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Canadian in the U.K.

Historic Scotland Abounds in Lore And Magnificent Natural Beauty

by Mac Sprowl

Three months have gone by quickly and to date I have travelled through 39 of England's 41 counties. Only Herefordshire and Sussex remain unvisited, along with Wales' 12 counties.

Since the last writing I have travelled into Scotland and spent the last three weeks there, returning to attend the Royal Show, July 6 to 9 at Windsor. The three counties show held at Gloucester for Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Worcester, Herefordshire, June 8, 9 and 10 was a wash-out as it teamed rain all three days.

June 11 I left Cheltenham by train for Scotland. It was an all

day journey, commencing at 10 a.m., arriving at Berwick on Tweed at 8.15 p.m. From Cheltenham the train travelled through the large industrial cities of Birmingham and Sheffield. The train goes by miles of factories and blast furnaces.

Met by Friend
From Sheffield on to Derby and York, the country is level, much the same as Lincolnshire but becomes more rolling near Newcastle, the coal town. From Newcastle to Berwick on Tweed the train travels quite close to the sea. At Berwick on Tweed I was met by Mrs. Graham Roger and Graham, the Scottish young farmer who stayed at our home last year while on the Young Farmers exchange visit to Ontario.

Graham was married April 2 to a Miss Margaret Cuthill, a Fife county girl who comes from a farm near St. Andrews in Fife county. Graham lived previously near Cupar Fife with his father and mother, but since getting married, they have a 400 acre farm near Duns, Berwickshire. He keeps 140 cattle, mostly Aberdeen Angus, has 58 acres of barley, six acres of potatoes, 14 acres of winter wheat, 23 acres of turnips, three acres of sugar beets, 10 acres of beans.

Graham, like most Scottish farmers, keeps sheep, 200 ewes. Speaking of sheep, Scotland is a country with more sheep than human beings; seven million sheep to six million people. The labor employed at Greenrigs the year round is seven men and three part time women. While at Greenrigs, Graham and Margaret went back to Fife to attend a Young Farmers' field day near Newburgh, right along the Tay river.

From Duns you travel to Edinburgh, which is 55 miles northwest of Duns.

The world famous Forth Bridge is over a mile and a half long. This giant structure took 3 1/2 years to build and on two occasions during the war the German air force tried to bomb it as it is a railway bridge with four tracks across it. After the crossing we travelled to Kirkcaldy, then due north to Newburgh.

More Canadians
It was here at this field day I met

the two Ontario Junior Farmer girls on the exchange visit, Marie Ecker of Wentworth County and Barbara Redner of Prince Edward County. They were the first Canadians except George Julian, I have met since arriving the first of April. It was by complete accident as I had no idea where they were staying, however Dick Hilliard, secretary of the Ontario Junior Farmers' Association, said in a recent letter to me they intended contacting me while in Britain. I did not know either of them previous to coming to Britain but used to see their names in the Junior Farmer news.

The highlight of the day's events came in the evening at the dance that concluded the field day, in the presentation of a wedding present to Graham and Margaret. We stayed at Margaret's parents farm during the week-end before returning to Duns. While staying at Graham and Margaret's, we went back to Edinburgh one day, a city admitted by all who have seen there to be one of the loveliest cities in Europe. Perhaps the most striking feature of the city is the way in which it so readily displays itself to the stroller along Princess Street, the magnificent thoroughfare which is bounded on one side by fine shops and on the other by lawns and gardens. These show off to perfection the romantic background of the castle, the dominating feature of the city which stands on a ridge of rock, falling a sheer 270 feet into the gardens below. From the castle I took pictures of the city. It was a bright day on a clear day one can see a wide view of the Firth of Forth, the shores of Fife and the distant outline of the Highlands. At the castle I visited the small room where Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to her son James.

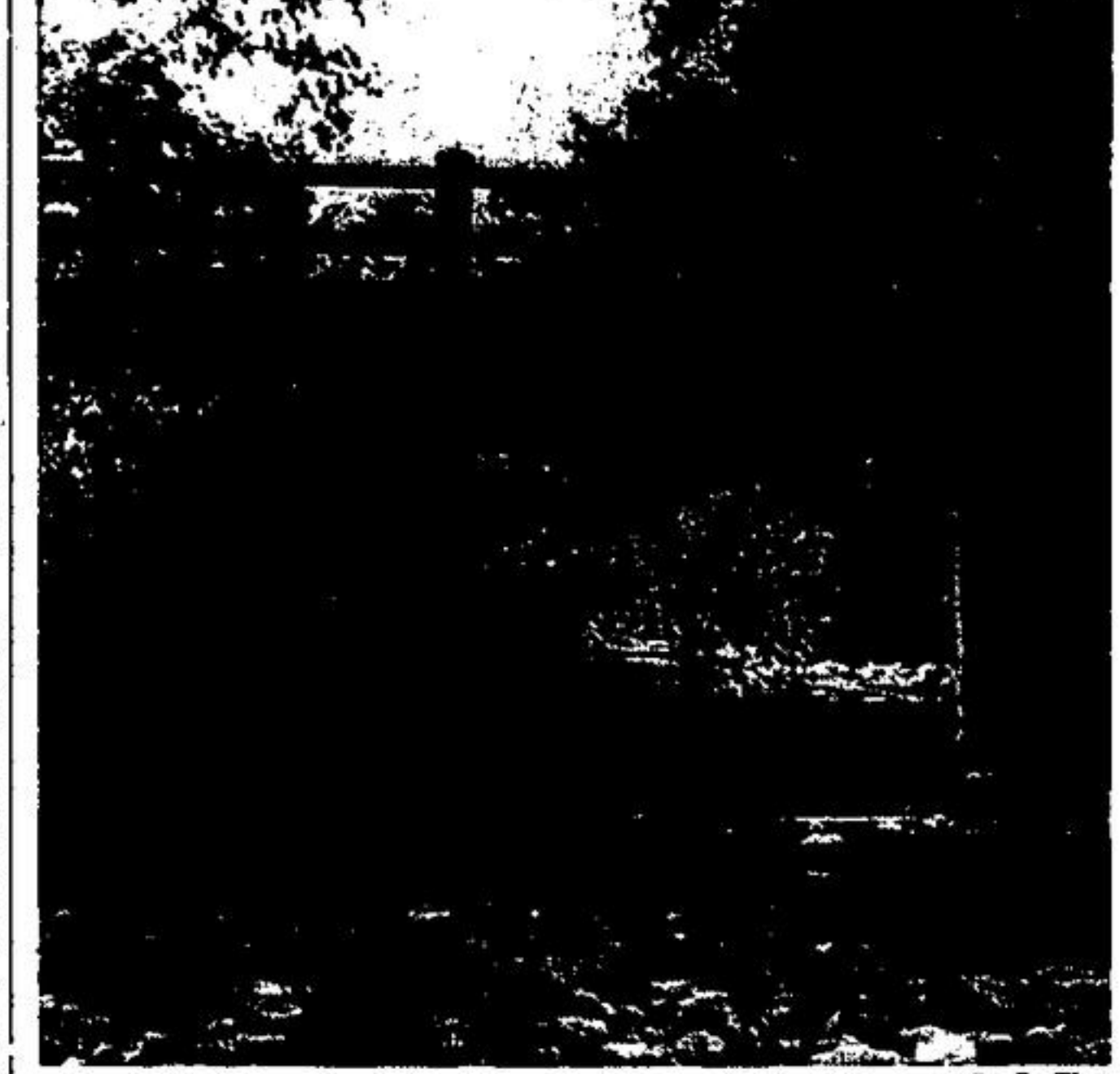
Sees Queen's Home
Other places of interest we went to in Edinburgh were the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the residence of the reigning monarch when visiting Edinburgh. Holyrood was founded by David I in 1128, occupied by Mary Queen of Scots and by Bonnie Prince Charles in 1745.

While in Edinburgh another day I climbed the 287 steps of the 200 foot Scott Monument on Princess Street. The monument is constructed of Binnie Stone from Linlithgowshire. It is a stone that has natural oils in it to preserve it.

I left Greenrigs on June 24 for Dumfries by rail. In order to do this I had to travel from Berwick on Tweed back down to Newcastle, then across England to Carlisle, then on to Dumfries. If one travels north or south, rail service is good but to cross country it is very difficult making train connections. It was here at Dumfries from June 22 to 25 that Scotland's 119th Highland Show was held, also the 14th time to be held in Dumfries, a town of 28,700 including Maxwellton on the west side of the river Nith.

72 Acre Show
The attendance figure for all four days was 113,919 as compared with 56,043 in 1938, the last time held in Dumfries. Over 3,000 extra people stayed in Dumfries and Maxwellton during the four days of the show. The show ground covered 72 acres and each day Dumfriesshire police with contingents from Lanarkshire and Carlisle city police directed double streams of cars from the north, west, south and east to car parks. What impressed me most at the Royal Highland Show was the Burns Tableau Parade of 26 vehicles which was staged twice a day. 120 performers took part. The parade was led by realistically constructed replica of Burns' birthplace, the "auld clay buggin'" at Alloway and ended with a convivial party singing Auld Lang Syne.

At the Royal Highland Show were many Canadians well known to Halton people aside from the four Ontario Junior Farmers I met and the two young Albert farmers here on the exchange visit to England and Scotland for two months, Bill Steiner and Mabel Rasmuson. I learned Mabel was the province of Alberta's nominee for the Lord Nuffield scholarship. She said she would like to see Kea Eliason of B.C., the western Canadian winner who defeated her along with the Saskatchewan and Manitoba provinces' nominees. Kea did not attend due to the car accident. Others I met were Dr. High, director of the two year diploma course, O.A.C.



Ripples Under the Bridge

with the four Ontario Juniors; Mr. Marritt, agricultural representative of Wentworth county; Harold Baker, assistant agricultural representative of Huron county, formerly assistant in Wentworth and Halton counties, along with the other Canadians on their tour.

The second day I attended I met Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Bennett at the overseas travellers, also met them two days later. It was quite a meeting place for Canadians. On Young Farmers day I met practically all the Young Farmers who have been over to Ontario in the last few years, Nancy Fleming, Ron Dalglish, Ian Middleton, Graham Roger, Ann Johnston, Andrew Barr and Robert Thompson. Many Halton Juniors remember Bob Thompson. He stayed with Dave Pelletier and Howson Ruddell when in Halton that year.

Tour in Taxis
On the last day of the show the eight Dominion Young Farmers were guests of the Provost and members of the council. We were welcomed at the municipal building in the morning by the Provost. Later a fleet of taxis took us on a tour of the town. We visited first the Museum, later the house where Robert Burns lived the last years of his life and died.

Dumfries is truly Robert Burns' town, the town he lived and died in. While at Dumfries Mr. and Mrs. Jim Holderness, Gerald Stoddart of South Rhodesia and I went one day down into the lovely lake district of Cumberland County. Here is some of the most staggering scenery of all England, mountains ranging from 1,000 feet to 3,210 feet, Mount Scafell, England's highest. The day was clear and the four of us enjoyed it very much.

Searches for Ancestors
I left Dumfries for Glasgow, another two hour train ride. The purpose of the trip was to try and find my ancestors on my father's side of the house. I spent four days there travelling to the registry offices of Glasgow, Paisley, Johnstone, Motherwell, Hamilton, Cumberland, also the post offices and libraries in these areas but was unsuccessful as I found compulsory registration of births, marriages and deaths only commenced in 1855. Previous to that it is parochial records which are filed with the registrar general in Edinburgh. It is here I will have to go as my great grandfather was in the Scotch Block, Esquimaux around 1826, 29 years before compulsory registration in Scotland began.

Today Glasgow has one and a quarter million people, is the largest city of Scotland, the second city of the United Kingdom to have an underground railway. Only London and Glasgow have underground railways, however the one in Glasgow is just one line whereas London has many, many lines. While in Glasgow I went on a steamer cruise down the Clyde from Bridge Wharf in the city to the island of Bute, 79 miles west of Glasgow. The boat carries 1,000 people and there were 840 on the six-hour cruise, three hours to Rathesay, then two hours on shore back to Glasgow. The steamer sails from the Bridge Wharf, past

Clydeside, the ship building yards which lie on both sides of the Clyde for miles. Fifty thousand men are employed at Clydeside and ten thousand of those work at John Brown and Co. Ltd., builders of the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth.

Mountains, Farms Together
While on this cruise I saw the 32,000 ton oil tanker which Princess Alexandra of Kent launched. It was built by John Brown and Co. Ltd. We sailed by Greenock where Atlantic passengers embark and disembark, called at Dunoon, then Rathesay. The Clyde is beautiful on the north side, mountainous country on the south side and farm land right to the water's edge. It was indeed a wonderful day.

While at Glasgow I visited a farm near Glasgow, that Herman Arasan and Bill Cairns were on last year. I left Glasgow for London, travelling to Carlisle, Lancaster, Preston, to Crewe, then on to London over the same route the boat train took April 1.

The three weeks' stay in Scotland was most enjoyable. It is certainly a land of romance and dance and not just a mere extension of England, which is a joke the English tell on the Scotch. You should see a Scotsman jump about if you tell him that you are under the impression that Scotland is a mere extension of England, also are there any railways that run beyond Glasgow and Edinburgh? The Nuffield Foundation has arranged a motor boat cruise of the Thames and next week I will be attending the Royal Show at Windsor.

Valley Authority Survey Starts Mon.

Last Monday the Ontario Department of Planning and Development commenced the conservation survey of the Credit watershed. This will be under the supervision of the Chief Conservation Engineer of the Department, A. H. Richardson.

Field parties, consisting of students and graduates of Ontario universities, will work under direction of permanent officers of the conservation branch. They will be working from a temporary camp at Georgetown from July 5 until the 15 of September.

When the Credit Valley Conservation Authority was established a few weeks ago under the Conservation Authorities Act, one of its first acts was to ask the provincial government for a survey of the land drained by the Credit River and its tributaries and a report describing soil, water, forestry, wildlife conditions and potentialities for reclamation.

When the survey is complete, findings and recommendations regarding these renewable resources will be prepared and submitted to the Authority by the Department of Planning and Development. The Authority is composed of representatives of all the municipalities drained, all or in part, by the Credit River system.

Similar authorities were previously set up on the Grand River to the west and the Etobicoke-Mimico and Humber to the east. Some of the municipalities on the Credit are already represented and are familiar with the work of these bodies and reports of surveys on the watersheds.

The first evidence of activity will be the erection of the camp, followed soon after by a fleet of blue trucks with the Conservation Branch and department and provincial insignia in white on their sides. When the trucks drive out of the camp at eight in the morning they will carry fieldmen eventually to all the roads on the watershed. The men can be identified by chrome badges with the department designation and will be found on foot in the woodlots, fields and streams.

Hydraulic engineers with rods, level and tripod will be measuring the gradient of streams, soil specialists with augers will be examining the soils, foresters will be cruising the woodlots, and biologists will be examining the life in the streams. Their finds are plotted on aerial photographs of the watershed and along with all available data of soil and statistics relating to resources will be compiled in the report to be issued later.

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