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## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for April 17th, 2026

### Electric Scotland News

#### My Canadian Experience

Continued with the April report which you can view at:

[https://electriccanadian.com/canada\\_add32.htm](https://electriccanadian.com/canada_add32.htm)

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My new Dell computer....

I am now mostly there with the new system but have found that my FrontPage web editing software while running ok now always crashes when I go to navigate to a file to produce a link to it. This is a total pain in the neck but of course it can be worked around but it will require testing as I now need to spell it out instead of just pointing to it.

The new adobe reader is a total pain which I'm now going to have to learn as it's very different to the version I was using. I might actually use Abbyy finereader instead but will see how this goes.

#### Scottish News from this weeks newspapers and other media

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

#### Here is what caught my eye this week...

##### What's Good for Scotland in 2026 election?

Why is John Swinney talking about a second referendum?

Read more at:

<https://sceptical.scot/2026/04/whats-good-for-scotland-in-2006-election/>

##### How to interrogate SNP energy bills claim

The SNP is making an eye-catching claim at this election: "Independence would cut energy bills in Scotland by more than a third.

Read more at:

[https://www.these-islands.co.uk/publications/i410/how\\_to\\_interrogate\\_snp\\_energy\\_bills\\_claim.aspx](https://www.these-islands.co.uk/publications/i410/how_to_interrogate_snp_energy_bills_claim.aspx)

##### A brief history of instant coffee

Instant coffee seems unremarkable. It's just powder and hot water. But making it work took decades

Read more at:

<https://worksinprogress.co/issue/a-brief-history-of-instant-coffee>

### **Conrad Black: American decline is a myth**

The widespread drivel about American decline has been drowned out in the fall-back lamentation of Trump hate

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/GWm4L>

### **Work begins today to revive historic Govan Old Church**

Work to rescue and revive a church which has existed in Glasgow for more than 1,500 years will begin on Friday. The Govan Old church stands within a churchyard which dates back to around 500AD, and while a succession of churches have been built on the site it has been a place of Christian worship ever since.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/3WRhl#selection-1607.3-1611.200>

### **Why Johnny Cash loved Scotland**

His son John Carter Cash talks Fife roots ahead of the family musical

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/why-johnny-cash-loved-scotland-his-son-john-carter-cash-talks-fife-roots-ahead-of-the-family-musical-6568516>

### **Brexit was not an act of economic self-harm**

Whatever you have heard, UK-EU trade is doing just fine

Read more at:

<https://thecritic.co.uk/brexit-was-not-an-act-of-economic-self-harm/>

### **Tartan Day in New York**

A video on the Tartan Day parade in New York in 2026. A four hour video.

Watch this at:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/ka2ij\\_REmAQ?si=U1p7ltaawxy-gud0](https://www.youtube.com/live/ka2ij_REmAQ?si=U1p7ltaawxy-gud0)

### **Untouched Hebridean island to go under the hammer for £350,000**

The land features a natural freshwater spring, with the potential for off-grid energy solutions like solar or wind power.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/xHE7d>

## **Electric Canadian**

### **The Haidas**

From an issue of Harpers New Monthly Magazine (pdf)

You can read this article at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/haidas.pdf>

### **On The Haida Indians of the Queen Charlotte Islands**

By George M. Dawson, D.S., A.R.S.M., F.G.S. (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/haidaindians.pdf>

### **The History of the County of Brant, Ontario**

Containing a History of the County; its Townships, Cities, Towns, Schools. Churches, etc.; General and Local Statistics;

Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; History of the Six Nation Indians and Captain Joseph Brant (THAYENDANEGEA), Miscellaneous Matters, etc., etc. (1883) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/countyofbrant.pdf>

### **Narrative of Discovery and Adventure in the Polar Seas and Regions**

By John Leslie, Robert Jameson and Hugh Murray (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/narrativeofdisco00lesliala.pdf>

### **Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 12th day of April 2026 Legacy**

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/PIDKw6NzOY0?si=ADaB3QLwT-BqD0jA>

### **The Beaver Magazine**

Added No. 3 Outfit 268 December 1937 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/TheBeaverDecember1937.pdf>

## **Electric Scotland**

### **You Won't Believe This Fairytale Tower Exists in Scotland**

A video tour of this part of Perth which I've added to the foot of our Perth & Kinross page

You can watch this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/travel/perth/index.htm>

### **Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York**

Vol. XIII — Old Series., Vol. II — New Series (1881) Documents relating to the History and Settlement of the Towns along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers (with the exception of Albany) from 1630 to 1684 and also illustrating the relations of the settlers with the Indians, Translated, Compiled and Edited from the Original Records in the Office of the Secretary of State, at Albany, and other sources, under direction Hon. Joseph B. Carr, Secretary of State, By B. Fernow, Keeper of the Historical Records, Hon. Member Penn Historical Society.(pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/america/hudsonandmohawkrivers.pdf>

### **Tracts**

By Dr. Gilbert Skeyne, Medicinar to His Majesty (1872) (pdf)

An old text which you can examine at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/medical/tractsgilbertskeyne.pdf>

### **Dan Snow explores a fascinating archaeological dig, revealing events of the 1692 Glencoe Massacre.**

Added this video to the foot of our Massacre of Glencoe page

You can watch this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/glencoe/index.html>

## **Sir Walter Scott**

Added a video talk about him and his home at Abbotsfield to the foot of his page.

You can watch this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/other/wscott.htm>

## **Letters from Roundhead Officers**

Written from Scotland and chiefly addressed to Captain Adam Baynes July 1650 - June 1660 (1856) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/roundheadofficers.pdf>

## **Health Lectures for the People**

Tenth series (1890) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/medical/healthlecturesfo189010edin.pdf>

## **Dain Agus Orain Ghaidhlig**

By Mairi Nic-a-Phearsoin (Mary MacPherson) (1891) (pdf)

You can read these Gaelic poems and read about her in English at:

<https://electricscotland.com/gaelic/dainagusoraingha00macp.pdf>

## **Story**

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1915.

Ottawa, September 30, 1915.

Honourable W. J. Roche, M.D., M.R.C.P., LL.D.,  
Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit the report of the Department of Indian Affairs for the year ended March 31, 1915.

The year has been a quiet and comparatively uneventful one for the Indians. At the time of writing my last report it was feared that the trade disadvantages attributable to the war would cause untoward hardship. I am now glad to say that the Indians passed the winter exceptionally well, and that there has been very little destitution among them. In agricultural and other pursuits their earnings present a most creditable showing in view of the unfavourable climatic conditions and the general industrial depression.

A novel and pleasing feature of the past departmental year was the visit to Ottawa and tour of Canadian Indian reserves by Mr. F. H. Abbott, Secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners of the United States. Last August a letter was received from Mr. George Vaux, jr., chairman of the board, with the request that the secretary should be permitted to make a first-hand study of the management of Indian affairs in Canada, with a view to obtaining suggestions which might be of use to their Government. This communication was viewed with interest and favour, and accordingly, on August 27, Mr. Abbott arrived in Ottawa, where he remained for a few days, after which he spent a fortnight going over the reserves in Ontario and Quebec. Mr. Abbott returned to Ottawa on September 10, and on the following day left for the West, where he was occupied for a month in studying the work of the department in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, returning to Ottawa on October 10, whence he proceeded to Washington. The quick perception, clear comprehension, and ready appreciation displayed by Mr. Abbott, rendered the task of explaining our systems and policies to him a peculiarly easy and pleasant one, and the perusal of his report, which appeared on February 4, 1915, has left with officials of this department a marked impression of singular correctness in every respect.

In the opening pages of the report Mr. Abbott lays particular stress upon the brevity, lucidity, and efficiency of Canadian Indian legislation, which he contrasts with, to quote his own words: "the thousands of pages of laws and rules and

regulations, many of them undigested, conflicting and inharmonious, which hamper efficiency in the Indian Service of the United States." He further goes on to say: "I could have brought Canada's laws and rules and regulations relating to Indian administration all back to Washington with me in my coat pocket." Mr. Abbott makes some pleasing and complimentary references to "the spirit of loyalty and esprit de corps in the Canadian Indian service, and seemed impressed with the fact that there are "no 'sleuths' to dog the trails of agents," and that all employees are treated "with dignity and respect." He praises the Canadian method of appropriating funds, and appears to favour the greater measure of responsibility given to the agents and superintendent in this country in dealing with the individual financial affairs of the Indians. In regard to educational work, Mr. Abbott finds the Canadian Indian schools, with one exception, not equal to those of his own country in point of equipment, but he regards this shortcoming as amply compensated by the beneficial effects derived from the harmonious spirit of co-operation existing in Canada between the department and the various religious denominations. He compares this feature with the policy of the United States, which does not contribute any financial support to the educational work of the missionaries, and the following quotation from his report evidences his preference in favour of the Canadian system:—

"The difference between Canada and the United States as respects the attitude toward the churches which have engaged in educational and missionary work among Indians is, that Canada from the beginning has frankly recognized her debt to the churches and her need of their continued help, whereas the United States Government, by raising the fetish of "church separation," has weakened the effectiveness of missionary work among the Indians, and has come near to depriving the Indian youth of really beneficial religious instruction in the schools."

Mr. Abbott gives an intimate and accurate description of the various reserves which he visited. He makes special comment upon the condition of some of the more advanced and progressive Indians, such as the File Hills colony of ex-pupils, the Six Nations at Brantford, the Iroquois of Caughnawaga, the Abenaki, the Hurons of Loretto, and others; among these he discerns the fruits of the Canadian policy of endeavouring to develop communities of civilized Indians who nevertheless retain their ancient tribal customs and executive organization, which is in contradistinction to the policy of the Government of the United States, which has always striven by segregation of the individual Indian to obliterate his racial identity and make him, in one generation, an American citizen.

There is a lengthy appendix to the report which comprises excerpts from, and summarized explanations of, certain clauses of the Indian Act, together with copies of statistical and other forms used in carrying on the routine work of the various branches of the department.

The only salient point wherein Mr. Abbott is somewhat critical towards the attitude of this department is in the matter of enfranchisement. In regard to this question, the position taken by the Canadian Government is characterized by caution and reserve, and although it is not in keeping with our policy to emulate, herein, the example of the American authorities, our ultimate aim is none the less at one with theirs.

I have personally, for some time, been sensible of the desirability of an easier approach to enfranchisement for the Canadian Indian, and I may here quote from my report of last year:—

"The radical principle underlying our policy of Indian management is to keep the Indian community attached to the land, at the same time giving the greatest freedom to individuals to secure their livelihood far and wide by any honest endeavour. It is wisdom not to entrust the absolute ownership of land to individuals until their ability to protect themselves against the designs of self-interested persons, who have no thought for their welfare but merely to get the best of a land bargain, is beyond doubt. Reform is needed in the law governing enfranchisement, particularly in the direction of freeing Indians, not of the professional class, who are living away from the reserves and supporting themselves, and who do not wish to remain with the band but to obtain full citizenship. The law at present in force does not allow enfranchisement for such Indians, and I trust that it may be possible to obtain legislation framed in the best interests of this growing class."

The following recommendations which Mr. Abbott has submitted to the Board of Indian Commissioners at Washington, as a result of his investigation of Indian Affairs in Canada, will be read, it is hoped, with satisfaction by those who are interested in the work of this department. It is, moreover, reasonably assured that an investigation of Indian affairs in the United States would yield many valuable suggestions to us; we cannot but regard with envy the lavish and generous appropriations made by that Government for Indian work, and these, in themselves, offer an eloquent illustration of that country's sincere desire to further the welfare of her aboriginal inhabitants:— ' .

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS. '

Following are some of the features of Canadian Indian law and administration which are worthy of particularly earnest consideration in connection with Indian affairs in the United States:

1. The brief and simple Indian Act of Canada furnishes a form and plan suitable for a consolidated Indian Act adapted to customs, usages and laws in the United States.
2. A law, similar to Canada's, should be enacted defining an Indian.
3. While it is too late to adopt the "closed reserve" policy in the United States, we should slow up in the allotment of our unallotted reservations and make beneficial use a condition to making further allotments, following the practice of Canada in granting "locations" to her Indians. ,
4. The condition of the half-breeds in Canada, if we had no similar examples in this country, should be a warning against too early removal of restrictions from the lands of Indians in the United States.
5. The Canadian plan of co-operation between the Government and the Churches in the education and Christianizing of Indians and the use of government funds to pay for their education and support in denominational schools and to pay part or all the salary of nurses employed in church hospitals which treat Indians, is worthy of serious consideration in this country.
6. The exercise of magisterial authority by Indian agents in Canada is one ' of the main reasons for the efficiency of administration on its Indian reserves. Similar jurisdiction should be conferred by Congress on Indian superintendents in the United States. •
7. The definite judicial procedure for the punishment of offenses on Indian reservations in Canada suggests a proper substitute for the anomalous, incomplete, unregulated and irresponsible judicial procedure of the so-called courts of Indian offenses on unallotted Indian reservations in the United States.
8. The Indian liquor laws and methods of administering them, in Canada, furnish models which should be adopted by our Government.
9. The File Hills colony for ex-pupils embodies ideal methods of dealing with returned students which are practicable to adopt on many reservations in the United States.
10. The simple, liberal, and localized plan of supervising the business affairs of Indians in Canada could be adopted to advantage here.
11. The system of supervising the Indian cattle industry in Canada, especially the system on the Blackfoot reserve, is an ideal one for the reservations of this country, and superior to any plan so far developed here.
12. The fact that not a single transfer was made last year in the agency service of Canada is full of eloquent suggestion to those charged with the administration of Indian affairs in this country, where approximately 50 per cent of the service is transferred annually.

END.

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

Alastair

