

Histrion Of Skye

Continued from page 5

It is fortunate in having sons and daughters eager to carry on the spirit and traditions of their forefathers. In promoting the series of meetings being held in this edifice this week Mr. Frank MacKenzie, Mr. Roderick MacKenzie, and others deserve the grateful thanks of all Belfasters.

Guild-hall, London, Prime Minister Churchill said: It is only by studying the past that we can foresee, however dimly, the future. It may well be that it is only by respecting the past that we can be worthy of the future.

"We are now assembled in a building which brings to us a sense of nearness to those beloved ones whose self-denial made it possible, who toiled in its construction, and who now slumber beside its walls.

Architect's Career

"That talented daughter of Belfast, Mrs. Ada MacLeod Putnam, has already told in a gem of literary craftsmanship something of this church; but I would like to add a few words about its architect, Robert Jones. He was born near Paisley, Scotland, in 1776, the year of the outbreak of the American Revolutionary war.

"On arrival he joined the general and shipping firm, Waters and Birnie. George Birnie was agent for the Alliance British and Foreign Life and Fire Insurance office, London, England. In 1811 Mrs. Jones and four children joined him. In 1812 he was made surveyor of lumber for the Island. In 1815, the year of Waterloo, and perhaps earlier, he was operating Lord Selkirk's Mill on Pinette River.

"There began his friendship with the people of Belfast. In 1816 he disposed of the mill lease and returned to Charlottetown. In 1820 he was appointed Capt. of a company in the 7th Battalion of Militia. In 1825 he was appointed commissioner of highways for Lots 48, 49, 50, and 55.

"Mr. Jones was methodical and meticulous. He kept a diary in his own fine handwriting and in it recorded his daily activities. A few extracts may be of interest. "1824—Time spent at Selkirk's Mill for Belfast Church. First time at Flat River 4 days. 1 day in town. "March. 3 days at plans, 1 day in town.

"March. Calculations for a church at Pinet Mills, 60 ft. long, 42 ft. wide, 19 ft. post; (next followed a list of materials and supplies, aggregating about 243 pounds. The specifications call for tower with weathercock.) Tenders to be given in, 8th April.

"1824—Received from Hector MacKenzie, Flat River, 18 shillings on account of drawings for church, etc., etc.

The Wren Touch

"Mr. Jones made sketches for a Court House in Charlottetown and erected other buildings there. "It is due to Robert Jones and his years in London that we have Belfast church in all its graceful beauty today. As he walked the streets of that great city the graceful lines of the Wren churches inspired him. The people of Belfast could not afford to spend much to add beauty to their church but Mr. Jones, with admirable skill and good taste, added a touch of Wren character in the spire.

"The people of Belfast appreciate the privilege of having with them tonight as honored guest, Senator J. Walter Jones, great-great grandson of Robert Jones. Subsequent to 1816 Robert Jones settled in Pownall and there the family has flourished ever since. In his years as Premier of this province, Walter Jones has shown administrative ability of the highest order. One wonders how much of his discretion and skill are derived from the stability of mind and character that marked his great forebear, Robert Jones.

Overseas Migration

"Long before 1808, when Belfast was settled, individual Highlanders were migrating overseas. For instance Matthew Grant, ancestor of President Grant of the U. S., settled in Dorchester, Mass., in 1630, ten years after the Plymouth Colonists landed in America. However, it was much later before they began to emigrate in groups. They had a settlement in the Cape Fear region of North Carolina, in 1728. Some say they were there in 1715. A group of 360 from Argyllshire joined them in 1739. Cross Creek, North Carolina, was the center for these early settlers. The Scots Magazine records that 54 vessels full of emigrants from the Western Isles and the Highlands sailed for North Carolina between April and July, 1770.

Choice of Belfast

"Having decided to emigrate, why did we choose Belfast? Selkirk explains the reason in his book 'Observations on the Present State of the Highlands of Scotland—with a View of the Causes and Probable Consequences of Emigration' published in 1805. He was interested in Highlanders and wished to direct their emigration to the British Colonies. He preferred Upper Canada but Government desired a Maritime situation. "I resolved," he wrote, "to try the experiment, and at my own risk, to engage some of the emigrants, who were preparing to go to the United States to change their destination and embark for our own colonies.

"In 1772 the great MacDonald migration began and lasted until the outbreak of war, in 1776. My own MacDonald ancestors settled in Carolina at this time but returned to Scotland after the war. At this period the exodus was so great as to excite public alarm. The famous philosopher Dr. Samuel Johnson on his memorable tour of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, in 1773 was struck by the magnitude of the exodus and the choleric old doctor was moved to refer to it as the 'Epidemic fury of Emigration.'

"This then was the spirit abroad when our ancestors left Scotland, in 1808. The causes for the desire to immigrate were many and may seem obscure but the destruction of the Feudal System in 1746, at Culloden, was a potent factor. The power of the chief was broken; no longer a pretty monarch as in fact he had been for ages, he required no defenders. The tenant thus lost his age-long privilege of doing military and farm service in return for land rents. Another factor was the conversion of large tracts into grazing lands and deer forests. The new methods gave the landlord greater returns but required fewer hands.

"The women of Belfast have always been eager for education. By 1800 when women physicians were rare everywhere Belfast had seven of her daughters in that noble calling. They were: Annie Campbell MacRae, Pinette Ponds; Anne D. MacRae, Flat River; Anne Young, Pinette; Florence MacRae, Pinette Ponds; Florence MacDonaid; Eliza Margaret MacKenzie, Flat River; Isabella MacPhail, Orwell.

"Ada MacLeod Putnam, Eidon, authoress and Mary MacKenzie, Flat River, professor at McGill University, also have done much to add honor to their sex.

"Even a casual survey of Belfast would be incomplete without reference to the well-known Rev. Dr. Angus MacAulay, who helped organize the heira from Skye and the Highlands, and acted as Selkirk's agent in Belfast. He was teacher, pastor and advisor to the people and represented Belfast in the local legislature, where he was speaker. He belonged to the famous MacAulay's of Lewis who gave many distinguished men to the church and Lord Macaulay to the world. Dr. Angus was the youngest child of Rev. Aeneas MacAulay, and was born at Applecross, in 1796, whilst his father was minister there.

"Dr. MacAulay graduated M. A. at Glasgow University; took theology at Aberdeen, and years later graduated in medicine from Glasgow University. His wife was Mary, daughter of Capt. Samuel MacDonald of Seruil Skye, grandson of Sir James MacDonald, chief of the clan. Capt. Samuel fought in the Revolutionary War in North Carolina, and returned to Skye when peace was made. When about 33, he married his second wife, Catherine Stewart, a young girl of about 22 and by her had three children. The London Times of November 7, 1830, records his death as follows:

"Died at his house, in the parish of Kilmuir, Isle of Skye, on the 10th ult. Lieut. Soirle MacDonald at the very advanced age of 106. He expired not of any particular complaint but merely from decay and exhaustion. He left three children, under ten years of age.

"Dr. MacAulay and his wife left descendants in Belfast, among them the present respected representative of the district in the Legislature, Hon. Dougald MacKinnon. The chairman, Mr. K. M. Martin, is a collateral relative a descendant of Rev. Daniel Mac-

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"Stenscholl, as Nicholson was called, after the tack of Stenscholl, was a descendant of Reverend Donald Nicholson, chief of the Nicholsons of Scorrybreac, who was famous for his family of twenty-three children by his three wives. Roderick MacKenzie was a descendant of the Laird of Applecross, of a distinguished family. There were several other families of the Tacksman class, among them the well known Martins of Newtown, to which family the chairman belongs.

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young thirsting for learning. Several boys won distinction in college and success in their several callings, such as Roderick C. MacRae, whose ability Lord Kelvin admired. At the present time the High Commissioner from Canada in London is a descendant of Belfast. His mother, Floretta MacLeod, wife of Prof. Lemuel Robertson, was daughter of Norman (Captain) MacLeod of Orwell and his wife the former Miss MacSwain of Belfast, sister of Dr. Angus MacSwain.

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France Is Critical Of Life Article

PARIS (AP)—The French foreign office said Tuesday that France's battle against the Communist-led Vietminh in Indo-China had been defamed and her soldiers slandered in a Life magazine article by David Douglas Duncan. The Aug. 3 issue of the American publication carried a "photo report" of Indo-China with both photographs and text by Duncan. The writer, who spent eight weeks in Indo-China preparing the article, said France had poured "billions of dollars and the blood of its finest young officers" into the war there. However, Duncan added that France had "failed to fight ruthlessly when this might have won the war and lacked the polit-

ical wisdom to offer Indo-China independence when this might have won a peace." The article carried a picture of the French general headquarters in Hanoi, with no soldiers in evidence. It was captioned "at Siesta time in GHQ," which it said lasts from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. every week day.

A Paris foreign office communiqué said: "The sense of this combat and the value of our soldiers are above suspicion, just as is France which served as a target several months ago for the same publication. "Rather than place restrictions, which would be justified by fact as well as by law, on the principle of freedom of expression and of distribution that is traditional in our country, the government prefers to let opinion judge the professional and moral comportment of those responsible for this publication."

Oil Discovery Reported In Sask. REGINA (CP)—An encouraging show of heavy gravity oil was reported Tuesday from a wildcat well in the Golden Prairie region of southwestern Saskatchewan by the Amurex Oil Development Co. Recoveries of up to 55 feet of free, gassy, 14-degree oil were said to have been made in drill stem tests.

Advertisement for 7UP featuring a large bottle of the beverage and the slogan "fresh up" with the All-Family drink! The ad includes a small illustration of a family and the text "BUY SEVEN-UP IN THE HANDY 6-BOTTLE CARRIER".

Advertisement for SHAMA'S GROCETERIA featuring a list of "WEEK-END SPECIALS" and "MEAT & FISH DEPT." items. The list includes tomatoes, lettuce, cherries, potatoes, oranges, cukes, beets, grapefruit, carrots, wax beans, raspberries, tea, Robin Hood cake mixes, flour, coffee, lime juice, beans, apple juice, pickles, shortening, Super Suds, Rinso, chocolate mallow cookies, and toilet tissue. The ad also lists meat and fish items like rolled chuck roast beef, wieners, ham, bacon, and beef tongues. Contact information: Dial 8224, 211 Euston St., Open Evenings Till 9 O'clock.

Large political advertisement for W. Chester S. McLure, Liberal Member representing Queen's County. The ad features the headline "Electors Of Queens County" and "Do you realize that this County has had a Liberal Member representing you in the House of Commons for 16 YEARS since 1935." It asks "What has the Liberal Government done for Queen's County?" and answers "NOTHING". It promotes J. Angus MacLean as the representative who makes their presence known at Ottawa. The ad includes the text "On August 10th be sure you vote for" and "Inserted by the Queen's County Progressive Conservative Association."

Cartoon titled "OUT OUR WAY" by J. R. Williams. It depicts a man in a kitchen looking at a woman who has thrown a lunch box up in the air. The man asks if she ever saw a pair of calipers, and she replies that she fought back with tools in her lunch box. The cartoon is signed "J.R. WILLIAMS 8-7" and "Copyright, 1953 by J.R. Williams, Inc., N.Y. Reg. U.S. Pat. Off."

Cartoon titled "OUR BOARDING HOUSE" by MAJOR HOOPLE. It shows a man being thrown into a pool of water by another man. The man in the pool says "GREAT CAESAR, TWIGGS! NOW IT DAWNS ON ME WHY THEY CALL HIM LAUGHING BOY—HE'S BEING TICKLED INTO A COMA!" The man on the pool says "YEP! THERE LIES HERCULES, KNOCKED OVER BY A FEATHER!" The cartoon is signed "MAJOR HOOPLE" and "THIS GLADIATOR REALLY LOSES WITH A LAUGH".