

# Many Main St. Changes In Past Seventy-five Years

Not One Mercantile Business Handed Down This Length of Time

This issue of The Tribune is intended to commemorate the 75th year of incorporation of Stouffville as a village. Everywhere in the issue will be found the early history of the place while in photograph and story are recorded glimpses of current business in the community.

Ever since July 1877, Stouffville has enjoyed a local newspaper, and at some periods of her history there were two papers published here. The present paid-in-advance circulation of The Tribune of more than three thousand copies per week has never been equalled and we would thank the citizens in general for their whole-hearted support.

As is to be expected the personnel of the business firms has undergone a complete change in the past years. The names of the business men in the block west of the Mansion House do not include one firm which traded there fifty years ago. As they appear now they are: D. Holden & Sons, Ford dealers, Silver Bros., McDonald's Snack Bar & Billiard Hall, Hamilton's Automotive Supply, Hodgins' Grocery, Mrs. M. E. Watts, millinery, Dr. Ron Smith, veterinarian, and Thos. Birkett & Son, insurance.

From the station east there are still a few scattered business places before coming to the main business centre. Maple Leaf Auto Sales, Stouffville Monument Works, formerly Wideman marble works established at Ringwood over 100 years ago. Then east of Dr. Freel's residence we have Geo. Baker's establishment and Bob Snowball's barber shop, also Stouffville Motors, a site occupied for more than forty years by B. E. Beebe's Blacksmith shop. The Stouffville Bakery conducted by Ambrose Stover and son Harry, started many years ago by W. B. Wurts. It is the town's sole bakery. Next is the Grand Grill operated forty years ago by Herb. Porter as an ice-cream parlour and grocery. The Tribune office is located in the original N. E. Smith block as is Schell's Meat Market next door.

After crossing Mill St. into the main block is Spofford & Co. store, for many years the W. H. Shaw Store and prior to that operated by another Spofford family. Following on is Ben Raxlin's Furniture and Appliance Store, A. E. Weldon & Son, J. M. Storey, drug store, McCullough & Button office, Riches Hardware. The Weldon Store is a new addition within the last thirty years and the Storey Drug Store site was the former Doten Barber Shop. E. A. Button was for many years operator of the hardware now occupied by W. F. Riches. The next block is comparatively new. The former Bank of Nova Scotia building now the Mayfair Restaurant and two new stores next to it, Golden's Clothing and Stedman's 5c to \$1. W. A. Stonehouse, Alex Scott and F. Rowbotham and J. J. Rae are business names famil-

iar to those who knew this section of the block a half-century ago. O'Boyle's Meat Market, Curtis Clothing, Shine Davis, tobacconist, and Lehman's Shoes follow in that order. The Carload Grocery, Agnew's Hardware, Dominion Store and Houston's Drug Store complete the block to Church St. Morley Barker, harness maker, Brathwaite and Silvester, as well as Boadway are all familiar names in these premises in the history of the town. Just across the street eastward is the former W. J. Mather undertaking establishment, now L. E. O'Neill, undertaking and furniture store, the public library, and Maple Leaf Dairy.

On the south side where now stands the duplex residence of W. T. Rennie and Jos. Gayman was Nendick's millinery store, for long years carried on by Mrs. Fred Wilson, Middlemiss hardware and appliance, formerly Rowbotham's repair shop, then the Bank of Commerce, Wagg's Jewellery, Harold's Grill, Wilkes Clothing and Ratchell's Grocery with Farr's Electric and Cadieux Photo Studio completing the business places to Market St. Alex Grubin's Jewellery and billiard parlors were in this block for long years and above is still Dr. Barker's dentist office. Our other dentist, Dr. Neil Smith is above the Bank of Commerce building. The postoffice stands on the site of the old Daley block, the B. & S. Telephone office, Forsyth's Barber Shop, C. H. Bell's and the Baptist Church on the corner of Main St. and O'Brien Ave.

Another section that has undergone vast changes is where the old Queen's hotel stood on Main St. east. Now modern residences occupy this site. W. H. Todd's carriage shop farther east has passed away with the coming of the automobile and is now Cy Bellman's International machinery and appliance centre. Across the street where the late Arthur Swift opened a garage in 1924 there is a new used car agency.

Just near the corner of Main St. and the 10th con. is a long-established grocery conducted for years by the late "Nick" Armstrong and the late M. T. Leavens, father of our local postmaster and a native carriage builder at Ringwood, now operated by A. S. Klinck.

Murphy Motors occupies a busy corner at the east end, with Les. Wilson Motors, Mole Motors and Garrett's garage being other concerns which have sprung up in more recent years. Smith Welding Works and Ogden's Massey-Harris businesses are located on Market St. and Fred Byer's added a large implement concern on the outskirts of the west end. Another Jewellery is located in the premises of the former Blue Bird Inn operated by the Byam family, now by Jacob Smith. Where Stouffville at one time had as many as six tailor shops over fifty years ago, today there are none. John Monkhouse, in business for more than half a century has passed away, while Frank Rae is enjoying a retired life here in town.

## LATE R. J. DALEY ONE OF TOWN'S EARLY PROMOTERS

R. J. Daley, a former reeve of Stouffville was one of the pioneer promoters of the town and no resume of our early history would be complete without a fuller mention of his activities.

The late R. J. Daley was born in 1857 in Stouffville prior to incorporation and early learned the trade of his father, the making of boots and shoes. In 1873 a fire destroyed an old hotel property at the corner of Main and Church Sts. and placed a large plot of vacant land on the market. Mr. Daley secured the greater proportion of the site and erected a large business block. In 1885 he erected on Main and Market Sts. the now famous Daley Hall which served as public hall, market building with curling and skating in the basement. In 1895 the market had grown to such proportions that Mr. Daley decided to erect a new rink

building just south of the hall on Market St. He carried on a large and successful mercantile business and he entered the insurance business in 1891. In this same year he erected the large residence occupied for many years by Dr. S. S. Ball and only recently sold as a Rest Home.

Mr. Daley's interest in the village was further seen in the fact that he purchased and laid out five different acreages with more than 150 lots and many new streets. He held the office of reeve for three years and was a promoter of the first Creamery.

Statistics show that sword swallowers lead a comparatively safe life. We still don't advise eating peas with a knife.

The chemical value of the human body is less than a dollar. It ought to go up after a meal at today's prices.

It is easy the night before to get up early the next morning.

## ORATORICAL WINNERS S.H.S. 1928



Here is a group of a quarter century ago who carried off the public speaking honours for

Stouffville High School of that day. They are, left to right, Archie Stouffer, principal, Robt.

Norris, Mildred McKay, Blanche Topham, Luella Stouffer, Janet Button, Linora Brown.

## JAMES DOUGHERTY FIRST REEVE OF STOUFFVILLE

The first village council of Stouffville assembled in Freel's Hall in the east end on the 15th day of January, 1877. James Dougherty was the first reeve who presided at the inaugural gathering. The councillors present were Dr. S. L. Freel, Jesse Reesor, John Gibney. Another councillor, Wm. Leany, was absent due to illness.

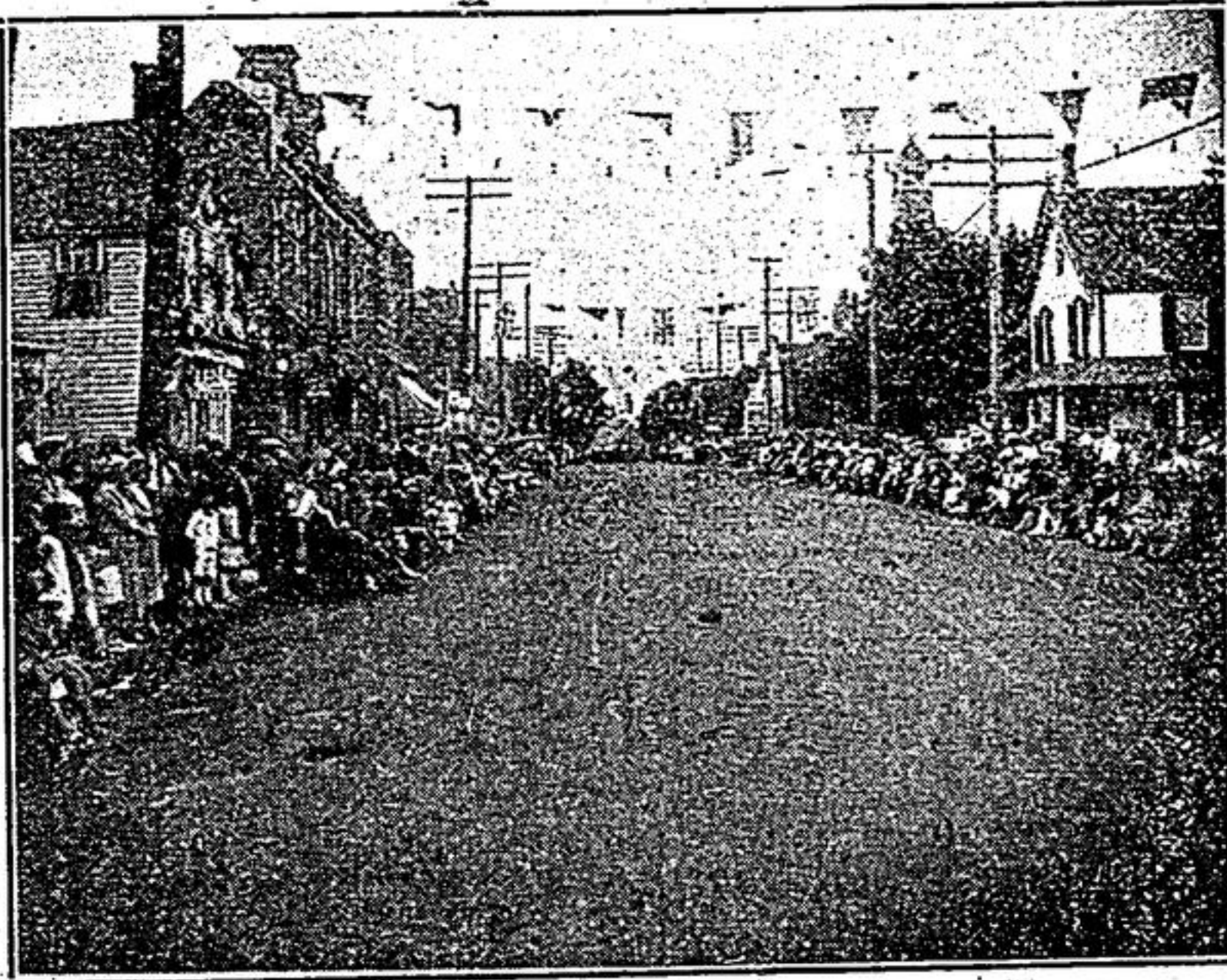
Only two items of business were transacted. There was a bylaw passed appointing H. W. Woodgate as clerk and treasurer, at a salary of \$50. per year. The other business that is

recorded was the passing of a bylaw compelling property owners to shovel their sidewalks and footpaths. At a future meeting council appointed John Urquhart the first assessor at a salary of \$15. and Thos. J. Dougherty as police inspector (pretty high sounding name) at a salary of \$20. Later in the year the tax rate was struck which contained only three items as follows:

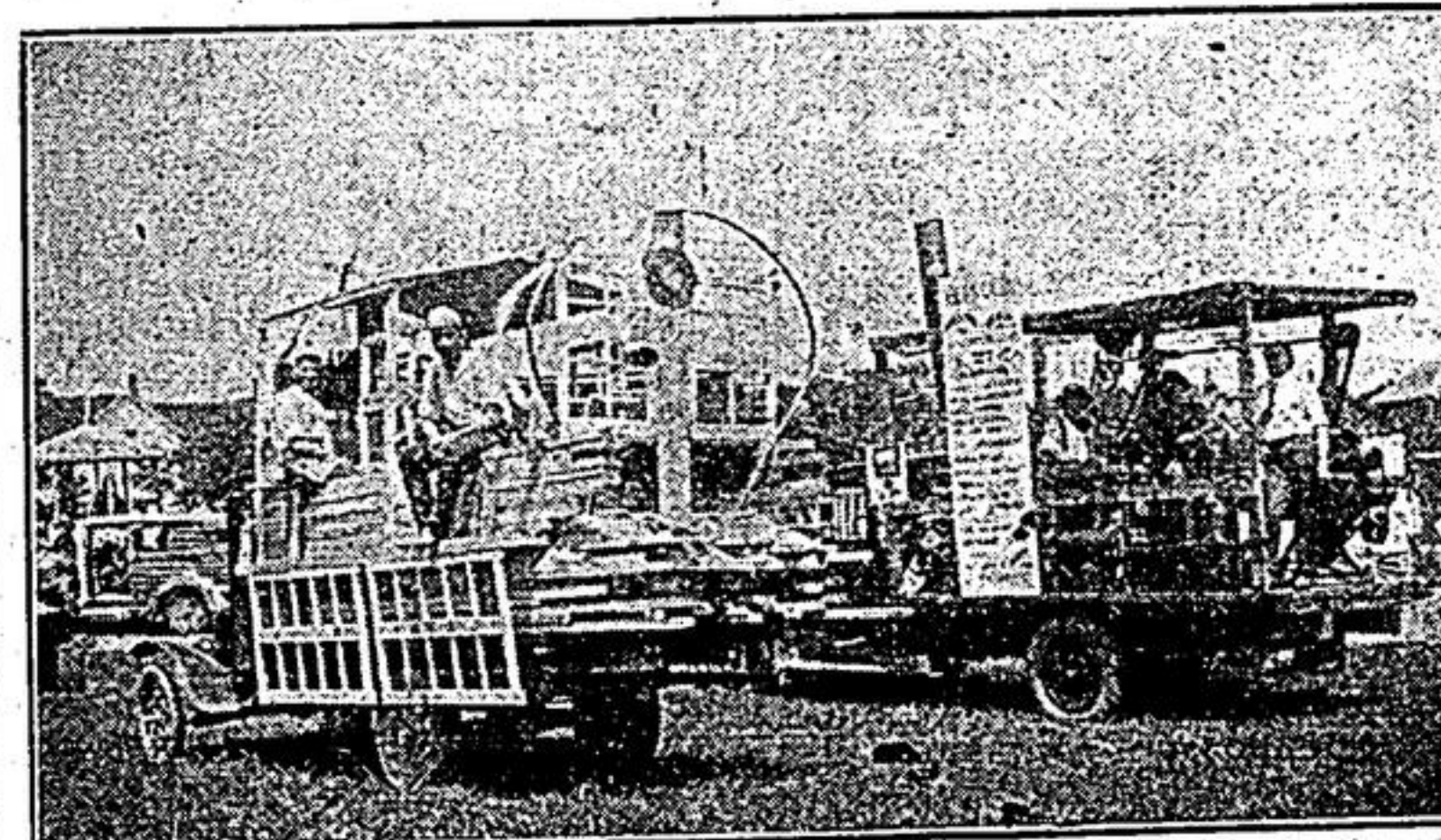
County rate	\$117.00
Village rate	300.00
School rate	750.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1167.00</b>

David Stouffer was named collector and was paid \$15 for garnering in the eleven hundred odd, and he got every cent of it.

James Dougherty held the office of reeve for two years, 1877-78. He was an efficient and scholarly man, who had much to do with carving a village out of the borders of Markham and Whitchurch townships. He was of Irish descent, his father coming from County Armagh and locating near Hogg's Hollow. When Whitchurch Township was surveyed his family moved to Bloomington where they secured crown land. Two sons Samuel and James became school teachers. James came to Stouffville later on giving up the teaching profession, and commencing the undertaking business here which later was sold to the Burkholders. James then tackled the hardware business, always with a fair degree of success. He owned the farm where Jim Barry now lives. He married Charlotte Jones and the late John Button also married one of the Jones girls, hence this made Stouffville's first reeve an uncle to Messrs. E. A. Button and F. L. Button by marriage.



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## PROFESSIONAL MEN IN TOWN

While Stouffville is noted as a village of many churches it might also be distinguished as a place which has been the home of many professional men. While at the present time there are seven practicing either medicine, dentistry or law, not too long ago there were as many as eleven.

Dr. Neil Smith who succeeded his father Dr. D. C. Smith and Dr. E. S. Barker are well and favorably known over a large territory in their dentistry business. The Smith practice dates back to 1892 while Dr. Barker started in 1900. Dr. Neil Smith graduated from Toronto University in 1926 and entered business here.

Only recently this newspaper carried a full account of the fifty years of business carried on by F. L. Button, the firm name of McCullough & Button being so well known here. Reg. Button succeeded the late Jas. McCullough to be associated with his father in business here.

Dr. S. S. Ball joined the local fraternity after World War I, after having served in the medical corps in India. He hails from Hanover in Grey County where his father represented the constituency for some time in the House of Commons. Also shortly after the first war Dr. Herbert Freel who had served in the medical expeditionary forces, graduated in medicine and formed a partnership with his late father, Dr. Ira A. Freel.

Dr. Walter Sangster and Dr. F. A. Daley, now both deceased formed a well-known part of Stouffville's professional group twenty-five years ago.

Latest member in our medical circle is Dr. John Button, who is a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Button of Stouffville. While occupying a fine home on O'Brien Ave. he conducts his medical practice from an office above the Button Block on Main St.

down a figure of \$1.

Among the men who served on the council during Mr. Sanders' tenure of office were John Urquhart, Philip Macklem, J. W. Brown and Jacob Raymer, George Flint, George Wagg, David Stouffer, S. M. Wariner and W. P. Hartney. It is noteworthy that a son of this pioneer reeve, H. W. Sanders, served as reeve of the village almost as long as his father.

Council first learned that sidewalks were being built of cement back in 1886 and decided to try out a piece here on Main St. between Church and Mill streets. The cost was around 6c per foot and was considered quite high, but council argued that if it gave the added wear the cost would be warranted.

## LATE W. B. SANDERS TOWN'S ONLY COUNTY WARDEN

Stouffville has had but one reeve who filled the position as Warden of York County. He was the late W. B. Sanders who held this post in 1887. He was first elected reeve of Stouffville in 1883 being the sixth year of incorporation, and he continued in office for seven years. Again in 1893 he served one more year as reeve.

Shortly after coming into office, council meetings were held in the Daley Hall over Lehman's Shoe Store and when R. J. Daley served on the council no rental was charged. Other years the hall was obtained for 75c per meeting after council turned



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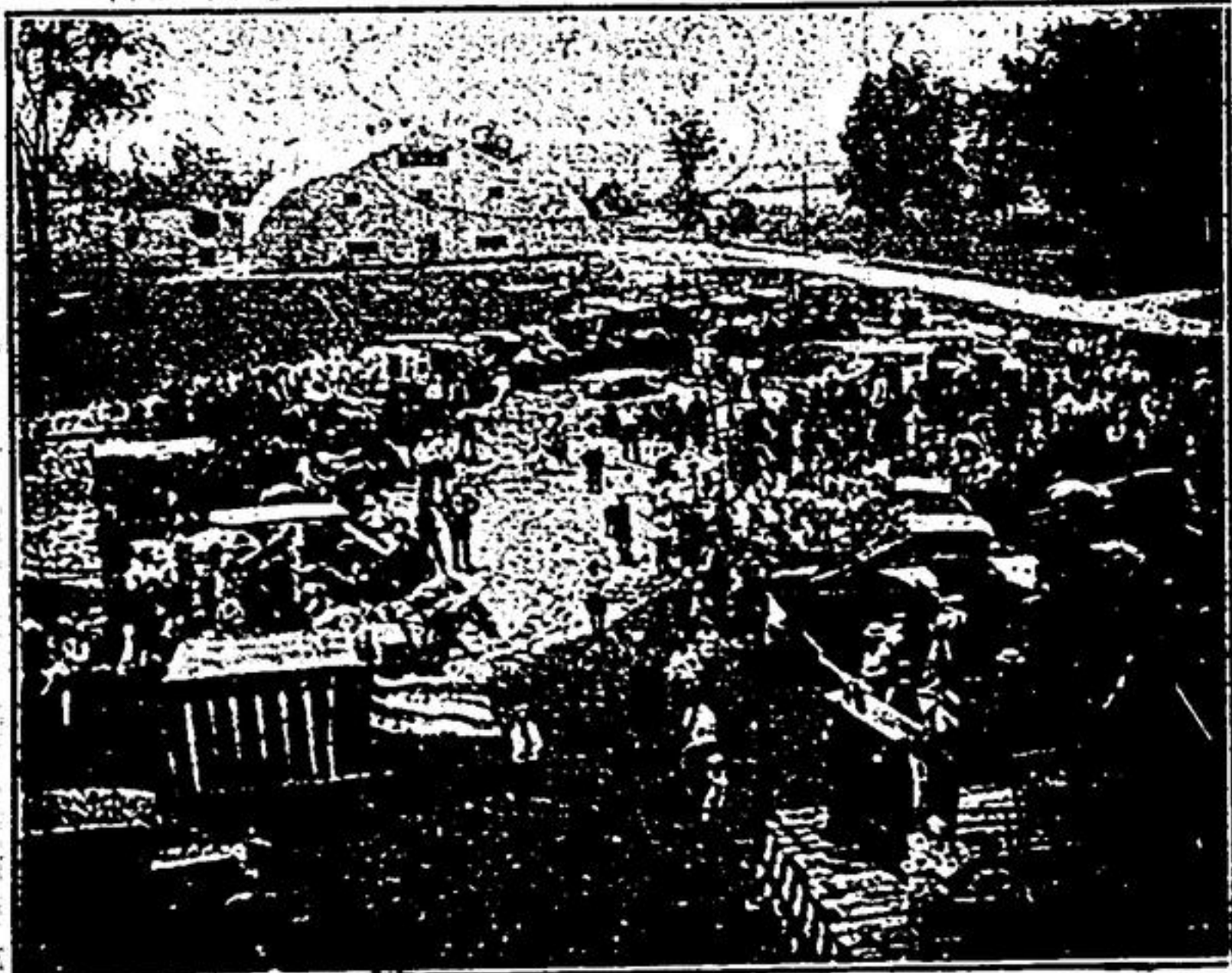


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