

that in my opinion the re-starting of the industry is not a practical proposition.

Although tiles are not made now, the old works are still in use and it says much for the materials and workmanship of more than a hundred years ago that the original drying shed still stands, having withstood a century's gales, and the original yellow pine drying racks are still in daily use for drying poultry shell and grit.

FOOTNOTE:

Mr Gilmour adds: I learned recently that the present Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia is the grandson of the Tam Todd mentioned above. The P.M.'s father was born in the house in which I now live. The family emigrated to New Zealand in 1864, where they amassed a fortune making — bricks!

NOTES ON ROTHESAY NEWSPAPERS

By R. D. WHYTE

[Read 13th December, 1949]

Before dealing with the Newspapers printed and published in Rothesay I wish to refer to the first pamphlets printed in Rothesay. Alexander Anderson, a printer from Leith, compiled and published "Random Records of Rothesay." The date of publication was 1839, and the dedication was "to the Nobility, Gentry and the public of Rothesay, the first work printed and published in the Island." It consisted of 24 pages and the price was 3d.

A second edition was published in 1842. This edition had an engraving, published by W. H. Lizars, Edinburgh, showing the County Building, the Castle and the Bay. It also contained portions of Lady Wardlaw's "once admired, but somewhat affected and pointless forgery 'Hardyknute'" and a poem "Rothesay Castle" written by Anderson himself.

Anderson also printed "Bute Records of Rural Affairs," edited by Mr Samuel Girdwood. It was a fortnightly publication of 22 numbers, the first appearing on 26th November, 1839 and the last on 1st January, 1840. It was reprinted as one volume in 1860. Anderson left Rothesay and settled in Australia.

The earliest Rothesay Newspaper was "The Rothesay Advertiser and Literary Journal," first published on 28th May, 1847. It was printed in Greenock and lasted for four numbers. "The Rothesay Journal and General Advertiser for the Western Isles," a monthly publication, ran from June, 1852 till December, 1853. This paper was printed in Glasgow

and published by John Wilson, Bookseller, Rothesay, who was also the compiler and publisher of his "Guide to Rothesay," 1848, and subsequent editions.

Several papers tried to get a footing in Rothesay in the 1850's. These included "The Campbeltown Journal" and "The Dumbarton Herald." It would appear that there was no printer in Rothesay at that time. The Volume of Bannatyne's poems (1853) was printed by "The Campbeltown Journal."

On 12th December, 1854, two newspapers appeared in Rothesay. "The Buteshire Advertiser and Rothesay Monthly Gazette" was printed and published by A. and W. Clerk at 27 Montague Street. It was an excellent newspaper but had only one issue.

The other paper was "The Buteman." There was at that time a very flourishing Young Man's Society in Rothesay and it occurred to some of the members that the publication of a newspaper might be undertaken. Robert McFie, a workman in Salmond's Cotton Mill, went to Glasgow for some training, and on his return the printing of a newspaper called "The Buteman" was undertaken by him. The first office was in High Street in the building then known as Moodie's close — now part of the Castle Bakery Shop. The plant consisted of a hand press and publication was fortnightly.

"The Buteman" was afterwards acquired by Mr W. A. Wilson and the office was removed to 11 Montague Street. Printing there was by waterpower. Mr Wilson also printed "The Bute and Argyll Illustrated Magazine" in 1857. The Buteman office was afterwards removed to the present premises in Castle Street.

In 1868 a new local newspaper was started by Mr Wm. C. Harvey under the name of "The Rothesay Chronicle." The first office was No. 5 High Street and afterwards in Watergate in the building which now is part of the Castle Bakery premises and partly occupied as the "Old Men's Club." This building was one of the

three warehouses built by the Earl of Bute about 1746 for the use of merchants and particularly Irish merchants, who were required, by law, to unload their cargoes at a British Port before carrying them to Ireland. On 26th December, 1913, the last issue of "The Chronicle" appeared as a separate paper. It was then amalgamated with "The Buteman," which appeared under the name of "The Buteman and West Coast Chronicle." For some years Mr Harvey published during the summer season the Visitors' List, which gave the names of visitors to Rothesay with their local addresses.

In 1877 "The Rothesay Express" appeared. It was printed in Greenock. The local representative, Mr Murdoch Mackenzie, had an office in Deanhood Place. It was acquired by Mr Mackenzie in 1887 and was printed at 11 Montague Street, which had been vacated by "The Buteman." It was published on Wednesday while the other two papers were published on Saturday. For a few years "The Express" was published twice weekly but it soon reverted to a mid-weekly issue, while the other two papers altered their day of issue to Friday. The Buteman and Express Companies amalgamated under the title of Bute Newspapers Ltd. For a time "The Express" was continued as a separate publication, but it is now incorporated in "The Buteman."

Other papers, chiefly for the entertainment or information of visitors, have appeared from time to time but all have had a very short life. There was the "Salt Water Gazette," a weekly published in Glasgow by Hedderwick of "The Glasgow Evening Citizen," which ran from 5th June to 4th September, 1835, price 2d. Its most interesting contribution was the ballad of the "Bluidy Stair," over the initials J. McK.

In 1896 a talented musical combination came to Rothesay and gave concerts throughout the summer. They printed their programmes in a gossip weekly

journal called the "Clyde Programme." This programme continued during 1897, but at the end of the season 1897 the Breciani Family left Rothesay and the "Clyde Programme" was not renewed in 1898.

TWO CINERARY URNS FROM TOMET END

When the Bute Museum was re-organised in 1950 two cinerary urns were restored at Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum from sherds which were in the old collections. As the finding of these urns has not been recorded I thought that it should be done now. The following information was given to me by Dr. G. J. Summers, who was at that time working in Millport.

About 1932 a tumulus at Tomet End, Greater Cumbræ (Nat. Grid Ref. 184592) was almost completely destroyed in order to provide material for the repair and widening of the nearby road. During the removal of loads of gravel, of which the tumulus was largely composed, several urns were exposed but these were not at first reported and were consequently destroyed. One complete urn was uncovered; it stood upright in the gravel about 3 ft. below the surface. Unfortunately it disintegrated on being lifted and, still more unfortunately, the fragments were dispersed; some were lost, and Dr. Summers sent the rest with sherds of another urn collected in the tumulus to the Bute Museum. From these fragments the two cinerary urns shown in the Museum were reconstructed.

One of them is Bipartite with an incised decoration of two bands of a continuous series of Vs 9 ins. high, with short horizontal lines under the apexes and between the bands. The other is a cordoned urn with a lattice design of cord impression decoration. There was also a cist exposed in the gravel, the top stone of which was about 2 ft. 6 ins. below the surface and under boulders and gravel. In the cist was a flint arrow head, now in the Bute Museum, and a few calcinated bones.