

It would take a volume to concisely chronicle the innumerable, interesting incidents and items in the life of the Lindsay Branch of the Children's Aid Society which first "saw the light of day" in the year 1894. However, there are many scores of people who remember the days and the estimable work of the "sky pilot" of the Society in Lindsay, Mrs. Ellen Sharpe, a deeply devoted, dedicated Superintendent of the organization in the local district in the horse and buggy days when Mrs. Sharpe was a one person institution and when duty called her to Hali-burton, sixty miles north, this remarkable woman made the trip and met fatherless babies and sobbing, heart broken premature mothers, and they were taken care of, fed scrubbed and cloathed in Mrs. Sharpe's humble home. This same woman had the added task of being Truant Officer, a thankless position and one which did not add to her popularity, but she was loyal and kind.

The C.A.S. is celebrating a birthday and Superintendent P. Gwyn Thomas occupied the pulpit of Cambridge Street United Church recently and Rev. Hugh Pritchard orated on the place of the Society and the need for it in the community.

Locally the C.A.S. has played an important place in the District and Allan Blewett as Superintendent rendered yeoman service as did his assistant Mrs. Fitzsimmons. They labored for the welfare of children for years before an affluent government stepped in and provided plush offices and a large and competent staff. Gordon Pepper served faithfully and well and turning back the pages of C.A.S. local history the following names of others caught up in this labor of love included: Alex. Clarke, Mrs. R. M. Beal, Dr. Fred and Dr. Hugh Logan, T. J. Tilly, R. F. Thomas, M. Collins, John O'Leary, Canon C. H. Marsh, Rev. P. C. Reid, Geo. Aikens, Rev. Ben. Garret, J. L. Baker, A. T. Lacey, Fred Perrin, C. E. Ferguson, R. W. Curry, Mrs. Ada Gregory.

"It was hard going in the old days" said Mr. Blewett. "The treasury was as bare as Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard but people were kind and when the Society had the 'Home' at the corner of Victoria Avenue and Glenelg Street we were fortunate in having a real 'Mother' in charge in Mrs. Brown.

"There was very little money, different than today when the Government spends all kinds of money. I recall that the Officers agreed that I should have a desk and a chair but they turned thumbs down on buying a glass for the top of the desk, and the cost was only \$30. The hours were long and the calls were many".

Mr. Blewett was with the Society for 33 years and he remarked: "In many ways it was a labor of love and we met all kinds of people in all kinds of

places and we experienced all kinds of problems but on the whole people were approachable, kind and considerate and we had many friends including hundreds who were helped by the Society to find their proper niche in life, especially boys and girls who later were very successful. Many of them were very grateful although the task had its drawbacks it was in many ways rewarding."

Other active workers in the Society included: Mrs. G. A. Milne, Walter Wilson, C. W. Lees, Jerry Jackson, M. H. Sisson, R. I. Moore and A. E. Hick.

* * *

Spring was ushered in in the first week in May and in another six months agricultural Fall Fairs will blossom forth "in all their glory" to use poetic words.

Already Fair Boards have been meeting and tentative plans to make these "big family gatherings" have been placed on the "drawing boards and from a distance it

appears that these annual events in Victoria County are going to be bigger and better than ever. At least this is the opinion of a gentleman of long experience, namely William Scott, M.P. "Some people are saying that the small Fair is just about finished, but I think not," he said.

William Scott speaks as one who should know as he has been a member and for several years Secretary of the District Fairs Association which includes: Kinmount, Bobcaygeon, Peterborough, Lakefield, Norwood, Lindsay, Oakwood, Beaverton, Sunderland and Blackstock. Mr. Scott added "The small Fair is an important link in cementing urban and rural people, the small country fair becomes the mecca for friends and relatives. There is definitely a place in life for the rural Fair."

Incidentally Kinmount Fair is 93 years old and William Scott has been actively associated with this particular Fair since he was a boy and particularly since the time he was a member of the Junior Farmer's organization thirty years ago.