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## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for April 28th, 2023

### Electric Scotland News

It strikes me that the people of Scotland don't have much choice when it comes to voting in Scotland.

Like we now know for sure that the SNP are incompetent and lack any transparency. However that leaves you with Labour, Tories, the Greens, Liberals and Alba. We now know the Greens are worse than the SNP and that Alba was rejected at the last elections so that really leaves Labour and the Tories.

We do know that Labour and then the Labour, Liberal pact didn't work so that leaves the Tories as the only party that Scotland hasn't at least tried.

My problem is that I have no clue as to what the Tories stand for in Scotland. I know they don't want independence but that's about it.

I did some looking around to get more information and found it at:

<https://www.scottishconservatives.com/policy-area/>

It's a touch out of date but it does point you to what they are thinking and it's well worth your time to read it. I got around half way through reading it and really liked the focus on an apprenticeship scheme. Given that Scotland spends lots more on Education with dubious results I'm not convinced getting more teachers is the answer. There was also no talk about nuclear in their energy policy. Still a lot more reading to go.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on Google and other search engines it becomes a good resource. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Britain's entitled strikers

Instead of progressive demands to increase everyone's living standards, well-paid teachers and doctors are striking to demand a bigger slice of a smaller pie in order to consolidate their own social and economic status. Meanwhile, ordinary people suffer. These strikers are not working class heroes but a cosplaying elite.

Read more at:

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-truth-about-britains-entitled-strikers>

Small uninhabited Scottish island up for sale

A small uninhabited island off the south of Scotland coast is up for sale for offers over £150,000. Barlocco sits in Fleet Bay about nine miles by road from Kirkcudbright in Dumfries and Galloway.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-65347282>

Maine energy: Much delayed US-Canada hydro project gets go-ahead  
An energy project that sparked an uproar has been given the go-ahead in Maine after a jury ruled a referendum on the proposal was unconstitutional.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-65341572>

Humza Youboat all at sea  
What's the difference between a U-saff and a U-turn?

Read more at:

<https://thinkscotland.org/2023/04/humza-youboat-all-at-sea/>

You have never had it so good you ungrateful lot!  
THIS WEEK the ONS published its monthly employment data to a fanfare of approval. Unemployment is close to a 50-year low.

Read more at:

<https://thinkscotland.org/2023/04/you-have-never-had-it-so-good-you-ungrateful-lot/>

Riddle of ancient Egypt's impossible sculpture is finally solved in Scotland  
Pioneering research by a National Museums of Scotland curator finds statue reflects a village of eminent tomb-makers

Read more at:

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/04/21/kneeling-man-ancient-egypt-stature-riddle-solve-national-museums-scotland>

Spending per pupil 18% higher than UK but effect on outcomes unclear  
About £8,500 is spent per pupil in Scotland, compared to the estimated £7,200 in the rest of the UK.

Read more at:

<https://news.stv.tv/scotland/scotlands-schools-spending-per-pupil-18-higher-than-uk-but-effect-on-outcomes-unclear-study-finds>

Scotland to re-join global education league tables in policy U-turn  
SCOTLAND will re-enter international education league tables after withdrawing from them more than a decade ago.

Read more at:

<https://uk.sports.yahoo.com/news/scotland-join-global-education-league-105105424.html>

NYC Tartan Day Parade April 15 2023  
Tartan Day Parade New York City, New York Mayor Eric Adams attended.

Read more at:

<https://youtu.be/aSJyKjgzAo>

Ideal job advertised on tiny Scottish island away from the hustle and bustle  
A unique opportunity has come up on a small Scottish island as its only general store is seeks a new shopkeeper the role would be perfect for those wanting to try island life.

Read more at:

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/scotland-now/gallery/ideal-job-advertised-tiny-scottish-29806981>

Why a CalMac catamaran is such a big deal  
Scottish ferry operator CalMac is chartering a catamaran to provide relief services on its west coast routes as its

ageing fleet struggles with frequent breakdowns.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65331660>

Forgotten diaries show how illiterate baker became pioneering herbalist

Forgotten diaries have been found which reveal how a chance meeting changed the life of an illiterate baker - who became a pioneer of herbal medicine in Edinburgh. Fifteen-year-old Duncan Napier was delivering bread rolls when he struck up a conversation with lawyer John Hope, the grandson of the King's botanist.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-65382047>

## Electric Canadian

Caledonia

Added an historical video about the town which you can watch at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/caledonia/index.htm>

The Silver Maple

A Novel by Marian Keith (1906) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/silvermaple00macg.pdf>

Agricultural Bulletins 351 to 373

Insecticides, Fungicides and Herbicides, Potatoes, Rose Culture, The Pear in Ontario, The Raspberry and Blackberry in Ontario, Insects Attacking Fruit Trees, Top Working and Repair Grafting, The European Corn Borer, Insects Attacking Vegetables, Farm Underdrainage, Farm Water Supply and Sewage Disposal, Results of Three Years' Study Poultry Rations, Parasites Injurious to Poultry, Manures and Fertilizers, Draft Horses, Soybeans in Ontario, Pork on the Farm, Farm Poultry, Vegetable Gardening, Testing Milk, Cream and Dairy Products, Buttermaking on the Farm, Soft Cheese Making, Dairy Cattle

You can read these at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/bulletinsfromon351373onta.pdf>

Industries of Canada

Historical and Commercial Sketches, London, Owen Sound, Collingwood, Barrie, Goderich, Clinton, Seaforth, Stratford, Wiarton, Fort Elgin, Kincardine, Wingham, Teeswater, Tara, Walkerton, Etc., Etc., and environs, its prominent places and people, etc. (1800) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/industrial/IndustriesofCanada.pdf>

Cabot's Head

Lake Huron, Cabot and Cabotia by Henry Scadding, D.D., from "The Week" of November 18, 1892 (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/bna/cabotsheadlakehu00scad.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 23rd day of April 2023

By the Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/forum/communities/rev-nola-crewe/26334-thoughts-on-a-sunday-morning-the-23rd-day-of-april-2023>

A History of the Cochrane Area  
By Donald Edward Brown (1951) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/alberta/historyofcochran00dona.pdf>

## Electric Scotland

Gilderoy  
A Scottish Tradition by Robert S. Fittis (1866) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/deeside/gilderoy.pdf>

A Book of Perthshire Memorabilia  
By Robert Scott Fittis (1879) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/perth/bookofperthshire00fitt.pdf>

The Scots' Charitable Society  
The oldest charitable organization in the Western Hemisphere.

You can read about them at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/america/scotscharitablesociety.htm>

Old Map of the Isle of Skye  
Added to the foot of our Skye page where you can see it at:  
<https://electricscotland.com/history/skye/index.htm>

The Chapel of St. Anthony the Eremite at Murthly, Perthshire  
The Seat of Sir William Drummond Stewart of Grandtully, Bart. (1850) (pdf)

You can read this wee book and view the images at:

[https://electricscotland.com/history/blairgowrie/Chapel\\_Anthony\\_Eremite.pdf](https://electricscotland.com/history/blairgowrie/Chapel_Anthony_Eremite.pdf)

Robert Burns's Poetry During Critical Years in China  
Robert Burns never came to China, never read about China, nor wrote about China. But he is known almost by every cultured person in China. It is the Chinese writers and translators who introduced him to China. His poems played different significant roles in different periods during critical years. His love poems helped him enter China; his patriotic poems encouraged Chinese youth to fight for the country's freedom and independence; his folk-song style set example for young Chinese poets to follow; his love for people won the heart of Chinese readers. By Li Zhengshuan (2023) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/burns/burnsinchina.pdf>

Annals of Auchterarder and Memorials of Strathearn  
By Alexander George Reid (1899) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/books/pdf/annalsofauchtera00reiduoft.pdf>

## Story

On the Causes of the destitution of food in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland in the years 1836 and 1837

By Mr Alexander Macgregor, Licentiate of the Church of Scotland, Manse of Kilmuir, Skye.

A thorough knowledge of Highland manners and character is essentially necessary to form a proper estimate as to the circumstances and condition of the inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It is not enough to have a knowledge of their present state, but the different changes which have taken place from time to time in their condition as a people, must be traced back to remote periods. Various causes have combined to render the Highlanders of the present day, as if a race entirely different from that of their forefathers. Some centuries ago, when feudal law reigned with absolute sway in every Highland district, agriculture, even of the rudest description, was but little attended to or looked after. The young and hardy men, from the days of boyhood upwards, were destined for employments entirely different, and such as were more suited to their warlike temperament of mind, to the principles in which they were daily instructed, and to the usages of the periods in which they lived. It was then that the Highland chieftains, like petty kings over their respective domains, had each a stated number of followers or retainers, according to their power, as well as to the extent of their possessions. These possessions were not valued, as now, according to the amount of rents raised from them, but according to the number of men upon them able to carry arms, and willing to fight for their feudal lord in his combats with some neighbouring chief. Depending more on the chase, and on spoils from their enemies, for subsistence, than on agriculture, the “cranntaraidh,” or “gathering-beam,” commanded more attention than the plough. That such should be the case, will not appear so surprising, when it is considered that all who slighted the call of this mute messenger of death, were either irretrievably disgraced, or put mercilessly to the sword. In those rebellious times, however, the Highlands were not so densely peopled as at the present day. The population were more dispersed over the face of the country, and in reality less numerous. Even should a time have been when the Highland families would equal in number those of later times, it is rational to suppose that the dangers, hardships, and conflicts to which the Highland youth were then exposed, would have a direct tendency to decrease the population, or at least would prove an effectual check to its increase. The feuds and conflicts among the clans were not confined to any particular county or district, neither did they take place at the same period of time. On the contrary, every Highland territory suffered in its turn, for a revolution of centuries, from the ravages of intestine broils, and deadly skirmishes. So severe were the contests between the Clan-Chattan and the Mackays in the north of Scotland, in the reign of Robert III that that monarch deemed it proper to send the Earls of Crawford and Murray to effect a reconciliation between them. For this purpose the said noblemen, after due deliberation, deemed it advisable to have recourse to policy, and by appointing an equal number of men on each side, to fight as champions for their respective clans, the victorious party were to be honoured with royal favour, while the vanquished party were to receive free pardon for all their former offences. Reconciliation was thus effected between these bold and barbarous clans on the North Inch of Perth, in the year 1396. In the same manner bloody feuds were carried on with varied success, between the Clan-Donuill and the Macleans,—the Clan-Donuill and the Macleods,—Lord Kintail and Glengarry,—Rasay and Gairloch,—Sutherland and Caithness,—the Sioi-Torquil, or the Macleods of Lewis, and various enemies on the mainland of Scotland, &c. Under such a state of affairs, there was neither leisure nor desire to effect any such changes as would ameliorate the condition of the people in their domestic comforts. Lands were little valued by their owners in a pecuniary point of view; and the proprietors frequently awarded large shares of their possessions, during life, to their seanachies, bards, pipers, and to such of their retainers as distinguished themselves by acts of bravery and military prowess.

Such was the state of affairs in a more or less degree until the close of the Rebellion in 1745-6. When the last ray of hope in favour of the house of Stuart had vanished, and when the house of Hanover had come to wield with undisputed right the British sceptre, things assumed a more gentle aspect. Feudalism vanished by degrees under the influence of Protestant laws judiciously enforced, and the wild spirit of the Highlanders was softened down to that pitch of tranquility, which enabled them to live on peaceable and easy terms with their neighbours and with

each other. Their minds were no longer distracted by wars and deadly feuds with their surrounding clansmen. These were happily forgotten, except when rehearsed in their tales, or chanted in their ancient Gaelic songs.

The Highlanders (though not now exposed to the dangers of civil commotions around them, and though no longer called out by their liege lord to plunder the effects and to destroy the retainers of some contiguous enemy) were still possessed of much ardour in military affairs, and displayed courage which was surpassed by no race of men whatever. It therefore fell to the lot of many of them to enlist in the Highland regiments; and of this brave people these regiments were, at onetime, exclusively made up. Better soldiers never faced an enemy; and as Dr Macleod so justly said in his eloquent address at the Mansion-house, "These are the men who in every field and in every clime had covered themselves with glory! The numbers who were thus engaged in fighting their country's battles, bore but a small proportion to the numbers of those at home, who had now to depend on industry and labour for their maintenance. But still the aggregate of population was but very small, when compared with that of the present day.

You can read the rest of this in pdf format at:

<https://electricScotland.com/lifestyle/18361837.pdf>

END.

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you.

Alastair