

The Happenings of a Week in the Old Land

Church to become their pastor in succession to Rev. J. R. Chrystal, who is retiring.

Two men from Dundee and Glasgow have been engaged by an Austrian firm for shipbuilding work near Trieste. The men are guaranteed 18 months' employment, and leave almost immediately.

Over 26,000 attended the court and abbey concerts this last season in Glasgow.

A Glasgow Mrs. Boyd, of Ayr, widow of Alderman Boyd, a Liverpool shipowner, left £2,000 to Liverpool University for engineering scholarships, and £1,300 to Liverpool charitable institutions.

A 10-year-old girl was killed in Glasgow while sliding down the banister railing of a house. She fell 32 feet.

Sergeant Duncan Fletcher, who has served from the police force after another, during 22 years of service, he was stationed at Renton, has been presented with a silver salver, a gold badge and a purse of sovereigns by the Renton public, for his wife, who was the Renton public, and a marble time piece and a gold bracelet for Mrs. Fletcher, from the police force of the county of Northumbria.

The 19th of April was observed in Edinburgh as the spring holiday. Large numbers of excursionists visited Glasgow, and Perth, Peebles, Kelso, Perth, Aberdeen, Ayr, Dundee and other towns.

Mr. J. B. Mather, farmer, Kirksill, Mearns, has resigned his seat as a member of the county council of Renfrew. Mr. Mather, who represents the Busby division of the parish of Mearns, has leased a farm near Kelso, where he will reside.

In the local government board offices, Edinburgh, Mr. Paton MacDougall, a member of the board, has been relieved of his duties, where he has been since 1894. He was perwick, in behalf of the legal and clerical members with a handsome silver lamp.

It has been officially estimated that there is at present under construction or about to be laid down on the Clyde merchant shipping to the amount of £400,000.

In a blue book issued recently the prison commissioners for Scotland state that in 1908 the number of commitments of ordinary prisoners was 62,102, an increase of about 1,000, and that the cases of drunkenness were responsible for almost a third of the total number.

Mr. Temple Robb, minister of Forgandenny, Perthshire, died suddenly on the 3rd inst. The deceased preached on the day previous, and was in his usual health. He was found dead in a chair in his house. Born in Kinross about 60 years ago, he had a distinguished career at Edinburgh St. Andrews, and was ordained minister of the parish of Airthrey, near Alloa, at the early age of 22. Four years afterwards he was appointed minister of Forgandenny.

Recently a heavy thunder and lightning storm, accompanied by a terrific hailstorm, swept over Stewartstown, where the spire of Coal Island Episcopal Church was struck by lightning, and a considerable portion toppled down. Painters working in the church were struck by fragments, and narrowly escaped. Three workmen who concealed themselves in a coal shed dashed out when the spire was falling, and fell to the ground in a faint, but ultimately recovered.

Monday, May 3, was the 344th anniversary of the battle between the Scotch and English—the battle fought, in 1575, at Reddside, near Carter Fell. As usual, the Scotch came off victorious, having lost only "one gentleman of rank." But, on the English side, Sir George Heron, keeper of Reddsdale, and Tindale, was slain; while Sir J. Forster, J. Collingwood, the Earl of Bedford's son, and good many other distinguished gentlemen were taken prisoners. It would seem that no account was kept of the number of common Englishmen killed or captured.

In their annual report for 1908 the council of the Royal Scottish Academy express satisfaction in recording the recent appointment of Mr. Robert Gibb as Sir John's successor as president of Scotland. As there seemed some danger of that ancient and honorable office falling into abeyance, the council has taken the opportunity of thanking all those who used their influence in the matter.

There has just been celebrated the bicentenary of the battle between the Scotch and English—the battle fought, the twelfth year, or for the past fifteen years one of the representative peers of Scotland. He is a descendant, on the female side, of King Robert II. His family, the Sandilands, were at the height of their power during that monarch's reign. James Sandilands married a sister of the first Earl of Douglas, and the name of the married pair was Calder. His son married Princess Joan, the daughter of King Robert, and the widow successively of Sir John Keith, and of Sir John Lyon of Glamis. Calder House, Mid-Lothian, the family seat, is a fine old mansion famous as having been the scene of the first Protestant communion service celebrated by John Knox.

The annual Scottish National Co-operative Congress was held at Forth, Kirk, when 400 delegates, representing 200 co-operative societies, under the presidency of Mr. James Allan, were present. The chairman said that, despite the bad trade of the last year, the progress of the co-operative movement had been increased by £692 during the year. The total membership in Scotland was 105,620. The share capital had increased £230,943, and they had now a total share capital of £5,174,190. The movement during the year had increased its contributions to charities by £1,382. The meeting registered a protest against the action of the Glasgow Corporation in their decision to rescind the cattle market by which the Corporation had over 50,000 Glasgow ratepayers were not to have the use of the markets that were built and maintained by the rates.