

WHO'D BE A DUKE?

The great ducal houses and their august owners are moving with the times. At home to the Great British Public are superb Chatsworth House. The magnificence designed for one noble family is in 1957 seen and partly shared by ordinary people making themselves at home....

The present Chatsworth House, dating from 1688, stands where a former mansion held Mary Queen of Scots in custody for several years. Today no haughty lords and ladies tread the splendid stairway to the Painted Hall, for the present Duke of Devonshire is unwilling to bear the burden of living at Chatsworth House. He's content with the modest Edensor House nearby.

Front page news in these days of ducal - or - poverty (which is more bearable than poverty lower down) is Arundel Castle. Like Chatsworth it draws from sightseers considerable revenue. Seat of the Duke of Norfolk (A Howard) Arundel has been in the Howard family 400 years. The Duke is hereditary Earl Marshal of England and has put up to Parliament a Bill proposing to give Arundel to the nation as rent-free home of the Earl Marshals now and for evermore. In the Baronial Hall are the robes the Duke wore at the Coronation, the arrangements of which, as of all other State ceremonial, are among the Earl Marshal's duties.

Strongly against the Arundel Bill is forthright Emanuel Shinwell.

Owner of Woburn Abbey is the enterprising Duke of Bedford. Both he and the Duchess say it gives them real pleasure to open the 17th Century mansion and the superb grounds to the thousands who pay for admission every week. And thoroughly well organised it all is. However large might be the income of any Duke nowadays, taxation would leave him too little by far to keep the small army of servants essential to such an establishment as Woburn. And each time these vast estates are passed on, death duties force the heir to sell much of the inheritance.

We live in times when, to Governments, millions of pounds are small change. The money for the big spending has to come from somewhere. Today, who'd be a Duke?

The Duke of Marlborough is undisturbed by Death Duties. Five years ago he made over his estates to his son and heir, the Marquis of Blandford. Even so, Blenheim Palace needs repairs estimated at £150,000. Blenheim was built for Jack Churchill, First Duke of Marlborough, in Queen Anne's time. Sir Winston was born here.... How long will the Palace remain a Ducal seat? For Dukes, like lesser Bolk, nowadays feel the pinch. A great historical tradition may disappear.....

The great ducal houses and their august owners are moving with the times. At home to the Great British Public is superb Chatsworth House. The magnificence designed for one noble family is in 1957 seen and partly shared by ~~humble~~ <sup>of ordinary, but quite unembarrassed</sup> - making themselves at home.... ~~at least~~ <sup>up</sup>; 80) The present Chatsworth House, dating from 1688, stands where a former mansion held Mary Queen of Scots in custody for several years. Today no haughty lords and ladies tread the splendid stairway to the Painted Hall, for the present Duke of Devonshire is unwilling to bear the burden of living at Chatsworth House. He's content with the modest Edensor House nearby.

up -

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~~which the Commons will hotly debate.~~ It ~~proposes~~ <sup>proposes</sup> to give Arundel to

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Duties. (up)

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~~And~~

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Up Nat. sound.

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Five years ago he made over his estates to his son, the Marquis of Blandford. Even so, ~~incomplete~~ ~~XXXX~~ Blenheim Palace needs <sup>15</sup> repairs estimated <sup>at</sup> ~~to cost~~ £150,000 pounds. <sup>30</sup> Blenheim

was built ~~for Marlborough~~ for Jack Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough in Queen Anne's time. <sup>20</sup> Sir Winston ~~Churchill~~ was born <sup>here</sup> ~~there~~....?

How long with the Palace remain a Ducal seat? <sup>30</sup> For Dukes, like ~~many~~ lesser folk, <sup>35</sup> nowadays feel the pinch. A great historical tradition <sup>40</sup> may disappear.

290