

Crowd-Packed Kingston Sees Mayors Settle Sports Wager

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Sports Editor

KINGSTON — A good-natured sports wager culminated in a colorful spectacle here Saturday afternoon with three male actors in the starring roles.

Two mayors and a horse headed a glittering cavalcade on parade that had crowd-packed streets cheering from the Community Centre starting point to the city hall wire. It was estimated that some 20,000 people lined the thoroughfares and packed into a mass of humanity at the finish point where speeches and presentations were made.

Mayor George Clarke Wright, Kingston, Mayor John Both of Belleville and "Mr. Tripp", a handsome nine-year-old bay pacing stallion, were the chief actors in the Princess Street sports drama.

The wager originated at the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, members of which hurled the defi that should the Belleville Memos win the senior "B" hockey group title, the Kingston mayor must lead a horse ridden by Mayor Both along six city blocks to the city hall. In the event the Kingston Goodyears won the title the positions would be reversed with the venue in Kingston. That is the way it ended.

HORSE UNWORRIED

"Mr. Tripp", a sleek, spirited standard-bred, who won 12 of his 14 races last season on various tracks, was not the least perturbed by his novel role. He strode proudly along six blocks of Princess Street, bearing the Kingston chief magistrate on his back with Mayor Both leading him.

The Belleville mayor was garbed in western apparel with a gaily colored cowboy shirt, ten-gallon hat and high-heeled cowpoke boots. Mayor Wright was more conservative. He favored a blue business suit with a black derby hat in which he wore a card "Belleville Memos", but he too wore long leather boots.

Television cameras focused on the "mob scene" at the Kingston city hall where before a battery of radio microphones Mayor Both lived up to the wager by making a brief address. Mayor Wright, not to be outdone also addressed the large crowd. At the end of the speeches, Mayor Wright presented his Belleville counterpart with a miniature cannon as a souvenir of the occasion with Mayor Both in turn presenting the Kingston official with a handsome gold trophy, his personal gift. On it was engraved "To Mayor George Wright, Kingston's champion broncho-buster".

dent in the past.

Max Jackson, well-known Kingston sports figure introduced other notables who gave brief addresses. Included were Mr. W. J. Henderson, M.P., Magistrate J. B. Garvin, president of the International Hockey Hall of Fame; Reg Walton, president of the Goodyears Hockey Club, and Alderman Bruce Smith, manager of the Belleville Memos hockey club. Captain Jim Sutherland, "Mr. Hockey" and Mr. W. H. Nickle, M.L.A. were also among the dignitaries.

The colorful parade which proved a veritable "show case" for city automobile dealers, moved off from the community centre shortly after two o'clock, headed by the PWOR military band. A police squad car and motorcycle patrol were in the van. Officials' cars followed the band then came the two mayors riding in an open car. They were followed by Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Both.

The Goodyears team rode in a fire department truck with some mounted on a 1922 Model T Ford. Colorful floats interspersed the many new model cars while Kingston's minor hockey clubs rode triumphantly in smaller trucks.

The streets were packed with a laughing cheering crowd which became denser as the parade neared the city hall. Six blocks from the finish point, the mayors and "Mr. Tripp" took over with Mayor Wright climbing in the saddle and Mayor Both taking over the steering duties. There was a continuous round of applause as the parade moved along Princess Street.

It was a fine cross section of Kingston's population, business, industrial and sports life. Service clubs, sports organizations and many other city associations were represented in the motorcade. City police did a splendid job in handling the traffic and parade in general.

The Goodyears hockey club was cheered to the echo as they moved along the route. The small delegation from Belleville riding in cars that bore signs "Belleville Memos" came in for some good

natured ribbing — and generous applause as well. Included in the delegation were Alderman Bruce Smith, Alderman Frank Grandame, Don Kingdon, secretary-manager Belleville Chamber of Commerce, Frank Murray, CJBQ, this reporter and others. Kingston and Belleville radio stations carried running reports as the parade moved along.

Mayor Wright jokingly referred to the "three males" in the "show" and paid tribute to the Goodyears. He urged all to get out 100 per cent and encourage the club to win over Orillia.

SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Mayor Both said it had been a memorable occasion when two old rivals mingled together in a fine spirit of sportsmanship. He added that it made for greater social and sportsmanlike relations between two fine cities than has been evi-

BELLEVILLE - MAYORS
Both, (Mayor) Jack

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