

PEEBLESSHIRE ADVERTISER AND COUNTY NEWSPAPER

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PEACE CELEBRATIONS AT NEWLANDS

In the celebrations of the victorious Peace throughout the British Empire on Saturday last, the parishioners of Newlands played their part right nobly. At half past twelve the children of the upper part of the parish, with their parents and friends, assembled on Lamancha School green, and after the unfurling of the Union Jack were conveyed in motors and other vehicles to the recreation grounds of Romanno School to join with the rest of the parish in the festivities of the day. On Romanno School green another Union Jack was hauled to the pole-head and, as at Lamancha, flung very successfully and beautifully out to the breeze by Mrs Lorimer while the whole company sang the National Anthem. Peace mugs provided for the children were presented to the by Lady Wolfe Murray.

General Sir James Wolfe Murray of Cringletie on being introduced by Sir James Fergusson, Bart., of Spitalhaugh delivered the speech of the day. Patriotism was his subject and in the course of a most eloquent oration he said :- "Some little time ago Mr Lorimer invited me to come over here to Romanno to take part in today's ceremony and to address you on the subject of patriotism in connection with this presentation of flags, which he has so generously and considerately made to the schools in this parish. It gives me much pleasure to be here today in compliance with that invitation for I am entirely at one with him in the idea of inspiring patriotism in the minds of the young, and I especially delighted to perform this task in Romanno which is one of the spots in this country with which I can claim a family connection. For the first Murray of Cringletie was the offspring of Sir Alexander Murray of Blackbarony, in my own parish of Eddleston, on of his wife Margaret Murray of Romanno. Pardon my dwelling upon family connection for one moment, I do not do so for any motives of personal vanity or of ancestral pride, but because I am convinced that in building up the spirit of patriotism it is the reverence of ancestry, the love of family which forms the corner-stone of the edifice. The very word patriotism implies this. It is derived from the Latin *pater* - a father, and *patria* - the fatherland, and its meaning is love of one's native land. In all countries

there are well known examples of patriotism, and the virtues of patriots are extolled in the poetry and lauded in the prose of all nations. Here in Scotland every boy and girl knows of the suffering and the deed of our great Scottish patriots, Bruce and Wallace, whose fame has come down from the distant past, and will go in onto the remote future. It would be easy to quote equally outstanding examples from other nations. One note however pervades them all - that true patriotism is not merely the passive love for one's own country, but that, for the love of his native land, the true patriot is ready to sacrifice himself, his life, and all that he values for his country's welfare. Patriotism means denial of self, in means placing the interests of one's country above and before the interests of the individual or of the class. If we regard patriotism from this point of view a little reflection will show us that there are abundant opportunities for practising it in our everyday life, that is not a thing to be kept only for great occasions or special emergencies, or the exercise of which is only called for in highly critical times such as those in which we have recently been passing in the great struggle now over. We cannot, of course, all of us hope to emulate the deeds or achieve the fame of a Bruce or a Wallace, but we can all of us, in the humblest sphere, constantly keep before us the duty of denying ourselves for the sake of our country and for the common good. I have alluded to the importance of the family sentiment in the building up of patriotism. You all understand from your everyday life what the love of family means, it is an instinct in the human race, and we see it displayed too by the very brute beasts. You all take a justifiable pride in the family to which you belong, and every one of you desire to be a credit to it. When we go out into the world to make our way there, our thoughts are always turned homewards, and we think what the folk at home may be thinking of us. In the earlier ruder stages of civilisation the family was the fundamental unit, for the maintenance of which each member strove and fought, if need be; gradually the circle widened and families were banded into clans, the clans, again, into peoples or nations. This is easily seen even today, for are there not names that tell at once whether a man is English, Scottish or Irish? Are there not names which even indicate from what part of Scotland a man comes. Men thus first fought for their family, then for the clan, and later on for the nation. But patriotism - love of the fatherland - does not necessarily stop with the nation. Just as I have briefly

indicated its upward development, so it has gone in these later times a stage further forward, and we are now carrying it to the confines of a world-wide empire. In proof of this we have had the wonderful evidence of this war, in which the many widely separated parts of the British Empire have rallied round the flag in defence of their common interests. This flag, from having been the symbol of union of this United Kingdom, has now become the symbol of the British Empire, and is to be seen flying all over the globe, standing for the great principles of freedom and justice. It is for you, the younger generation, to keep those flags flying where your forefathers planted them, and to do so you must cultivate that larger spirit of patriotism which looks further afield than your own limited immediate horizon. The true greatness of this wonderful Empire, of which we form a part, can only be maintained by the subordination of self to the common weal, by the sacrifice of individual aims to the common good. The surest way to undermine the foundations upon which this great Empire is built is by placing our own advantage, whether as an individual or a clan, above the common interests of our fellows. Let me just quote to you a few words from Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in this connection, from his rectorial address at St. Andrews - "In the development of modern social ideas there has to be an increasing tendency to look to the State as a universal provider, from whom everything is to be expected, to whom as little as possible is to be given. Such a tendency is in direct conflict with our old national ideals and our old national character. It is subversive of discipline both in private and public life. It opens the way to political corruption and to all the social evils which have led to the decay of former empires. It is destructive of that power to combine for the common good and for the maintenance of an ideal above self which alone brought us safely through the war." Self-denial then is the essence of patriotism as it is of the Christian religion. Do not let us ever forget the words of a far greater than Sir Douglas Haig, who said - "Let him deny himself." (Applause)

Mr Readman of Macbiehill House, in a very becoming manner, conveyed the appreciation and thanks of the people of Newlands to the General for his presence and his most excellent and inspiring speech, and also to Lady Murray for presenting the mugs to the children.

On Dr Maitland Thomson of The Whim announcing that the flagpole erected on Lamancha School green and the one also on Romanno School green together with the flags, and also the tea and cakes for the children that day, were the gifts of Mr and Mrs Lorimer, there followed such an outburst of cheering that must have convinced the kind donors that their goodness was greatly appreciated and that the people of Newlands held their old neighbours in the very highest esteem.

Mr Lorimer, in acknowledging the demonstration of the gathering, said that throughout the years he lived in their midst his wife and himself had received the greatest kindness from the people than they would ever be able to return. He hoped, however, that the poles would be useful, especially to the children and that on all great national occasions the unfurling of the flag would impress them and that being inspired by the deeds of their fathers they would bring even greater honour and glory, if that were possible, to the British Empire and race. On Mr Lorimer's call for a vote of thanks to Mr White of Noblehouse and all the members of the Peace Celebration Committee, a right good rousing cheer was given,

The moment speech-making came to close Mr Wright and his band of beautiful stewardesses served out tea and cakes to the vast assemblage.

Being thus refreshed, the children and others, led by the charming and thrilling strains of the bagpipes played by Mr Tom Lean of Wester Deans, marched in procession to Newlands Parish Church, where a brief but impressive service was conducted by the Rev. Mr Dick, minister of the parish, and the Rev. Mr Wiseman of Blyth Bridge United Free Church. No one will ever forget how his heart was stirred by the solemn remembrance that was made of "Our Glorious Dead" and by the singing of the old victory song of the people of God - "Now Israel may say, and that truly". From the church the great congregation passed to the Glebe in front of the Manse, and by the riverside, where a long and varied programme of sports and quiting match was carried through in the highest spirit of goodwill and joy. At 7.30 milk and cakes were served to fortify all for the homeward journey. Thereafter, at the close of the presentation of prizes to the winning competitors in the games, the Rev. Mr Dick called again for cheers for Mr White and his committee, and also for the Empire's sailors and soldiers. Never were

cheers more heartily given. When the echo in the woods and the valley died away, the celebrations of the day terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

Hearty thanks were given to Messrs Adams and Linkie for motoring the children from and to Lamancha, to those who supplied milk, to all the subscribers to the celebration, and to all others who contributed to the successful events of a day whose significance and delight will be talked about for many generations to come.