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NIAGARA FALLS GAZETTE SEPT. 3, 1929

"EISTEDDFOD" TO BE HELD ANNUALLY AT NIAGARA; LEADERS ENTHUSIASTIC OVER SUCCESS OF WELSH GATHERING

Thousands of Voices Make Welkin Ring with Hymn of Praise; Many Notables Among Participants in Festival; Buffalo Clergyman Addresses Group in Two Languages.

Jubilant over the success of the "Eisteddfod" held on Goat Island green Sunday afternoon, Welsh delegates from some 15 cities gathered in Hannel's tea room, Third street, early last evening and formed a permanent organization, to be known as the National Eisteddfod Association of the United States and Canada. William E. Lewis, president of the St. David's Welsh society of Youngstown, Ohio, was elected president of the new organization; Ellis Hughes, Niagara Falls, N. Y., vice president; David Lewis, Youngstown, Ohio, secretary, and W. B. Jones, Pittsburgh, treasurer. It was resolved that a similar festival will be held at Niagara Falls every Labor Day from now on, because "Niagara Draws the Crowds."

Over 3000 persons took part in the great out-door festival of worship which began at two o'clock Sunday afternoon. A contingent of nearly 200 from Toronto was unable to find the rest of the celebrants, and smaller groups from other places are believed to have had the same ill-luck. Had all those who came here for the eisteddfod succeeded in locating the festival scene, there would have been nearer 8000 voices raised in praise of God. Mrs. Ellis Hughes, president of the reception committee, said today. Cleveland, Youngstown, Ohio; Buffalo, Newcastle, Pittsburgh, New York City, Fol-

lenace, Va.; Detroit, Alliance, Ohio, and Akron, Ohio, as well as Welland, St. Catharines, Hamilton and Niagara Falls, Ont., were represented.

Nearly 80 singers were grouped on the Shredded Wheat band stand, set up on the meadow within the sound of Niagara's roar, and the rest of the vast multitude gathered as near to the stand as possible. Flags of America, Canada and Wales, and also palms and flowers, added color to an impressive scene.

Dr. Pugh Thomas, Buffalo, presided, swerving from English to Welsh and back again with mastery case. The program opened with "Dludem," sung in English, and included many of the old Welsh airs known the world over. "Bryn Calafaria," "Maesgwyn," "Aberystwyth," "Ton-y-Bothel" and Dr. Parry's magnificent "Dics Isaac" were among the hymns, all of which were given with fine tone and good attention to dynamic effect. Prof. Isaac Prosser, Youngstown, Ohio, and Prof. E. Harris, Buffalo, were the leaders.

It is not without reason that the Welsh people are noted for their fine voices, as was proved in the solos given by Miles Thomas, Buffalo; Evan Harris, Buffalo; Mme. Beattie Richardson, Hamilton, and duet of George Anthony and Harry Evans, Newcastle. The Newcastle boys' performance was one of the finest things on the program and

they were forced to respond to encore. Harris' reading of "Darlwm fy Mam"—"My Mother's Picture," Miles Thomas' sympathetic "Fear Ye Not, O Israel" and "Lead Kindly Light," were wonderful. Mme. Richardson's solo, "Yr Enith Ddall," telling of a blind girl who sees light as death is about to unfold her, brought tears to the eyes of many. The work of the accompanists, Miss Dillys Hughes, this city, and Miss May Williams, Youngstown, was very fine. Bouquets were presented to each of them at the conclusion of the festival, as a mark of appreciation.

Among the notables who were present were: R. H. Davis, Pittsburgh editor of the Welsh organ, "The Druid"; W. B. Jones, also of Pittsburgh, assistant editor of the same publication; William Lewis, president of the Youngstown society; W. B. Griffiths, New York, representative of the White Star line, and Miss Beattie Jones, Pittsburgh, court investigator. Regret was expressed over the inability of James J. Davis, secretary of labor, to join his countrymen.

Richard Humphries, Buffalo, said to be the oldest Welshman in these parts, said a few words, all the above-mentioned representatives of this sturdy people spoke, expressing their pleasure in being present and stressing the value of these eisteddfods in keeping alive the tongue and the spirit of those sprung from druidic stock.

The program ended with a choral arrangement of "Lead Kindly Light;" thanks and appreciation were expressed to the Shredded Wheat band, the mayor, the Chamber of Commerce, the city officials, the two accompanists, the reception committee, consisting of Mrs. Ellis Hughes, Mrs. D. Evans, Mrs. M. J. Rees and Miss Margaret Lee, all of this city, and to Ellis Hughes, president of the Niagara St. David's Welsh society; D. Evans, treasurer, and M. J. Rees, secretary. As the program

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LETT—After 47 years of ocean service, the coastwise liner San Juan, shown here, sailed out of San Francisco bay to destruction, and the greatest disaster on the Pacific in recent years. Off fog-bound Pigeon Point, Calif., it collided with the oil tanker S. C. T. Dodd, and sank with the loss of more than 70 lives. It foundered almost immediately after the wreck and its substitute captain, Adolph E. Esplund, a veteran once retired, followed the tradition of the sea and went to the bottom with his ship.

ABOVE—Agent of destruction and ship of mercy, the Standard Oil tanker sank. S. C. T. Dodd, pictured here, sank the steamer San Juan in a fog off Pigeon Point, Calif., then saved and rushed 27 of about 40 survivors of the other vessel's passengers and crew. Though one side of the tanker was stove in during the crash, she lowered life boats which went to the rescue of persons who were pitched into the sea as the old coastwise liner foundered. After a few had been picked up by other craft, it was estimated that more than 70 had lost their lives.

had begun with prayer, so it ended with a benediction.

The visitors scattered for dinner. Many viewed the illumination and other things of interest, special trains transporting the strangers to their various homes. The trains pulled out of the New York Central yards about 10 p. m., concluding for many a two-day stay at Niagara.

Lussier Fails to Make Falls Trip

(Continued from page one)

observation tower early in the afternoon, announcing that he would go over the cataract at 4:30 o'clock, their interest increased. When it was learned that he had left for an unknown point on the upper river, traveling by automobile, they felt certain that he was about to attempt the plunge.

From the time this was learned until a late hour last night interest ran high. Jean's whereabouts was a mystery which baffled the most novel efforts at solution. It was not until he returned to Niagara Falls, Ont., near midnight that the minds of many were set at rest. Then he declared that he had no intention of making the trip, not, at least, before July 4, 1930.

When Lussier made his dramatic disappearance yesterday those who expected him to go over the falls believed that he had gone to an unknown place on the river, where his rubber ball was concealed from the authorities, who, Jean feared, would seize it in an effort to prevent him making the plunge. When he failed to return for several hours their belief became an assurance.

Newsapermen and others interested in the expected feat were run ragged trying to solve the mystery. At one time the appearance of a rowboat on

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Arrangements Complete for Songfest of Welsh Folk on Goat Island Green

Many Songsters Already in City for Impressive Event Which Will Start at 2 P. M. Tomorrow; 3,000 to Attend.

For some reason, the program for the "Eisteddfods," to be held by more than 3000 Welsh people on Goat Island at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, has not arrived. It was to have been sent by David Lewis, Youngstown, Ohio, secretary of the Youngstown group, to Ellis Hughes, president of the local St. David's society. A wire, sent to Youngstown by Mr. Ellis, had not been answered at press time today.

Members of the society began arriving late last evening, Mrs. Ellis Hughes, chairman of the reception committee, said today. Among the early comers were Miss Bessie Jones, representative of the Women's club of the organization in Philadelphia, and Past Grand Regent of the society, Griff Thomas and "Governess" Thomas, his wife, so called because of her active participation in the organization. Griff Thomas is a well-known baritone, residing at Newcastle, Pa. There are to be no church services in Newcastle tomorrow morning, that all the choristers may be free to attend the "Eisteddfods" at Niagara.

Parties from Utica, Rome and Toronto also came in late last night, Mrs. Hughes said, and were placed in different homes of the city. The Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. cooperated with the reception committee in housing them.

Tracy G. Levee, superintendent of police of the state reservation, has arranged to have all available seats plac-

ed near the band stand, which is to be set up on the meadow at Goat Island. It is urged that these seats be reserved for the singers. White placards with red letters, against a green border, will indicate the positions of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, and all singers, regardless of where they come from, are urged to join the choristers.

Many well-known Welsh hymn-tunes will be included in the program. These will be sung both in English and in Welsh. The tunes include: "Abercrystwyth," "Diadem," "Crugybar," "Huddersfield," "Ton-y-botel," Bryn Calfarla" and many others. Chester Campbell of the Campbell Music store has donated a grand piano for the occasion.

Mrs. Hughes said she understood that the program is to wind up with the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's "Messiah." It is hoped that David Johnston, Cleveland, baritone with the Cleveland Male Chorus which last year went to Europe and took a prize from native English and Welsh singers, will sing with his son, who has a fine tenor voice. Mrs. Gwendillian Rose, Buffalo, will give readings especially composed for the "Eisteddfod." Mrs. Rose is a member of the Bardic association.

Last evening's paper said that the Gorge terminal auditorium would be used in case of rain, instead of the smaller First Presbyterian church. Both will be pressed into service in the event of bad weather.

All but One Parochial School to Re-open at Falls on September 9

Classes Will Be Resumed at St. Joseph's on Same Day as Public Schools. Expect General Increase in Registration.

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WELSH SINGERS, 3,000 STRONG, TO STAGE BIG EISTEDDFODS SUNDAY

Special Trains Will Bring St. Davids Society Members to Niagara.

SOME NOTED SOLOISTS

Miss Dilya Hughes, Falls Girl, Is Selected as Accompanist in Concert.

Niagara Falls will again be the cynosure of the eyes of the nation when, on Sunday, more than 3,000 members of the St. David's Welsh society will assemble here for its first annual song fest. The Niagara Falls branch has about 200 members. Ellis Hughes, 440 Eighth street, is president; M. J. Rees, 8238 Troy avenue, is secretary and David Evans, 1604 Niagara avenue, is treasurer.

1,000 To Attend

The singers will come from all over the country; Youngstown, Ohio, is sending 2,000; Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Philadelphia and Newcastle will represent Pennsylvania; Toronto will have a large representation, as will also Wexford, with 80; Hamilton, with about 100 and Utica, Buffalo, Rome and Niagara Falls, Ont. Special trains will bring the participants of the festival to Niagara Falls in the morning. Hanner's tea room, 308 Third street, will be headquarters. Arrangements have been made to serve meals to contingents of 300 at a time.

At 2 o'clock, standard time, the "Eisteddfode" will begin, on the green at the head of Goat Island. Sectional signs will indicate the places for the various groups of singers according to voice, so that sopranos will know at once where they are to stand, as will tenors, altos and basses. Professor Isaac Presser, Youngstown, Ohio, and Professor E. Harris, Buffalo, are to be the musical leaders. Niagara Falls has the great honor to provide the accompanist for the artists who are appearing in the concert, in the person of Miss Dilya Hughes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Hughes. Miss Hughes is an accomplished musician, having studied with Professor Arnold Damm in Wesley college, Winnipeg. Just now she is working under Mrs. Mary Chappell Fisher, organist, and president of the 1929 Music League. Miss Hughes is a member of the league and holds many prizes at other festivals. She was the accompanist at the "Eisteddfod" held in Winnipeg six years ago.

Program Impressive

The program on Sunday will be impressive, featuring several soloists of note, among whom are: Professor Harris, tenor, who will sing "Darlun fy Mam" or, in English, "My Mother's Picture," and "Blodwen," which is the name of a girl. Professor W. Miles Thomas, Buffalo baritone, will give "Lead Kindly Light" and "Fear Ye Not, O Israel." Bryn Evans, Youngstown, Ohio, and Mrs. Gwenllian Rose, Buffalo, will also be heard as soloists.

In the event of rain, the festival will be held in the Chamber of Commerce auditorium in the Gorge Terminal building. The First Presbyterian church offered the use of its auditorium but, unfortunately, such an immense crowd cannot be accommodated there; hence the Chamber of Commerce will come to the rescue if necessary.

Notables To Attend

Among the notables who will attend will be: Professor Michael John of the University of Toronto; Mme. Davis Wynn, Toronto Conservatory of Music; Secretary D. Howells, Hamilton, and others. Secretary of Labor John J. Davis had planned to come, but finding that he will be unable, will send a representative in his place. Prominent city officials and musicians will be among the audience. Mayor William Laughlin, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, R. D. House, members of the City Council and scores of others will attend.

Mrs. Ellis Hughes, president of the reception committee, said today that city officials have been more than kind in co-operating with the Niagara society. George F. Unger, executive engineer of the State reservation at Niagara arranged for the singers to have the island. Parking space is to be provided for the cars of the visitors, identification tags being given to each one to facilitate matters.

It is expected that the program will take at least three hours. In the interim between their arrival and the commencement of the festival, the Welsh people will be taken around the Gorge in special cars, and will visit the power plants and other points of interest. In the evening, they will view the illumination of the cataract, entraining for departure at about 10 o'clock. The railroad has granted them special hold-over privileges.

Falls Girl, Accompanist

There will be two pianos on the platform, loaned through the courtesy of the Shredded Wheat band, and Miss Hughes and an accompanist from Youngstown, Ohio, will play for the community singing as well as for the soloists. The American, Canadian and Welsh flags will be prominently displayed and there will be all sorts of floral decorations. The flag of Wales

has a red dragon displayed on a background of white, green and yellow.

The reception committee consists of Mrs. Ellis Hughes, chairman; Mrs. D. Evans, Mrs. M. J. Rees and Miss Margaret Lee. It is expected Mrs. Hughes said today, that the festival will become a yearly event.

3,000 WELSHMEN GATHER AT GOAT ISLAND

Canadian tourists valuable to Wales

By ANDREA DOUGLAS
Review staff writer

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Wales is looking to the Canadian market for tourism.

Lord Gordon Parry, chairman of the Wales Tourist Board, said Friday Canadians coming to Wales are discovering a part of their history. Welsh people have played a significant part in the development of Canada, he noted. For instance, Sir Thomas Burton, a Welshman, was first to map the country.

BIG SPENDERS

The average Canadian or American tourist spends eight times as much on a visit to Wales as does a native traveller in the country, he said.

Tourism was worth 450 million pounds to the Welsh community last year and is rapidly becoming its major industry. It is the only growth industry of major proportions in the country, he said.

DOWN SLIGHTLY

Lord Parry said the number of Canadian tourists to Wales is down about seven per cent this year from last year.

Last year was a phenomenally good year, he said, but the strength of the British pound appears to be a factor in whether or not Canadians travel to the country.

The weaker the British pound, the better Wales' chance of offering Canadian holidays, he said.



The golden anniversary of the formation of a Welsh religious singing group has brought 3,000 people to a three-day celebration in Niagara Falls, N.Y. including the speaker of the British House of Commons, the Rt. Hon.

George Thomas, right, convention chairman Lewis Edwards, middle, and Lord Gordon Parry, chairman of the Wales Tourist Board and member of the British Tourist Authority.

(Review photo by Andrea Douglas)

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — There wouldn't be a Canada without the Welsh, the Rt. Hon. George Thomas said Friday.

The speaker of the British House and Commons and Welshman made the claim tongue-in-cheek as he talked with reporters during 50th anniversary celebrations of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association Inc.

the Welsh people played in discovering and opening up our country. The first man to map Canada was Welsh, Sir Thomas Burton, who explored the North

west passage and Hudson's Bay.

Mr. Thomas dedicated a plaque Friday afternoon to commemorate formation of the association, a religious singing group, in 1929 on Goat Island. The festivities have brought together 3,000 Welsh people from Canada, the United States, Wales, Argentina and Patagonia in South America.

Among those attending the golden anniversary convention are three Niagara Falls, Ont. residents who were at the first Gymanfa Ganu 50 years ago Florence Jones, Charlie and Nancy Pearson. About 50 other Welsh people from the city are attending.

Veterans of the first meeting say there was no organized beginning to the group — things just happened. Ideas and suggestions fell into place and the singing has become a magnetic attraction for Welsh people from

NEWSPAPER SENT One thousand copies of the Western Mail, the national newspaper of Wales, was flown to Niagara Falls via Toronto by British Airways last Saturday to mark the special ceremony. The paper is being distributed among those attending the three-day celebrations.

The plaque, located in the Cave of the Winds area near Bridal Veil Falls, commemorates the first singing festival and includes the group's motto Come, sing unto the Lord.

Gymanfa Ganu means festival of song in Welsh. The group is presenting daily concerts during their stay in the city.

A concert for children will be held today at the Hilton. Sunday a worship service in Welsh and English will be held in the hotel's ballroom followed by an afternoon special performance of the Gymanfa Ganu

British won't let terrorists rule in Ireland -- speaker

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — The Canadian and American governments would probably not behave any differently than the British government in dealing with terrorism, the speaker of the British House of Commons said Friday.

The Rt. Hon. George Thomas was referring to the British presence in Northern Ireland and the bombing death of Earl Mountbatten of Burma Monday. He said the murder has left

Ulster is a part of the United Kingdom as much as Wales and Scotland are. All the British people want is for the wishes of the Ulster people to be fulfilled, he said in an interview.

"The British people feel no joy in keeping their soldiers in constant peril in Ulster but on the other hand we can not permit a handful of anonymous people to terrorize the government into taking decisions," said Mr. Thomas

"British people will pay their tribute to Lord Mountbatten and in so doing will also pay tribute to many young men who served in the British army and who have given their lives to try to avoid a bloodbath in Ulster."

He said no one will be happier than the British people when their presence is no longer needed in Northern Ireland.

"We are not there because we like it but only because of a sense of duty."