Bobby Burns's Kirk Reclaimed

Taken Over by Britain as Perpetual Memorial

Was Fast Falling to Ruins

Scene of Tam O'Shanter's Adventure Saved for Posterity

London—It will be gratifying to admirers of Robert Burns to know that the famous "auld haunted kirk" at Alloway in Scotland has been reclaimed from its recently neglected state.

After an appeal for its better guardianship as made to King George V. by Capt. Edward Page Gaston, F. R. G. S., an Illinoisan of Scottish descent long resident in London, the British Government has taken over the property as an ancient monument to be under official protection in perpetuity as a memorial to Scotia's greatest poet and most widely beloved son.

"Being of Scottish ancestry and an admirer of 'the ploughman poet,' I have visited the Ayr district repeatedly during the last twenty-five years," said Gaston. "Some time ago I was astonished at observing the neglected state of the old church which was the scene of 'Tam O'Shanter,' the most popular of Burns's poems.

"By a recent general parliamentary act affecting old burying grounds, the care of Alloway Kirk had been taken from the Burns Trust, which had capably looked after it for many years, and its control had been vested in the local parish council, whose official duties consist largely in looking after the poor.

Almost Reduced to Pauperism

"Thus (as regards its means of support out of the limited poor fund) the world-famed church and churchyard were technically degraded to the level of parish paupers! As practically nothing was being done toward keeping it in repair a part of the seventeenth century structure was in danger of collapse at the time of my visit, and many loose stones were almost falling from the walls.

"The situation was so arresting that consultation was had with various representative people interested in preserving the Burns associations in their highest sense, these including a lineal decendant from the poet. It was agreed that an attempt should be made to deal with the existing anomalous state of affairs.

"The proposal which I accordingly ventured to lay before the King was that the structure be officially adopted as an ancient monument and hence be taken over and protested in perpetuity by the British Government. As a result of the discernment shown by the King and his advisers, another of Britain's priceless literary mementos has been thus preserved from further deterioration, for the benefit of posterity.

Looted By Relic Hunters

"This official action was taken none too soon, for local builders and relic hunters long ago made off with the timbers of the fallen roof, together with other removables, and each year was adding its toll of vandalism to the sum total. I suggested to King George that the church might be restored as a sacred shrine to which Burns devotees from any lands could repair, on occasion. Such restoration would need to be done by private persons, however, as the Office of Works has no funds at its disposal from which expenditure can be incurred on the preservation of Alloway Kirk; but it would of course, be pleased if an effort were made, say, by societies interested in Robert Burns to provide funds for preserving this monument.

"As the Burns cult increases continually, the hundreds of Burns clubs, and other Scottish societies, in America, Canada, Australasia and elsewhere, should readily supply ample funds for restoration and maintenance, if so desired.

"Fully 100,000 sightseers annually visit Alloway on the average, 79,000 persons having paid admission to the Burns monument there in one year, while other thousands make the free visit to

Alloway's auld haunted kirk . . .
Where ghaists and houlets nightly cry.

Burns's Desired Burial Place

Robert Burns wished to finally rest at Alloway by "the banks and braes o' bonnie Doon," instead of at Dumfries, where he lies. This was he plainly expressed in connection with the burial of his father in Alloway churchyard in 1784, when the poet had inscribed upon the still standing modest tombstone the tribute:

"O y'e whose cheek the tear of pity stains
Draw near with pious rev'rence and attend!
Here lie the loving husband's dear remains,
The tender father and the gen'rous friend.
The pitying heart that felt for human woe;
The dauntless heart that feared no human pride;
The friend of man, to vice alone a foe;
For 'ev'n his failings leaned to virtue's side.''

Burns's Religious Nature

"Aside from being a Burns enthusiast,' concluded Capt. Gaston, "this interest in Alloway Church arises from my Covenanter ancestry, who fled from Scottish religious persecution in those parts to the Irish Protestant planations of Ulster, whence my paternal grandfather emigrated from Ballymena to the backwoods of Ohia a century ago. In common with others, I hope that something practical may now be done in the way of paying the suggested additional tribute at Alloway Church to one whose nature was, in truth, a deeply religious one."

Guest—"Who is that awful-looking frump over there" Host—"Why, that's my wife." Guest—"Oh—er—beg pardon. My mistake." Host (sadly)—"No, mine!"

To be a success, a political issue must be like a bond issue: It must draw interest.

Returning tourists call the Cuban capital "What'llyouhavana."

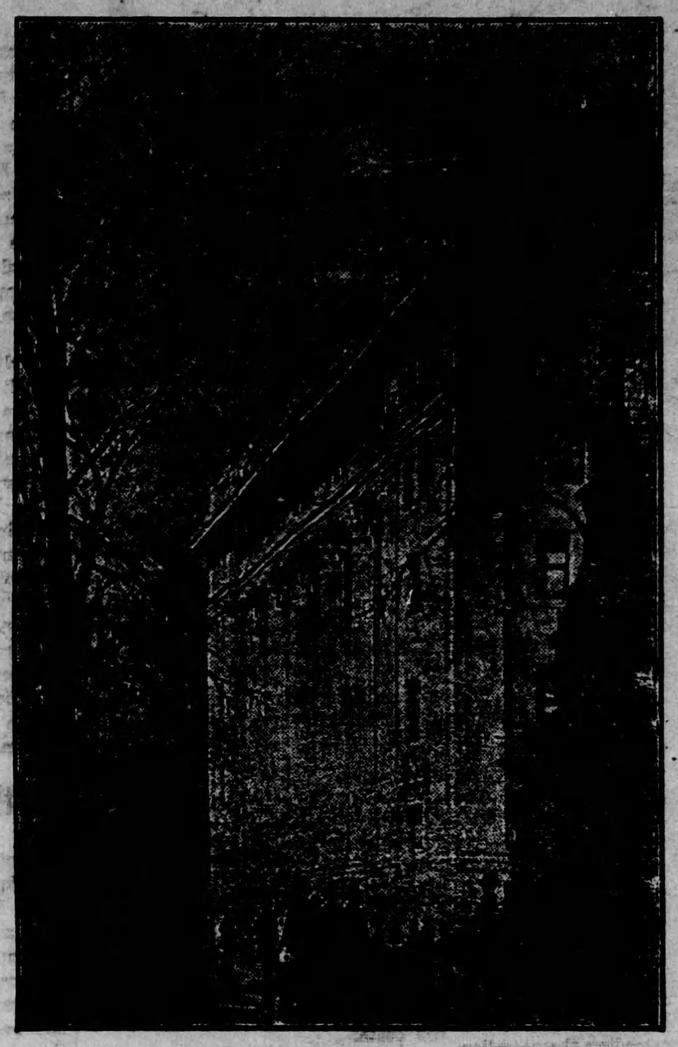
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

A TOWER OF STRENGTH

1927

	$
ASSURANCES IN FORCE (net)	1,487,990,000
An Increase of $231,500,000	
New Assurances Paid For - -	328,408,000
An Increase of $62,518,000	
Total Income - - - - - -	102,774,000
An Increase of $23,801,000	
Payments to Policyholders and Beneficiaries - - - -	42,224,000
Total Payments Since Organization - - - - - - -	300,040,000
Reserve for Unforeseen Contingencies	12,500,000
Surplus over all Liabilities and Contingency Reserve - -	45,280,000
An Increase of $11,269,000	
ASSETS at December 31, 1927 - - - - - -	401,305,000
An Increase of $56,054,000	

Dividends to Policyholders increased for eighth successive year



EXTRACTS FROM DIRECTORS' REPORT

Substantial advances have been made in all departments during the year. . .

The total net income for the year exceeded one hundred million dollars . . .

The strength and resources of the Company have been further enhanced . . .

The high earning power of the Company's investments has been again demonstrated. The net rate of interest earned on the mean invested assets, after fully providing for investment expenses, was 6.47 per cent. This gratifying result has been made possible by dividend increases, bonuses and stock privileges accruing on many of the Company's holdings.

The wisdom of the investment policy which has been consistently followed in past years, in favouring long term bonds and the stocks of outstanding and very carefully selected corporations, has been once more emphasized. The appraisal of our securities shows that the excess of market values over cost increased during the year by $19,235,889.99. In addition, a net profit of $5,028,033.20 accrued from the redemption or sale of securities which had risen to high premiums.

The quality of the investments listed in the assets is testified by the fact that on both bonds and preferred stocks not one dollar, due either as interest or dividend, is in arrear for even one day, while the dividends accruing to common stocks are greatly in excess of the dividends payable on the same stocks at the time of purchase.

The surplus earned during the year amounted to $38,511,029.67 from which the following appropriations have been made:

$5,000,000 has been deducted from the market value of our securities as a further provision against possible future fluctuations, increasing the amount so set aside to $10,000,000.

$1,500,000 has been added to the account to provide for unforeseen contingencies, which now stands at $12,500,000.

$1,000,000 has been written off the Company's Head Office building and other properties.

$500,000 has been set aside to provide for the greater longevity of annuitants, bringing the total provision under this heading to $2,000,000.

$50,000 has been set aside to provide for claims in respect of total disability as yet unreported.

$11,090,056.61 has been paid or allotted as profits to policyholders during the year. In addition, $6,205,573.00 has been contingently allotted to deferred dividend policies issued prior to 1911, and to five year distribution policies, to provide for profits accrued but not yet payable.

After making these deductions and allocations, $11,269,330.89 has been added to the undivided surplus, bringing the total over all liabilities, contingency account and capital stock to $45,280,896.14.

Your Directors are gratified to announce, for the eighth successive year, a substantial increase in the scale of profits to be distributed to participating policyholders during the ensuing year.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

Aerial Survey

45,000 Square Miles of Photographs Taken Last Year

Government camera men in our country photographed 45,850 square miles of territory last year from the air. Of this, 28,650 square miles was by oblique photography and 17,200 square miles by vertical photography. The oblique photographs numbered 16,246 and the vertical photographs 46,340.

The work was carried on in eight of the nine Provinces, according to a review of the Dominion Department of the Interior. Individual operations included such items as the extension of oblique photographs over an area of 15,200 square miles west of Lake Winnipeg for forestry purposes; an oblique photograph operation covering an area of 8,000 square miles over the Wood Buffalo Park, near Fort Smith, N.W.T., and a considerable number of vertical photographic operations of smaller areas in various parts of Canada.

"Since the inauguration of aerial photography in Canada six years ago by the Topographical Survey, Department of Interior, working in co-operation with the Royal Canadian Air Force, this art has repeatedly demonstrated its value in its application to mapping,' says the Interior Department. "This method fits in admirably with conditions that prevail in a new country of the extent of Canada, since by its use speed and economy are effected in mapping lands that by the ordinary methods of ground survey would involve a tremendous expenditure of time and effort.

"One of the interesting features in connection with the season's work was the covering by vertical photographs of the route of the New Welland Canal through the Niagara Peninsula. This was undertaken at the request of the Department of Railways and Canals for the purpose of showing the progress of the work in pictorial form. The advance made was readily seen by comparison with photographs of the same area which had been taken in 1921.

"Another interesting operation was the photographing, both vertical and oblique, of Niagara Falls, at the request of the Dominion Water Power and Reclamation Service, for the purpose of studying various features relating to the effect of ice conditions, the recession of the brink, etc.

"The value of the aerial photographs taken on this work does not cease with their use in the actual mapping operations. The information upon them is of importance in all problems relating to development and in a study of such problems generally obviates the necessity of much personal investigation over the territory in question. The Topographical Survey has been made a central bureau for the collecting and indexing of all aerial photographs. Here the ever increasing number of these photographs are first converted into maps and are then kept on file for reference and record purposes."

Capped the Lot.

Three artists were telling tall stories of their work.

'The other day,' said one, "I painted a deal board in imitation marble with such effect that it sank immediately when thrown into the water."

"That's nothing," said another. "Yesterday I hung a thermometer on the easel suporting my picture of the Polar regions and it fell at once to twenty degrees below zero."

"Go on,' remarked the third. "My portrait of a millionaire was so realistic that it had to be shaved every moraing."