

Once again the time has arrived for fall fairs with Fenselon Falls and Janetville holding the first of the season in the local district. The annual Lindsay Central Exhibition is just around that proverbial "corner". A glimpse into the past by old timers brings to light many interesting, and almost fascinating "fleecy facts" regarding these agricultural events.

Lindsay Central Exhibition has ranked as the fourth largest in the province for many years past, preceded by Toronto, London and Ottawa and a veritable evolution has taken place since the days when, according to historians, the South Victoria Agriculture Society held a fair on the block bounded by Kent, Sussex and Russell Streets and Victoria Avenue in Lindsay.

There was the livestock show, pens for the cattle, swine, sheep and coops for poultry. Horses were tethered around the grounds and fancy work and culinary exhibits were shown in an old military drill shed. The above history has been chronicled and forgotten, to be replaced many years ago by the Lindsay Central Fair, now called an exhibition, which has expanded from a two-day to a six-day event.

Many readers will recall the fairs of by-gone days when the Haliburton train whistled down Victoria Avenue and hundreds of people were unloaded at Kent Street. Remember the clang of the hotel dinner bell rung by a man in a white coat which was two sizes too big. The bell started ringing at 11 o'clock and earlier and could be heard until seven in the evening.

Remember the good old fashioned dinners in the old dining hall enjoyed by people who were truly "the salt of the earth". All victuals were piled on plates and plat-

ters and placed on the table, there was no waitress — “help yourself brother and sister” was the motto. What a meal, platters of sliced beef, potato dishes stacked high,

steaming hot beef gravy, tomatoes off the vine, cucumbers and pickles; wonderful home made bread, beautiful yellow butter, and red beets. The beverage was nothing stronger than strong tea and milk right from the cow — all for the magnificent sum of 25 cents.

That crowd from the north, tired after a day at the Lindsay Fair, wended and some staggered to the waiting excursion train and it appeared that every man carried away with him a large basket of peaches. Hundreds "trotted home" with a big basket of delicious Niagara peaches, tired and weary and with pinching corns in his Sunday-go-to-meeting" cow hide shoes, but perfectly happy and contented after a big day at the big Lindsay Fair.