

Seven Oaks seemed to be a finishing touch to the tragedy. A petition couched in wonderfully strong and beautiful English had been signed by all the colonists and sent to the Prince Regent, asking for military protection. The situation was saved, however, by the timely arrival of Lord Selkirk with the Des Meurons and other soldiers for the policing of the colony.

**Kildonan in Scotland.**

Mr. Sutherland drew a beautiful picture of the parish of Kildonan in Scotland which he had visited some years ago. He believed that there was no greater beauty spot in the whole of Scotland. The audience listened with wrapt attention as he described the wooded valley through which ran the clear Helmsdale, and the little parish church with its seats made out of hewn logs.

John Henderson also spoke of the men whose brawny arms had turned the first sod in the great lone land. The speaker described the historic meeting held in 1817, at or near where St. John's college now stood, where Lord Selkirk had baptized the first parish in Rupert Island by the name of Kildonan. (Cheers) A murmur of scorn ran over the meeting when Mr. Henderson stated that certain persons asserted that Manitoba was not 100 years, but only 25 years old. When they reflected that persons who said such things came to the country in Pullman cars, they were able to estimate their capacity of judging. The speaker quoted the following splendid tribute to the first settlers from the pen of the late Ven. Archdeacon Hunter, "I have watched the wanderings of the human families in all ages. I have noticed the numerous colonies they have formed in different parts of the world. I have been struck by the courage and adventures of the Gauls and Romans when they took possession of new countries. I have watched the progress of the Greeks up the Black Sea when they sought to extend their dominions when they landed on the islands of the west, and of the Tyrians when they took possession of Carthage; but of all the bold efforts ever made to call civilization into existence, none ever exceeded the daring enterprise of Lord Selkirk when he planted a colony on the Red river of the north." (Loud cheers).

**First Schoolmaster.**

The last address of the evening was delivered by the Venerable and Rev. Alexander Matheson, who hale and hearty at the age of 82, was born in Kildonan and became the first schoolmaster of the colony. The old gentleman leaned upon his stick as he spoke and with his beautiful, aesthetic face and white hair he formed a striking picture. The fire flashed from his eye as he spoke, now earnestly, now humorously, of the country. He recalled the time in 1836, when people came from Illinois to try to get the colonists to go down there where the mountains hid deposits of iron and brass. The colonists had wisely decided to remain where they were, for no iron or brass had ever come forth from the mountains of Illinois. The heritage which had been left to the descendants was not a material one. Silver and gold the colonists had had none. They had left behind a spirit of heroism and strength of character which might well be striven after at the present time. A heritage of true religion and sound education had been left behind. He saw among them Mr. Harper, one of the first teachers of the colony, and recalled also such names as Ross, Murray, Polson and Macbeth, all of whom had been pioneer teachers. The colony had persisted in the spirit of Moses, of whom Holy Writ said: "He endured as seeing Him who is invisible." If the old settlers had erred on the side of being too strict he feared the present generation had swung to the other extreme. Many immigrants from the east seemed to believe that there was no God west of Lake Superior. There were too many holidays and too few holy days.

On the front and back of the programme were two scenes, one of which depicted a woman using the sickle and the other a man handling the flail in the year 1812. Several musical numbers were contributed during the evening, those providing the programme being Miss Nellie Bannerman, Miss Mary Henderson, Miss Marry Munroe, Miss Maud Matheson and Messrs. A. Matheson, G. B. Munroe, F. Campbell and D. Y. Matheson. The re-union closed with the hearty singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the enjoyment of light refreshments.

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