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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for July 1st, 2016

To see what we've added to the Electric Scotland site view our What's New page at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/whatsnew.htm>

To see what we've added to the Electric Canadian site view our What's New page at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/whatsnew.htm>

For the latest news from Scotland see our ScotNews feed at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/>

Electric Scotland News

This was a busy week as I was doing a huge amount of work on the Brexit referendum and was also tied up with a critical meeting with the Knights Templar in Toronto. That meant I didn't get a lot up this week as I had to spend a couple of days in Toronto.

I did an analysis of the Brexit result and will make that the story for this week as it has huge implications for Scotland.

As to the Knights Templar. It was actually very depressing as I learned that the Grand Prior of Canada was putting himself first instead of helping Canada. He was elected for a three year term but is now in his fourth year and has announced that he is going to have a fifth year. I had to object and have forced a formal vote so we'll see how that goes.

Problem is that he's not doing a very good job and is a very poor communicator. He then told us that the order is now very concerned about security and so much so that at the International meetings they don't advertise they are the Knights Templar and instead they put up a small sign saying "Magistral Council Meeting". They have also revised their web site and removed anything that could offend including past issues of the Canadian Templar Newsletter. So now the only copies of those are on my Electric Canadian site where they will stay. So we're now being run by leaders who have a real problem communicating with their members and are also a bunch of cowards.

With the original Knight Templars they wore a large red cross on a white background and proclaimed to all that they were fighting to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land. So now the Templar of today want to hide... that really pissed me of big time.

So this upcoming newsletter will be my last and I'm now seriously looking at leaving the order.

And on top of all that I fell down the stairs in Toronto so have twisted my back and I also forgot to take my diabetic medicines with me so had to scramble to find an alternative supply. So... not a good week personally.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

Note that this is a selection and more can be read in our ScotNews feed on our index page. I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on Google and other search engines.

This week as you may have guessed was mostly about the Brexit vote where the UK voted to Leave but Scotland voted to Remain so that also caused some headaches.

Tyneside Scots

It's a term used to denote the continuing, unbroken tradition of a regiment - preserving its history and culture.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-36586563>

How Newfoundland soldiers forged lasting link with Scotland

Soldiers from Newfoundland made quite an impression when they took up garrison at Edinburgh Castle in 1915

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-36641789>

Leave claims victory in European Union referendum

While Scotland voted overwhelmingly in favour of Remain, swathes of England and Wales opted to leave the EU.

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/leave-claims-victory-in-european-union-referendum-1-4162593>

World reaction as UK votes to leave EU

International reaction has been coming in as the UK votes to leave the European Union.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36614643>

Spanish prime minister says Spain will block Scots EU deal

THE Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy has said Scotland cannot negotiate its own deal for EU membership.

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/spanish-prime-minister-says-spain-will-block-scots-eu-deal-1-4164935>

Electric Canadian

The Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe

Wife of the First Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, 1792-6 with Notes and a Biography by J. Ross Robertson and Two Hundred and thirty-seven illustrations, including ninety reproductions of interesting Sketches by Mrs. Simcoe (1911) (pdf)

You can download this book at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/diaryofmrssimcoe.pdf>

Electric Scotland

Rosyth

Historical Facts concerning Rosyth and district. Have added a link to this book to the foot of our Dunfermline page at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/dunfermline/>

Langholm as it was

A History of Langholm and Eskdale from the Earliest Times by John Hyslop, J.P. (1912)

You can download this book from the foot of our Gazetteer page at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/gazetteer/vol4page465.htm>

Life and Letters of James David Forbes, F.R.S.

Late Principle of the United College in the University of St. Andrews, Sometime Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, Formerly Secretary R.B.E., Corresponding Member of the Institute of France, Etc. Etc.

You can download this book from the foot of our page at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/nation/forbes.htm>

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

Got in Section 1 of the July 2016 edition

You can download this section at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft/index.htm>

The Story

On reflection where might Brexit take us? 29th June 2016 By Alastair McIntyre

The vote overall was that the UK voted 52% to 48% to "leave" the EU. Scotland voted 62% to 38% to "remain". See the full results by Region at <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36616028>

Nicola Sturgeon has said this means a second referendum is now on the table for independence and spent yesterday in Brussels seeing if there was anything she could do to remain in the EU. Essentially there isn't unless Scotland goes Independent but even then Spain has strongly said it would veto any application and meantime France has said that if the UK goes Scotland must go also. Ms Sturgeon met European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels, but was told by European Council president Donald Tusk that a meeting with him would not be appropriate at this time. It was also made perfectly clear that Scotland could only apply for membership if they were an independent country and the application process would take 5 to 7 years with no guarantee of success. SO frankly that finishes any suggestions that somehow Scotland could remain in the EU. That said I am sure there will be continuing debate on this issue.

Like many Scots I have lived and worked in England and Wales. Unlike many of them, some 800,000, I did return to Scotland to work and run a business. I later emigrated to Canada where I now live.

To be frank I got to the point where I didn't like Scotland as there seemed to me to be a lack of vision in Government and Business. Being something of an historian I could see that Scotland had actually benefited enormously from the Union of the Crowns. In fact in the period 1790-1820 a staggering 130 Scots were MPs representing seats in England and Wales.

Look at the number of Scots who were Prime Ministers of the UK and had seats in the Cabinet from Foreign Secretary to Treasurer and many other portfolios. Scotland took the lead in building the British Empire overseas. We were the people that went out and did the hands on jobs.

I campaigned to "leave" the EU as over the years I found that the EU was no longer relevant in a Global world where global organisations were making the laws.

I like reading news from all over the world to try to understand what is happening in the world and how it might impact Scotland as my work is all about the history of Scotland and the Scots at home and abroad. I have been working on this now for some 20 years.

Over the past several years I have been looking at the EU to see what it is doing for the UK first and Scotland second. I have to say that I really can't see any point in that organisation at all and is why I campaigned to "leave".

Let's look at some points...

Marine Le Pen is generally thought to be favourite for winning next years French Presidential elections. She wants to take France out of the EU and if she wins will have a referendum.

Here is what she said after seeing the Brexit result...

Marine Le Pen: After Brexit, the People's Spring Is Inevitable (28th June, 2016)

PARIS — IF there's one thing that chafes French pride, it's seeing the British steal the limelight. But in the face of real courage, even the proudest French person can only tip his hat and bow. The decision that the people of Britain have just made was indeed an act of courage — the courage of a people who embrace their freedom.

Brexit won out, defeating all forecasts. Britain decided to cast off from the European Union and reclaim its independence among the world's nations. It had been said that the election would hinge solely on economic matters; the British, however, were more insightful in understanding the real issue than commentators like to admit.

British voters understood that behind prognostications about the pound's exchange rate and behind the debates of financial experts, only one question, at once simple and fundamental, was being asked: Do we want an undemocratic authority ruling our lives, or would we rather regain control over our destiny? Brexit is, above all, a political issue. It's about the free choice of a people deciding to govern itself. Even when it is touted by all the propaganda in the world, a cage remains a cage, and a cage is unbearable to a human being in love with freedom.

The European Union has become a prison of peoples. Each of the 28 countries that constitute it has slowly lost its democratic prerogatives to commissions and councils with no popular mandate. Every nation in the union has had to apply laws it did not want for itself. Member nations no longer determine their own budgets. They are called upon to open their borders against their will.

Countries in the eurozone face an even less enviable situation. In the name of ideology, different economies are forced to adopt the same currency, even if doing so bleeds them dry. It's a modern version of the Procrustean bed, and the people no longer have a say.

And what about the European Parliament? It's democratic in appearance only, because it's based on a lie: the pretense that there is a homogeneous European people, and that a Polish member of the European Parliament has the legitimacy to make law for the

Spanish. We have tried to deny the existence of sovereign nations. It's only natural that they would not allow being denied.

Your Thoughts on Brexit

What fears or hopes do you have about your own country, whether you are in Europe or elsewhere, after Britain's decision to exit? Share your thoughts.

Brexit wasn't the European people's first cry of revolt. In 2005, France and the Netherlands held referendums about the proposed European Union constitution. In both countries, opposition was massive, and other governments decided on the spot to halt the experiment for fear the contagion might spread. A few years later, the European Union constitution was forced on the people of Europe anyway, under the guise of the Lisbon Treaty. In 2008, Ireland, also by way of referendum, refused to apply that treaty. And once again, a popular decision was brushed aside.

When in 2015 Greece decided by referendum to reject Brussels' austerity plans, the European Union's antidemocratic response took no one by surprise: To deny the people's will had become a habit. In a flash of honesty, the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, unabashedly declared, "There can be no democratic choice against the European treaties."

Brexit may not have been the first cry of hope, but it may be the people's first real victory. The British have presented the union with a dilemma it will have a hard time getting out of. Either it allows Britain to sail away quietly and thus runs the risk of setting a precedent: The political and economic success of a country that left the European Union would be clear evidence of the union's noxiousness. Or, like a sore loser, the union makes the British pay for their departure by every means possible and thus exposes the tyrannical nature of its power. Common sense points toward the former option. I have a feeling Brussels will choose the latter.

One thing is certain: Britain's departure from the European Union will not make the union more democratic. The hierarchical structure of its supranational institutions will want to reinforce itself: Like all dying ideologies, the union knows only how to forge blindly ahead. The roles are already cast — Germany will lead the way, and France will obligingly tag along.

Here is a sign: President François Hollande of France, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi of Italy and acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of Spain take their lead directly from Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, without running through Brussels. A quip attributed to Henry Kissinger, "Who do I call if I want to call Europe?" now has a clear answer: Call Berlin.

So the people of Europe have but one alternative left: to remain bound hand-and-foot to a union that betrays national interests and popular sovereignty and that throws our countries wide open to massive immigration and arrogant finance, or to reclaim their freedom by voting.

Calls for referendums are ringing throughout the Continent. I myself have suggested to Mr. Hollande that one such public consultation be held in France. He did not fail to turn me down. More and more, the destiny of the European Union resembles the destiny of the Soviet Union, which died from its own contradictions.

The People's Spring is now inevitable! The only question left to ask is whether Europe is ready to rid itself of its illusions, or if the return to reason will come with suffering. I made my decision a long time ago: I chose France. I chose sovereign nations. I chose freedom.

Marine Le Pen is president of the National Front party in France. This essay was translated by John Cullen from the French.

And there is more from around Europe...

Last night's Danish referendum rejecting Europe once again may yet be imbued with a similar significance if David Cameron's fails to win the forthcoming referendum on Britain's membership of Europe. (4th Dec. 2015)

So likewise Denmark may also vote to "leave" the EU.

EU referendum for Austria if there are no reforms (27th June 2016)

Presidential candidate Norbert Hofer calls for an Austrian European Union referendum if there are no significant reforms in the next year, after Britain votes to leave the union.

Brexit: Poland, Hungary lead angry rebellion against EU's old guard (June 28, 2016)

A continental split opened up over the response to the Brexit vote as Poland and Hungary led calls for a new-style European Union amid fury that the founding member states were trying to call the shots.

Italy's perfect storm could topple the EU (June 29, 2016)

The Italian banks have been smashed. Italy's biggest bank, Unicredit, has lost more than 30 per cent of its value since the vote and more than 60 per cent since the start of the year.

Renzi, under pressure from the surging popularity of the Eurosceptic Five Star Movement, is trying to seize the moment created by Brexit and the effect it might have on other EU countries disenchanted with the state of the union.

Now that is just a snapshot of what is happening in the EU countries. So given the above why should we remain in the EU? Does it not make a lot more sense to leave? The whole EU is now in melt down and I doubt it will survive in its present form.

SO ask yourself, given the above, why is Nicola Sturgeon so fixated on being in the EU?

A clue to this can be found in the following story...

UK lacks expertise for trade talks with Europe, says top civil servant (28th June, 2016)

An initial government review has revealed Whitehall has only 20 "active hands-on" trade negotiators, and will be up against 600 experienced trade specialists for the European commission, Sir Simon Fraser, the former permanent secretary at the Foreign Office disclosed.

And how many "trade negotiators" does Scotland have?

To me this is the problem that Nicola Sturgeon is not prepared to discuss as she is hoping that the EU will carry the weight of Scotland's relations with the rest of the world.

Let us not forget that EU countries do not sit on any of the top tables of the world organisations. Increasingly it is them that set our laws. The sub regional EU is only a part player in an increasingly global world.

It is foolish of countries to identify their future with the EU. By 2050 there will be some 9 billion people in the world. The EU will then account for only 6 per cent of the world's population, as against 20 per cent before 1950. Its share of the world's gross product will have shrunk to some 10 per cent by 2050, as against 30 per cent in 1950.

In the coming decades most growth in GDP, market size and investment returns will tend to occur outside continental Europe. Most EU countries will have a shrinking and ageing population. The EU in general is likely to decline economically, politically and culturally relative to the rest of the world, and in particular Asia, where the bulk of humanity lives.

The Commonwealth is a great source to go after for the UK as Asia is obviously the growing market of the future and in the Commonwealth are countries such as, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

In the Pacific we have Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

In the Caribbean and Americas we have Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and The Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

In Africa we have Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia

And in Europe we have Malta and Cyprus.

In all 2.3 billion citizens.

The Commonwealth dates back to the mid-20th century with the decolonisation of the British Empire through increased self-governance of its territories. It was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which established the member states as "free and equal". The symbol of this free association is Queen Elizabeth II who is the Head of the Commonwealth. The Queen is also the monarch of 16 members of the Commonwealth, known as Commonwealth realms. The other Commonwealth members have different heads of state: 32 members are republics and five are monarchies with a different monarch.

Member states have no legal obligation to one another. Instead, they are united by language, history, culture and their shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. These values are enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter and promoted by the quadrennial Commonwealth Games.

The Commonwealth covers more than 29,958,050 km (11,566,870 sq mi), almost a quarter of the world's land area, and spans all six inhabited continents. With an estimated population of 2.328 billion, nearly a third of the world population, the Commonwealth in 2014

produced a nominal gross domestic product (GDP) of \$10.45 trillion, representing 17% of the gross world product when measured in purchasing power parity (PPP) and 14% of the gross world product when measured nominally.

It's my view that a reconnection with the Commonwealth has great scope for the future of the UK and Scotland and the Queen could do a lot to help influence growing trade between us.

In addition I might add that while we might be out of the EU that does not mean we are out of Europe. Indeed as the 5th largest trading nation EU countries would obviously want to work with the UK to sell their goods.

Currently the UK trade with the EU accounts for £227bn in UK exports to the EU against £288bn in imports. So we have a trade deficit with the EU of £61bn. 45% of all UK exports are to the EU. Scotland sees the EU as its largest export market but of that 70% goes to England alone.

The EU is in charge of trade policy. Trade negotiations with non-EU countries are conducted by the European Commission on the basis of a negotiating mandate from the member countries' trade ministers. For imports from outside the EU, there is a "Common External Tariff". Member states do not set their own tariffs.

So as you can see our trade with the EU is by no means insignificant and will certainly continue.

So as an example, Scottish Steel is almost dead, but outside the EU we would be able to impose tariffs on the dumping of cheap Chinese Steel and thus help to protect our Steel industry.

Now that we have made the decision to "leave" there is little point in looking back as we need to look forward. Frankly I think the future is great for both the UK and Scotland but we need to get on our bikes and work hard for what can be a glorious future.

My view on Scottish Independence is simply that this is not the time for an referendum. As Kevin in his Chokka Blog has so well laid out the finances of Scotland based on the very latest GERS report it is clear that it can only be the loser. As our deficit to GDP ratio is so large it is doubtful if Scotland could survive and very doubtful that they would be able to join the EU. The fact that there would have to be border controls between Scotland and England would have a major implication on Scotland's exporters and we have already seen a decline in Scottish exports to England since the referendum.

That is not to say Scotland can't become an Independent country in the future but certainly not in the next 10 years in my opinion. Instead it needs to get over its fixation with the EU and help the UK make the most of the opportunities that are now open to us. And we need to work hard at producing trade professionals and diplomats that can work on the world stage and ensure Scotland's voice is heard.

And that's it for this week and hope you all enjoy your weekend.

Alastair