

DUKE OF EDINBURGH SEES BATTLE AGAINST NATURE



Royal Visit To Culbin

STORY in pictures of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the Culbin Sands on Saturday. The Royal visitor (left), accompanied by Lord Radnor, chats to two foresters, Messrs James Craib and David Munro, who (below) demonstrate anti-drift thatching operations for the Duke and his party. On his way to a forestry house (right), the Duke gives a friendly smile to young George Linder, son of the assistant head forester. George, however, has eyes only for the cameraman.



ELGIN RA - EW NOTICED DRIVER OF THE BLACK CAR

THE Duke of Edinburgh, on his way to inspect the afforestation project at Culbin Sands, motored through Forres on Saturday—but only a few of the large crowds lining the route recognised him.

Hundreds of people had been assembled since 12.30 p.m. Shortly after one o'clock a black Ford saloon moved quietly through the town but many paid no attention to it. Only an observant few realised that it was the Royal car with the Duke himself driving.

The most fortunate spectators were stationed at the east end of the town. There the Duke, who was wearing dark glasses, stopped the car for a moment and he was observed by those nearby.

In the main part of the town others were still waiting long after the car had passed. They could not understand why the police had left the street!

A number waited to see the Duke on his return, after five o'clock, but he turned off the main road at Mundole, joined the Grantown road and continued his journey back to Balmoral via the Dava.

The Duke spent most of Saturday on an inspection tour with officials of the Forestry Commission, and toured Monaghty Forest, near Elgin, before proceeding to the Culbins, the reclamation of which is almost complete. His Royal Highness was deeply interested in what is taking place at Culbin, and asked many questions of his guides.

The Duke made his tour in an open Land Rover. With him were Lord Radnor, deputy chairman of the Forestry Commission; Sir Henry Beresford-Peirse, director of forestry for Scotland; Sir Louis Greig of Binsness, whose estate fringes the Culbins and who acted as host to the Duke at lunch; Mr Frank Oliver, conservator, Eastern Conservancy; Mr J. A. M. Kennedy, district officer, and Mr W. G. Milne, head forester, with whom the Duke discussed many aspects of the work.

The Duke had motored from Balmoral with his factor, Major A. W. Haig.

Thatching Work

He took a special interest in the work of thatching the sand with birch branches to prevent drift. This vast job is almost complete. He saw evidence of how nature, in the shape of drifting sand, still offers an occasional threat to healthy timber. But nature is on the losing side this time, for soon the drift will be completely checked when the last of the sand is thatched to give planting space for more than 6000 acres of pines.

Introduced to the Royal visitor were four men who have been on the Culbins job since 1922—Messrs David Munro, William Wright, James Williamson and James Craib.

Wonderful View

The company later carried on to the summit of the highest of the dunes, 99 ft. above sea level, where there is a wooden observation tower commanding a wonderful view of the Culbin tree-lands and the hills and valleys of the coast.

has been stepped up to 200 acres annually, and how thinning, over the past four years, has yielded some 3000 tons of excellent timber, most of it for conversion into pit props.

The Duke was warm in his commendation of the work done and congratulated both the Commission and its staff. He rounded off his visit by having tea with Mr Milne, the head forester, in his cottage at Kintessack.

NOW FIRST GENTLEMAN

THE Duke of Edinburgh is now the First Gentleman in the land. An announcement in the "London Gazette" on Tuesday night stated that the Queen, by warrant dated September 18, "declares and ordains that the Duke of Edinburgh shall henceforth, on all occasions and in all meetings, except where otherwise provided by Act of Parliament, have, hold and enjoy place, pre-eminence and precedence next to Her Majesty."

There is no provision in the general table of precedence for the husband of the Queen. Up to the present the position has been that the Duke of Edinburgh, in the House of Lords, has ranked as the junior Duke in the Peerage and not as a Royal Duke. Now, as First Gentleman, he will officially rank before all the Royal Dukes.

ROYAL ROUTE

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, passed through Grantown on Sunday, shortly after 5 p.m., on her way to Deeside. News of her journey was not known to the public, but some people who were out for an afternoon walk recognised the Queen Mother as the car passed, and waved a greeting.

FOUR HOUSES: NO APPLICANTS

Four houses for agricultural workers are nearing completion at Colfield, Alves, but Moray Housing Committee have not yet received any application for tenancy. On Monday it was decided to advertise for applicants.

These houses were erected at Colfield under pressure from the local National Farmers' Union, remarked Brig. I. K. Thomson, Burgie. The Housing Committee had wanted them erected at Alves.

Mr R. McGill, county clerk, commented that the N.F.U. were always very clamant but they gave the County Council no help at all. They had let the Council down before.

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