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The Canadian Post.

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, NOV. 29, 1895.

A TRIP TO ENGLAND.

INTERESTING NOTES BY A LINDSAY CITIZEN.

On to London on a P. & O. The Ancestral Home of George Washington—The Battle of Edge Hill—The Birth-Place of Shakespeare—The Duke of Marlborough's Palace—A Magnificent Estate—On to Oxford—The Martyr's Memorial.

But, although we are captivated with this city's charms, we have to take our leave on the night train, and so we return to the hotel to prepare ourselves and baggage for the trip southwards.

The P. & O. express is a flyer, and we are rapidly conveyed to London. At five o'clock in the morning we change at Rugby; one more change at Bletchley, and at 9:30 we are in the centre of the earth, "Bletchley" and a peculiarly exuberant feeling possess us as we realize that we are at "Home, sweet home," once more. In a few minutes we are receiving the welcome of the dearest woman on earth. We refrain from relating the occurrences of the next few hours, as they are "strictly personal."

While Banbury itself has no great charms to the ordinary visitor, it is a great centre from which to visit many places of interest. There is an old nursery rhyme, which almost every one knows, which has its foundation here: "Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross," etc., from which it appears an occasional pageant visited the town. The "Globe Room," in which Oliver Cromwell first met in council. The famous Banbury cakes are also made here, and the story is told of a Canadian who, on passing through the station, called a boy, and giving him fourpence asked him to get him two Banbury cakes, at the same time promising the boy one for his trouble. In a few minutes the boy returned eating rapidly as a cake, and handed the gentleman a wrapper, saying, "Please, sir, they'd only got one."

Savigne, a quaint little village seven miles north of here, contains the ancestral home of George Washington, which is still the residence of a private individual. The battle of Edge Hill was fought near here, and as we wish to visit this spot we hire a pony and trap, and, taking the Warwick Road, we proceed northward through Banbury, not failing to note the beautiful undulating high lands above the Cherwell Valley on the right. Passing through the little village of Warrington one notices the fine fourteenth century church which stands very conspicuously high above the rocky roadway. The road following upwards from Kineton, as well as a footway through the woods, leads to the Elze Hill and Round House Tower, and few prettier walks or drives did we find than these. Covering the steep hill-sides are beech, elm, chestnut and lime trees of exceptionally fine growth, while wild flowers are abundant and fill the air with fragrance.

Very interesting are the various spots pointed out—where this or that one was killed. Here is the tower from which King Charles I. viewed the enemy's approach. It was early on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 12th, 1642, that Prince Rupert forwarded the information to the king that the camp fires of the parliamentary army had been seen on the plain between Edge Hill and Kineton. The latter army numbered about 14,000 strong, while the royalists numbered about 1,000 more. Impossible, indeed, must have been the sight on that Sunday afternoon when the royalist army of somewhere about 15,000 strong began to descend the hillside, which was not wooded then as now. Just previous to this the king had summoned the officers to his tent and made a brief speech, of which we give a few extracts: "My lords and gentlemen here present,—if this day should prosper for us we shall be happy in a glorious victory. The foe is in sight; now show yourselves no malignant parties, but, with your swords drawn, what fidelity and courage there is within you. Come life or death, your king will bear you company." Then riding along the lines of his troops he said:

"Matters are now to be decided by swords—not words." A great many other recollections were given us, but perhaps the most beautiful was the soldier-like prayer of Lord Lindsay: "Oh, Lord, Thou knowest how busy I must be to-day; if I forget Thee today do not Thou forget me." Oliver Cromwell also figured prominently in this battle. Returning to Banbury after a few hours' drive, we take a short walk out of the town through lanes and fields which make the English foot-roads so delightful, and one seems rested to get into such lovely surroundings in close proximity to the town or city.

The following morning we take the G. W. R.R. for Stratford-on-Avon, which place receives a surprisingly large number of American visitors, and Stratford merchants owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to Shakespeare for having made his name immortal in this spot, for various ornaments with Shakespeare's photo or of the house he lived in on them, command a very large and ready sale to the numerous visitors. Upon ringing the bell at the old house wherein lived the great poet, we are admitted into the quaint old kitchen or living-room of John Shakespeare and his family, with its low ceiling and old-fashioned fire place. The custodian conducts us through the various rooms and recites his little piece somewhat like a school boy does his first recitation. The signatures of some renowned personages are pointed out to us, among which we notice those of Browning, Carlyle, Scott, Tompason, and Lord Byron. The "Actors' Pillar" on one side of the fireplace contains the signatures of many who have been famous on the stage, Edmund Kean's being perhaps the most noticeable. In 1810 Lucien, brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, visited here, and a verse written and composed by himself is over the old fireplace downstairs. It runs as follows:

"The eye of genius glimmers to admire How memory haunts the sound of Shakespeare's lyre, Ope (see I'll shed to form a crystal shrine) O'er all that's grand, immortal, and divine."

A brief visit to the church, which is very beautifully situated close to the attractive River Avon, and which contains the bust and burial place of the great poet brings us to our time limit, and we are compelled to leave this hallowed spot in order to visit the famous old town of Warwick.

Few visitors to the old land neglect visiting Warwick Castle, while the old town itself contains many spots of interest. Surrounded by a high stone wall, the castle with its beautiful grounds (through which the visitor is conducted) is indeed an imposing sight. The guide tells us a great deal more than we ever expect to remember, but the historical facts relating to this drawing-room or that banquet-hall are very interesting. The famous porridge-pot of Guy, Earl of Warwick, is still on exhibition, and to judge by its size the old Earl was rather fond of porridge. A very pretty view may be had from the southwest of the castle grounds, where the Avon winds its way very picturesque through the park. A walk through the town reveals many of the old style of houses with the beams and woodwork so conspicuous, while the age of most of them show substantially they were built.

Perhaps the next most interesting place to us was Oxford, and surely anyone who would not be interested in this far-famed city must be hard to please. To visit Oxford we take a little slower mode of travelling, and secure bicycles in order to see a little of the village life. With fine weather a cycling tour in England must be a very great pleasure; feast your eyes on the scenery around you, for the roads are perfectly kept, and one is not afraid of upsetting in a rut or running over a stone, as is the case in our fair Canada on so many roads. What a lovely sight, with the clean and level roads, the gravel path-way on the south side, and the bushy, well-trimmed hedges on each side, while the thoroughly cultivated land all around gives one the impression that this is a finished country.

Passing through numerous villages, with the old thatched cottages, and climbing plants of all kinds on the walls, we reach Woodstock about 10 o'clock. A couple of calls are made for Lindsay friends, and then we walk out to see Blenheim Palace (the residence of the Duke of Marlborough) which is situated in an immense park, having an entrance from the main street of the town.

Visitors enter the park through the Triumphal Gate, a spacious and elegant perial of the Corinthian order, from whence noble prospects are obtained of the palace, park, grand bridge, lake, valley, and other charming scenery. Perhaps the words of Dr. Wasseger, of Berlin, expresses our feelings as we viewed this delightful spot:—"If nothing were to be seen in England but this seat, with its park and treasures of art, there would be no reason to repent the journey to this country. The whole is on so grand a scale that no prince in the world need be ashamed of it; and at the same time it is a noble monument of the grandeur of the English nation to the great Duke of Marlborough. It would be superfluous to add anything respecting the park."

As early as 806 Woodstock gained the patronage of royalty, as King Ethelred resided in the palace for some years. Edward, the "Black Prince," was born here in June, 1333. To tell of all historical events happening here would need some volumes, but perhaps the most important is that John, the Great Duke of Marlborough, was granted a large sum to build a palace, and also an annual amount of \$25,000, together with 2,330 acres of land, for his distinguished services in the battle of Blenheim, fought on the banks of the Danube in 1705 (Queen Anne's reign).

The "Column of Victory" is situated on an elevated plot of table land. It is 130 feet high and is surmounted by a colossal statue of the "Great Duke" in Roman costume. The inscription on the base would take several columns of THE POST, and so we decided not to copy it. The park is 2,700 acres in extent and has a circuit of twelve miles, with the same number of entrances. Here we are shown the Fair Rosamond's Well, which is a never failing spring supposed to have supplied the bath in which Rosamond was wont to refresh herself.

From this point we pursue our way to the palace, which is certainly one of the most splendid and sumptuous piles of architecture in the kingdom; built entirely of freestone it stands on elevated ground which shows the noble edifice with fine effect. The cost was one and a half millions of dollars.

To describe the grandeur of the interior is beyond our power, and we can only regret our inability to impart the pleasure we received to others less fortunate. A brief time is taken for lunch and away we wheel six miles into the city of universities—Oxford. Here we find ourselves at once on historical ground. The first point of special interest is a large flat cross in the roadway on a main street, and which marks the spot where in 1535 Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer were burned at the stake. The martyrs' memorial is one of the earliest, and justly considered one of the best works of its eminent designer, the late Sir G. G. Scott, R.A. The statues of the three martyrs are strikingly characteristic: Cranmer, being north, is represented as clinging to his bible. The attitude of Ridley's statue, east, fitly represents the steadfastness with which he fought the good fight of faith. Facing west, his arms crossed over his breast, Latimer appears stooping under the burden of four-score years, the very image of submission to the will of God.

On the north face of the base the following inscription tells briefly the purpose of the structure: "To the glory of God, and in grateful commemoration of His servants, Thomas Cranmer, Nicholas Ridley, Hugh Latimer, prelates of the Church of England, who near this spot yielded their bodies to be burned, bearing witness to the sacred truths which they had affirmed and maintained against the errors of the Church of Rome; and rejoicing that to them it was given not only to believe in Christ, but also to suffer for His sake. This monument was erected by public subscription in the year of our Lord God MDCCCXXI." Many scenes in connection with the martyrdom of these saints of old were presented to us, which were full of painful interest.

(Continued next week.)

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

AN ADJOURNED MEETING TUESDAY EVENING.

Thirty-two applicants for the Position of Caretaker of the Central School—Their Names Placed in a Hat and Mr. F. C. Reeves Selected on the First Count of Ballots—A Paper on Appointment.

An adjourned meeting of the board of education Tuesday was held evening in the council chamber to fix the duties and salary of the Central school caretaker and appoint a person to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Caretaker John Mosgrove. All the members of the board were present with the exception of Chairman McNeill, who was detained by business at the court house. C. J. Deacon was voted to the chair, and accepted the honor on the express condition that he should not be debarrd from taking a hand in the selection of a caretaker.

REPORT OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE. Mr. Staples, chairman of the managing committee, then read a draft of the caretaker's duties, containing eight clauses. Billed down, they stipulated that the caretaker should give his whole time to his duties.

The report further stated that the total outlay for the east ward school drains and basement was \$241.38. It was also recommended that the reports of Messrs. Bixall and Woods, with reference to the north and south ward school furnaces, be referred to the committee.

Mr. ANDERSON explained that a portion of Mr. Woods' report was of a private nature.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN—"Should there be a secret communication with reference to work done for the board?"

Mr. J. KENNEDY advised expedition—it was an urgent matter and the committee might well be entrusted with the outlay of \$25 or \$30. The report was then adopted.

THE CARETAKER'S SALARY. Mr. STEWART said that before fixing the salary to be paid the board would decide whether the new caretaker should be supplied with a house and fuel, or not. The previous holder of the position had received \$500 a year, with free residence and fuel.

Mr. PILKIE said the house on the grounds was in bad repair and unfit for occupancy. Mr. E. KENNEDY suggested that the same salary be paid, allowing the caretaker to occupy the house if he desired to do so on condition that he make necessary repairs.

Mr. FLAVELLE—"What is the position worth if we have been paying too much in the past we should know it."

Mr. STEWART said some members of the board were of opinion that the duties might be performed for less than had been paid, and to settle the question he would move that the caretaker be paid \$300, payable monthly, without house or fuel.

Col. DEACON said he estimated free house and fuel as worth about \$100.

Mr. ANDERSON—"Either the caretakers of the other schools are underpaid or the central school man is overpaid."

Mr. J. KENNEDY thought the board should hesitate before throwing away a valuable asset in the caretaker's house—they should consider their own circumstances rather than what would suit the applicants. A small sum spent in repair would make the house worth \$5 a month.

Mr. ANDERSON said he had been in the house, and it was in very bad repair—certainly he could not be prevailed upon to live in it, and it would be cruelly to compel any man to occupy it. In his opinion the expenditure of \$75 or \$100 would not make it much better.

Mr. PILKIE—"To make a good house of it you must begin at the bottom, and if you begin at the bottom you will have to pull the house down."

Mr. WALTERS considered the salary proposed insufficient when constant attendance is required, and moved an amendment that the caretaker be paid \$350 without house or fuel.

Mr. J. KENNEDY, as an amendment to the amendment, moved that the letters of the applicants be read before fixing the salary. His object was to see if any good men among the number offered to reside in the caretaker's house. He was not in favor of cheapsaying—the board should pay sufficient to get a good man, but the house should not be allowed to go to ruin. Would any member of the board, if he owned it, handle the property in that way? They would not. Then why neglect what the board was responsible for?

Mr. McLAUGHLIN thought Mr. Kennedy had put it rather strong. To say that the caretaker would be compelled to reside on the school ground would reduce the list of applicants to a small number, and the board might lose the services of a good man—that would be making poor use of the property.

Mr. WALTERS said the board should give a fair salary; he did not believe in selecting the man who offered to do the work for the least money—he remembered a case years ago in municipal affairs where that course had been followed and the town had lost thousands of dollars thereby.

A motion was then taken on the amendments and they were declared lost.

Mr. STEWART was of the opinion that if the caretaker selected consented to occupy the house he should be furnished with fuel, a sum to be deducted from his salary in lieu thereof.

Mr. R. KENNEDY said the board should either have the house repaired or torn down.

Mr. FLAVELLE agreed with Mr. Walters that the board wanted a first-class man, and if they could get one with a little mechanical knowledge, who could do much of the work about the school that now has to be paid for, they should not hesitate over \$25 or \$50.

The original resolution, fixing the salary at \$300 without house or fuel, was then voted on and carried.

Col. DEACON suggested that the names of the applicants be now read and balloted for.

Mr. FLAVELLE pointed out that the board had practically reduced the salary \$100 by cutting off house and fuel, and many of the applicants might not wish to stand a vote on a salary they would not accept.

Dr. JEFFERS asked if it was probable that any of the applicants earned more than \$300 a year.

Mr. J. KENNEDY replied that a good mechanic—a sober, trustworthy man who is pretty well up in years, but is still capable of doing a good day's work—had told him a week or so ago that he had not earned \$300 yearly for the past few years.

THE LIST OF APPLICANTS. The names of the applicants for the position of caretaker were then read: Geo. M. Oro, Alex. Tims, Mr. J. Lee, Jos. King, Jas. Pe, Arch. Mezzler, R. Hungerford, Weldon Brown, J. Keely, J. Robinson, C. B. Terry, J. A. Henderson, A. H. Hoadley, Sam Reazin, J. B. Berry, Wm. Genevieve, F. Reever, J. Chamberlain, Jas. Haw, Wm. Nelson, W. S. Herdley, Ed. Wright, Wm. Irvine, J. Schwartzfager, L. Dyer, H. McDonnell, Jor. Davidson, Geo. Greer, Geo. Elliott, L. Dowsey, F. Framp ton.

It was arranged that the selection should be made by ballot, each member of the board marking the name of the party preferred for the position on a piece of paper, which were then collected by Dr. Lynch, who, as a private school representative, had no vote.

The opinion was expressed that the balloting would take some time, but on the first count a majority was announced for Mr. Fred Reeves, the tally reading 6, 3, 1, 1. He was accordingly declared the choice of the board for the position.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER. A motion was passed that a committee comprising Messrs. McLaughlin, Walters, Anderson, Stewart and Flavelle, be a committee to define the duties of the managing and sites and buildings committees, to report at next meeting.

The board then adjourned.

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