

"BRUCE"

- 1. No County in all Canada
Grows better men than Bruce
No man that comes from that County
Need ever make excuse.
The pioneers of the Queen's Bush
Have passed to their reward,
Brave men were they, and strong of limb,
Who trusted in the Lord.
- 2. Their women too, were very fair,
And just as brave as fair,
In hewing homes from out those woods
They gladly did their share.
They lived in home-made huts of logs,
And sang while at their work;
Though tasks were hard and winters long
No one was known to shirk.
- 3. Although their lot was somewhat hard
They were a happy lot,
They reaped a joy from honest toil
That money never bought.
Though sons and daughters born to them
Were all of humble birth
No one will but admit that they
Were all of stirring worth.
- 4. Then when the population grew
Their young folk were out west,
On prairie, mountain, sea and stream
They were acknowledged best.
The same good stirring qualities
That marked them when in Bruce
They offered quite ungrudgingly
For Canada's own use.
- 5. And now the sons and grandsons
Of those who wandered west
Gather, their labours to recall
With song and speech and jest.
Four hundred here in Vancouver
Gathered not long ago,
With joyous songs and merry hearts
Their love for Bruce to show.
- 6. When they chatted of the home towns
The places that they knew,
Of Walkerton and of Tara
Lucknow, Teeswater too,
Paisley, Chesley, and Kincardine,
Southampton by the lake
Or of Tiverton or Warton
Their hearts were like to break.
- 7. There were some hailed from Port Elgin
And some came from Mildmay
And I saw some from Hanover
And some from Saugeen way.
And there were some among the group
Came not from any town
But lived on some paternal farm
Without name or renown.
- 8. They spoke proudly of Canada
And of the Empire too,
Ontario - the best Province,
As you and I would do.
But when they toasted Bruce County
Their hearts were filled with joy
The name recalled that dear old home
They loved as girl and boy.
- 9. So here's a toast to Bruce County,
And one to all her sons,
And one to all her daughters fair
As long as Saugeen runs,
And one to all "Bruce Boys and Girls"
Who've settled in this West,
Success to each and every one
For they are of the best.
- 10. And while we stand in silence all
With heads bowed toward the earth,
We'll drink a silent toast to all
Those souls of honest worth;
Our parents and their parents, too
Who made Bruce to become
A place where men are proud to live,
Or proud to say they're from.

Will Faraday.

The above poem is copied from the Port Elgin Times, June 1937, and was apparently given at a Bruce Boys and Girls Reunion held in the City of Vancouver.