

Gift of the President

30

Gatherings at Haddo House August 1919

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Aberdeen & Temair

Isabel Aberdeen & Temair

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From the "Aberdeen Free Press," August 4, 1919.

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The weather was beautifully fine, and Haddo House looked its very best. The Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen must have been greatly pleased at the large attendance, and particularly the excellent muster of their tenants, and the friendly family atmosphere of the entire proceedings. Lord Aberdeen,

16 June 1920 (Jm)



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although holding distinguished office in the State, has ever been mindful of his tenantry and their interests, and when public duty required his presence in distant parts of the Empire, his deep personal regard for the Haddo House community has been steadfast and undiminished. In all his activities as a leading landed proprietor, as Lord-Lieutenant of the County, and as the Deputy of the Sovereign, Lord Aberdeen has borne an esteemed and eminent part. Lord Haddo, Lady Pentland, and all the members of their family have maintained that close touch with the tenants and their domestic joys and sorrows, which has gone far to establish not only a real identity of interest, but those feelings of goodwill and affection which have been unclouded and unbroken over a long series of years.

Haddo House and its Famous Associations.

As county mansions go, Haddo House is not, perhaps, architecturally imposing contrasted with some ancient baronial piles, but it fits in excellently with its surroundings, and its policies possess many features of amenity and historical value. The present house was erected as far back as 1732, and has been enlarged in various ways to meet the demands of modern life. A chapel has been built at one end, and the entire building is exceedingly commodious, and, in the mass, is dignified and impressive. The many corridors are loaded with engravings, pictures, and curios. The cedar-lined library gives ample evidence of the family's literary tastes for generations. From Canada and Ireland are many souvenirs of Lord Aberdeen's popular reigns as Viceroy, and none are more interesting than the hand-painted dinner and tea service given to Lady Aberdeen by members of both Houses of Parliament in Canada, and the gold embossed casket containing the unique farewell address presented to Lord and Lady Aberdeen by all classes of citizens, on the occasion of their departure from Ireland in 1915.

There is an interesting collection of engravings of eminent persons in public life, of present and past generations; with many autograph portraits of sovereigns, statesmen, soldiers, diplomatists, ecclesiastics, and authors, including those of Queen Victoria, King Edward, King George, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, Joseph Chamberlain, Sir Wilfred Laurier, etc., etc. Mr. Gladstone was a close personal friend of Lord and Lady Aberdeen and his portrait is seen in all ages and attitudes. The late Queen Victoria and Prince Consort were at Haddo House as far back as 1857, and planted two trees near the chapel entrance at the east wing. A bust of Queen Victoria by Marachetti presented by herself to the Premier Earl is one of the family treasures.

There are also fine oil portraits of the Premier Earl and his beautiful Countess, by Lawrence, and a remarkable portrait of Guizot, by Paul De la Roche. Like his grandfather, "the travelled Thane, Athenian Aberdeen," Lord Aberdeen has added greatly to the amenity and embellishment of the estate, and planted millions of trees. He holds progressive views regarding estate administration, and has been fully alive to the importance of proper housing, as may be inferred from the fact that, since he succeeded in 1870, nearly 600 new dwelling houses of various descriptions have been built on the estate.

As the seventh Earl, the Marquis of Aberdeen represents a lineage going back to 1452. Notable and distinguished as have been his services to his country, and strenuous and arduous his busy life as a representative of the Crown, he carries his more than three-score years and ten immediately responsive to all the calls made upon him, and with no decline or decay at all in the engaging, attractive manner, courteous and considerate bearing which, allied to hereditary fitness for high State office, knowledge of men, generosity and sympathy, have contributed so handsomely to his administrative success. Many changes are in prospect in land-owning in Great Britain, and Haddo House and other estates in Aberdeenshire have not escaped what seems to be a pronounced and perhaps regrettable tendency of the time. Lord Aberdeen represents a great Scottish family, eminent in every branch of national service, and, worthy of his lineage, will continue to be linked with a substantial part of the wide possessions so long associated with an honoured name.

The House Party.

The house party were the Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen, the Earl and Countess of Haddo, Lord and Lady Pentland, and son and daughter, Mrs. Katherine Tynan Hinkson, Miss Hinkson, and Miss Louisa Thompson. Associated with the house party for the day were Lady Cowdray and party, Lord Provost Sir James and Lady Taggart, Principal Sir George Adam Smith and Lady Smith, their son-in-law and daughter, Capt. Drew and Mrs. Drew, and Miss Smith, Mr. Duff of Hatton, Rev. Dr. Brebner, late of Forgue, Mr. and Mrs. Udney of Udney and Miss Graham; Mr. A. J. Mitchell-Gill of Savoch.

The Reception.

The guests upon their arrival at Haddo House were received by Lord and Lady Aberdeen and the members of the family, and the spacious lawn soon presented an animated scene. A sharp shower interrupted events for a few minutes, but it soon passed, the sun came out, and the rest of the afternoon was brilliant and unbroken. The Oakbank band, relieved at in-

tervals by Piper Milne, Gordon Highlanders, discoursed music, whilst the guests were assembling, and later on they played dance music at the dancing-board, which had been placed at the front of the house for the entertainment of the younger guests. Tea was served in the spacious Lecture Hall, which stands, embowered in trees, at the south end of the house.

After the guests had assembled, Lord Aberdeen and the members of the family, accompanied by the house party, took their position on the broad staircase leading down to the lawn. An interesting touch was the carrying by Lord Pentland's son of the hand embroidered Canadian flag which was borne by Lord Aberdeen at the Coronation of the King. Other touches of colour were lent by the various national flags which overhung the lawn and fluttered in the soft breeze. The guests gathered round the steps and a series of short speeches were made, and Lord Aberdeen parenthetically alluded to the fact that he had been laird for nearly 50 years.

INTERESTING SPEECHES.

The Marquis of Aberdeen.

The Marquis of Aberdeen, who wore the service uniform of a Lord-Lieutenant of a County, said: This occasion has a twofold purpose. It forms a local celebration of the great attainment of Peace; an event, the portentous character of which, will perhaps be realized even more fully by future generations than by our own—partly because of concurrent happenings which claim attention and create anxiety. But none the less is it fitting that we should unite in thankful recognition of the great deliverance which has been struggled and anguished for and granted. And let us remember that the essential part of the Peace Treaty which has been signed and ratified on our behalf by our elected representatives, is that it has created an instrument whereby the nations of the world can learn to avoid war if they will have it so. A new code of international honour, and justice, and mutual co-operation has been set up, which can become effective if the peoples of the world shall determine that the blood of the millions who have laid down their lives to save the human race from the horrors which this generation has endured, shall not have been spent in vain. Our thanksgiving and rejoicings at this time would indeed be hollow were we not possessed of this great hope, and were we not, as a nation, pledged to do our utmost to make this great hope a reality. But our assembling together to-day has also another purpose and meaning. For it is the outcome of the natural desire to have once more a gathering of the Haddo House

tenantry, with whom we have been so long associated in bonds of friendly intimacy as well as of cordial business relationship; a tenantry, forming as it does a community with which we, in common with our predecessors, have been proud to be thus connected. My father was, unfortunately, only for four years at the head of the estate, but during that brief period he devoted himself steadily to the fulfilment of its responsibilities, and he showed both foresight and earnestness, in at once and energetically undertaking the provision of increased housing accommodation on the estate. And although he was early called away, there are many still here who remember what a guiding and guarding influence my mother exercised here for many years.

The Premier Earl.

My grandfather, often spoken of as the "Premier Earl," was the landlord of these estates for the period of 59 years, and, any who wish to know how he was regarded by his tenantry has only to look at the massive monument which they erected in affectionate memory of him, as recorded on the inscription engraved on that solid tower, locally known as the "Prop o' Ythsie." And nothing is more certain than that while the tenantry were proud of their laird, he was very proud of them; and he frequently manifested that sentiment by taking eminent persons who happened to be his guests here to witness some of the examples of energy and resource displayed in the reclamation and cultivation of the land by his tenants. His pride concerning them was, of course, prompted by such manifestation of the sterling qualities of independence, enterprise, and dogged perseverance. These are the characteristics which, humanly speaking, have, to an extent that has become proverbial, enabled people from Scotland as a whole, and notably from Aberdeenshire, to make their mark in all parts of the globe; and not only people especially from this county (but speaking without boastfulness) from this particular part of the county; at any rate, when travelling, or residing officially in other countries, Lady Aberdeen and I have, with quite remarkable frequency, had the pleasure and gratification of being greeted by those who have been born and bred on our ancestral estates. And are not these qualities of which I have been speaking, just the sort which are most essentially required in order to enable the problems and the difficulties of the present time to be successfully grappled with? And, further, may we not hope that such qualities exercised and evoked heretofore in connection with the cultivation of the soil will continue to be so exercised, and even further developed, in the case of those who acquire the full ownership and the full responsibility of the land they till.

The Farewell Element.

And so, although our present gathering has unavoidably a farewell element, which creates wistful feelings, it need not, and I hope will not, be regarded as an occasion for gloom, but rather of hopefulness, and the exchange of heartfelt good wishes. We deeply appreciate the fact that so many have responded to our invitation to be present here to-day, and especially that there has been so prevalent a manifestation of kindness and goodwill. We also rejoice in the opportunity of offering our share of grateful homage to those, and they were many, belonging to the families on this estate who went forth to take their part, and right well did they fulfil it, in the great struggle for righteousness and freedom. Those, too, who were unable to go to the front showed a fine energy and determination in doing their part for the cause at home; and especially does this apply to the women of our county. I may perhaps be permitted to add that Lady Aberdeen and I would greatly have liked to extend the hospitality of this occasion still further and to invite not only our nearest county neighbours, but as many as could manage to come from all parts of the county, and also to have asked for the kind presence of not a few of our numerous good friends in the city, but as you can see, the assembly of tenantry has formed as large a gathering as we could adequately entertain at one time. However, we are very fortunate in having a splendid representation both of city and county, having with us the always welcome presence of our good friend the Lord Provost, accompanied by Lady Taggart, and also those other valued friends of long standing, the Principal of the University and Lady Adam Smith; while as to the county, how could it be more fully personified, so as to speak, than in the presence of our old and dear friend, the Convener and also Vice-Lieutenant of the County, Mr. Garden Duff of Hatton; and there are also other well-known county neighbours whom we are delighted to welcome. And now I have only to say that we earnestly hope that the recollections of this day will be as agreeable to you as they certainly will be to us, because of the warm feelings of reciprocal kindness and goodwill which have been so fully manifested—(loud applause).

Sir James Taggart.

Lord Provost Taggart said it gave him great pleasure, "a city sparrow," to come out and get a breath of fresh air and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Haddo House. It was a day off for him, and he was there at their "little family gathering." From what he saw Lord and Lady Aberdeen seemed to have a very big family—(laughter). It showed the popularity and esteem in which Lord and Lady Aberdeen were held in the

district round about, and he had no difficulty in including the City of Aberdeen within the proverbial "twal' miles roon," for he had consulted the map and found that Haddo House estates came within twelve miles of Aberdeen. He was sorry he was not a tenant of Lord Aberdeen, who had been so good a laird for almost fifty years. He hoped that those tenants who had become lairds would be as happy as they had been as tenants. He sometimes "had his doots." Now they were getting an opportunity of being lairds in Aberdeenshire, and that was something to be proud of, but they would look back to the time when they had been tenants and would never forget the kindness that their laird had shown them. One of the objects of that gathering was to celebrate peace, and where could they find a more peaceful place? They were glad to think they were indebted for peace to many of the brave and brawny boys of Methlick and the districts round about Haddo House who had helped to make the 51st Division famous. They all knew the popularity of their host and hostess in Ireland. It was not an easy country to manage, but Lord and Lady Aberdeen got to the loving hearts of the people of Ireland. They carried their popularity with them to America and Canada. He was very pleased to see them surrounded by so many friends. It showed how they were appreciated, and he was also pleased to see Haddo House and policies looking so well. Some of the wives of the farmers were just now grudging the shower on their new bonnets—(laughter)—but the farmers were delighted to have had the shower, though perhaps not just at that particular time. On behalf of the citizens of Aberdeen he wished to say how much they appreciated what the Marquis and Marchioness had done for the country and for them in Aberdeen. He looked upon Lord Aberdeen as his "country cousin." Finally, said Lord Provost Taggart, "I thank you, my lord, for your very great kindness"—(applause).

Mr. Duff of Hatton.

Mr. Duff of Hatton, the Convener and Vice-Lieutenant of the County, said that Lord Provost Taggart had described himself as "a city sparrow," he should say he was some wonderful "talking bird"—(laughter). The Lord Provost had spoken for the city; he would speak on behalf of the county. He had great pleasure in being able to come to that gathering, which had a double purpose. The first was to celebrate that great event, the final attainment of peace, at which they all so much rejoiced after the dreadful time. The other purpose for which they were met they looked at with very mingled feelings—the termination between Lord Aberdeen and a considerable portion of the people on his estate as proprietor and tenants. This

marked the transference of a very large number of these persons to be owners of land. They regretted that any connection between Lord Aberdeen and his former tenantry should not be so close as before, but they would still have Lord and Lady Aberdeen in their midst, and their feelings would be as warm as prevailed before. He wished to welcome cordially the large annexation to the ranks of ownership. They included a valuable, contented, energetic, and thrifty class of men in that district. He should like to welcome back their old friends, Lord and Lady Pentland. He remembered seeing Lady Pentland when she was very small. That was soon after she was born. Much water had run past the mill since that time. He wished to say how pleased they were to have Lord and Lady Haddo and Lord and Lady Pentland again in their midst—(applause).

Mr. William Duthie, Collynie.

Mr. William Duthie, Collynie, said that he felt the honour which had been conferred on him of speaking or behalf of the tenantry was because he was one of the oldest and most devoted of the tenants. He looked upon that gathering as a splendid gathering. It was in accordance with the spirit of Lord and Lady Aberdeen to see others happy. He confessed he had no desire to be a laird. He was so pleased as he was that he did not wish anything more. Some might say, "What more should you want at your age?"

Lord Aberdeen's speech was a notable one, and had come to their hearts with great power, and he was sure Lord and Lady Aberdeen would continue to have the same friendly feelings towards the whole of their former tenants as ever they had. He hoped Lord and Lady Aberdeen and their young people would be long spared to the district and the country they had helped so much to make prosperous.

He was glad to see so many faces that he knew so well. He knew they were all devoted friends to Lord and Lady Aberdeen. He remembered very well the Premier Earl, and remembered Lord Aberdeen's father and mother and there never was a nobler woman on this earth than she. He saw Dr. Brebner nodding his assent to this. She was an angel on earth if ever there was one. She was a noble example to them all, and one which they had been trying to follow. Lord Aberdeen's father was a delicate man but a noble one. He would ask them to give a great vote of thanks to Lord and Lady Aberdeen and their family and grandchildren.

Mr. A. Brebner, Balquhindochoy.

Mr. A. Brebner, Balquhindochoy, said he was placed in rather a difficult position. Along with many of his friends he

was not particularly enamoured with the prospect of becoming a landed proprietor. They would have much rather remained as tenants of the Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen. Lord Aberdeen had said the change would be for the good of their country. He trusted that it might be so, but he was afraid the change would not be for the good of their pockets or pocket-books. However, they fully reciprocated the sentiment so finely expressed by Lord Aberdeen, that although their business relationship might be placed on a different footing their personal relationship of mutual affection and esteem would remain unbroken to the end. He had much pleasure in seconding the motion made by Mr. Duthie to give a rousing cheer for the Marquis and Marchioness—(loud cheers).

Lord Haddo.

Lord Haddo said it was not often a father called upon his son to express appreciation for votes of thanks passed to his father and mother. He was in that position that day, and he must try to prove that the family had learned to do what they were told by their parents. It was rather difficult to express how much the family, and he included those absent, appreciated the kind feelings expressed towards them that afternoon. He could not enumerate all they had said, but one of the phrases had struck him as particularly happy, that possibly their relations to some extent might not be so close as in the past. He ventured to think they might be closer in the future than in the past, because in place of having two or three neighbouring proprietors like Mr. Duff of Hatton, they would be having many proprietors calling upon them. He thought what Lord Aberdeen had said at the start that it would be good for the district would be realized. He hoped that the good relationship which Lady Haddo and he had managed to establish amongst them shortly after they were married would continue. He assured them that the hearts of all the family were very full of appreciation and thankfulness for the very kind way all had endorsed the votes of thanks, and they would all try to merit the sentiments expressed.

Lord Pentland.

Lord Pentland said he was sure they would all agree with him that after what Mr. Duff had said it was Lady Pentland that should speak. Any of them who had been away from home for seven years would be able to know what her thoughts were that day. They were well expressed by the sentence: "East, west, hame's best." It was a joy to them to be there, and also a joy to their children to meet so many friends. They

had one in their thoughts that they should have wished to be there and that was Dudley Gordon. The men in his battalion thought much of Colonel Dudley Gordon—(applause). The present was a time of rejoicing. Somebody was talking of clouds, but there was always a blue sky between the clouds. They had to meet the future as they had done the past, and it gave him great pleasure to be present at that large family party on that eventful occasion—(applause).

Principal Sir George Adam Smith.

Principal Sir George Adam Smith said he heartily echoed all that his civic chief had said about Lord and Lady Aberdeen. Their energy in all good service for the public weal at home and abroad and in the County and City of Aberdeen had set them a noble example. He thanked them very heartily for giving them an opportunity of visiting such beautiful surroundings.

As to the celebration of peace, it was up to every one of them to see that since it was owing to the moral and spiritual forces that our people had won the war, it would only be in the strength of these forces that they would win the "Peace." Let them all use well the new opportunities the Peace had opened up to them—(applause).

Rev. C. G. Mackenzie.

Rev. C. G. Mackenzie, Methlick, said he wished as a Padre to refer to Colonel Lord Dudley Gordon, and to say how much his men admired him. It was by his great gallantry that he had acquired his proud reputation, and his men considered him second to none—(applause).

Referring to Lord Aberdeen as a heritor, Mr. Mackenzie said that in broad Scotland no laird could have been a better heritor than Lord Aberdeen. As proof they had only to go to Methlick and look around. The church and manse of Methlick bore witness to this. It was not in his actually meeting the burdens imposed upon him but in the manner and spirit in which he did so which had made the minister's life in Methlick such a happy one, and in this respect he could not leave out the well-known activities of Mr. Smith, the factor—(loud applause). Lord Aberdeen had left a lasting example of what a heritor should be.

Lord Aberdeen said he was glad that the factor had been mentioned, and he wished to identify himself with the sentiment which had been so cordially manifested regarding Mr. Smith.

Afterwards two verses of the 100th psalm were sung, and the National Anthem. As there was not room for all in the Refreshment Hall at one time, Lord Aberdeen advised the younger portion to go to the dancing-board and "shak' a fit."

Lord and Lady Aberdeen and their Guests.

The whole proceedings passed off with the greatest success, pleasure, and good spirit. Lord and Lady Aberdeen and the members of the family moved about amongst their guests, and were most assiduous in their hospitality and kindness. The arrangements, which were largely in the hands of Mr. C. G. Smith, the factor, proved most complete, and the burst of applause which marked Lord Aberdeen's reference to Mr. Smith in the proceedings noted above shows how warm is the regard and esteem felt for him on the estate. The entertainment and the provision of hospitality to over one thousand people was not a light task, and the staff deserve a compliment for the smoothness and success with which their ministrations were accomplished. The chapel was visited by many during the afternoon, and selections were given on the organ by Mr. Alexander Kidd, Aberdeen, with much acceptance.

From the "Aberdeen Journal," August 4, 1919.

Marquis of Aberdeen and Tenants. Striking Tributes to Relationship.

Haddo House was the scene of a great gathering on Saturday afternoon—a garden party by the Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair to the tenantry on the Haddo House estates. The assemblage in itself was eloquent of the relations which have existed between the Aberdeen family and those around them. In the circumstances, it was as fine an expression of appreciation and goodwill as any laird and his kin could wish from their own folk. But, after all what other was to be looked for at Haddo House with its traditions for warmth, kindly interest, and neighbourliness? The company numbered about 1,500. The guests were received on the terrace by the Marquis and Marchioness, the Earl and Countess of Haddo, Lord and Lady Pentland, whose first appearance it was since their return from Madras, with their two children, the Hon. Margaret Ishbel Sinclair and the Hon. Henry John Sinclair. The Marquis wore his uniform of Lord-Lieutenant of the County and the Earl of Haddo was in Highland costume.

Pretty Scene.

From Venetian masts on the terrace flew the flags of the Allies, flanked by strings of vari-coloured streamers, which fluttered gaily in the sunshine. The terrace made a pretty picture as the guests moved about amongst the flowers, listened

to the music of the Oakbank School brass band or the pipers, or lingered by the splashing fountain. Haddo House, with its homely grey walls, with the ivy tenderly clinging here and there, made a fine setting, while the magnificent trees enclosed the whole—a perfect cameo when the sun was at its brightest. But for one rather heavy shower the conditions were ideal, the sunshine being tempered by a wind which seemed to bring with it all the coolness of the glades around. In the beautiful chapel Mr. Alexander Kidd played selections on the organ.

When all had gathered, the family and house party were played by Pipe-Major Milne, Gordon Highlanders, to the massive stairway from the house to the terrace. The Hon. Henry John Sinclair carried aloft the beautiful Canadian flag which the Marquis, his grandfather, bore at the Coronation of the King. The house party included Mrs. Katherine Tynan Hinkson (Katherine Tynan) and Miss Hinkson, and Miss Louisa Thompson. They were joined in the course of the afternoon by Viscountess Cowdray and party from Dunecht House; Mr. Duff of Hatton, Convener and Vice-Lieutenant of the County; Lord Provost Sir James Taggart and Lady Taggart, Principal Sir George Adam Smith, Lady Adam Smith, and Miss Smith, Captain C. Smith Drew, U.S. Army, and Mrs. Drew; Mr. Udney of Udney, Mrs. Udney, and Miss Graham; Mr. A. J. Mitchell-Gill of Savoeh; the Rev. Dr. Brebner, late of Forgue; Mr. C. G. Smith, factor, and Mrs. Smith; Mr. William Duthie, Collynie, and Mr. Alexander Brebner, Balquhindoehy, who were the spokesmen for the tenants on the occasion, etc.

[Here follows report of the speeches.]

From the "Aberdeen Free Press."

THE HADDO GARDEN PARTY.

There have been many memorable—some historic—gatherings at Haddo House, but the Garden Party held on Saturday afternoon had features of interest that marked it out as wholly unique. It was, in the first place, a Peace celebration, a local thanksgiving that the war-tortured years have come to an end, and a recognition that with this great change there are momentous new responsibilities and opportunities. The period is still one of travail and upheaval—that is the penalty cataclysms have always brought—and the perplexities of the time give occasion both for hopes and fears. In its other aspect the Garden Party was impressively personal. The relations between Lord Aberdeen and the tenantry on the

Haddo House estate—relations which have extended over nearly half a century—have, as regards the larger portion of these lands, been severed. In respect of this the Garden Party partook of the nature of a farewell, though, it is needless to say, that it did not do so in any hard and fast way. It gave an opportunity at what might be called a parting of the ways for mutual and fitting expressions of regret and esteem. The cherished associations of 50 years cannot, of course, be broken by the altered state of affairs. As Lord Haddo happily put it, the pleasant ties that have been formed between the Aberdeen family and the tenantry will in some senses be rather strengthened than lessened. There are now many lairds where formerly there was but one, and thus, Lord Haddo insisted, parties will, in the future, be on a footing of greater equality than in the past. But, apart from this, there is the deep reciprocal goodwill which has been engendered during the long reign of the Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen. Nothing can affect the continuing influence of that. The Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen have borne an honoured part in every good work: local, national, and international, and their services will ever be held in grateful remembrance. The tributes paid to them by various representative speakers at the Garden Party will find a warm echo in those wider spheres within which the Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen have bestirred themselves so whole-heartedly for the promotion of good feeling and the furtherance of the general welfare.

From the "Evening Gazette," August 4, 1919.

TENANTS OR LAIRDS.

One of the speakers at Haddo House on Saturday, Mr. Brebner of Balquhindoehy, who has bought his farm, said he was not sure if he would be as well off as a laird as he was as a tenant. The occasion was the Garden Party given by Lord and Lady Aberdeen to celebrate peace and to bid farewell to the tenants who have bought their holdings and who will now be proprietors on their own account. There was a great gathering of the tenantry and friends, and the occasion was a notable one in the history of a notable estate. Kinder or more considerate and thoughtful hosts do not exist than Lord and Lady Aberdeen, and everything passed off with brilliant success. Their association with Haddo House and the county is not being severed, though a part of the estate has been sold. The holdings disposed of are of all sizes, ranging from large

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The names of the Family and House Party will be found on page 12.

Blocks kindly lent by "Aberdeen Daily Journal."



farms to crofts and cottages. Land sales are a feature of the time. All over the country estates are being broken up and sold to the tenants. It is said that half of the county of Cheshire has changed hands, and some auctioneers say that in the next five years all the farms in England will change owners. High prices are being given. How will the new owners fare? Is a man better off as a tenant than as a laird? Mr. Brebner frankly has his doubts. A tenant has no responsibility for the buildings on his farm, and he only pays occupiers' rates and taxes, and his rates are only three-eighths of what other ratepayers pay. A laird has to keep up the buildings and pay taxes, and when he has met all the charges, there is very little left for himself. Landowning, as a business, is no great catch. On the other hand, it has to be remembered that the men who have bought their farms, are occupying owners. They are owning and farming the land at the same time, and there is a distinct chance for them to do well if they stick it. From the national point of view it is a good thing that large estates are being broken up and a great number of occupying owners being established. This makes for a wider diffusion of ownership. It is desirable to give as many men as possible a stake in the country.

From the "Westminster Gazette," August 5, 1919.

LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT HADDO HOUSE.

There was something unique, especially for an Irish spectator, in the Haddo House Peace Celebration, which took place on the afternoon of Saturday, August 2. It was a double celebration—a festivity for the Peace, a handshaking between old friends, the landlord and tenant, who had just ceased to be in that relation to each other, as well as those who yet stood in that position. The feudal life of a great house like Haddo is tempered by many benignities. There were a good many tenants who had no wish to be lairds, yet had ceased to be tenants; there was a multitude of little crofters who, in the time to come, might possibly miss the protecting hand of the landlord who was one of his people, for that is the vital difference between a landlord like the Marquis of Aberdeen—and there are many like him in England and Scotland—and the great mass of the Irish landlords, alien in blood and religion and all vital things from their tenantry. Not long ago a very bitter and narrow Unionist in the West of Ireland said to me: "The Irish landlords were destroyed by their own agents and

their own bailiffs." Because the curse of absenteeism had destroyed the personal touch between landlord and tenant, the sense of responsibility had disappeared. Irish landlordism, through its agents and its bailiffs, had come to have rights and no duties. Therefore, it had to be swept out of existence.

To one who knows how little the local magnate, in the great majority of cases, counts in the lives of the Irish people it was strange to witness and to hear the emotion with which the tenants' spokesmen referred to the severance of the ties between the landlord and those of his tenants who had purchased their holdings. What a difference! It was as though a family bound to each other by tender ties was being broken up. There was a great quietness about that part of the proceedings. No one asked for cheers. The parting of old and faithful friends does not ask for cheers. But again, it was strange to hear the cheering for the factor, Mr. Smith. It could not have happened in Ireland, not even in the Ireland where the good landlords loved their tenantry as the good Southern States slave-owner might have loved his Mammies and Uncles—for even with the best and kindest of landlords there was always, or nearly always, the alienation.

Fifteen hundred of the tenantry, their wives and children, passed Lord and Lady Aberdeen where they stood, their children gathered about them, with what was to many of the tenants, for Lord Aberdeen has sold only a portion of his estates—hail and farewell. Hardly farewell in the fullest sense, for one feels that the severance of one tie is not necessarily the severance of all. Besides the tenants, past and present, there were gathered the notabilities of the town and county of Aberdeen, the local gentry, the Provost of Aberdeen—a very gay and cheerful personality—the Principal of the University, many of the townsmen, many ministers: the cast of the hospitable net had been wide.

The emotion and tenderness with which one old farmer—eighty-one years old, and a man of wealth and importance, who is still a tenant—spoke of "that angel," Lord Aberdeen's mother, the tone of the references to Lord and Lady Aberdeen and their children, the manifest pride in "the Premier Earl," "the Great Earl," and the sense of participation in all that was great and good in the history of the family, was surprising—to an Irishwoman. All day long one kept saying to one's self: "It could not happen in Ireland." Not that there are not, and have not been, some good landlords in Ireland, but I know nothing like this. Someone said of one of the big farmers: "He spoke wonderfully well, especially considering that he was sore about ceasing to be a tenant." He was a big man, one who might really be called a laird, but he did not want to be a laird; he wanted to be a tenant. Just imagine the

farmer in Ireland whose long dream was to own the land. And here are men sick because ownership has come to them.

That was the sad side of the occasion. For the celebration of the Peace everyone could rejoice, though many a one there must have had an intimate memory of the dead, and many a one must have missed the strong son or husband or father, who should have stood with them. There was abundant hospitality for the guests; there was a band and a fine dancing-floor which was well patronized later on, but the people seemed to like the speeches. An Irish permanent official who had known many Viceroy's said to me once that Lord Aberdeen was by far the best speaker of them all. His speech did not fail to rise to the dignity of the occasion. From the distance one caught a telling phrase now and again:

"My grandfather, the Premier Earl, was landlord of these estates for fifty-nine years. . . . While the tenantry were proud of their laird he was very proud of them. . . ."

"My father was unfortunately but four years at the head of these estates, but during that brief period he devoted himself steadily to the fulfilment of his responsibilities, showing his foresight in immediately undertaking the provision of increased housing accommodation. There are many still here who remember the guiding and guarding influence he exercised."

Like father, like son. It was good to see the old relationship, passing and ever passing, at its best here on this August day of the year of re-valuations and re-settlements. For there are nobilities and affections that do not pass for ever.

KATHERINE TYNAN HINKSON.



CHILDREN'S PICNIC AT HADDO HOUSE.

From the "Aberdeen Journal," August 6, 1919.

A Memorable Gathering. Lord and Lady Aberdeen's 1,200 Young Guests.

Owing to the requirements of Lord and Lady Aberdeen's official residence in Ireland for a long period, and subsequently because of the war, a number of years have passed without the holding of what was formerly recognized as an annual event at Haddo House, namely, the yearly summer treat for all children attending the various schools on the estate. On Monday the observance was renewed in a manner which certainly revived, if it did not surpass, all the traditions of the similar gatherings in the past.

Great care had evidently been taken to secure as complete a success as possible in providing for the enjoyment of the young people. The time appointed for arrival was 2 p.m., and before that hour parties of cheering children were converging on Haddo House from different directions. Lord and Lady Aberdeen were ready on the lawn to receive their young guests, Lord Aberdeen having just returned from attending the funeral of a former tenant, the late Mr. Robert Garden.

Procession after procession came in sight, and the cry was "still they come." Meanwhile Lord and Lady Aberdeen were busily engaged marshalling the various school parties in ranks on the broad expanse of grass west of the house, which is flanked by a semi-circular slope, forming a sort of amphitheatre, while the green and velvety sward on the level ground formed an ideal seating ground for the children. When all were assembled with gay banners carried by many of the schools, the girls dressed mostly in white, and the boys all neatly attired, and all wearing colours distinctive of their respective school, the whole scene, and especially the bright faces of the children, formed an attractive and pleasing spectacle.

Lord Aberdeen's Welcome.

Lord Aberdeen, after expressing on behalf of himself and Lady Aberdeen and their family a most cordial welcome, explained the programme, the first item of which was the distribution of buns and lemonade, after which various sports had been organized by a special committee consisting of Mr. Harry Maitland, Haddo; Mr. John Webster, Tarves; and Mr. Alexander Sinclair, Methlick. Meanwhile tea would be available in the large hall for all teachers and friends.

There was also an opportunity for dancing, to the music of Mr. Greig's very efficient band from Tarves, on the dancing-board which had been laid down for the tenants' party on Saturday. Another attraction for the grown-up persons was the chapel, where Mr. Alexander Kidd played selections on the organ. With these various features, the afternoon passed away only too quickly, and at 5 there was another rally for the children's tea, which was certainly ample.

Previous to this, Mr. Morgan, of Messrs. G. & W. Morgan, took several photographs of the assemblage, so that there might be souvenirs available of the occasion.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen and Lord Haddo then distributed the prizes which had been won at the races during the afternoon.

There were also substantial prizes for the best decorated carts and the best kept harness. The show of horses was notable, and there were not a few splendid animals, beautifully groomed, to be seen. The decorations of the carts were also excellent and extremely varied.

The Children's Opportunity.

When the time for departure arrived, Lord Aberdeen briefly addressed the gathering. After expressing the very great pleasure derived from the visit of the children, he spoke of the meaning of the Peace celebrations, and of how much the results depended on what use the children of the present day were going to make of the victory won by their fathers and brothers who had laid down their lives in order to save their country. He announced that he and Lady Aberdeen wished to offer two prizes to each school for the two best essays giving a description of that picnic and explaining its meaning as a Peace celebration. He also announced that a copy of the "Children's Newspaper" would be given to each child. This intimation was heartily applauded by the children.

When the Marquis had concluded and was about to announce the singing of the National Anthem, the Rev. C. G. Mackenzie, Methlick, moved a vote of thanks. Even such a perfect picnic he said, would be incomplete if they did not express to their noble and very kind host and hostess their warmest apprecia-

tion of the splendid treat they had so thoughtfully given them that day. Under their untiring personal supervision the proceedings had gone without a hitch from beginning to end. It brought the older people back to the days when they went in gaily decorated carts to enjoy themselves in the manner the children had that afternoon. Picnics were, perhaps, more thought of then, and he was sure that among the children's gatherings of the years that were past none surpassed the annual gatherings at Haddo House. Certainly the grown-ups had enjoyed themselves that afternoon as much as the children had evidently done. It had made them all feel young again to see their happy faces. They had made a pretty picture in that gorgeous setting, and they had shown their pleasure all the time. But he wanted the children now to show Lord and Lady Aberdeen and their family that they were very grateful not only for all they had provided for their refreshment and entertainment, for a day in those charming surroundings, with tea, sports, music, dancing, prizes, and all that, but especially for their thoughtfulness for their pleasure in inviting them there. That thoughtfulness for others and the strong desire to gather the children of their estate round them had always been a characteristic of the Aberdeen family. He asked them now to give three hearty cheers for Lord and Lady Aberdeen.

The response of the 1,200 children was something to be remembered.

The proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem, and Lord Aberdeen called for three cheers for the King and Queen. The perfectly delightful weather continued throughout the evening, so that the children doubtless enjoyed the journey back to their homes notwithstanding the long distances which in many cases had to be traversed.



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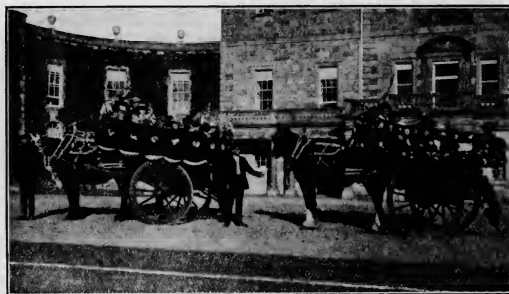
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TARVES AND BARTHOL-CHAPEL.

From the "Aberdeen Free Press," August 14, 1919.

Gratitude to Demobilised Soldiers. Luncheon, Picnic, and Games.

Yesterday the demobilised soldiers and sailors and nurses and other lady war workers belonging to the parishes of Tarves and Barthol-Chapel were entertained to luncheon in the hall at Haddo House by the committee in charge of sending comforts to the soldiers during the war. Each one was allowed to bring a friend, and about 300 sat down to an excellent luncheon purveyed by Mrs. Cassie, The Buffet, Ellon.

The Marquis of Aberdeen and Temair presided and was accompanied by the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, Lord and Lady Haddo, Mr. William Duthie, Collynie; Rev. A. R. Sutter, Barthol-Chapel; and Rev. W. P. Fell, Craigdam U.F.C. The following telegram was received from Rev. A. Macnair (Parish Minister), at present serving in France:—

"Best wishes for a happy time to all. May it be an earnest of the good days to come."

Mr. William McPherson, Ordhill, was secretary, and all the arrangements were of the most thorough character.

After luncheon the chairman gave the toast of the King and Queen, remarking that they had identified themselves in every way in encouraging all the branches of the defences. The chairman also gave the toast of the Prince of Wales, and afterwards the chief toast of the day.

Lord Aberdeen's Speech.

In doing so, the Marquis of Aberdeen said they had now arrived at the central feature of the programme, namely, the offering of the warmest possible welcome to the guests of the day, the demobilised soldiers and nurses from the Tarves and Barthol-Chapel districts. He had no doubt that their guests were in the truest sense guests of honour, and that they re-

garded, as something to be fully appreciated, the entertainment which had been so well organized for them by the committee in charge of the arrangements. There were others who were, perhaps, in a sense quite as much indebted to the committee as the returned soldiers and their helpers; he referred to the whole community of the district. It sometimes happened that even when there was a general feeling that something ought to be done in a particular direction the actual carrying out of the idea might be deferred or be lacking in completeness for the want of some definite and active leadership. In this instance, however, there was no such deficiency, and they were all delighted to take part in that gathering, where with one heart and one mind they were united in the purpose which had brought them together—(applause). Of course that was not the first occasion on which the appreciation of their brave defenders had been manifested, for, throughout the war a steady stream of practical tokens of sympathy, admiration, and goodwill had been maintained, and he thought they might reflect, without self-complacency, that Tarves and Barthol-Chapel had come up to the mark in a notable degree in regard to such ministry for the fighting men and helping women as had been exemplified, for instance, in the Free Gift Sale which had been carried out with remarkably full results—(applause). It was perhaps the more permissible to allude to these past manifestations by way of reminding the soldiers as to the real sentiment which they had evoked.

What a Returned Soldier might say.

Of course it was quite possible that some of the returned men might feel that demonstrations of such feelings were not very apparent. He confessed that if it had been possible for him to enlist as a soldier, and after returning to contemplate the busy flow of business transactions together with the various recreations, etc., for instance in a town, he would be disposed to address any chance individual somewhat in this strain: "Do you happen to know how it is that you are able to carry on your avocations in this safe and convenient style? It is because a lot of fellows, of whom I happened to be one, went abroad to fight for freedom and to protect our homes and yours, and many a privation we endured. We did not mind going over the top to fight the foe; that was just what we always wanted to do. But to stand for days together up to the knees in icy water is not pleasant, I assure you." Nobody had addressed him in that manner as yet, but if any returned soldier should happen to do so he hoped he would have the sense to reply instantly, "Yes, I do know, and I take my hat off to you, and offer you homage, thanks, and admiration"—(loud

applause). In truth he thought it was splendid that the returned soldiers seemed to take things so composedly and without seeming to wish to parade or remind people of what they had gone through. It was truly fine. They were not done with the men yet, however. Their qualities of perseverance, courage, and determination were still needed in a very real sense, especially for creating and maintaining a sound public opinion in these times of unrest and perturbation through which they were passing. All could do something in that manner by following out the precept to live "soberly, righteously, and godly." He concluded by announcing that the committee had arranged for the presentation to each man and woman who had served in the war a fountain pen as a souvenir of the occasion and a lasting token of the feelings which it was intended to express. Lady Aberdeen had been asked to make the presentation—(loud applause).

Presentation of Gifts.

Those who were to receive the gift stood up in their places and Lady Aberdeen went round and handed the present to each recipient and shook hands with them when doing so. Lord Aberdeen accompanied her ladyship and also shook hands with each of the guests. Lord Aberdeen then intimated that Lady Aberdeen had to leave on account of a previous engagement elsewhere. Before leaving, Lady Aberdeen expressed her gratification in being allowed to take part in the day's proceedings. She congratulated the committee on the splendid arrangements made for the event, and hoped that all present would spend a pleasant afternoon—(applause). On the call of Rev. A. R. Sutter, Barthol-Chapel, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to her ladyship for so graciously presenting the souvenirs.

Mr. William Duthie.

Mr. William Duthie, Collynie, spoke in support of Lord Aberdeen. He said his lordship's speech had sounded the tone that was in every mind and heart that day. Mr. Duthie then read the names of those belonging to the two parishes who had received special distinction during the war: Capt. James Mort, M.M., Tarves; James Sutherland, M.M., Tarves; William Moir, M.M., Keithfield; George Presslie, M.M., Auquhorthies; William Thom, M.M., Shallowplough; Henry Wilson, M.M., Throopmuir; W. Morgan (killed), M.M., Auquhorthies; and Johnston Robertson, D.S.M., Mill of Kelly.

Mr. Duthie then continued to say that there was a gentleman present that day who had shown himself a great friend to Tarves and to those who had fought in the war—he referred

to Mr. Alexander Davidson, formerly of West Auchedly. During all the time of the war Mr. Davidson had sent regularly every quarter from his plantation in the East Indies a handsome subscription to help in the provision of comforts for the Tarves boys at the front—(applause). He also wished to say how much they were indebted to many ladies and gentlemen throughout the two parishes who had most nobly and readily done all that they could for their soldiers. There were a good many of them there that day helping in the entertainment—(applause).

Lord Aberdeen then called for three cheers for the men and women who had helped to win the war, which was responded to with great enthusiasm.

Major Keith, Pitmedden, in reply, returned thanks for the splendid entertainment, and also for the very kind things said about them that day. In his dual capacity of living partly in Tarves and Udney he was in the enviable position of getting parcels from both parishes. That day's function was a very marked contrast to the way in which the neighbouring city of Aberdeen had acted during the recent visit of Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig. Not a single member of the Artillery Brigade, which had been recruited in the city, had been invited to be present at the function at Aberdeen. He said that because he wanted to bring out that the soldiers and war workers appreciated very highly an honour like that. He concluded by thanking them for the present they had received, which they would all keep and cherish, and perhaps write with—(laughter and applause).

The Roll of Honour.

The company then stood while Lord Haddo read the roll of honour for the two parishes as follows:—

Tarves—2nd Lieut. John Sutherland, Gordon Highlanders, Ivy Cottage; 2nd Lieut. Alfred C. Hay, Gordons, South Ythsie; Sergt. William R. Hay, Canadians, East Shethin; Corporal Allan Aitken, Gordons, Village; Corporal Arthur Rennie, Gordons, Auchnieve Croft; Corporal John Taylor, H.L.I., Tree of Braiklay; Lance-Corporal James Whyte, Gordons, Tolquhon; Private G. D. Munro, Gordons, Village; Private John Forrest, Gordons, North Ythsie; Private John Duffus, Gordons, North Ythsie; Private Alexander Murray, Gordons, Skilmafilly; Private James Mutch, Gordons, New-seat of Tolquhon; Private James Cowie, Gordons, Ythanbank; Private Fred Gerrie, Gordons, Oldmill, Schivas; Private John Ewan, Gordons, Auquhorthies; Private Fred. Matthews, Gordons, Braiklay Park; Private George M'Pherson, Gordons, Ordhill; Private Geo. Rae, Gordons, Tolquhon; Private R.

Robertson, Gordons, Auchedy; Private James Robertson, Gordons, Shethin; Private John Mearns, Gordons, Backhill of Courtstone; Private James Mearns, Gordons, Backhill of Courtstone; Private John Tait, R.A.M.C., Keithfield; Lance-Corporal William Tait, Gordons, Boolroad; Private F. Campbell, Gordons, South Ythsie; Private James Aitken, Gordons, North Ythsie; Private Alexander Allan, Gordons, North Ythsie; Private Hector Allan, Gordons, Boghouse; Private Hector Ingram, Gordons, Boghouse; Private Robert Gray, Royal Scots, Village; Private James Moir, Gordons, Keithfield; Private Alex. Marnoch, Gordons, Nethermill; Private John Leslie, Gordons, Raxton; Lance-Corporal Wm. Bruce, Gordons, Tree of Braiklay; Private James Whyte, Gordons, Greenmyre; Sergt. Charles Chalmers, Gordons, Craigies; Sergt. James Wiseman, Gordons, Tarves; Private George Jamieson, Gordons, Haddo House; Private A. Rennie, Gordons, Hillhead; Private John Buchan, Canadians, Mains of Schivas; Private George Rennie, Gordons, Shethin; Private Henry Murray, Gordons, Auquhorthies; Private William Beattie, Seaforths, Uppermill; and Corporal W. Morgan, Gordons, Auquhorthies.

Barthol-Chapel—Sergt. James Andrew, Gordons, Keilyford; Lance-Corporal William Davie, Canadians, Tulloford; Sap. And. Fraser, R.E., Hillbrae; Private Alex. C. Watt, Gordons, West Tulloford; Private James Lumsden, Gordons, Hornsroft; Private Adam Black, Canadians, Mill of Fochel; Private Alexander Davie, Canadians, Tulloford; Private Robert Coutts, Scots Guards, Old Balgove; Private William G. Stewart, Canadians, Flobbets; Private Campbell Morrison, A.I.F., Hattonslap; Private John Hutcheson, Canadians, Balgove; Private John Bruce, Gordons, Throopmuir; Private J. Bruce, Gordons, Haukerhill; Private Alex. Reid, Gordons, Keilyford; Private James Killoh, Gordons, Flobbets; Private George Killoh, Gordons, Flobbets; Private James Hendry, Gordons, Gateside; Private Charles G. Davidson, A. & S. H., Banks; Private George Henderson, Gordons, Gateside; Private Charles Low, Canadians, Flobbets; Private Robert Greig, Gordons, Bogsie; Private George Laing, Canadians, Nether Tulloch; Private Arch. Stewart, H.L.I., Hillbrae; Private John Littlejohn, Gordons, Nether Tulloch.

Mr. M'Pherson Honoured.

Lord Aberdeen then called upon Major Hay, South Ythsie. Major Hay said he had a very pleasant duty to perform, namely, to ask Mr. M'Pherson to accept a small present from the men and women who had served with the forces during the last five years in grateful recognition of his devoted services

to them during the war. He could testify to how welcome the parcels were which they received from Tarves, and a great deal of the credit was due to Mr. M'Pherson for getting in touch with every member of the forces in the parishes of Tarves and Barthol-Chapel, no matter in what part of the world they were serving—(applause). He had great pleasure in asking him to accept that handsome barometer with the best wishes of the members of the forces. The men all stood up and gave Mr. M'Pherson three rousing cheers, led by Major Hay.

Mr. M'Pherson, who was visibly affected, thanked the donors of the gift in a sentence.

The barometer bore the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. William M'Pherson, Tarves, by the men and women of Tarves serving with the colours, 1914-1919, in grateful appreciation of his untiring and voluntary efforts on their behalf throughout the war."

On the call of Rev. Mr. Sutter a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Lord Aberdeen for presiding, and the proceedings concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and the 2nd Paraphrase, led by Lieut. S. Davidson, Auchedy.

An adjournment was then made outside, where a large number of young folks in the district had assembled in the Monument Park for a Picnic. Sports and games of all kinds were entered into, and dancing was heartily enjoyed to excellent music by the Granite City Band. Trumpeter Joe Winter, Peterhead, gave exhibitions of step dancing, including the sailors' hornpipe, the sword dance, and Highland fling. Tea was served free to the demobilised soldiers during the afternoon, and Lord Aberdeen took occasion then to cordially thank the conveners (Miss Munro, Tarves; Mrs. Adam Duthie, Tarves; and Mrs. Gray, Balgove) and the group of ladies who had volunteered to assist in attending to the guests, both at the luncheon and the tea. The day, though rainy in the morning, cleared up in the afternoon, and there was bright sunshine, and all heartily enjoyed themselves. A word of praise is due to Mrs. Cassie for the admirable and sumptuous way in which the luncheon was served.



THE SCHOOL CHILDREN'S PEACE PICNIC AT HADDO HOUSE, 4th AUGUST, 1919.

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

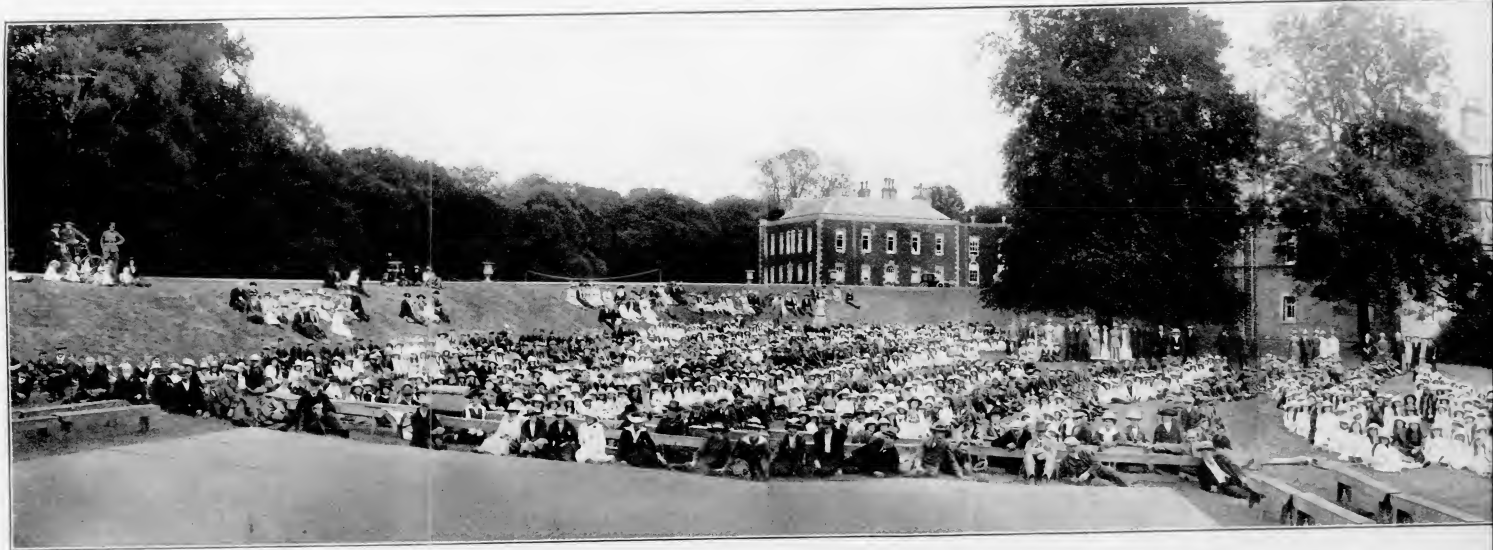


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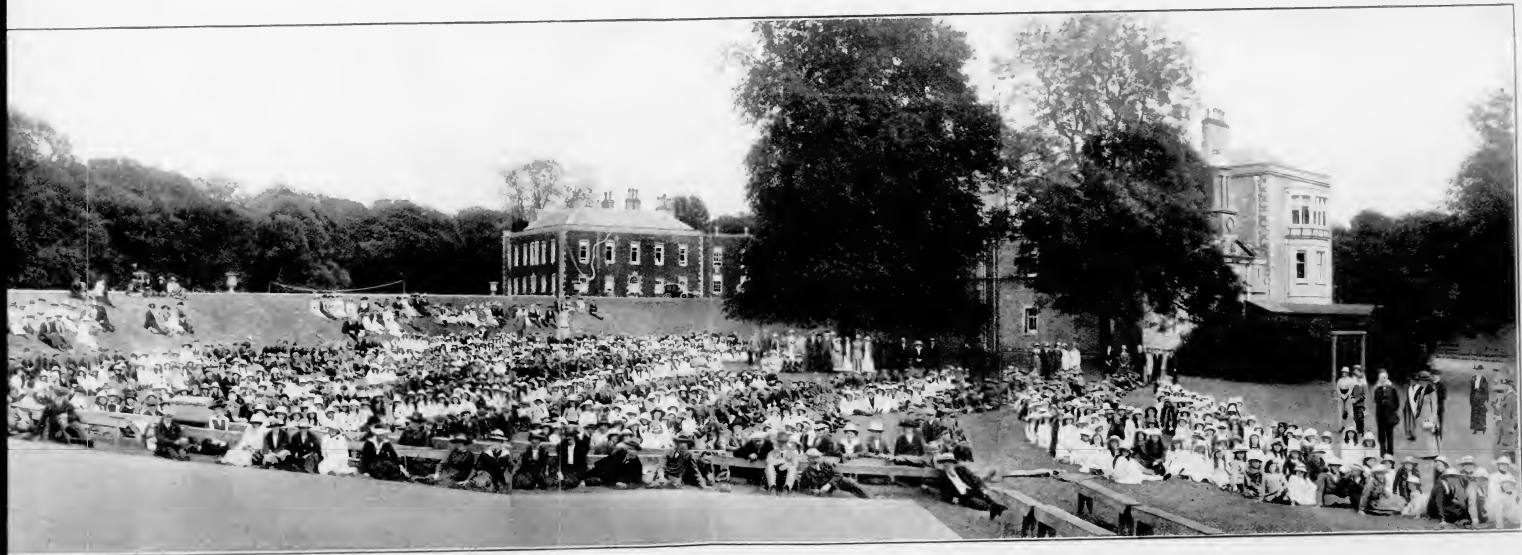


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