

## PLUS FOURS AND SAXOPHONE HAVE NOW SUPPLANTED THE BAGPIPE IN EDINBURGH

(Joseph Grigg in New York Sun.)

Edinburgh.—Those Scots in America or Americans of Scottish lineage, who are still under the illusion that the land of Robert Bruce and Bobbie Burns resounds daily to the wail of the bag-pipe and the swish of the kilt, are courting disappointment when they come back for a visit. For "Scotland" in recent years has seen more revolutionary changes than have most sections of the British Isles.

The saxophone and the ukulele are now a part of Scottish life, with the jazz band more often heard than the pipe band. The fox trot and the Charleston are proving more alluring than the native Scottish dances.

While listening to a jazz band I ventured the remark to an old-timer that Scotland was a changing land.

"Indeed it is," he lamented. "The spirit of the kilt is still there, but not the kilt."

A visitor may walk for hours through Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Glasgow without seeing a Scot in kilts—excepting a few schoolboys or the military—though in the same time he may run across hundreds in plus fours. And there are Scotsmen ready to agree with Lloyd George's phrase that certain Highland chieftains prefer the comforts of ordinary dress and a steamheated club in London to kilts in a draughty castle in Scotland.

If the Scot still sticks to porridge and haggis, he also remains a great cake eater. A glance at the confec-

tionary shops of the big and little cities leaves no doubt on that score. The windows of such places display a hundred varieties and the Scot maintains that the art of cake-making anywhere else is in its infancy when compared to the land north of the Tweed. Herrings may have provided the vitamins to make the Scot a doughty battler and hardy colonizer, but cakes helped too.

### Rich in Its Past.

Edinburgh is truly Scotland. The history of one is the history of the other and the visitor who goes up hill and down dale can trace things back through the relics of Stevenson and Scott, Knox and Mary Stuart, Bruce and Montrose—back to 617 when Edwin of Northumbria built his castle on the rock and Edwin's Burgh grew up around it. A great fire destroyed the city in the tenth century. The newer portion of the city of today was begun about 1770.

According to a rather prevalent idea, Edinburgh branched out a few years back, took in the adjoining boroughs and today has a population of 420,000. Unable perhaps to exist on her merited reputation as a center of learning she employs brewing and distilling along with printing, publishing and chemical production to keep the wolf from the door.

Her Princes street is one of the best in Europe, running as it does for a mile with business houses on one side and a park on the other. It commands a view of the castle, and in

the park is the Scott Monument, a replica of Melrose Abbey, 200 feet high with a statue of Sir Walter and his dog.

Edinburgh Castle is worth seeing for those who crave to know a moat, a drawbridge, dungeons and Queen Mary's room.

The city abounds in houses and streets which knew John Knox, Robert Burns or Oliver Cromwell. There is Holyrood Palace, too, with its mementos of Mary Queen of Scots. St. Giles's Cathedral is something more to see and in the National Library one finds manuscripts of Scott and Burns and the bull of Pope John anent the kingship of Robert Bruce. But enough of the past.

### Times Change, Etc.

During my kilt and bagpipe hunt I ran across an attractive show window of tartans in Glasgow. There were cigarette cases, handbags, book covers and numerous other articles. In the background of this 100 per cent. Scottish display was a set of bagpipes, but it had for company all the pieces of an American jazz band set. The jazz instruments completely dwarfed the pipes. The inquisitive Scot—and there were many of them—was told that some of the instruments could be played without any knowledge of music. Some irreverent Englishmen have long contended that the bagpipe could be played without any.

"How about bagpipe production?" I asked a manufacturer of such instruments in Edinburgh.

He had an interesting tale. After a slump there has come a slight bagpipe boom. However, the chief market is not Scotland, although there is a steady demand for minors' pipe bands in western Scotland and Wales. It is the Scot overseas, particularly in Canada and New Zealand, and a

little less so in America, who yearns for such things.

The decline of the kilt has brought about a falling off in the material out of which it is woven. Fifty years ago, so I was told by Scotsmen with a knowledge of conditions prevailing then, the kilt was in very general use in commercial as well as professional walks of life. But it has come to be chiefly identified with a social custom when the King and his court take up residence for a period of six weeks or more in each year at Balmoral Castle.

A student said he wore his kilt on gala occasions, or at dances where such costume was demanded. Another Scot voted the kilt a garment to have, but seldom to wear; for in warm weather the waistline pleats make for much discomfort. "Plus fours are much more serviceable and comfortable. Besides, where will you find Scotsmen going to work today in office or shop in kilts?"

### Kings and Kilts.

At the last Braemar Highland gathering, which the King and court attended in state, there were 10,000 men present in kilts, many of them wealthy or titled Englishmen, some of them opulent Americans who turn a golden stream into Scottish coffers by their annual leases of famous shootings. The women of the royal household, save the Queen and the elderly ones, wore dress kilts. The Highland dress was in striking contrast to the brilliant scarlet liveries of the outriders and flunkies who attended the royal equipage. While the menials of Balmoral adhere to their English liveries, all the phillies on the moors and forests, as well as the gamekeepers, wear the kilt.

The late King Edward found donning the kilt an irksome job, but King George wears one and the

Prince of Wales on his last visit to Scotland changed to the kilt as his train approached the border.

While the kilt has become, in a sense, the garb of fashion affected by land barons and persons of high social rank for the brief season of six weeks of royal Deeside, and for balls and notable functions associated with Scotland, the strong and prolific nurseries of the kilt are those public schools where the younger boys must wear them, and where, on Sundays, the older boys wear them instead of the top hat and morning coat, common to so many English public schools.

If the average Scot is content to wear his kilt only on exceptional occasions, he is nevertheless certain that the most wonderfully dressed male in the world is still the pipe major at a Highland gathering in his feathers, his plaid, his medals, buckles and martial bearing.

### THE NEWER ETIQUETTE

#### PARTY CALLS

No one makes a party call On the dame who hired the hall Only make one if the prune May throw another party soon.

#### GREETINGS

Should you speak, by any chance To your hostess at a dance? Yes, say those in manners versed If your hostess sees you first.

#### COURTESIES OF THE BALL

Dancing men may well beware Of the hostess and her spare Or she'll wish on you (doggone her) Wallflowers or guests of honor.

—FAIRFAX DOWNEY in Chicago News.

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- 23 York and Queen Sts.
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- 25 Brunswick and Westmorland Sts.
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- 28 Saunders and York Sts.
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- 44 Queen and St. John Sts.
- 45 Brunswick and St. John Sts.
- 46 Charlotte and St. John Sts.
- 51 King and Church Sts.
- 52 George and Church Sts.
- 53 Union and Church Sts.
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- 55 George Street and University Avenue.
- 56 Lansdowne and Waterloo Row.
- 57 Grey Street and University Ave.
- 112 Aberdeen and Smythe Sts.

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