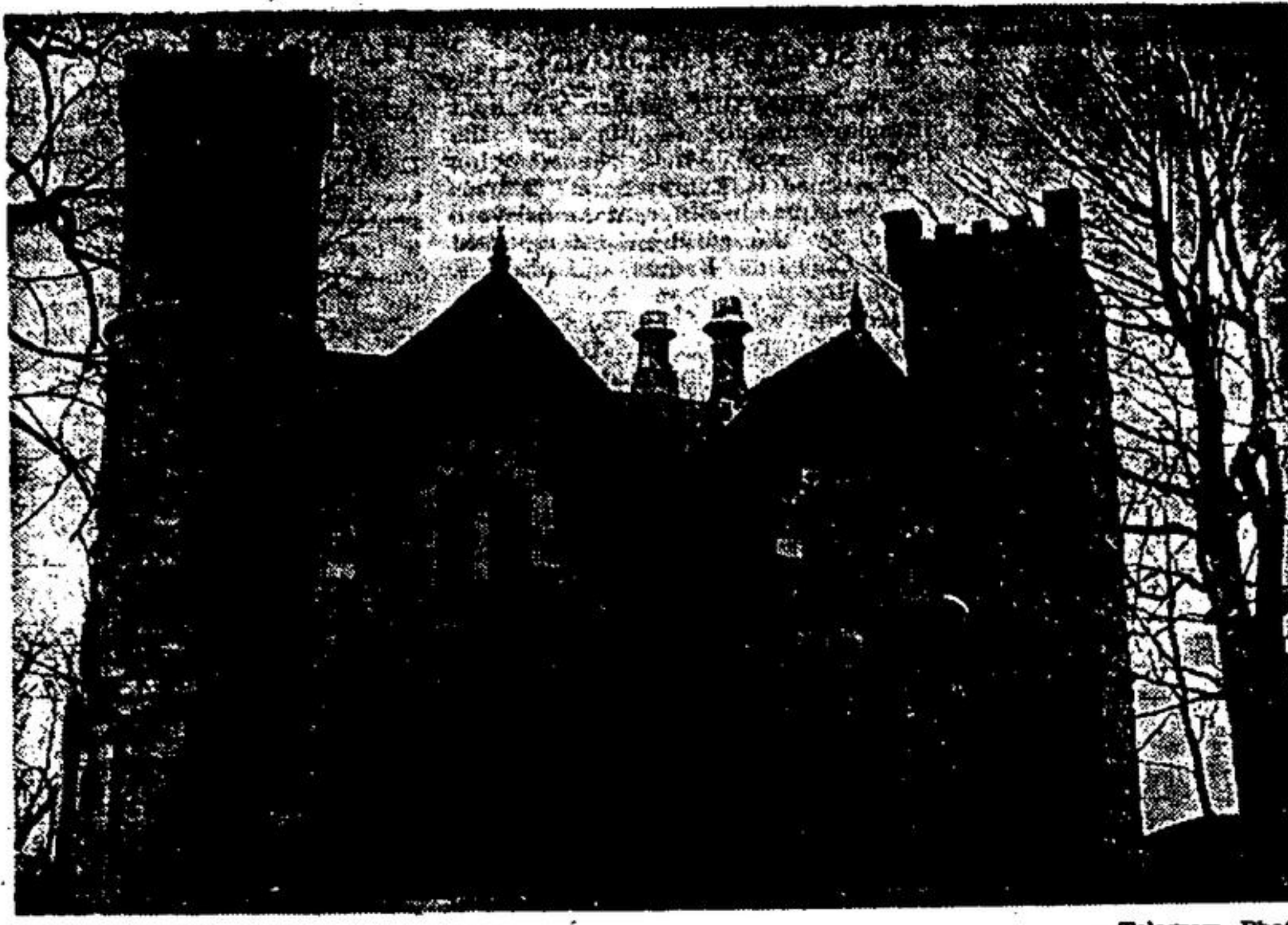


FAMOUS McLAREN CASTLE IS SOLD



—Telegram Photo

McLAREN'S CASTLE, historically famous Peel landmark, now has a new owner, Toronto barrister J. D. Ross. An Oakville resident, Mr. Ross recently purchased the property, which was last owned by William Sinclair Low, Toronto.

Peel County's famous "McLaren's Castle" has changed ownership. Sold, of the Caledon landmark to Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Ross was completed last week by the J. A. Wilkoughby real estate firm through the Norval agency of Walter Fidler. Mr. Ross, a Toronto barrister, lives at Oakville. It was purchased from William Sinclair Low of Toronto. The property, which includes 300 acres of good farm land and a new barn, is tenanted by Sandy McMurray.

The castle, a perfect miniature of a Perthshire, Scotland, castle, stands as a monument to the early Scottish settlers of Canada. On this spot 115 years ago, James McLaren from Callender, Scotland, and his wife, who was a McNab from Islay, Scotland, decided to make their home. Mr. McLaren later was a member of parliament for the county for several years.

Set on a hill, the castle commands an impressive view in all directions. To the south, smoke can be seen curling upwards from factories in Brampton and Port Credit. Eastward the village of Inglewood lies nestled in a valley with the sometimes turbulent Credit River winding along its side.

Northward lie the famous Forks of the Credit, and quarries where Credit Valley stone is hewn. From this area the material used in constructing the Parliament Buildings in

Toronto was quarried. Westward and nearby the tiny village of Belfountain on a small mountain. In these surroundings James McLaren decided to hew a home out of the wilderness.

Finished 89 years ago, the castle, or as it is sometimes called "The Grange" presents a superb view as one drives up a long sideroad worn down to bed-rock road. Bordering the road approaching the castle are snake, rail and old Scotch type stone fences, another link with the pioneers of the area.

Sweeping up the long winding driveway into the grounds, one is tempted to stop and admire the high Norman tower in front, reaching nearly 100 feet in the air. From this tower ships sailing into Toronto harbour, or the mist rising from Niagara Falls, or at night the coloured lights used to illuminate the Falls, can be seen clearly.

There is a gothic type entrance. The three-inch solid oak door is locked with two large hand-made iron keys.

The visitor is amazed by ceilings reaching to a height of 16 feet. To the left of the doorway is the den James McLaren used. It has massive hand-made bookcases. On the right is the tower entrance. A circular stairway climbs to the second and third storeys.

Consisting of 18 rooms of which the master bedroom is the largest, four separate suites complete, with dressing rooms and clothes closets, occupy the second floor. Also on this floor, a nursery leads off into a square tower on the northeast corner of the building.

On the third floor is a large attic, where legend has it a secret cult "The Grange" held their meetings. Here the "Grangers" the first farmers' cooperative in Ontario, was formed. The room was also used by the district women as a sewing and knitting centre.

Reaching the main floor again, you enter a large living room about 20 feet square. Though now used as a storage room, the paneling and woodwork retains its lustre even after 90 years. The floor of wide boards shows little signs of wear, even though it was the most used part of the castle.

Large folding doors open into the banquet hall which is also paneled and about the same size as the living room. Sitting at the head of the table, James McLaren could look out the window at the fields and see the Inglewood valley many miles away.

On the left is the doorway leading to the kitchen. Here Mr. McLaren as postmaster distributed the

mail to the district settlers for more than 40 years, and from this room embarked on the political career that saw him elected warden of Peel in 1880, a position he held for 20 years.

Off the kitchen is a large flag-stoned scullery, where all meals were prepared. A doorway leads into the cellar which extends the length and breadth of the castle. To one side is a 200-foot well. Drinking water was drawn by means of a wooden pump. The well is now partially filled in. Only the handle and part of the pump shows above the earthen floor.

The sightseer is struck with the workmanship of the Scotch masons who left their chisel marks in the granite in various designs. The stone used in front of the building was cut from freestone found on the 300 acre farm adjoining the castle. Other granite used was hauled up the mountainside by oxen from nearby quarries.

Lisse Perry, the contractor, and John Muir, carpenter, with a large gang of stonemasons and labourers, worked all one winter to dress the stone for the building. Each stonemason indelibly left his trademark as he chiselled out the various pieces.

It is a matter of record that from six to ten workmen were employed in constructing the castle continuously from 1860 to 1866 and though they worked for as little as 25c a day it proved too much for McLaren's pocketbook. The square tower towards the river was never completed at the back.



—Telegram Photo
FROM THIS TOWER, the mists rising from Niagara Falls can be seen.

FARM NEWS

Will Discuss Vaccination, Warble Fly at Meeting

Dr. Wharton, provincial veterinarian, and R. H. Graham, associate director of the Ontario Livestock Branch, are to be the special speakers at an open livestock meeting in the Court House, Milton, next week. This meeting sponsored by the Halton Livestock Improvement Association, we understand from Edwin Harrop, president of the association, is being held to consider whether or not any further action should be taken towards taking advantage of recent legislation which permits townships passing by-laws making calfhood vaccination, and treatment of cattle for control of warbles, a compulsory feature. This should be an excellent opportunity to hear the two subjects discussed. Halton Livestock Improvement Association will govern further action on these two matters by the recommendation of this meeting. All cattle owners irrespective of whether they keep grades or pure bred are extended a cordial invitation.

FARM NEWS

PICK COMPETITORS FOR JR. FARMER ANNUAL

The annual conference of the Junior Farmers of Ontario is scheduled for the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, early in January. In conjunction with the conference there will be the usual public speaking competition. Here Mary Pope of Palermo, will be the Halton representative. This year the programme will include such musical competitions as Ladies Trio, Mixed Quartette and Male Quartettes. Under the leadership of Thomas Allen of Dundas, Halton Juniors recently held a few try-outs or practices. Those selected are as follows: Ladies' Trio: Faye Clements, Milton; Anne McLaughlin, Acton; and Marjory Segsworth, Palermo. Mixed Quartette: Faye Clements and Marjorie Segsworth; Ralph Cunningham, Norval, and Stuart McPadden, Milton. Male Quartette: Garfield Colling, and Merle Gunby, Milton; Clare Richardson, Palermo; and Howson Ruddell, Norval.



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