

Welsh Show They Haven't Lost Voices

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"Transplanted" Welshmen from Montreal and points as far as Beauharnois, Shawinigan and Ottawa, last night showed they had lost little of the gift for singing that has made Welsh choirs famous the world over.

The occasion was a service marking the end of a week of celebrations in honor of St David patron saint of Wales.

From Welsh throats rose mighty enymau — hymns — sung four-part harmony following tradition centuries old. Less than 100 Welshmen performed with force and harmony that normally could be expected of a trained choir triple their number.

The service, held at the Dorchester street Y.W.C.A. building included Bible reading and prayers. John Eilian Davies led the service. Miss Jenny Purnell was the organist.

The week-long celebrations started and ended with religious services. There also were a banquet and a dance during the week.

There are more than 100,000 Canadians of Welsh descent. The Welshman is close to the Breton and while he now speaks English and the latter French, the two groups commune with each other in their original language. There is little difference between Breton and Welsh.

In Canada Welsh traditions have lived through groups like the St. David Society founded by the late Richard Roberts in 1901. Roberts, who came to Canada in the 1890s from Llangollen, formed the group so his people could meet yearly and relive the traditions they had left behind.