

# The Resurrection of the Kingston Fair

## R. J. Bushell Sailed the Lakes, Distinguished Carrots From Cabbages and Then Boosted the Exhibition.

A quarter of a century ago on a tiny farm near Cataract belonging to John Simpson the residents of the district used to gather on a certain afternoon each year to display the products of their farms and to enjoy the company of their neighbors for a few hours. The annual event became known as the Kingston Township Fair—a rather impressive name for such an insignificant occurrence—and for many years, although occurring as regularly as clockwork, it remained in a stagnant condition. Practically the same exhibitors appeared year by year. One might almost say the same visitors paid their admission each year, and there was little competition for the bits of the \$200 in prizes which were offered in the various classes of exhibits. As in so many other fall fairs, the seeds of progress were not sown to blossom forth in a better fair as the seasons passed. Gradually a slow but steady decline in the popularity and attendance was noted, and the wags of the neighborhood predicted an early collapse to the enterprise. Occasionally it would show signs of improvement, but a relapse would soon cancel the benefits of the

resurrection of the little township fair that was gradually passing from obscurity to extinction that has been his most spectacular exploit. During his first few years of residence on the Bath Road Mr. Bushell paid scant attention to the tiny exhibition that was held each year near his door, and it was not until his neighbor, J. L. Haycock, reeve of Kingston, explained the purpose behind the organization that the present manager took any interest in the project. His experience on the farm, short as it had been, had impressed firmly upon his mind the advancement that might be made through the inauguration of certain educational devices at the fair, and, being a young man desirous of promoting the best interests of his district and his country, and convinced of the basic nature of agriculture, in 1898 he was induced to join the fair association. He was appointed a member of the Board of Directors in that year, and in the two decades that have elapsed he has been untiring in the advancement of the annual event.

For years, however, the exhibition lacked the harmonious spirit and cordial co-operation so essential for its success. There was no "punch" to it, and the farmers were often too busy threshing or doing one of the hundred and one odd jobs about the farm to visit it. Many of the directors were mere figureheads, who were timid lest their proposals for improvement should be scoffed at at the meetings of the board. The consequence was that the fair drifted along year by year in a lax and casual fashion until almost anyone would have despaired of it ever becoming an up-to-date, lively exhibition.

But not so for Robert J. Bushell. The star under which he came into the world had shed rays of pure, undefiled optimism into his being, which were invigorated with the passing of years into an unquenchable hope for the ultimate success of the exhibition. In 1912 the genial Robert was appointed secretary-treasurer and manager, and since that fortunate day the fair has had a new existence.

At the last fair of the old regime the gate receipts amounted to \$800, and after the prizes, amounting to \$742.50, and the expenses had been paid, there was a deficit of \$57. In 1913, when Mr. Bushell took charge and began to learn the new game, the deficit was only bettered by two dollars, although it must be said in extenuation that the

Weather Man failed to co-operate on both days of the fair. When Old Sol, who had been hiding behind the clouds in 1913, saw that R. J. was not to be daunted by opposition, he decided to boost the fair, and in 1914 a surplus of \$225 was recorded. Since that time the gate receipts have quadrupled, the expenses sextupled, and the \$200 prize list of long ago has become \$10,000 for this year's fair. The success obtained has only been through dint of untiring effort, and at the present time Mr. Bushell has the management of a fair excelled in extent only by the exhibitions of Toronto, Ottawa and London. Instead of being the little two-hour affair on a country farm it has been found necessary to hold it for four days and four nights. Each year has seen progress, including the repairing of the buildings, the installation of electric lighting, and the inauguration of a midway at the Fair Grounds. More improvements are anticipated when the City Council extends a bonus adequate to meet the pressing needs, and according to the manager the sky is the limit for the success of the fair.

The 365-day-a-year beaming, babbling booster, "Bob" Bushell, attributes the success that has attended the exhibition in past years to hard work, continual boosting and the co-operation of the press. "These three factors," said he, "have done more than anything else to help the fair. I have taken every opportunity to boost it wherever I have been, for I believe that it is helping every one in Kingston and the surrounding district. The publicity that the press of the district has been kind enough to give to the features of the fair, as well as the thousands of pamphlets and heralds which have been sent out, have done not a little to forward the exhibition. Lastly, I have worked hard for its success, and I am proud to say that after much effort I am securing the co-operation of the merchants and the various civic organizations in Kingston. The fair is here to stay just as long as I'm here, and I don't expect my summons for a while." And then just as he was about to leave the big wheel around, gave a parting smile, and warned not to forget to mention that this year's fair is going to be bigger and better than ever. Unadulterated optimism is surely the predominant characteristic of Robert John Bushell, sailor, gardener and boosting fair manager.

But it has been the resurrection and expansion of the little township fair that was gradually passing from obscurity to extinction that has been his most spectacular exploit. During his first few years of residence on the Bath Road Mr. Bushell paid scant attention to the tiny exhibition that was held each year near his door, and it was not until his neighbor, J. L. Haycock, reeve of Kingston, explained the purpose behind the organization that the present manager took any interest in the project. His experience on the farm, short as it had been, had impressed firmly upon his mind the advancement that might be made through the inauguration of certain educational devices at the fair, and, being a young man desirous of promoting the best interests of his district and his country, and convinced of the basic nature of agriculture, in 1898 he was induced to join the fair association. He was appointed a member of the Board of Directors in that year, and in the two decades that have elapsed he has been untiring in the advancement of the annual event.

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Front row, left to right—F. H. Kilburn, Owen Sound; J. H. McGregor, Toronto; W. C. Hodgson, Montreal; F. Killmer, St. Catharines; C. C. Holland, Montreal; Judge Hardy, Brantford; C. S. Sims, Montreal. Second row, left to right—Rev. Dr. Hanson, Montreal; R. S. Weir, Montreal; J. J. Morrison, Hamilton; W. R. Smyth, Toronto; G. T. Brown, London; Dr. Lockhart, Montreal; Col. J. R. Moodie, Hamilton. Third row, left to right—Alf. Wright, Toronto; A. B. Evans, Montreal; Frank Reid, Simcoe; R. H. Reville, Brantford; J. T. Birchall, Montreal; W. Crowe, Sydney, N.S.; A. E. Boothe, Toronto; R. E. Gibson, Toronto. Top row, left to right—Sir George Carneau, Quebec; Frank A. Rolph, Toronto; S. C. Welsh, New York; W. R. Baker, Montreal; H. H. Williams, Toronto; W. H. Macham, Montreal; J. R. Blake, Galt; C. C. Meakins, Montreal.



ROBERT J. BUSHELL. Booster who is managing one of the best fall fairs in the Province.

bestment. So in fitful existence the fair continued for a number of years until it looked as if the prophecies of the wags would soon be fulfilled.

But in the horoscope of fate these omniscient observers had neglected to observe that a son had been born to Mr. and Mrs. James F. Bushell in a little house at the foot of Princess street, that the healthy babe had been christened Robert John Bushell in the Presbyterian kirk, and that he was destined to resurrect the fair from the grave into which the proverbial foot had been slowly entering.

It is doubtful if Robert John in those early days ever knew of the existence of the country fair at the other end of Princess street. His father may have taken him to see the tremendous "punks" and patched quilts, but at the time the lad's fancies turned neither to vegetables nor fancy work. Instead the balmy breezes from Lake Ontario and the sight of the blue waters of the River St. Lawrence from the little dwelling on the main street stirred within him visions of the roving life of a mariner. Accordingly, when he was a mere scounger in his teens young Bob sailed on the lakes in the summer and attended school in the winter. He started off as a whaler, but his characteristic initiative and ability to make a success of whatever he undertakes forced him up the steps of the ladder of advancement, and after twenty years on the lakes he had attained the position of second officer and purser on the Richelieu and Ontario Steamboat lines.

When the management of the company was changed in the middle nineties R. J. decided that the life for "A Sailor's Life is the Life for Me" applied no longer to him. Figuratively speaking, he folded his hammock, packed his traps, and joined the

### NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR



Mr. John W. Davis, who goes to the Court of St. James.

### CANADA HAS SMASHED HER OWN SHIP RECORD

Completing of War Camelin Lower Mark by About Sixty Per cent.

Ottawa, Sept. 21.—Canada has again smashed all records for speed in wooden shipbuilding. The latest feat has lowered this country's own mark by about 60 per cent.

The "War Camelin," a wooden ship of 3,100 tons, built for the Imperial Munitions Board, was launched by the Foundation Company Ship Yards at Victoria on August 31st. Installation of machinery commenced at the Imperial Munitions Board's installation plant at Victoria on September 2nd. The installation work was completed in 12 1/2 working days. On September 17th a successful sea-going trip was held. This vessel will commence loading cargo within seven days of the trial trip. The previous record in Canada was held in Quebec.

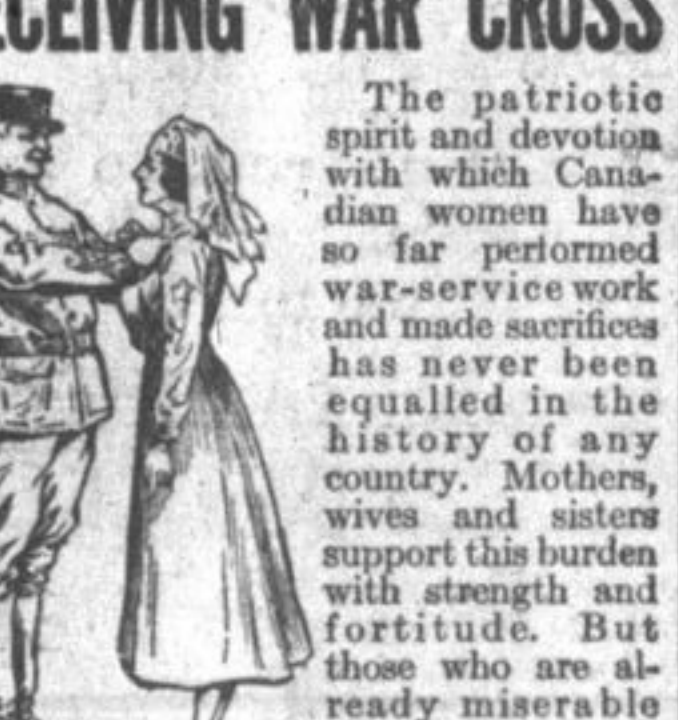
It sometimes happens that a married man has a great deal to say, but his wife won't let him say it.

### Pte. Ross Stevens.

Fairfield, Sept. 18.—Mrs. Elisha Stevens has been officially notified that her son, Pte. Ross Stevens, was admitted to No. 2 Canadian General Hospital on Sept. 5th, suffering from a gunshot wound in the side. Pte. Stevens went overseas with the 156th Battalion in October, 1916, and proceeded to France in May, 1917. He has since been connected with a First Division Eastern Ontario battalion.

The Militia Department accepted the offer of the Canadian Red Cross Society to provide aid needed for the Siberian expedition.

### RECEIVING WAR CROSS



The patriotic spirit and devotion with which Canadian women have so far performed war-service work and made sacrifices has never been equalled in the history of any country. Mothers, wives and sisters support this burden with strength and fortitude. But those who are already miserable from the complaints and weaknesses which are so common to women, should take the right temperance tonic for the womanly system.

If a woman is borne down by pain and sufferings, by nervousness or dizzy spells, by headache or backache, "Favorite Prescription" should be taken. It can now be had in tablet form as well as liquid at most drug stores. Send to Dr. Pierce's Branch at Bridgeburg, Ont., for a 10c trial pkg. of tablets.

For fifty years Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets have been most satisfactory in liver and bowel troubles.

Windsor, Ont.—"Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription made a new woman of me. For about six years I suffered with woman's troubles during which times I became all run-down, weak and nervous. I would have severe backaches and pains in my side. I doctored with the doctor but did not get cured of my ailment and was so bad that I could scarcely walk across the floor when I began taking the 'Prescription.' When I had taken two bottles I was much improved and four bottles completely cured me, and I have enjoyed better health than I ever did before taking this medicine. It is truly a wonderful medicine for women."—Mrs. Marika Mulcaster, 4 Albert St.

# KINGSTON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

Sept. 24-25-26-27  
\$10,000 in Premiums, Etc.

The exhibition grounds will be in full operation each evening. AMELIAN—THE WORLD'S FAMOUS MARE Will trot daily without a driver or sulky, in company with other horse. She did this in Ottawa, coming under the wire first, time 2.24. Do not miss this exhibition of horse training. This is introduced by the Kingston Industrial for the first time in Eastern Canada.

Largest and best poultry exhibit at any Fall Fair during 1918. The largest and best vegetable exhibit at any Fall Fair during 1918. KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE NEWSPAPERS FROM NOW ON. Prof. C. A. Farley and Madame Farley will make aerial feats daily, making the most sensational balloon ascensions and parachute drops known to the world to-day. Trials of speed daily. Do not miss this treat. The best Kingston ever had. The largest premiums offered on live stock in Eastern Ontario, except Ottawa. A SQUARE DEAL TO ALL IS OUR MOTTO.

Prof. Hand, Hamilton, Big Fireworks Display Evenings, fully equal to the Ottawa display. A Real Treat.

DO NOT FAIL TO GET A PRIZE LIST  
COLIN ROGERS, Esq. PRESIDENT. ROBT J. BUSHELL SEC-TREAS & MANAGER.  
ADMISSION TO THE BIG SHOW, 25c.

### JEFF OUGHT TO GET A REVOLVING TRIPOD



By BUD FISHER.