

A Race Down The Lakes.

The racing of steamers across the lakes is not confined to the high class passenger steamers of the C.P.R. and the N. N. Co. According to a report furnished the Goderich Signal the fun is occasionally indulged in by the freighters. The story told is of the steamer McKee and the steamer Wexford and reads:—

A most exciting run was completed last Thursday evening by the steamers J. A. McKee and Wexford, owned by the Western Steamship Co. of Toronto. The McKee is said by Capt. R. Bassett, and Capt. G. H. Playter is in command of the Wexford. A. M. McInnes and J. G. McHattie are chief engineers of the McKee and Wexford respectively. The McKee is a comparatively new steamer, having been specially built in England about three years ago for the lake trade. The Wexford is a much older vessel, having sailed all over the world before coming to the great lakes six years ago. The Wexford left Fort William for Goderich at noon on Tuesday, September 20th, and the McKee followed an hour later. Much interest was evinced in the event on account of its being the first opportunity which had

occurred to test the old and the new vessels side by side. That night the lights of the McKee could be seen astern and at daylight the next morning she was about three miles behind. Things remained like this up to noon, when the McKee forged ahead until she was abreast of the Wexford. It was just at this time that things began to be really interesting for the respective crews. First one would gain, and then the other. This was kept up for some time until the Wexford gradually gained the lead, which she held to the Soo locks. She locked through first and proceeded down the St. Mary's River. Thursday afternoon the McKee was again sighted and began to overhaul the Wexford until the big steamers were neck and neck. Once more it was the survival of the fittest, the Wexford holding her own and entering Goderich harbor first. It was a fight to a finish and proved conclusively that the Wexford can still hold her own against any of the newcomers with all their modern appliances.

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