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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for February 16th, 2018

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

I am trying to find books or reports about how slave owners handled slaves in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. I did a video about this which you can watch at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5300-Slavery>

Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

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 where we list news from the past 1-2 weeks. 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. I might also add that in newspapers such as the Guardian, Scotsman, Courier, etc. 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.

The stories behind 7 of Scotland's most popular tartans

We picked the brains of author and reliable voice on all things tartan and tweed, Caroline Young, to discover the fascinating stories behind seven of Scotland's most popular tartans.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/the-stories-behind-7-of-scotland-s-most-popular-tartans-1-4685398>

Jacob Rees-Mogg has become the perfect politician for our confused times

His views seem to have no place in the modern world but amid the Brexit chaos, his calm, dignity and conviction set him above the fray

Read more at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/feb/07/jacob-rees-mogg-brexit-politician>

Stop whingeing about Donald Trump he's no Putin and should be welcomed

Trump loves this country, his family came from here, and he has actually invested in Scotland

Read more at:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/donald-macleod-stop-whingeing-about-donald-trump-hes-no-putin-and-should-be-welcomed/>

17 reasons why we should love Brexit

Imagine all we can do once we've left the EU

Read more at:

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2018/02/17-reasons-why-we-should-love-brexit/>

Top Highland cattle on show at spring sale
The cream of the Highland cattle world have gathered for the 127th Spring Show and Sale at Oban in the west of Scotland.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-43044602>

The president the media made
The media made Trump. And now they don't know how to handle him

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/the-president-the-media-made/>

Dawn of the Eurasian century
London may yet become a great Eurasian capital

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/dawn-of-the-urasian-century/>

5 old wedding customs of Scotland
From blackening feet with soot to breaking scones over the bride's head, Scotland has a rich history of customs to celebrate a marriage.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/5-old-wedding-customs-of-scotland-1-4688872>

The 1960s travel photos of a working class Greenock dad
Andy Gibb, a time served electrician, left his hometown of Greenock in the early 1960s to pursue well paid work in East Africa, Borneo and Pakistan with his firm, Paisley-based Balfour and Kilpatrick.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/the-1960s-travel-photos-of-a-working-class-greenock-dad-1-4688187>

Boris Johnson Brexit Speach
Wednesday, 14 February 2018

View it or read it at:

<http://brexitcentral.com/full-text-video-boris-johnsons-brexite-speech/>

Canadian firm BGIS seeks facilities contracts
Canadian firm BGIS is in talks to take on former Carillion facilities management contracts.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-43065656>

Barnier's hard line on transition is unreasonable and reckless
Why is Britain being denied rights granted to Norway and Switzerland?

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/barniers-hard-line-on-transition-is-unreasonable-and-reckless/>

Update Nafta, Don't Destroy It
President Trump's position on Nafta has been clear: the United States must renegotiate the disaster of a trade deal or continue to lose jobs as a result of imbalanced trade.

Read more at:

<https://economics21.org/html/update-nafta-dont-destroy-it-2881.html>

Electric Canadian

Transactions of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers

I discovered a lot of volumes of these transactions which are very detailed and note that they are very popular downloads so assume civil engineers are enjoying the details given in these transactions.

I've added the 1924 volume and will add others each week. You can view these at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/industrial/index.htm>

Some of the topics discussed include Eminent Railway Builders, The Banff-Windermere Highway, The St. Lawrence River Problem, The cost of Hydro-Electric Power, Civil Aviation, Insulation and Heating possibilities in Buildings, etc.

Arthur St. Clair

Governor of the Northwest Territory 1787-1802 by Rachel Marian Jarrold (1906) (pdf). You can read this at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/arthurstclair.pdf>

The Life of William Dummer Powell

First Judge at Detroit and Fifth Chief Justice of Upper Canada.

You can read this at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/powell.htm>

William Renwick Riddell

Lawyer, judge, historian, and author to which I added a few of his books and articles. You can read this at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/riddell/index.htm>

Thirteenth Report of the Bureau of Archives

Which includes Tour Through Canada, Notes by an Anglo-Canadian, Correspondence by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, etc. (pdf)

You can read this at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/travelsincanada1795.pdf>

Lord Shaughnessy

Added some biographical background on him and his grandson. He was President of the CPR and did valuable work for Canada in the first world war.

You can read about them at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/Shaugnessy.htm>

Conrad Black

Trump Starts Year Two In a Far Better Position Than Democrats Imagined

<http://www.conradblack.com/1366/trump-starts-year-two-in-a-far-better-position>

Oh the injustice

<http://www.conradblack.com/1367/oh-the-injustice>

Electric Scotland

Fur and Feather Series

Edited by Alfred E. T. Watson. Am going to bring you a few in this series and the second one is about The Red Deer which you can read at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/nature/furandfeather.htm>

The Folk-Lore of Plants

By T. F. Thiselton Dyer (1889)

You can read this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/lifestyle/folkloreplants.htm>

Positive aspect of Brexit for the poorest in our society

Posted up a video I did on this topic.

You can view this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5298-Positive-aspect-of-Brexit-for-the-poorest-in-our-society>

UK versus Scottish Independence

A video I did on YouTube.

You can view it at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5297-UK-versus-Scottish-Independence>

Export advisory service

Want your business to flourish in 2018 and beyond? Make exporting a priority. If your product or service is performing well at home, then there's likely to be demand for it overseas. That's why we want to work with you.

Thought I'd highlight this site as it's important that Scottish business expands its exports and you can see this at:

<https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/do-business-outside-scotland/talk-to-an-export-adviser/overview>

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

Got in section 2 of the March 2018 issue which you can read at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft/index.htm>

Fur and Feathers series

Added the book on the Partridge which you can read at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/nature/furandfeather.htm>

How Scotland's influence created the United States Sovereign Identity and Laws

By Gary Gianotti

You can read this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/america/usgreatseal.htm>

American Military Biography

Containing the Lives and Characters of the Officers of the Revolution who were most distinguished in achieving our National Independence, Also the life of Gilbert Motier La Fayette, Major-General in the Continental Army,, Marshall of France and Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard (1830) (pdf)

You can read this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/america/americanmilitary.pdf>

The Dukes of Albany and their Castle of Doune

By William Fraser (1881). Added a link to this book at the foot of our Albany page in the Scottish Nation.

You can read this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/nation/albany.htm>

The Red Book of Menteith

In two volumes by William Fraser (1880). Added links to these volumes at the bottom of our page on the Earldom of Monteith at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/families/menteith.htm>

Scottish Historical Review

Found Volume 3 of this series which you can read at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/review/volume03.htm>

Hermippus Redivivus

OR, The Sages Triumph over Old Age and the Grave, wherein, A Method is laid down for Prolonging the Life and Vigour of Man. (1744) (pdf). Bit difficult to read but worth the effort.

You can get to this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/medical/hermippusrediviv.pdf>

The Story

Asia is as key to Britain's future success as Europe

It has been another frustrating week for those hoping for a decisive Brexit roadmap from the government.

But while battles over the customs union continue to rage, we would do well to remember that the UK should be setting its sights far beyond the borders of Europe.

Last week, the Prime Minister was in China, and yesterday she met representatives of Japanese companies to discuss investment. These meetings did not get as much coverage as they deserve, in the whirlwind of political drama and warnings from Brussels, but they should be as high on the priority list as the ongoing Brexit negotiations – not only may they be more successful, but relations with Asia are just as crucial to Britain's long-term prosperity as anything happening in Europe.

Asian engagement is no longer an optional extra. It has already been five years since the size of the Asian middle class surpassed the entire population of Europe, while the region accounts for over half of all global growth.

This has not gone unnoticed by the government. Mark Field is championing British business in Asia, from South Korea to Singapore, while Liam Fox wrote in these pages last week on the GREAT Festival of Innovation in Hong Kong, where UK companies, led by the Department for International Trade, will come together to showcase the best that British business has to offer to the Asian market. Nor is it just about exporting.

Organisations and businesses are moving forward of their own volition, building partnerships, listening, and learning from their Asian counterparts.

The City of London Corporation launched its Asia Next Decade campaign at the end of January, which aims to consult industry on both sides on ways to protect and strengthen London's ties to the Asia Pacific region. The ICAEW has been working with the Shanghai National Accounting Institute and Chinese tech firm Inspur on how big data can be used in financial services and other sectors, making the most of China's uniquely vast and diverse data landscape.

Meanwhile, PwC's recent CEO survey highlights opportunities for British entrepreneurs – 33 per cent of Asia Pacific chief executives are looking to collaborate with entrepreneurs and startups in the next 12 months, and 54 per cent are planning a new strategic alliance or joint venture.

The vision is there, and so is the will to innovate, collaborate and explore – at least on the side of business. This should serve as a reminder to MPs of all parties not to let tunnel vision over Europe obscure the wealth of opportunities that lie to the east.

Australian high commissioner Alexander Downer predicted a boom in trade between his home country and Britain.

But he warned Theresa May to pull Britain out of the customs union - or the country won't have its own trade policy.

Mr Downer told BBC Radio 4's Today programme the UK would thrive if it stopped charging tariffs on imported goods after Brexit.

He said: "If you unilaterally reduce your tariffs, it has a substantial and very positive effect on your economy because it reduces the price of imports.

"Imports which have tariffs on them are typically food, clothing, footwear, where low-income people spend a disproportionately high share of their income.

"It's a progressive measure that helps low-income people more than high-income people."

A new report claims that ditching tariffs - currently imposed by EU rules - would see bills reduced and make workers more productive.

Asked what else he wants from Brexit, Mr Downer said: "Number one, we naturally don't want to see the EU and the UK introduce a whole lot of tariff barriers between them. There are none at the moment, we don't want to see that introduced.

"Number two, we do want to trade with the UK, and we want to build back our trade with the UK.

"We could build substantially more trade if we were able to negotiate a free trade agreement with the UK.

"If you remain in the customs union then you would have no control over an independent trade policy. In fact you'd have no control over trade policy at all.

And that's it for this week and hope you have a great weekend.

Alastair