

Page 77 - Duncan "Korea" MacRae, Missionary from Baddeck ISSUE : <u>Issue 67</u> Published by Ronald Caplan on 1994/8/1

The kindness of the Christians is very marked & their faith in God seems to put ours to shame. The Korean does not know the wealth there is in die whale & odier fisheries off his coast, on the East coast, there is grand whaling grounds & every year the Russians and the Jap is get? ting rich on the whale business.... At the end of the three weeks in Hamhung, Duncan was loath to leave. This ancient walled city had retained much of Korea's past ways of life that had been lost by change in the southem cities. He feared that the influx of foreign cultures would soon sweep over the entire "Hermit Kingdom" in which case Ham? hung would also lose much of her present charm. With concern over such an eventuality he carefully made notes of aU that he saw of antiquity and took innumerable pictures to record their existence. By the South Gate was the great bronze bell, similar to those he had seen in Seoul, Pyengyang and Songdo, but there was a major difference. While the other cities no longer used their bell, Hamhung continued the ancient practice. Duncan es? timated its measurements to be about five inches in thickness and about six feet high and four feet in diameter. Every night at sunset a mighty beam, swung from ropes, was pulled back, then pushed forward to strike with a booming sound against this massive, beautifully toned beU and, as its voice rang over the city, each of the four gates in the walls were closed. Daily Duncan was privileged to observe an ancient civilization come to life in movement and exotic colours. Policemen on du? ty and runners heralding the approach of an eminent personage wore costumes patterned from those of past centuries. Govem? ment officials stmtted with pompous dignity to or from their offices wearing flowing robes of silk, rich in glowing colours of warm red, old gold, azure blue, emerald green and deep pur? ple, and carrying tasselled rods of officialdom. To add to their stature and authority, their heads were crowned by tiered, black Unen winged hats embellished with gold designs. Equally sup? ported by an? cient custom were cruel and sordid frag? ments of their culture. The scene at the jail, in Duncan's opinion, was one custom from the past which could readily be swept away by When touring the Cabot Trail, you'll enjoy your stop in Cheticamp. It is a ' friendly village with strong Acadian traditions." While in Cheticamp, why not enjoy a meal at Le Gabriel? We offer unsurpassed Acadian hospitality and cuisine. The dining room We offer seating for 125 people, and many traditional dishes. 1 As well, you might dine on fresh local seafood, sizzling steaks, fresh baked bread and sinfully delicious desserts. Best entertainment for miles arottnd Le Gabriel would like to invite you to visit our great hall, for the best in local entertainment! Tuesday: Square Dancing & Fiddling Wed., Thur., Fri., Sat.: Popular Music Saturday & Sunday: Fiddling • Mly licensed • air conditioning • U. S. currency accepted Le Gabriel p. O. Box 316 Cheticamp, Nova Scotia Canada BOE IHO Tel: (902) 224-3685 While in Cheticamp, don't forget to visit Rora's craft shop, which offers a variety of locally crafted fora*s on the Cabot Trail Best selection of hooked rugs Flora's offers an excellent selection of rugs and other hooked items, made by over 100 local craft ladies. We also feature other quality handcrafts and souvenirs. • Coasters • Sweaters • Chair seats • Quilts • Wall



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