



ELECTRICCANADIAN.COM
AGRICULTURE & WILDLIFE
ARTICLES
BETH'S FAMILY TREE
BOOKS
BUSINESS
CHILDREN'S STORIES
CLANS & FAMILIES

CULTURE & LANGUAGE
DONNA'S PAGE
ELECTRICSCOTLAND.NET
FAMOUS SCOTS
FAMILYTREE
FORUMS
FOOD & DRINK
GAMES

GAZETTEER
GENEALOGY
HISTORIC PLACES
HISTORY
HUMOR
JOHN'S PAGE
KIDS
LIFESTYLE
MUSIC

NEWSLETTER
PICTURES
POETRY
POSTCARDS
RELIGION
ROBERT BURNS
SCOTS IRISH
SCOTS REGIMENTS
SERVICES

SHOPPING
SONGS
SPORT
SCOTS DIASPORA
TARTANS
TRAVEL
TRIVIA
VIDEOS
WHATS NEW

HELP TERMS OF USE CONTACT US

Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for March 2nd, 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 have continued work on The Commonwealth and confess this is taking the majority of my time right now. Not only do I create a page for each country but I also copy over the key facts and history for each country but I also search for any antiquarian publications and also search for any YouTube videos. Obviously this takes time as when it comes to the videos I have to watch at least some of them to decide what ones to put up on the site.

I hope to complete this work over the next couple of weeks. This week I completed the Africa and Asia countries and am now working on the Caribbean and Americas countries.

You can get to these pages at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/independence/sip/commonwealth.htm> towards the foot of the page.

Here is a list of countries I have up...

Africa

See our Scots Diaspora Africa section

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

Asia

See our Scots Diaspora in Asia section

Bangladesh

Brunei Darussalam

India

Malaysia

Pakistan

Singapore

Sri Lanka

Caribbean and Americas

Scotland, the Caribbean and the Atlantic world, 1750 - 1820

By Douglas J. Hamilton

Antigua and Barbuda

Bahamas, The

Barbados

Here is the video introduction to this newsletter...

<https://youtu.be/1F-h1bli6hl>

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.

A book lover, his library and the Scottish Enlightenment

Rick in our community mentioned this CBC series on radio which you can listen to at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/a-book-lover-his-library-and-the-scottish-enlightenment-1.4546891>

Canada's Northwest Passage dispute could deliver us a Brexit bonus

It's good to have friends. Canada is amongst the most natural of friends for the UK. Canada needs friends in the Northwest Passage dispute.

Read more at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/02/23/canadas-northwest-passage-dispute-could-deliver-us-brexite-bonus/>

Brexit trade deals could be ruined by SNP, Theresa May's deputy warns

The SNP risks splitting the UK's economy and causing serious damage to the country's ability to strike trade deals by demanding a series of powers currently held by Brussels,

Read more at:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/5665048/snp-trade-deal-david-lidington-brussels/>

The ancient Peruvian mystery solved from space

These puzzling holes in the arid valleys of southern Peru tell us there was once a flourishing, sophisticated society here.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20160408-the-ancient-peruvian-mystery-solved-from-space>

Now the fog has lifted, the UK's post-Brexit future looks bright

In the 18 months following the Brexit referendum, the forecasts from the Treasury, the Bank of England, the IMF, and the OECD were proven wrong.

Read more at:

<http://www.cityam.com/281199/now-fog-has-lifted-uks-post-brex-it-future-looks-bright>

Britain's Trading Future

The text of the speech delivered by International Trade Secretary, Liam Fox, at Bloomberg's European HQ in London

Read more at:

<http://brexitcentral.com/full-text-liam-foxs-road-brex-it-speech-britains-trading-future/>

Dyson hoovers up £801m profit in Asian spending boom

Almost 75% of growth comes from growing far east markets as Dyson sales hit £3.5bn

Read more at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/mar/01/dyson-hoovers-up-801m-profit-in-asian-spending-boom>

Blitzing the blob

The five secrets of Britain's economic success. I have made this the story for this week so see below to read it.

Splashing the government's cash would be bad policy and bad politics

The UK government is running a surplus on the current budget for the first time since 2002

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/splashing-the-governments-cash-would-be-bad-policy-and-bad-politics/>

Agriculture's digital revolution

Can the digital revolution transform agriculture?

Read more at:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2018/02/28/can-the-digital-revolution-transform-agriculture/>

[okings.edu/blog/future-development/2018/02/28/can-the-digital-revolution-transform-agriculture/](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2018/02/28/can-the-digital-revolution-transform-agriculture/)

Why it's good news when a retail chain goes bust

Retail failures are painful for the firms, but it's evidence that competition is working

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/why-its-good-news-when-a-retail-chain-goes-bust/>

EU's hardball tactics over Irish border issue risk pushing UK into corner in Brexit talks

Open Europe's Stephen Booth writes that the UK Government could not possibly agree to this EU withdrawal text, which would effectively cede sovereignty over Northern Ireland to Brussels by default.

Read more at:

<https://openeurope.org.uk/today/blog/eus-hardball-tactics-irish-border-issue-risk-pushing-uk-corner-brex-it-talks/>

The real reason to worry about Italy's election

Ahead of Italy's election on March 4, investors are most afraid of political change.

Read more at:

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-wallace-italy-commentary/commentary-the-real-reason-to-worry-about-italys-election-idUKKCN1GC2D9>

Electric Canadian

Transactions of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers

I discovered a lot of volumes of these transaction 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 1926 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 Artificial Silk, Diesel Engines, Economic and Engineering Situation in Canada, Industrial

Development in Saskatchewan, Mining Operations in Northwestern Quebec, Modern Views on Matter, Energy and Radiation, Arc Welded Structural Steel, Bell Telephone Company of Canada, Canadian Engineering Standards Association, Education and the Engineer, Obituaries, War Memorials, etc.

The World Without Canada
A 3 part video series

You can watch this at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/withoutcanada.htm>

British American Land Company
I added a page which shows its formation and first report which you can read at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/pioneering/balc.htm>

Scottish Nationality and other papers
By the Late Rev. John Kerr, D.D. (1887) (pdf).

In this book are a series of Letters on Canada and you can read this at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/Scotland/scottishnationality.pdf>

Articles by Harvey Ruddell
Got in a couple of interesting articles from Harvey, "The Great Nelson Jailbreak" and "Jamaica almost joined Canada" which you can read at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/articles/ruddell.htm>

Grand Priory of Canada
Got in a copy of their March 2018 newsletter which you can read at:
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/Religion/GPNewsletterMarch2018.pdf>

Conrad Black

Sidelining the collusion fiction makes way for a return to normalcy
<http://www.conradblack.com/1371/sidelining-the-collusion-fiction-makes-way-for>

Electric Scotland

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

Clan Leslie International
Got in a copy of their Grip Fast newsletter for February 2018 which you can read at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslieint/2018-FEBGRIPFAST.pdf>

Rules of Golf
Added a new pdf from the Leith Rules of Golf Society and you can read this at:
http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/rattray_john.htm

Mogg Podcast
Just found this podcast which I found interesting and you can listen to it at:
<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5304-Mogg-Podcast>

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree
Added section 1 of the March 2018 issue which you can read at:
<http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft/index.htm>

The Thirsty Sword
A Story of the Norse Invasion of Scotland (1262-1263) by Robert Leighton (1892) (pdf)

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

The Story

Blitzing the blob

By Liz Truss MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

I am excited for the future economic prospects of our country.

Of course, in my job, I can see there are economic challenges ahead of us. But when I travel around the country, I see lots of exciting things happening.

From Liverpool and its super-port, which will now be able to take ships through the Panama Canal; to Bristol with its world leading high-tech spin outs; to Cardiff where the Welsh dragon is roaring.

All of these are contributing to our economic story. GDP has grown for five years solid. Employment is at record levels. And manufacturing has had its longest growth streak in 30 years.

I am ambitious about the future. So I want to ask, how do we make Britain the most energetic, most exciting economy on Earth?

We already have the five foundations of our Industrial Strategy to boost productivity and earning power by investment in skills and infrastructure.

But I want to lay out five more secrets of Britain's future economic success.

Number one: we must celebrate entrepreneurs and encourage individual endeavour.

I have an instinctive admiration for the individuals who take risks and start something new.

The academics who left Oxford to establish the University of Cambridge in the 13th century. Without those mavericks, we may never have built the first computer, discovered the structure of DNA, or split the atom.

And I admire Anita Roddick who cared about ethical purchase and founded the Body Shop.

And the 12 people who were laid off by BBC Micro, who kept believing in themselves and founded ARM, which now powers around 90 per cent of the world's microprocessors.

Underlying these achievements is the creative urge of individuals who wanted to change the status quo for the better.

Millennials are often derided as soft and lazy. But I have found this generation to be one of the most independently-minded, enterprising and anti-establishment of our times. They have the courage to do things differently, develop new technologies and challenge traditional industries.

And I want to make sure Britain has a culture that encourages the thrill-ride of risk and reward, for today's entrepreneurs – and tomorrow's.

Number two: we need to keep control of the size of Government.

It is a basic fact that state-owned companies compete for space and resources with private companies, starving them of oxygen.

That's why John McDonnell's plans for a state on steroids is so wrong.

What's worse, these plans would have to be funded through higher taxes.

If taxes get too high, the desire to work, or set up a company is reduced.

Of course, we need taxes to fund universal education, healthcare, a welfare safety net, pensions, police and armed forces.

We currently spend £28,500 per household to make this happen and make sure everyone has a fair chance.

But it's a delicate balance. When taxation goes too far, we end up wasting money, and losing trust.

If it gets out of control, working people and successful companies are punished, in order to plump the pillows of the privileged, and resuscitate lumbering zombie companies, long past their best.

That's why we must maintain vigilant control of the size of Government.

Number three: I believe in the benefits of shaking up markets.

I am resolutely on the side of new entrants and upstarts when others attempt to stop them entering the market.

And I'm aware there are those who want to shut down the new economy: those who campaign against Uber; those who rail against Airbnb; the record labels in a tug-of-war with music streaming services.

But I am instinctively pro-disruption and anti-vested interests. It's in my interest, because it gives me more freedom: I can go where I want, when I want, stay where I want – and listen to Whitney Houston whenever I want.

I am proud of what we've done to encourage competition. We've made it easier for expanding businesses to take on new staff. We've taken over a million self-employed people out of restrictive and costly health and safety regulations, because they posed no danger to others. And we've authorised 15 new banks, reducing the market share of the big four in the UK.

But we have to go further. In the utilities sector, despite our independent regulators, the big incumbents still don't face enough competition. Perhaps we should learn from South Korea, where utilities are viewed as a single market and have to compete against each other. This has resulted in very low cost and high roll-out of all utilities.

The last time UK utilities regulation had a serious shake-up was the 1990s, before the emergence of internet.

Number four: we have to keep our important professions open to newcomers.

Just as we need to enable new entrants to succeed in the market, we need to enable new entrants in the workplace.

British professions are some of the best in the world, but elements within seem to be constantly lobbying to put barriers up to prevent new people joining them.

We know that professional regulations can be a damaging restraint on trade. They can reduce opportunities, keep women out of the best roles, and limit the overall number of jobs available.

This is nothing new. In the 18th century, James Watt, who would later become the inventor of the revolutionary Watt engine, was denied a job in the city of Glasgow by the local guild of instrument-makers. Why? Because he had done his apprenticeship 25 miles up the road in Greenock.

Today, licensing is the most restrictive form of occupational regulation in the UK, covering around a quarter of groups in the labour market. We now have more regulated occupations than France, Italy or Belgium.

We are working hard to address this. We've introduced free schools – where teachers don't have to have traditional training and instead bring other experience to those roles. We've brought nurse associates into hospitals to help the established nursing teams deliver first-rate care. We've encouraged the growth of Alternative Business Structures, which can provide certain legal services without having to identify as a law firm.

But we must try harder. For my part, I am doing my best to open up politics, once a closed shop for men only, to more women – and particularly those from the North!

Number five: we must take on the NIMBYs

According to Treasury analysis, opening up planning and building houses in the right places is the fastest things we could do to boost our country's productivity.

When I moved to London from Leeds as a graduate in the 1990s, I came because of the opportunities on offer here. I could afford to find somewhere to live. But young people these days struggle to get flats near their jobs.

This is deeply economically damaging, as growing companies need to attract new staff to continue developing.

And we know this would help increase wages: doubling the size of a city leads to an increase in its productivity of up to 5 per cent.

But it's not just about economics. Accepting the status quo is bitterly unfair.

There are lots of claims that increasing return to capital, rather than workers, is being driven by industrial and technological factors.

But in fact, according to a study by the American economist, Matthew Rognlie, increasing wealth inequality can be blamed almost entirely on disparities in housing wealth.

That's why Sajid Javid's bold planning reforms are so important.

And why Labour's plans for rent control are so wrong.

Instead of tackling the root causes of the housing problem, they would slap yet more regulations on the market, restricting freedom and opportunity.

Some of their ideas border on the absurd. For example, forcing landlords to accept pets. In fact, there's only one creature that would be more free in Jeremy Corbyn's Britain and that's El Gato, his cat.

We also need to liberate business planning in high-growth, free enterprise areas, and remove the strict controls that get in the way of prosperity.

That's why we're piloting a manufacturing zone in the East Midlands, where all the planning is pre-agreed and manufacturers can get straight to work on building their factories.

And we could do even more. I would like to see more of the development model used to build Canary Wharf.

We could see it bettered up in Leeds or Newcastle – a Canary North!

Implementation

What could stop us taking advantage of these opportunities? What could stop us unleashing the secrets of our success?

The answer is those people with a vested interest in more Government.

They want a thicket of regulation to grow, as they are the ones who know how to hack through it. Who benefit from the status quo, oppose change, and want to pull up the ladder behind them. They can be the lobbyists. They can be the unions. They can be the bureaucrats. They can be the NIMBYs. I call them The Blob. Gloopy. Treacly. Hard to define. Harder to resist.

They say they want to protect people and jobs. They say they only want this tiny change in legislation. And they will ask again and again for Government favours – arguing that they are the exception, that their cause deserves coddling and sympathy.

This effect is described in *The Captured Economy*, by Brink Lindsey and Steven Teles. They talk about the situation in the US, where too many companies are lured away from truly productive activities, and towards rent-seeking, hunting for special favours and handouts.

I believe one of the main roles of Government – and this Government in particular – is to challenge, not succumb, to the Blob and to keep our economy free and fair.

It's vital to our mission that we fight the forces of vested interest and make sure our country's opportunities are open to everyone – big or small, north or south, man or woman.

Labour like to talk about how anti-establishment they are. To spout off on Squawkbox about bringing down the system. It's all red revolution and power to the people.

But if you look at their plans, they're offering everything but more freedom. Bringing unions into Downing Street. Propping up big business with their strategic investment plan. Nationalisations and compulsory land purchases that will disrupt competition, innovation and choice.

And on Monday, Jeremy Corbyn explicitly said Labour want leaving the European Union to mean more state aid to pay for failing businesses, not less. And this is all paid for by higher taxes on families and small businesses. And as with all left-wing revolutions, it's the less fortunate who suffer.

We would see money diverted from education and health to fund loss-making nationalised industries. We would see worse services. We would see higher taxes. We would see the squeezing out of the irreverent exciting British spirit which is responsible for so much of our success.

I am confident that we can continue to hold back the forces of the Blob.

Britain is the home of economic freedom, with liberty guaranteed by the independence of our state institutions, and an absence of corruption assured by transparency.

We've come a long way in the last seven years – championing free enterprise, tackling the abuse of lobbying and keeping the voices of protectionism at bay.

There are many countries across the world that do not get this right, and give in to the intoxicating embrace of institutionalised corruption. Even seemingly healthy democratic countries.

Because the biggest secret is what we don't do, rather than what we do do. We are a free country where we eschew suffocating central control and regimented planning.

We believe individuals makes better decisions for themselves. And we believe in people being the agents, not the victims, of their economic destiny.

This is a version of a speech delivered to the Telegraph Investing in Britain Forum delivered on February 28.

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

Alastair