

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1923

19TH CENTURY ROMANCE IN PRESENT-DAY CANADA

Coming Marriage of Pretty Montrealer to the Twelfth Earl of Haddington Lacks Nothing — Beauty, Youth, Chivalry, and Fortune are All Combined.

(Toronto Star)

The marriage of Miss Sarah Cook, of Montreal, and George Baillie Hamilton, Earl of Haddington, which is to take place early in October, is an affair which has stirred the imagination of the people of two continents. It is, indeed, a romance as rich and satisfying in detail as the novel of the last century. The bride is young and lovely, the groom is handsome and gallant, and the worldly goods with which he will endow his bride from across the sea, consist of one of the largest fortunes in Scotland, and an estate of seventy thousand acres, extending across five counties of the northern kingdom. His title dates back to 1619, and he is the twelfth Earl of a race that has helped to write the history of Scotland and the United Kingdom. Beauty, youth, chivalry and fortune—no element is lacking to make the romance complete.

The bride-elect, with her mother, Mrs. G. W. Cook, and her sister, Miss Audrey Cook, is in Toronto this week, visiting Mrs. Phillip Gilbert on Chestnut Park road. She made her debut in society two years ago. In a few weeks' time she will be a countess, the mistress of one of the largest estates in the United Kingdom. But in both her appearance and her manner, this pretty Canadian girl seemed to the Star still to possess something of the naive charm of the schoolroom. In her straight, youthful gown of black crepe-de-chine, her dark hair demurely parted and unbobbed, she appeared to be much more closely akin to the carefully reared English school girl, or even to the convent-bred Parisienne, than to the highly-colored, sophisticated young person who has become, more or less, typical of youth in this generation and on this side of the water.

The present Earl of Haddington succeeded his grandfather in the peerage in 1917, his father, Lord Binning,

having predeceased the former earl. He served in the European war, 1914-1918, was awarded the Military Cross, and has the rank of captain, reserve of officers, Royal Scots Greys. It was in 1914 when he was in Canada acting as aide-de-camp to the Duke of Devonshire that he first met Miss Cook. She was little more than a child at the time, much too young to attract the attention of an aide-de-camp to the vice-regal party.

A year ago, however, Miss Cook went to Scotland to visit her sister, the Countess of Minto, whose romance was scarcely less dazzling than that of her younger sister. The Minto estate was eighteen miles from that of the young Earl of Haddington and it was here that the two met for the first time since the lovely Canadian girl had graduated from the schoolroom and entered society. Their engagement was announced this summer.

The twelfth earl comes of a gallant and vigorous stock. His grandfather, known as Scotland's "Grand Old Man" appears to have been an elderly gentleman of the most extraordinary vivacity. He was accustomed to hunt and play polo when he was in his ninety-first year. At the age of ninety he was thrown and badly kicked by one of his polo ponies, and as soon as he recovered he proceeded to break his collar-bone on the hunting-field. It was then that his family persuaded him to abandon his reckless practices, and the enforced retirement and quietude appear to have broken his blithe spirit, for not long afterward he died.

The old earl lingers, however, as a robust tradition in the north country. He sat for forty years in the House of Lords as a representative peer of Scotland, and was a brigadier-general of King George's famous Scottish bodyguard of archers. He was a person of lively unconventionality, and was known, upon one occasion not long before his death, to requisition a grocer's cart, in the absence of a cab, to convey him to the theatre in Edinburgh, and to drive up triumphantly to the theatre on the front seat. As a gentleman-rider, he went under the name of "Mr. George" on every race course and especially on every steeplechase track in Scotland.

A Fighting Family.

There is much that is picturesque and dramatic in the history of this famous fighting race. The title was conferred originally on one Thomas Hamilton, a lawyer, who was one of the eight men, called the Octavians, who were appointed to manage the finances of Scotland in 1696. In 1619 he was created Earl of Melrose, a title which he exchanged in 1627 for that of Earl of Haddington.

The history of the Haddington family resembles in many ways that of the Minto, into whose ancient line Miss Cook's older sister was married some years ago. Like the Minto the Haddington family was deeply attached to the cause of the Covenanters, and in 1640, when General Leslie made his celebrated march into England, the second Lord Haddington was left in Scotland to watch the garrison of Berwick.

The history of the Haddington House is, in generous part, the history of Scotland. The sixth earl accompanied the famous Duke of Argyll when he went north in 1715 to suppress the first Jacobite rebellion. His heir,

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Lord Binning, married the heiress of the Baillies of Jerviswood, and their descendant became the tenth earl in 1868, the family name becoming Baillie-Hamilton. The most distinguished member of the house of Jerviswood was Robert Baillie, who was executed in the "Killing Times" and who, for his zeal for civil and religious liberty, is known as the "Scottish Sydney". The sixth earl was a writer, but in this direction he was excelled by his elder son, Charles, who fought by his father's side in 1715, and afterwards died in Naples.

The ninth earl was a member of Parliament from 1892 until 1927. He served under Peel as lord-lieutenant, as first lord of the admiralty, and as lord privy seal.

The Haddington Estate.

Lord Haddington's principal country seat is known as Mellerston, near Kelso, in Roxburghshire, a magnificent place full of interesting relics and art treasures, including a group of paintings by Van Dyck. The estates themselves are extremely valuable, as they are very rich in minerals, which contribute in no small degree to his immense income. Moreover, his mother, the widow of General Lord Binning, is the daughter of the multi-millionaire, William B. Saltin, and was at the time of her marriage accounted the greatest heiress of her day.

To be mistress over an estate of seventy thousand acres, over country

houses and town houses, over servants and retainers and dependents without number is, in itself, a career of parts. Behind the glamor and romance of marriage with the twelfth Earl of Haddington there lies an impressive task for the little dark-eyed girl from Montreal.

The marriage of the Countess of Minto, the most fashionable in the history of the city, was performed in the Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's church here about a year and a half ago. The second wedding will be much quieter and will also take place in the Lady Chapel, as the family are Catholics. The groom being a Protestant makes it impossible to have the ceremony performed in the church proper.

Mr. Cook is known as one of the most charming women in Montreal, and evidently her daughters have been endowed with the same savoir faire. Entirely unaffected.

Mr. Cook is a son of the former well-known lumberman of Morrisburg and is independently wealthy. He has never been engaged in any special line of endeavor, spending his time in travel while not at his town house in Montreal or at his country place on the river front. He is modest and retiring, and despite the great interest his daughters' marriages have created is content to remain out of the limelight. Mrs. Cook is as unaffected as if Marion had married John Jones of Toronto and Sarah were about to marry Bill Smith of Lachine.

The two other daughters, Audrey and Doherty, both show evidence of the same good looks and the same friendly spirit as their sisters and their mother possesses in such a marked degree. Both are said to be heart free so far. It is certain that in the near future they will

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visit their sister at the estate of the Earl of Minto and then motor the eleven intervening miles to chat with the other sister, the Countess of Haddington.

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NEW EQUIPMENT IS AUTHORIZED

Authority for the purchase of necessary equipment for the new out-patient department of the General Public Hospital was given at a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners held last night with M. E. Agar, the president, in the chair. Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts presented requisitions for the various articles of equipment, including dressing cabinets, instrument cabinets, a cystoscopic table and various stands and stools. The estimated cost of the equipment was about \$1,000. The mat-

ter of linen supplies was under consideration and Mrs. J. V. McLellan and Dr. Roberts were appointed a special committee to report on the matter. The greater part of the meeting was devoted to further discussion of the new by-laws. Considerable progress was made in the approving of by-laws but the work was not completed.

INFIRMARY DRAWINGS.

The ladies' committee which had charge of the garden party at the infirmary grounds recently met last evening at the infirmary and conducted the drawing for several prizes. The winners were: hope chest, ticket No.

1452, Mrs. Nealis, Exmouth street; confirmation set, ticket No. 87, Rita Keanan, Main street; doll, ticket No. 805, Maize Downing. Drawing for fancy work were not made because all the returns were not in.

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