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OLD-TIME STUFF

REMINISCENCES OF THE OTTAWA OF EARLIER DAYS. Personages, Scenes and Incidents Recalled for Evening Citizen Readers —COMPILED BY GEORGE H. WILSON.

The Lanark Big Cheese 1893 Made Sensation World's Fair; Eleven Tons, 9 Ft. Diameter

Cheese Was Made in Perth, But Big Steel Band in Which It Was Manufactured Was Made in Ottawa and Ottawa Officials Supervised the Making. Proved Great Advt. for Canada. Was It the Cause of the Slang Expression, "the Big Cheese."

You have heard the expression, "The big cheese," as applied to somebody who was in authority (a chief boss, for instance), or that other expression, "That's the cheese," as applying to something that was pretty good. Of course you have. But do you know how or when these oft used expressions arose?

The Old Time Stuff believes that the expressions referred to arose in connection with a monster cheese which was made in 1893 by the cheesemakers of Lanark county and exhibited by the Canadian government at the World's Fair at Chicago and which created a great sensation. Incidentally it may be told that Ottawa had a share in the triumph as the great circular iron hoop in which the cheese was moulded was made in Ottawa by the firm of J. G. Fleck and Co.

The Lanark-Ottawa cheese was the greatest cheese that was ever made either before or since 1893, and Canada (and the Lanark district in particular) received a wonderful advertisement. Everybody in both Canada and the United States talked about "the big cheese," and the expression "big cheese" became in time a slang phrase.

Was Really Big.

This "big cheese" was really a big affair. It weighed eleven tons and the great hoop in which it was moulded weighed a ton and a half. It took 371,206 lbs. of milk to produce the eleven solid tons of cheese.

The "big cheese" was nine feet in diameter and six feet deep.

The cheese was made at Perth, in the freight shed there, and it took a specially built wagon to haul it from the freight shed to the freight car on which it became a guest of honor.

When the great cheese reached Chicago and was being taken into the dairy building, it fell over the truck which was hauling it, and broke through the floor of the building, going down into the earth about five feet. Had it not been for the iron band, the cheese would have ceased to have been a cheese.

But after a lot of hard work and the use of a derrick, the "big cheese" was raised and finally mounted on its stand.

Got Front Page.

The breaking of the big cheese through the floor (together with its great size) secured for its arrival front page position in all the Chicago papers and the story was telegraphed widespread.

Canada received more free advertising in the States than it had had in a score of years. Incidentally it may be told that Canada cleaned up practically all the cheese prizes that were offered that year.

Sold to England.

During the fair, the big cheese was sold to Thomas Lipton (now Sir Thomas) but something went wrong with the negotiations and Mr. Lipton repudiated his contract. The cheese was then sold to A. J. Rowsen, a well known caterer of London, England.

In May, 1894, a portion of the cheese was returned to Ottawa, and was found to be in excellent condition, despite the fact that it had stood for six months under the glass roof of the exhibition building and was exposed to great heat.

A Bit Still Left.

A small piece of this cheese is still in Ottawa. It is in the possession of Dr. J. A. Ruddick, dairy commissioner. This little sample was shown a couple of days ago to the editor of the Old Time Stuff. The sample is so hard as a rock, but still carries the aroma as of old.

Big Pressure.

Readers of the O.T.S. who are cheesemakers will be interested in knowing that in the making of the big cheese there was a pressure of two hundred thousand pounds applied.

Other Large Cheeses.

The first big cheese made in Canada was manufactured in Norwich, Oxford county. It weighed two tons and won first prize in Herkimer county, N.Y.

In 1866, a Mr. Ranney, a cheesemaker of Ingersoll, Ont., outdid the Oxford people by making a cheese which weighed three tons and a half. The Ingersoll cheese was exhibited at the New York state fair at Saratoga and created a lot of interest. It was taken to the station at Ingersoll, drawn by 12 powerful grey horses and headed by a band.

But the Lanark cheese was the "biggest ever."

Ottawa Men There.

It might be added that Ottawa had an interest in the big cheese other than the iron band made by Mr. Fleck. Mr. J. A. Ruddick of the dairy commissioner's staff was the cheesemaker, and Prof. Jas. W. Robertson supervised the manufacture.

Rideau Floods Were Troublesome Early Days

Water Was Often Four Feet Over the Floors.

In the year 1876 the Hopkin family moved from Ottawa to Janeville (now Rockcliffe) and lived there seventeen years. Mrs. Kimpton has vivid recollections of the yearly floods which afflicted Janeville. Mrs. Kimpton says that on five or six separate years the water was so high over the Montreal road, that the water was four feet over the ground floor of their home, and they had to live upstairs and use boats to get about in.

Mrs. Kimpton remembers five or six different years in which severe weather followed the floods, so frozen all over the fields and the children of the village used to be able to skate all the day from the Montreal road to New Edinburgh.

Mr. Kimpton had a large pork factory and slaughter house in Janeville, facing the Montreal road. In the flood years the Kimpton business had to shut down.

It often happened that the floods rose suddenly and that farmers who passed to town in the morning on dry roads were caught by evening and could not get home. Farmers in those days did not have telephones, and had no way to let their families know where they were. But knowing the spring habits of the Rideau the families did not worry much.

Gave the Pulpit to Dominion Church

Cabinet Maker Gave Valuable Donation as His Share.

In connection with the hundredth anniversary of Dominion church, it is interesting to know that the pulpit now used in the church was made by Mr. William Hill, a member of the church, and presented to the church on the occasion of the opening of the new building in 1876. Mr. Hill was a cabinet maker by trade and from all accounts a very good one. He had a business place on York street for years. Mr. Hill also presented the church with the communion table which is now still in use.

William Hill was also janitor of the church, both in the old building and in the new. Mr. Hill was a member of the original church on Sparks street, near Kent, and organized the first choir there.

When Mr. H. H. Hill, his son, was a small boy he pumped the organ in the first days of the new church, and later sang in the choir under Mr. Belwys, the veteran organist and choir leader.

Strange Action of Lightning Bolt; Story of the Believe-It-or-Not Type

Peculiar Experience of Mrs. Thos. Kimpton in the Seventies. Bolt Passed Her in Hall of House Without Even Shocking Her; Went Through Kichen Floor and into Cellar. A Remarkable Incident.

Lightning has played some strange pranks at time. But Mrs. Thomas Kimpton, 274 Rideau street, thinks her experience with lightning in the seventies rather more peculiar than any story about lightning which has appeared in the Old Time Stuff.

At the time of the occurrence, the Kimptons were living on the Richmond road near Judge Armstrong. The locality would be now described as several hundred yards west of the viaduct over the C.P.R. tracks and near Bayview road.

Mrs. Kimpton tells that early one morning during midsummer a terrible thunder storm broke over this locality.

Young James Kimpton, now manager for the Turner butcher shop on Bank street, had just brought a load of wood while to the front door, with the object of taking his mother to town. The front door was open and Mrs. Kimpton was half way up the hall on her way to the open door.

Then Came the Bolt.

Suddenly there was a blinding flash of light and at the same moment a terrific crash of thunder. Past Mrs. Kimpton's head there passed what appeared to her to be a great ball of fire. The thunder bolt went on to the kitchen, bored through the kitchen floor and sank into the earth of the cellar.

The peculiar part of the story is that though the thunder bolt passed Mrs. Kimpton's head, it did not touch her. More strange even is the fact that she was not rendered unconscious or even "shocked."

Apart from giving Mrs. Kimpton a great surprise and blinding her for a while, the bolt did not do her any harm whatever.

As soon as the storm subsided Mrs. Kimpton and her son, drove into town. Now isn't that a surprising story?

OTTAWA LACROSSE TEAM OF 1890

Team which brought lacrosse credit to the city prior to the amalgamation of the Ottawas and the Capitals. Some old timers.

Stranger's Experience in Great Fire of 1870

Mrs. Thomas Kimpton Walked out to Eagleson, Gaffney Bakery on Richmond Road While the Air Was Black with Smoke and the Fire Rushed Toward Ottawa. Had Narrow Escape.

As told in another column Mrs. Thomas Kimpton was thought Ottawa was a pretty dismal place, when she came here from old London in 1870. Perhaps one thing which contributed to Mrs. Kimpton's dissatisfaction with Ottawa, was that, that summer was the famous dry summer and the air was full of smoke for months, from surrounding bush fires.

In fact Mrs. Kimpton had a narrow escape from being a victim of the fire which destroyed Bell's Corners and swept up to the boundaries of Ottawa.

It appears that one day when the big fire that destroyed all of Bell's Corners and much of Nepean and the bush, the height, Kimpton had occasion to walk from Lower Town out to what is now Woodroffe to see Captain Godfrey P. Baker, who was then the postmaster of Ottawa, and who lived at Baker's bush.

Home in Danger.

As Captain Baker's home was in serious danger he was starting at home. As there was some trouble about a letter at the post office, Mrs. Kimpton, not realizing the danger, decided to walk out to Captain Baker's home to see him.

People Excited.

It was a long walk and a hot one, but as a young English woman, Mrs. Kimpton did not mind the walk. She noticed, however that everybody appeared to be excited, that scores of vehicles were rushing past her towards Ottawa, full of refugees. She kept on however and finally reached the Baker home. She found the captain at home. He advised her to hurry back home at once, as her family might be in danger. The air at the time was almost unbreathable.

Nearly Run Over.

On her way back Mrs. Kimpton was frequently in danger of being killed by horses that were being driven rapidly through the smoke. Before she reached the town line Mrs. Kimpton had begun to realize that she had made a mistake. Her experience did not make her any more pleased with her new home.

St. Luke's Church.

Mrs. Kimpton says that on several occasions that year the St. Luke's church was crowded, as refugees from the bush fires in those localities. Most of these loads of volunteers were taken out after working hours. Mr. Kimpton several times went out on these fire-fighting expeditions.

Another story by Mr. Kimpton will be found elsewhere on this page.

Much Tan Bark Came from Meach Lake Hills

A Lot of Hemlock Was Taken from These in Nineties.

In the past a great lot of spruce and hemlock has been taken off the hills around Meach Lake. From the hemlock a lot of tan bark has been derived.

In the early nineties (1891) John Higgins, of Metcalfe, father of Mr. Walter J. Higgins, of 388 First avenue, owned over 1,200 acres of spruce and hemlock land on the mountains and hillsides of Meach and Mosquito Lake. This property was worked by his brother, Wm. Higgins. Mr. Higgins operated on the property for a little over a year.

The property was then sold to another party who re-sold it to Messrs. Donnelly and Dixon of Ottawa, who worked it for some years.

To produce the tan bark, the bark of the hemlock trees was ripped off, cured, then piled just as one would pile cord wood and shipped away to the tan bark markets. Considerable of the hemlock bark went to Ottawa tanners.

METALLIC RIBBONS.

Pastel colored ribbons, with metal patterns traced in them, are smart for girdles, sashes and other decorative touches on pastel colored frocks now.

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Ottawa Lacrosse Team 1890 Was Creditable Organization

Gave Some Fine Players to the Capital. Ottawa Amalgamation in 1892. Pen Sketch of the Team and Its Capable Field Captain. Who the Players Were and What They Did. Played on the Old Metropolitan Grounds.

About the year 1890, lacrosse began to make itself solid as it were, with the people of Ottawa. The city then had two senior teams, the Capitals and the Ottawas. Rivalry began to run high and public interest in the game to follow suit. The year 1890 was the beginning of ten years of high grade lacrosse in the Capital.

To the Ottawa lacrosse team of 1890 and 1891 belongs no small share of the credit for the fine brand of lacrosse to which Ottawa people were treated for 10 years. The Capital team of 1890 and 1891 was an excellent team but not quite good enough to win championship honors. But when in 1892 the Ottawa team agreed to amalgamate with their city rivals, a united team of great strength was brought into being.

The Ottawa team of 1890 and 1891 was a clean playing, but hard fighting aggregation and had thousands of friends in the city.

Clever Players.

On this team there were a lot of very clever players, fast and heady. To the amalgamated team the Ottawas contributed from its 1890 team such excellent players as Hugh Carson, Joe Kent, Tom Crown, and Frank Bissonette. The 1890 team is emphasized, because the picture given herewith is that of the 1890 team.

The photograph here presented was taken on the old Metropolitan grounds just after the Ottawas had administered a defeat to the Cornwall team after a great battle. In the photograph are shown 13 regular players and two spares.

Well Known Figures.

In addition to the players there are shown Mr. R. K. Claire, a member of the executive (to the upper left); the late John Henderson, then president, and Mr. A. G. Pittaway, the secretary-treasurer (at right of top line). The late George Brown, the clever trainer, is shown to the extreme right facing the players.

The 1890 Team.

The 1890 team was composed as follows:

Goal—Hugh McConaghy.
Point—Nick Drohan.
Cover—George Popham.
Defence—Field — Hugh Carson, Charley Clendinnen, and Sam Declarier.
Centre—Frank Bissonette.
Home field—Wm. Dalglish, Thos. Crown, and Dave Coulson.
Outside home—Jack Thomas.
Inside home—Joe Kent.
Rovers—Weldy Young and Sam Declarier.

Of this team, Frank Bissonette, Joe Kent and Dave Coulson are dead. George H. Popham, Hugh Carson, Charley "Cleo," Billy Dalglish, Tom Crown and Sam Declarier are still alive and living here. Weldy Young is in Toronto. The whereabouts of McConaghy and Drohan are not known to the O.T.S.

Who They Were.

Dave Coulson came to Ottawa from Montreal. He was a bookkeeper by calling. McConaghy came here from Richmond Hill, Ont., and got a job at the militia stores.

Tom Crown came here from Toronto where he had played with the Argonaut Lacrosse Club. Mr. Crown is now a successful commercial traveller.

Sam Declarier was a home lover, son of that John Declarier who was known to Canada's early sports. Charley Clendinnen was also a home lover, brother of Tom Clendinnen and Rev. Mr. Clendinnen. Charley was a printer by trade.

Hugh Carson came here from Orangeville and took a job as harness maker at Norbridges. Mr. Carson's use in business circles is known to all.

Jack Thomas was an Ottawa boy who when here was a painter by trade. He is now residing in Syracuse, N.Y., and is still following the same occupation.

Frank Bissonette came here from Kingston. He died some years ago.

Was a Fireman.

Nick Drohan came to Ottawa from Quebec and got a job on the fire brigade. He had been a fireman in Quebec. He was a great defence player.

George Popham was another homebrew, member of a Bytonian family. George Popham was a rangy defence player and effective one.

Weldy Young was another homebrew. He was a son of Chief Young of the fire brigade. At that time Weldy was in the youth of his athletic career.

Joe Kent came to Ottawa from Quebec and got a job in the government. Mr. Kent made good here. He entered the city council and became a controller. His tragic death during an election campaign will still be remembered.

Great Goal-keeper.

McConaghy was a wonderful goal-keeper. The Ottawas had a great running team—fast and tireless. Crown, Bissonette, Popham, Clendinnen were particularly fast.

The Team Remain.

The story would not be complete without reference to John C. Grant, the field captain. In those days the captains of teams went on the field and directed the players at close range. The field captain was the big feature of any team. A field captain not only directed his own men what to do and when to do it, but a clever field captain has been known to often spoil plays of the opposing team by getting in the road of the players of the other side accidentally on purpose, as it were. Of course the thing had to be done skilfully.

Shrewd Tactician.

John C. Grant was a shrewd tactician. He had been a player himself for many years and knew the game down to the ground.

The Metropolitan grounds used to be located on the east end of Preston avenue.

Thought Potatoes Froze on the Stove

Strangers in a strange country often have peculiar experiences. Mrs. Tom Kimpton tells a story of an English woman's experience with frozen potatoes about 1871 or 1872. The lady put the frozen potatoes into cold water on the stove. In due time the frost began to come out. The lady called a neighbor in. To her, she said, "This is a queer country. Here are potatoes actually freezing on a hot stove. I think I'll go back to England."

Chicken Thieves Were Active in Almonte

The Almonte Gazette of 1868 contained the following which may interest Ramsay people:

"We have received a communication from the 6th line of Ramsay, informing us of outrages, etc., which it seems by the letter, are not very uncommon, of certain individuals surreptitiously appropriating for their own special use certain species of the feathery tribe, and also having a very whimsical method of preparing their dainty dishes for the table, most probably on account of having an incomplete culinary apartment in their domicile. It seems they 'do up' their 'dishes' as do some of the descendants of the aborigines of the present day. The writer concludes: 'Those who so far demean themselves as to be disgusting enough to may either learn better manners or be choked by the feathers, I remain yours. A Listener.'"

INSTEAD OF WHITE.

Dead white is becoming less and less popular for bridal gowns and the autumn bride amid the gorgeousness of chrysanthemums or leaves could depart from it with wisdom. With the lavender chrysanthemums she could wear a gown of paled flesh color, a flesh color so pale that at a distance it would look white, but as the dress nearer would take on the color of her own skin.

Immigration Officer Was Good Prophet

Told Thomas Kimpton in 1870 That Ottawa "Would Some Day Be a Great Town." Little Stories About An English "Pork Butcher" Who Made Good Here. The Little Red House on Bolton Street and a Tragedy Which Occurred There.

Prior to 1862 there were few men better known in Ottawa than Thomas Kimpton, "pork butcher," maker of sausages, curer of hams, and expert in putting up delicious combinations of chicken, ham and tongue. At one time, when in the heyday of his career Thomas Kimpton had three shops, one in Uppertown market, one in Lowertown market and one on Rideau street. Mr. Kimpton was an expert sportsman in everything that pertained to the products of the dog. He came to Ottawa in the year 1870, lived here 53 years, and in 1923 passed away with the reputation of as a citizen and business man. He won frequent prizes for pork displays at the early Ottawa fairs.

Mrs. Kimpton is still here, and in her 81st year is as bright as a new dollar and as active as most women of 70.

OLD TAYLOR HOUSE.

Mrs. Kimpton lives at 274 Rideau street in a frame center door house that was erected in the early sixties by James M. Taylor who was sixties agent at the old Bytown and Prescott railway station in Lowertown. The Kimptons have resided in this house for 58 years ago. This house has been Mrs. Kimpton's home ever since.

TO NEW LAND.

In the fall of 1869, when things were not any too good in the old land, Mr. Kimpton decided to come to Canada. Early in the spring of 1870 Mr. and Mrs. Kimpton and their only child, a little girl, set out on the more or less good boat, The Midway, and after a slow trip reached Quebec.

When he started for Canada, Mr. Kimpton had no particular destination. At the immigration office at Quebec he asked for advice.

DIRECTED TO OTTAWA.

"If you could get a job in a butcher shop, go to Ottawa," the immigration officer told him. "Ottawa is going to be a good town some day."

To Ottawa Mr. Kimpton came.

WANTED TO GO BACK.

Today Mrs. Kimpton expresses that her first impressions of Ottawa were anything but agreeable. Things were so crude and forlorn here after old London, that she wanted Mr. Kimpton to go right back, but Mr. Kimpton did not agree with her, so here he turned back, and he was going to stay and help make Ottawa into what it ought to be.

It should be told at this point that of the 600 passengers who came out on the "Midway," a number were also advised by the immigration officer (he must have been a good scout) to come to Ottawa.

OTHERS CAME HERE.

Among those who made the trip to Ottawa with the Kimptons and with whom they became acquainted were a Mr. Fowler, who for years kept a grocery at the corner of Nelson and Clarence streets; James Hall, who for years kept a grocery at 235 Rideau street; Stephen Slinn, who was one of Ottawa's best known hackers for years (and who is still here, living in Eastview), and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gorman, parents of Tom and Jerry and the other well known Gorman boys.

The presence in Ottawa of these and other families who came from old London (cannot now be recalled) helped to take away some of the drabness of Ottawa existence.

LITTLE RED HOUSE.

Mrs. Kimpton tells that shortly after coming to Ottawa Mr. Kimpton rented "a little red house" on Bolton street, near the bank of the Rideau river, on close that when the water barrel filler came around he would walk down to the river and dip up a couple of pails of water and carry them home.

So close to the river was this first Kimpton home that the water was every spring in dire peril of being submerged by the shoves. The ice was often forced up as far as the front door.

WOMAN WAS KILLED.

In fact a few years after the Kimptons left this house a great chunk of ice was one morning in the spring undermined through the side of the house and killed a woman.

Govt. Printing Office Was on Lyon St.

A fact that may not be generally known is that in and about the year 1864 the Queen's Printing office was located on Lyon street at the northwest corner of Queen street. The two-storey stone building which was then occupied is still in existence.

At that time Hunter Rose and Company had the contract for the Dominion government printing and had quite a big staff in the building on Lyon street. Besides the government work, the Hunter Rose firm did all sorts of general commercial printing, and the company was busy, quick and cheap.

The Hunter Rose and Company advertising carried a cut illustrating one of the printers at work on a foot power hand feed press. This press looked a good deal like an ordinary foot-operated sewing machine of the present day. Put beside one of the monster job presses of the present the press which Hunter Rose and Company boasted, looked like a toy. But it was viewed with pride in those days.

Lyon street at that time was called Sally street.

Introduction to the Editor of the O.T.S.

Some Facts About the Man Who for Over Five Years Has Been Entertaining Citizen Readers with Stories About Ottawa and District. Editor Has Had Varied Experiences and Excellent Equipment. Comes of Two Pioneer Families.

For over five years the "Old Time Stuff" has been presented each Saturday evening in The Citizen. At the outset the O.T.S. was a bit of an experiment. It began in a humble way in April, 1923, with a weekly offering of about three columns. The new feature had only been running a few weeks however, when it became evident that Citizen readers had "taken" to it greatly. The three column weekly offering became four columns, then five columns, and finally a full page, with a big heading and special treatment.

In a little over a year the new feature had become so firmly established, and there were so many evidences of its great popularity, that it was given a place of honor (the position it now occupies), on page two of the magazine section.

Information and Education.

For over five years the O.T.S. as it is familiarly known, has been bringing to the people of Ottawa a pleasant combination of information about the early days of both Bytown and Ottawa (matter of great historical value, and stories of humorous happenings in both Ottawa and the Ottawa district. The O.T.S. has provided both historical instruction and entertainment.

The Citizen thinks the time has arrived when the readers of the O.T.S. should know something about the editor of the Old Time Stuff, who has been entertaining them weekly for the past five years. The Citizen thinks an introduction to the editor is due its readers.

As to the Editor.

The editor of the Old Time Stuff is Mr. George H. Wilson, a former newspaper man, who for the past twelve years has been departmental secretary of the engineering department at the city hall.

The Citizen selected Mr. Wilson to take charge of the O.T.S., partly because of his known ability to write interestingly, and partly because of his known intimate knowledge of the history of Ottawa, his parents on both sides having known Ottawa since the days of Bytown.

DIRECTED TO OTTAWA.

Mr. Wilson's father, the late Hugh Leslie Wilson, came to Bytown in the year 1836, and for many years was engaged in the general store and lumbering business, with his brother, the late Zachariah Wilson, who in his later years was no well known as collector of customs here. The Wilson family came to Bytown from St. John, Que. Hugh Wilson, the father of Hugh Laird and Zachariah, also came to Bytown in 1836 and settled on a farm on the Ottawa river just below Green's Creek. He had spent most of his life in the Imperial regiment.

Born in Richmond.

The mother of the editor of the Old Time Stuff was born in Richmond. She was a daughter of Dr. Crawford, one of the pioneer physicians of Richmond, and a granddaughter of Colonel George T. Burke who was the commandant of the military settlement at Richmond and the first member of parliament for Carleton County.

In passing it might be interesting for O.T.S. readers to know that Mr. Wilson's grandmother, the late Mrs. M. J. Crawford (a daughter of Col. Burke), was born while the battle of Queenston Heights was in progress. Col. Burke was major of one of the Canadian regiments which took part in the battle, and Mrs. Burke was staying in a village not far behind the lines.

With Good Equipment.

From these facts it will be seen that the editor of the Old Time Stuff started off pretty well equipped with Ottawa and district associations, to handle local Old Time Stuff.

As to the Editor.

And now to introduce the editor himself to Citizen readers. The Citizen makes this personal introduction of the editor because it feels that if the readers know something of the man who has been regaling them for the past five years they will have a more intimate interest in the stories he presents.

The editor was born on the Montreal road in Gloucester, just below Green's Creek on the front farm of Wilson farm, where his father, Hugh Leslie Wilson, had built a large stone house, which by the way still stands and is occupied by Mr. Heath.

Early in the seventies Hugh Laird Wilson sold the house on the Montreal road to Dr. R. W. Bell of New Edinburgh, and came back to Ottawa to live, locating in the then new district of Rochesterville, but moving to the front farm, on the property, taking a house on Hill street. He died in the year 1879.

School Days.

George H. Wilson, editor of the Old Time Stuff, received his education at the first at the little log school house near Green's Creek, and subsequently at the Central school (1881), under Archibald Sinkie, and at the Kent street school (1881), when the late John Munro was principal. At that time the public schools were doing the work now done by the first form of the Collegiate.

The future editor of the O.T.S. started to work when he was 14 years of age and had had quite a varied career. In succession he worked as office boy in the insurance office of the late E. P. Hartney, as junior clerk in the drygoods store of the late Robert Surtner, as clerk in the law office of Pinhey and Chrisholme, as cashier for the late R. J. Devlin, as bookkeeper in the plumbing and gas fitting shop of the late J. P. Murphy, and as bookkeeper in the wholesale and retail grocery of the late Herbert H. Brennan. Incidentally it may be said that Mr. Wilson secured his bookkeeping diploma at the old Musgrove Business College.

In the year 1886, while keeping books for the late H. Brennan, Mr. Wilson felt the urge to take up newspaper work. He joined the staff of the Free Press. In 1887 he went to the Journal, then only two years old. He remained on the Journal for 25 years, filling almost every position on the paper from junior reporter to managing editor and editorial writer. He was sporting editor for several years, and for a time was connected with the circulation branch.

In 1913 Mr. Wilson left newspaper work and took up the practice of real estate which was then in its hey-day. In 1916 he entered the civic service as secretary of the engineering department and has been there since.

Military Experience.

Coming, as he did of two military families, Mr. Wilson early associated himself with the local militia. He was a "private in the rear ranks" of No. 1 Company of the 43rd Battalion. Sir Percy Sherwood was captain, and Col. Maynard Rogers was lieutenant. Private Wilson was for a number of years the "war correspondent" of the 43rd Battalion.

Public Life.

In 1900 Mr. Wilson began a public career. He was elected public school trustee for Wellington ward, sat on the board four years and then ran for council for the ward. He was elected and sat as alderman for four years. In 1909 he became a candidate for the then new Board of Control and was elected. At the end of the first year business reasons compelled him to retire. In 1912 he ran again and was again elected. In 1913 he became a candidate for mayor and was defeated in a three-cornered fight.

As Fraternalist.

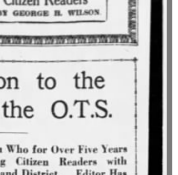
From his earliest days, the editor of the O.T.S. has been a "fraternalist." When a youth the future editor joined the Oddfellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and a few years later, the Canadian Foresters, the Orange Order, and St. Andrew's Society.

During the 1926 centenary, Mr. Wilson was chairman of the Old Boys' Home-coming committee.

Now with all this equipment and varied experience, is it any wonder that the editor of the Old Time Stuff has been able to make the O.T.S. page a success?

For Closer Relations.

With this "introduction," which it is hoped by The Citizen will bring the editor and the "family" of the page into closer relations, and thus make the page more intimate to its readers, the page will proceed on its way to future helpfulness.



MR. GEORGE H. WILSON, Editor of the Old Time Stuff.

Poor Indians Had to Move on, Also Pay

The Almonte Gazette of 1868 had this pathetic little reminder of the time when small Indian bands still roamed the country, selling baskets and bead work and worrying the settlers by camping on their farms, often without permission.

Lo! The Poor Indian.—On last Friday a squad of Indians had the pleasure of appearing at one of our miniature tribunals, for the petty offence of trespass in the township of Pakenham, consequent upon an erroneous imagination not unfrequently entertained by that class of the human race and that is: 'The right of squatting where they please.' When ordered off the ground they had trespassed upon, they hesitated to obey the "pale face" man, and moreover said: "Me settle on you reserve. If me like." Of course they had to walk, the lesson costing them about twelve or fifteen dollars, but the gentleman upon whose premises they had squatted, was generous enough to pay the expenses.

Rent Was Very Low Back in the Seventies

Rents were very low in Ottawa in 1870 and the seventies. Mrs. Thos. Kimpton tells that the year she came to Ottawa they went into a comfortable little house, the rent of which was only five dollars per month. Mrs. Kimpton also relates that three English families who also came here in 1870, took together a house in Lower Town, that was large enough to hold all three families and all they paid for it was ten dollars per month.

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