfortable little edifice, Grace Church West