

Who was one of the "Kings of the plow" at matches held fifty years ago? — Dan McQuarrie. grandfather of lawyer Jim McQuarrie. It was stated a few days ago that the plowing match at the time was held on the farm, west of the County Manor on Angeline street. Another farmer who was expert at plowing a straight furrow at the time was a tiller of the soil named Peter Morrison, a native of the Glenarm district.

Those were the days when the Sylvester plow was the favorite, in the days when the old bay mare was as "steady as a rock" walking down the furrow, the days when farmers took great pride in their plowing. At times the plow came in contact with a boulder and when the point of the plow was damaged, so was at times the language of the plowman. Operations in the "back 50" came to a halt and a hurried trip was necessary to town to buy a new plow point. These "points" were handled by the hardware mer-

chants and at times by a man known as an implement agent. Sylvester had the reputation of making the best plow point in the business.

Sylvester's factory was located at the corner of Kent street and Victoria Avenue and at one time the Sylvester binder was heralded as the best in Canada and trains carried these plows and binders to the farmers on the Western prairies. Sylvester peddled binders and plows by means of horses and wagons and the farmer who had a Sylvester product was envied by neighbors. Upwards of 100 men depended on Sylvester for their "bread and butter".

Sylvester was a pioneer in the manufacturing of a threshing machine known as a combine, one of the first to be placed in the grain field when the sheaves were tossed into the mechanism, the wheat separated from the chaff and in minutes it was threshed, bagged and carried away.

There are a few farmers in the district who remember

the goods manufactured by Richard Sylvester. This gentleman built and occupied the large white brick house at the corner of Peel Street and Victoria Ave. It is understood that Sylvester also planted the strange looking trees in front of the residence on the Avenue. These trees are bald, completely barkless and are to many people a curiosity. They are said to be of the eucalyptus family.

Richard Sylvester sponsored a very fine brass band, a band which became known as the Citizens Band, and later as the 45th Regimental band, an organization which aided in bringing recognition to the town, county and to the militia of Canada at home and abroad.

Victoria Park was donated to the town by Sylvester and the park should have been named "Sylvester Park" in memory of this one time public spirited citizen.