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“Tweedsmuir ... and Engineering”

by Andrew H. Wilson

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TWEEDSMUIR...AND ENGINEERING

by Andrew H. Wilson

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Abstract This paper is about John Buchan the author, lawyer, Member of Parliament, the first Lord Tweedsmuir, 15th Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, and his experience with engineering, based on extensive biographical information about him, plus a particular published reference that appeared many years ago in the Engineering Institute of Canada's *Engineering Journal*...and gave birth to this paper.

Tweedsmuir was, and did, many things during his life, but his education and experience were in quite different areas of human activity and endeavour from engineering. Nevertheless, he had indirect connections to it, and support for it, throughout his career, including his years as Canada's Governor-General.

It is mostly a biography of a fellow Scot.

There is only one photograph in this paper. Many more can be found in the auto/bio sources listed at the end of the paper.

About this Series

Principally, the Cedargrove Series is intended to preserve some of the research, writings and oral presentations that the author has completed over the past half-century or so, but has not yet published.

About the Author

He is a graduate in mechanical engineering (1949) and the liberal arts (1954) and has held technical and administrative positions in industry in the United Kingdom and technical, administrative, research and management positions in the Public Service of Canada, from which he retired more than 30 years ago. He became actively interested in the history of engineering on his appointment (in 1975) to chair the first History Committee of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering (CSME). He has also been president of CSME and the Engineering Institute of Canada, and chair of the Canadian Engineering Manpower Council and the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome.

To set the scene...

The Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) was founded in 1887 as the Canadian Society of Civil (as opposed to Military) Engineers. In its very first set of by-laws, it established an *Honorary* class of membership to include “distinguished men (women were later added) who, by virtue of their positions, might be able to further the objectives of the Society, or who might be eminent in engineering or kindred sciences, but are not engaged in their practice in Canada.”

Governors-General of the Dominion were deemed eligible for election by their positions and all of them, from Lord Stanley of Preston in 1889 (by then the Earl of Derby) to Lord Tweedsmuir in 1936 (better known, perhaps, as the author, John Buchan) were duly elected. After Tweedsmuir, for whatever reason, this practice was discontinued, but was revived in the late 2010s, for the Rt. Hon. David Johnston, who actually had a very much stronger personal connection to Canadian engineering than any of his predecessors, including Tweedsmuir. This paper attempts brief answers to the questions: *could* Buchan have become an engineer? and *would* he?

The main story...

The EIC invited Tweedsmuir to address its dinner on 16th June, 1937, celebrating the Institute’s Semicentennial, in Montreal. His address was published in the EIC’s *Engineering Journal*, July 1937 edition. He began by saying:

Some time ago (June 1936) you honoured me by making me an Honorary Member of the Institute, a distinction of which I am very proud, for I have no knowledge of engineering to justify it. I have had a good many professions in my life, and at different times I have had inclinations to many more. But I cannot ever remember wishing to be an engineer. I always felt that your world was a world quite beyond me. I admired it profoundly, but I admired it from afar, as the ignoramus admires the expert...

The business of the lawyer, for example, is to give practical application to general principles, but he is not dealing with an exact science. No legal doctrine is really precise in its application. The work of a doctor, too, must be largely experimental, as for the politician...

But the engineer is wholly different. He has to deal with hard facts. He knows that if he is not exactly right in his calculations, he will be wholly wrong...Your profession, gentlemen, has always been the foundation of any civilized society... But I think your work has only just begun...

Buchan’s background...

In the early 1870s, the Rev. John Buchan, with family connections to the Scottish Borders/River Tweed/county town of Peebles in Scotland, was filling a pulpit at the village of Broughton, twelve miles

'upriver' from the county town. While there, he met and began courting Helen, the teenage sister of Ebenezer Masterton, prominent as a member of a Broughton sheep-farming family. They married in December 1874 and went to live and work in city of Perth, where their first son, another John by family tradition, was born in 1875. Shortly thereafter, Rev. Buchan, a minister of the Free Church of Scotland, was called to a charge at Pathhead, in Fifeshire, where his other five children were born: Anna, William, Walter, Violet and Alastair, of whom Violet died at the age of five. The family remained at Pathhead for a dozen years.

As a five-year-old child, the junior John had a serious accident, which kept him in bed for a year. But when he had fully recovered, he was able to complete his education, undertake his South African adventure under Lord Milner, and participate over the next decade or so in healthy, energetic sporting activities - mainly fishing, walking, and mountain climbing, rather than team sports like rugby or soccer. His Uncle Willie became his regular fishing companion. But he fished less regularly when, just before World War I, a stomach ulcer began to dictate what he could and could not do, and when he began to spend short spells resting in bed or longer ones in medical establishments.

In 1888, the Reverend John was called to the John Knox Church in Glasgow's working-class Gorbals district, although the family's manse was two miles away, in the Queen's Park district of the city. Junior John attended nearby Hutchesons' Grammar School, where he won a bursary to attend the University of Glasgow. He enrolled in the three-year general arts degree course in 1892, did well in his classes, won several university prizes, but left it in 1895, after completing his course but without graduating, but having won a bursary that would take him to Brasenose College at the University of Oxford. Buchan had been persuaded that attending Oxford would do more for his future than a Glasgow degree, however intellectually attractive it might be! His visible and successful career at Oxford has been well documented in the reference material below. Suffice it to say that, while there, he 'did all the right things,' including service as the librarian and the president of the University Union, *the* debating society. Before leaving Oxford, Buchan concluded that the Bar would provide the substance of his career and most of his future income and, on graduating with a first-class degree in 'Greats,' (Latin, Greek, philosophy and 'classical' history) left for London and legal training.

As an undergraduate at both Glasgow and Oxford Universities, Buchan had first written - for income - and published essays, magazine and other articles, and continued to do so throughout his life. He also began to write books. His first subjects were often of topical interest politically, historically or philosophically, He also wrote fiction. In fact, to many fiction readers, and Buchan fans, he wrote only one book, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, thrice the title of a movie. But apparently, he never wrote a film script! He even wrote poetry, some of it in the Scottish Border vernacular, and he read scripts for publishing houses.

As was the case with his contemporaries, Buchan's principal mode of communication with colleagues, friends and relations was by letter. He wrote thousands of them, and some were published. And he gave a lot of speeches, some quite short, but many were also published, or reported by the Press, including the one that gave life to this present paper.

The historian in his make-up was reflected in his success when writing biography. His 'Scottishness' and love of homeland also shone in a lot of his writing. But like most 'public' authors he had detractors, who

found him too 'English' for a Scot, too 'Oxbridge' in his day-to-day contacts, and too ambitious and 'political' for someone whose early education was in the Scottish tradition, and in a manse! It goes without saying that, in his writing, Buchan/Tweedsmuir made good use of his own experiences, which became more significant with the passage of time.

This included a two-year interruption in his legal career, when he and other young, similarly educated men served under Lord Milner in his post-Boer-War administration in South Africa. For Buchan, this was what might be called 'his growing-up experience,' Returning to London in 1903, he added journalism to his legal work, and accompanied it with an active social life. ABuchan was always an enthusiastic fisherman, hill walker and mountain-climber and pursued these sports whenever, and wherever, he could throughout his life. But his principal pastime was his writing.

In 1906 he joined the publishing company, led by his Oxford friend, Tommy Nelson, with operations in Edinburgh and London, later serving as a director of the company. His connection with it lasted until 1929. He made significant changes to Nelson's publishing policies, as well as Influencing the company's publication methods and mechanics.

In 1907 Buchan was married in London to a socially well connected English lady, Susan Grosvenor. Their wedding trip included a visit to the Dolomites, where Buchan tried, unsuccessfully, to teach his bride to mountain-climb, with a view to her becoming his future climbing partner. They settled in London and Edinburgh. In 1910 his parents retired to Peebles. In 1911 Buchan added politics to his active interests when he was adopted as the *Conservative* candidate in the Peebles/Selkirk riding for the next General Election. Although Buchan was not really a party man, he took this 'job' seriously. It also opened up his 'access' to senior British politicians.

Also in 1911, he began having his medical problems, later diagnosed as a duodenal ulcer, which recurred through the remainder of his life and required frequent bed rest and other medical treatments. The ulcer problem was never cured. He simply adjusted his diet and doings to its presence or absence.

The Buchans' daughter Alice was born in 1908. In 1911 his father died, followed the next year by his brother William. His son and heir, also John or Johnnie, was born in 1912. 1914 brought World War I. Buchan was ill and was ordered to rest. But in 1915, he went to France as a correspondent for the London *Times*. His son William was born in 1916, and his son Alastair in 1918.

Buchan was commissioned as a major in the Intelligence Corps in 1916, and attached to the staff of General Haig, a fellow Border Scot. In 1917, he was appointed Director of Information at the War Office, and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (and was known after the War as 'Colonel Buchan'). In February 1917, Buchan underwent an operation (in his own house in London) to deal with his ulcer. It was unsuccessful but was not repeated. In 1917, also, Tommy Nelson was killed at Arras, as was John's brother Alastair. The closeness in time of the deaths of her husband and two of her sons adversely affected Mrs. Buchan Senior's health for some time.

In 1918 a Ministry of Information was formed with Lord Beaverbrook at its head, and with Buchan as Director of Intelligence. At War's end, he closed down the Ministry, but was suffering again from ill-health. By 1919, he had recovered, had returned to Nelson's and to journalism, and had been elected a

director of Reuter's. In 1923 and he was elected the company's deputy chairman. And he had purchased, as his permanent residence, the manor house at Elsfeld, four miles from Oxford - and trains to London.

In 1923, also, he first met Canadian politician W.L. Mackenzie King (MK) on one of his trips to England. In 1924, the Buchans saw him during a business/pleasure trip to Canada and the United States. In 1926 MK and Vincent Massey visited him in England. Buchan's MK connection was initiated and encouraged by his friend, Violet Markham (Mrs James Carruthers) whose father was a coal mine-owner, and whose grandfather was Sir Joseph Paxton, the head gardener-turned-engineer who had designed and built the Crystal Palace for the 1851 World Exhibition in England. Ms. Markham was also one of the promoters of 'Buchan for Canada' pressure on U.K. Prime Ministers Stanley Baldwin and Ramsey Macdonald, which began before 1926, when Lord Byng was to be replaced, and repeated five years later when it was Lord Willingdon's turn. The third try, in 1935, was successful!

In May 1927, Buchan was elected to a vacant House of Commons seat as a Conservative and Member for the Scottish Universities, which he retained until his appointment to Canada eight years later. In 1929, Buchan's contract with Nelson's expired, and he did not renew it.

In 1933, Buchan was appointed to represent the King as High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the (unified) Church of Scotland, and again in 1934. In retrospect, this appointment, with its ceremonial and political aspects, could have been a 'trial run' for the G-G's job in 1935!

In 1934 the Buchans made another trip across the Atlantic. In the United States, they met for the first time with President Roosevelt. And in March 1935 came his appointment to succeed Lord Bessborough as Governor-General, which he took up the following November, after eight hectic months of preparation.

Tweedsmuir's Canadian background...

It is now well known that, but for the insistence of King George V, Buchan might have served in Canada as plain *Mr.* John Buchan. Nevertheless, Canada welcomed him as a baron and as the King's representative.

During his years in office here, Tweedsmuir was well aware of the measures his government was taking to 'repair' the ravages of the Great Depression and the drought across the Prairies that had engineering components...for example, the passage of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) Act and the irrigation projects being undertaken in Alberta and Saskatchewan. He visited the Prairie Provinces as often as he could to see how the changes were working. He also made frequent supportive speeches on radio, explored the north by aeroplane, and encouraged others to do so.

From the beginning, Tweedsmuir hoped he could 'keep himself always on the road,' visiting within the vastness and diversity of the country - and he did so amid 'ulcer' breaks in his schedule, which sometimes required him to return to Britain or go to the United States for extended treatment.

In January 1936, King George V died. He was succeeded by Edward VIII, who abdicated the following

December, to be succeeded by his brother, George VI, who was persuaded to participate in 1939 in a Royal Visit to Canada and the U.S., with the Queen - a project for which Tweedsmuir was enthusiastic and largely responsible. So in addition to a period of official mourning for the late King, when the G-G had less to do officially, he was not idle. The 'Royal Visit' planning was begun, in Ottawa and London, with Tweedsmuir participating prominently in it.

He had begun his trips - and his contacts with Canadian engineering - in January 1936 with one to mines in Northern Ontario, his interest encouraged by his familiarity with coal mining in his native Scotland. and in England. Also, in 1936, Tweedsmuir arranged for President Roosevelt to make an official two-day visit to Canada, the first by a sitting president. Early in 1937, the President arranged a Washington visit for the Tweedsmuir. That Spring, Tweedsmuir visited the Maritime Provinces. That year, also, he made his long trip to Western Canada and sailed down the Athabasca and Mackenzie Rivers to the Arctic in a western Canadian river steamboat- the first G-G ever to do so. It involved some 2,000 miles of river travel and 8,000 miles by air - and made his acquaintance with Canada's summer flies!. And he was elected that year to the largely ceremonial post of Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh.

Tweedsmuir spoke frequently. For example, on 26 August 1936, his birthday was honoured at a Canadian Club luncheon in Vancouver. On November 7, 1936, after receiving an honorary degree from Queen's University, he encouraged the student body to 'make the world a better place.' On November 16, 1936, he addressed the Radium Dinner at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa in honour of this new industry in Canada. As we know, in June 1937 he addressed the Engineering Institute's dinner, and two months later, a dinner as guest of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. His mother died just before Christmas 1937, at 80 years of age. But as William Buchan noted in his book:

It was the end of a long story. Her eldest son, to whom Gran had perhaps been closer than to anybody in the world, would outlive her by only two years and two months. (p 233)

In the spring of 1938, Susan visited England. Tweedsmuir followed, for his Edinburgh installation ceremony and for ulcer treatment at a Welsh Clinic. Later in 1938, he travelled to the United States to receive honorary degrees from Harvard and Yale. He also visited Saskatchewan in May and the following quotation from Galbraith's book illustrates the level of interest Tweedsmuir took in Canadian engineering:

His primary purpose was to visit the almost thirty-year-old University of Saskatchewan, to learn more about the University's contribution to combatting the effects of drought, and to encourage the academic and intellectual life of Western Canada...

From Saskatoon, he headed south-west to the town of Swift Current, spending Tuesday afternoon inspecting development work at the local airport and at the Dominion Experimental Farm...demonstrations of the newest equipment prompted questions...

From his tour, Tweedsmuir learned that there had been improvement in the region, with a good amount of water behind a dam that last year was “dust dry.” (p 333)

In the spring of 1939, Tweedsmuir received an honorary degree from the University of British Columbia. In his acceptance speech, he is quoted by Galbraith as saying:

(He surveyed) the role of applied science and scientific research in modern society and made a case for (graduating students) to consider careers in these fields. He made a case as well for pure science. He outlined the practical value of investing in research that returned a thousandfold in areas in so many areas of importance to Canada, and lauded the work of the new National Research Council... The timing and topic were significant... (p 345)

And the ‘thousandfold’ was proved by later experience to be an over-confident exaggeration, but a thought being widely spread then by R&D enthusiasts!

The first half of 1939 was ‘consumed’ by the Royal Visit arrangements, during which Buchan took the lead in seeing to it that the CBC’s broadcasting equipment for it was ‘the best.’

Their Majesties’ constant guide throughout the tour was MK, who was Foreign Minister as well as Prime Minister. Tweedsmuir went fishing!

The second half of 1939 was ‘consumed’ by World War II’s ‘phoney War.’ Tweedsmuir signed Canada’s Declaration of War, the first G-G to do so

On February 6, 1940, Tweedsmuir fatally injured himself, falling in his bathroom after having had a stroke. He died in Montreal five days later. His funeral was in Ottawa, but his ashes were given to his family for burial at Elsfeld. He had been both a transitional G-G, and one who helped steer the country to better times and better ways of doing its business, and to the winning of the War. And he had taken a very personal interest in Canada as a whole, its size, its complexness, its nine provinces, Its Quebec problem, its industry and its engineering wherever the opportunities presented themselves.

Successes and disappointments...Let us take the disappointments first...

On graduating from Oxford, to bolster his academic career options, he wrote exams (twice) for admission as a Fellow to All Souls College - and was expected to succeed, but did not.

On completion of his two years with Milner in South Africa, he hoped for a similar appointment to the British Civil Service in Egypt under Lord Cromer but did not receive one.

There was the failed surgery to cure his ulcer.

Then there was the lobbying, post-World War I, for a knighthood in recognition of his War services that failed.

And when a member of the House of Commons, he failed to receive a Cabinet portfolio.

Then the successes...

In addition to his First-Class Honours degree from Oxford and his Oxford record...there was the creation in Canada of the Governor-General's Literary Awards, which his successors continued to support.

in 1932, following the failed knighthood attempts, he was created a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour (CH).

In 1933 and 1934 he served as High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

In 1935 he was appointed Governor-General of Canada, created Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, and invested as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (GCMG).

In 1937 he became a Privy Counsellor of the United Kingdom and was entitled to use the letters 'Rt. Hon.' before his name.

In 1939, in recognition of his work on behalf of the Royal Visit, he was invested as a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO).

Tweedsmuir received numerous honorary doctorates from universities in North America and Europe.

Appropriately, perhaps, his disappointments came at the beginning of his career, his successes at the end.

Buchan/Tweedsmuir's character...

Patricia Morley, in her article in the December 24, 1995, issue of the *Ottawa Citizen*, reviewing Lowrie's biography of Buchan, suggested that he was a "repressed Calvinist driven by Scottish ambition to rise to the top of the English Establishment." She also suggested he was "a free spirit and a romantic, a man of contradictions."

Those who commented on Buchan's character agreed on two things: his phenomenal memory; and his ability to concentrate when working.

The final paragraph of Janet Adam Smith's book has this to say:

It had been on the whole a fortunate life. Into his sixty-four years he had packed more activity than most men could expect in twice that span. He had left a shelf of books to entertain and a shelf to add to knowledge. He had played a number of parts with competence and success; his final role had been the most rewarding, and he had spent himself in it. He had been most happy in

his marriage and his friends. He had not allowed his pain to sour his life, and he had not feared death. He had kept to the end his capacity for delight and his sense of expectancy. His boy's dreams were still bright. (p 471)

Towards the end of William Buchan's biography of his father is this paragraph:

So there he is, John Buchan, the man, my father. I set out to write this book as a work of exploration. By remembering him and retelling his story I thought to come nearer to understanding a very complex and, I insist, mysterious man. Yet he eludes me still, as I believe he has eluded everybody. The character of Edward Leithen which he invented comes nearest to giving a complete picture of JB, most particularly in *Sick Heart River*, his last book, perhaps his very best, in which he, the 'worshipper of success', shows where true success may be found. (p 258)

And in his contribution to *John Buchan By His Wife and Friends*, Leonard Brockington wrote:

John Buchan...long before he came to Canada...had a retinue of harbingers unique for a Governor-General. For the children of his brain had been his heralds. His books had been his advance agents. Canadians, of course, had often before welcomed to Government House famous soldiers and more or less successful statesmen, but this was the first occasion in the history of the Commonwealth when a man who wrote fascinating stories and lilting verses and exciting history, and could always make an apt, eloquent and short speech, had ever been appointed to "shape the whisper of the throne" in a great Dominion. (p 267)

Tweedsmuir did make use of the products of engineering during his lifetime, long before he became a Governor-General, and he used them in his fiction. His best-known fictional hero, Richard Hannay, was a mining engineer. So was Pieter Pinaar. His Scottish and Canadian experience brought him continuously into close contact with the agricultural branch of engineering. His experience at Nelson's brought him in contact with the engineering of printing...Violet Markham reminded him of Paxton.

Lastly, but to a significant extent, Buchan/Tweedsmuir's character was shaped by his mother. Small, tough, narrow-minded, determined, outspoken and energetic, her lifelong concerns were her family and her Kirk. She was the one who looked after Rev. Buchan's congregations, for he was more interested in his preaching than in the problems of individual members or groups within them. She was disappointed that none of her sons followed their father into the Kirk, but enormously pleased when John was chosen to be the General Assembly's Lord High Commissioner.

John and she communicated constantly, no matter where they were. She was naturally most delighted when he was appointed Governor-General in 1935. As far as I can determine, she never did curtsy to him, as all the other ladies did!

During his career, Tweedsmuir acquired many of the habits of the English upper classes. He has said that, among his friends and acquaintances, were a number of leading British professional engineers. But I have been unable to identify any of them from the information I surveyed, with the exception of Violet Markham's father and her Paxton grandfather.

Could he...?

...have become a professional engineer? The answer is Yes!

This answer is based on the facts that, when he was attending the University of Glasgow, the University had a Department of Engineering headed by a Regius (Crown-appointed) Professor, and there was also the Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical College downtown, which offered engineering courses leading eventually to U.K. professional status. However, when Buchan was the age of an apprentice or undergraduate, professional engineers were often undergraduates and apprentices at the same or at different times.

Not only did he attend educational establishments in Glasgow - Hutchesons' and the University, in his daily walks from his home to school, (Yes, he walked!) He must have passed a lot of engineering companies along the way, although his routes were too far north-east for him to pass any shipyards. He would almost certainly have been found acceptable, as an indentured apprentice, by many of the firms he passed.

He had the mental and imaginative capacities and the energy to do engineering, successfully, as well as the opportunity. As an engineer, Buchan would have found his ability to write good, clear prose - something not often found in engineers - to work in his favour.

He would likely have joined management as soon as enough practical experience had been cumulated. Later, he might have entered politics, another area with few practitioner engineers in Britain as in Canada.

.....But he most likely would never have become Governor-General, and Canada would not have had the services of such a unique individual! Who knows what he would have done *IF* he had come to Canada as an engineer!

Would he...?

...have become a professional engineer? The answer is No!

His mind was elsewhere, solving problems of other kinds, building other structures, exploring other kinds of stress, creating other kinds of organization. His views of engineering were more those seeking to "sell" the profession's services than participating in its work.

Could John Buchan have been an engineer, and done all the jobs that he actually did? No. Farming was what his (in-law) Mastertons did, and in his youth, he helped them with farming chores, most likely

including help with the engineering breakdowns that happen in farming. He was never a farmer, although, apparently, he thought about it. Recent generations of Buchans had been lawyers, bankers and clergymen. He was a lawyer. Answer: not likely!

Incidentally, I am not sure that Tweedsmuir's 'reading' of the engineer and his/her profession in the Montreal speech quoted above is quite accurate. He did not seem to know about 'factors of safety' which engineers use to deal with uncertainties! Nor did he really know much about science or research. What is clear, however, is his objection to becoming 'one of us.'

Beginning at the University of Glasgow and continuing through and after his Oxford years, he made friendly connections with both the politically powerful and the intellectual elites of Britain, not those who headed the sciences or engineering. He later made significant political, non-engineering friends in Canada and the United States, including the Prime Minister, the President and members of their Cabinets.

He might also have been aware that, in Britain at least, engineering could be a profession or a trade, that professionalism was the objective of those who could be formally educated, or trained, or had 'connections'...did the right kind of qualifying work.... and that tradesmen usually got their hands dirty!

Some suspected he forsook Scotland, with its strong engineering tradition promoted by the likes of Rudyard Kipling, (McAndrew's Hymn, for example). And in some ways, he did. For example, he had lost much of his Scottish accent by the time he arrived in Ottawa in 1935, much to the surprise of some of the Scottish Canadians who met him at the railway terminal. But although he owned, and lived in, a small estate in Oxfordshire for many years, he never fully loosened his ties to the country of his birth. He kept in regular contact with it, his family and friends there, and its political progress. And he was still a Scot to Canadians, where many have chosen to live. And then there was his mother!!

But for the insistence of King George V, John Buchan, commoner, rather than Lord Tweedsmuir, peer of the realm, might have been Canada's 15th Governor-General. He was, also, the first to have been appointed after the implementation of the Statute of Westminster altered the relationship between London and Ottawa. Naturally, he took advantage of this.

It should be noted that his boys went into politics, business and academia, although all three and his daughter also became writers. And he sent his boys to Eton as well as to Oxford.

But while engineering was not a profession followed on either side of his immediate family, the farming members would do 'engineering' chores when required. As a young man, John may well have been aware of these, and may even have assisted his uncles.

While Tweedsmuir was G-G, his eldest son, recovering from an illness acquired in East Africa, worked for a year in a Hudson Bay Company outpost in the Canadian north. This son also, during World War II, commanded a Canadian Army regiment.

The No! answer is also based in part on the professional career he actually followed...as well as on what he said at that Montreal dinner in 1937!

Perhaps it was enough that as Governor-General he was curious about the applications of engineering that he saw, accepted to address the Semicentennial Banquet of the Institute that had honoured him, and supported what engineers were then doing in Canada?

I like to think that the many times Buchan went past engineering firms on his long daily walks to school in Glasgow that he thought about what the workers in them were doing.

Addendum.....

I have seen dozens of photographs of Buchan/Tweedsmuir, taken at various stages in his life and on specific occasions. In only a few of them is he smiling - and not in the one below! Although dubbed a 'presbyterian cavalier' by biographer Andrew Lownie, his serious, tight-lipped consistency may have had several origins. He was, of course, a son of the manse. His intellectual interests spanned such serious subjects as the law, biography, history, classical Rome and Greece, politics and philosophy. Tweedsmuir also had strong views on the important place of the British Empire in the international scheme of things. In other words, he was a serious person by nature.

Only one (half-smiling) photograph has been included with this paper.

Postscript...

Lastly, I should disclose a very distant personal connection to Buchan/Tweedsmuir.....

We were connected through a long series of marriages. My maternal great-grandfather was a Scottish farmer in Lanarkshire by the name of James Dykes. In 1846, James's sister Barbara (my great-great aunt) married Daniel Tudhope, a shoemaker at Lesmahagow, in Lanarkshire. Both families later moved east, the Dykes to Penicuik in Midlothian and the Tudhopes to the village of Broughton in Peeblesshire, where they became successful sheep farmers. Two generations and two marriages later, Daniel and Barbara's granddaughter, Margaret, married Ebenezer Masterton, another of the Broughton farmers, whose teen-aged sister Helen, in 1874, married the Rev. John Buchan, who also had Peebles connections. Their eldest son, John, who was later ennobled as the first Lord Tweedsmuir, was born the following year.

Many years later, while on a visit with the Tudhope family at Broughton, two of Ebenezer Masterton's young great-grandsons tried unsuccessfully to tempt me to smoke cigarettes!

Both Tweedsmuir and I have had homes in Ottawa. On the other hand, he had only five years in Canada. I have had over sixty. I also did the engineering - at Glasgow's University and in a Clydeside engine plant. He went to Oxford. I would have preferred Cambridge!

Principal sources...

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Andrew Lownie, *John Buchan: The Presbyterian Cavalier*, Canongate, Edinburgh, 1995

The photograph below was taken at Rideau Hall, Ottawa in 1936. It shows (l to r) Mrs Helen Buchan, (his mother), Lord Tweedsmuir, and Miss Anna Buchan (his sister, also known as O. Douglas)



The space to the left of the
Signatures once held a message
(ink now faded completely)
which read
"Mrs Buchan gave me this,"
The writer was my great-aunt,
Mrs James Smith.
She and Mrs Buchan
were neighbors
at Broughton
(Ardbucho and Gala Lodge).

O. Douglas
Helen Buchan