

An Comunn Gaidhealach.

REPORT by the Committee appointed by the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach, on 25th September, 1909, to consider and report on the alterations to the Constitution proposed at the Annual Meeting on that date.

We met on 22nd and 25th April. We regret that one of our number, Mr. J. S. Mackay, was unable to be present at our meetings. We report as follows:—

MR. CURRIE'S AMENDMENTS.

- 1) That the constitution be altered by deleting from "There shall be" in line 13 to "Annual Meeting" in line 30, both on page 4, and substituting the following:—"There shall be at least four stated meetings of the Executive Council between each Annual Meeting." The first of these, called "the first stated meeting," shall be held within four weeks after the date of the Annual Meeting at which the elected members of the Council are appointed; and the last, called "the last stated meeting," not later than eight weeks before the ensuing Annual Meeting, on such days and at such places, as the preceding Annual Meeting, whom failing the Council itself may determine. Other meetings of the Council shall be held at such times and places as the Council, whom failing the Advisory Committee, may determine. Special Meetings of the Council shall be called by the Secretary on receipt of a requisition stating the object for which the meeting is required, signed by three members of the Advisory Committee, or by not less than ten members of the Council. In the event of a quorum not being present at any meeting of the Council, it shall devolve upon the Advisory Committee to determine the time and place of the next meeting. The Council shall have power to fill up any vacancies among its members or the members of the Standing Committees."

We approve generally of this alteration, but we consider that it might be better to defer detailed consideration of it until such time as the whole constitution is revised. The most urgent objects of the amendment are (a) to postpone the last stated meeting of Executive to a later date than three months prior to the Annual Meeting, and (b) to alter the rule as to the *locus* of Executive Meetings, and we approve of giving effect to these purposes as follows, viz.:—

- (a) By substituting, in line 15 of page 4, the words "eight weeks" for the words "three months," and (b) by deleting the paragraph commencing with the words "The meetings of the Executive Council," and substituting the following paragraph, viz.:—

"The meetings of the Executive Council shall be held at such times and places as the Council, whom failing the Advisory Committee, may determine."

Our reason for desiring the postponement of the date of the last meeting of Executive is to provide longer time, after the close of the financial year, for the preparation of reports and the statement of accounts. Under the existing rules a sufficient margin of time is not allowed for that purpose.

With regard to the alteration of the rule for determining the place of Executive Meetings, we feel that a fairly full explanation of our reasons is required. To begin with, we desire to say that we have no wish to favour one place more than another, or the south at the expense of the north; but we wish to point out that under the existing rule, Glasgow and Edinburgh are each entitled to have only half as many meetings as the other places, although each of these two cities provides more members to the Executive Council than any of the other towns on the list. Further, the inconveniences of a rigid rule of rotation are very obvious. For instance, it might be a very great advantage to have more than one Executive meeting at the place where a Mbd was to be held, and it might also be a benefit to hold a meeting of Executive at the locus of some Educational Conference, or Industry Exhibition, or of the Summer School; but under the existing rule the Executive is absolutely tied to certain places in a definite order. Further, we believe that it would suit the general convenience of members of the Executive if, so far as practicable, meetings in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling were held in the winter time, and in Perth, Oban, Inverness and Fort-William in the summer. We know that this suggestion has already been the cause of considerable merriment, but nevertheless we put it forward because we believe that in the winter time Glasgow and Edinburgh can offer more attractions than Inverness and Oban, while in the summer time the attraction of the cities is gone, and the charm of the northern towns is at its greatest. We do not forget that the friends from the north will require to undergo a long railway journey in winter; but we think they may derive some comfort from the thought that by doing so they will be relieving a greater number of their fellow-creatures of a similar hardship.

- (2) By adding after the word "voting," on line 5 of page 5, the words "unless they are also members of An Comunn."

We approve of this alteration, the object of which is to give a vote to co-opted members of Committees if they are also members of the Comunn.

- (3) By deleting the words "who shall" in the 9th line of page 5 and substituting the words "with the President as Convener, which shall meet at intervals to discuss the business of the Association, and to"

We disapprove of this alteration on the ground that it is not urgent, and the consideration of it may conveniently be postponed until the whole constitution is re cast.

MR. STEWART'S AMENDMENTS.

- (1) That instead of the words "Convener of Finance Committee," lines 7 and 8 page 5, the rule shall read "Conveners of all the Standing Committees," etc.

We recommend the adoption of this alteration, as we believe the effect of it will be to make the Advisory Committee more representative of every interest. Mr. Whyte's concurrence is merely to the effect that the amendment is an improvement on the existing rule, and he reserves his opinions on the constitution and functions of the Advisory Committee.

- (2) That the first sentence of rule 12 page 14, beginning "The syllabus" be deleted.

An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Present form of Rules to which the amendments in attached Report are proposed:—

MR. CURRIE'S AMENDMENTS

RULE VII.

(Words proposed to be deleted in italics).

(1) *There shall be at least four stated meetings of the Executive Council during the year, the first within four weeks after the Annual Meeting, and the last three months before the date of the next Annual Meeting* The other meetings shall be arranged for by a resolution of the Executive Council itself as occasion arises; or they shall be called by the General Secretary upon a requisition signed by not less than ten members of the Executive Council. The Executive Council may invest any standing committee (as hereinafter provided) with full powers to deal with a particular question

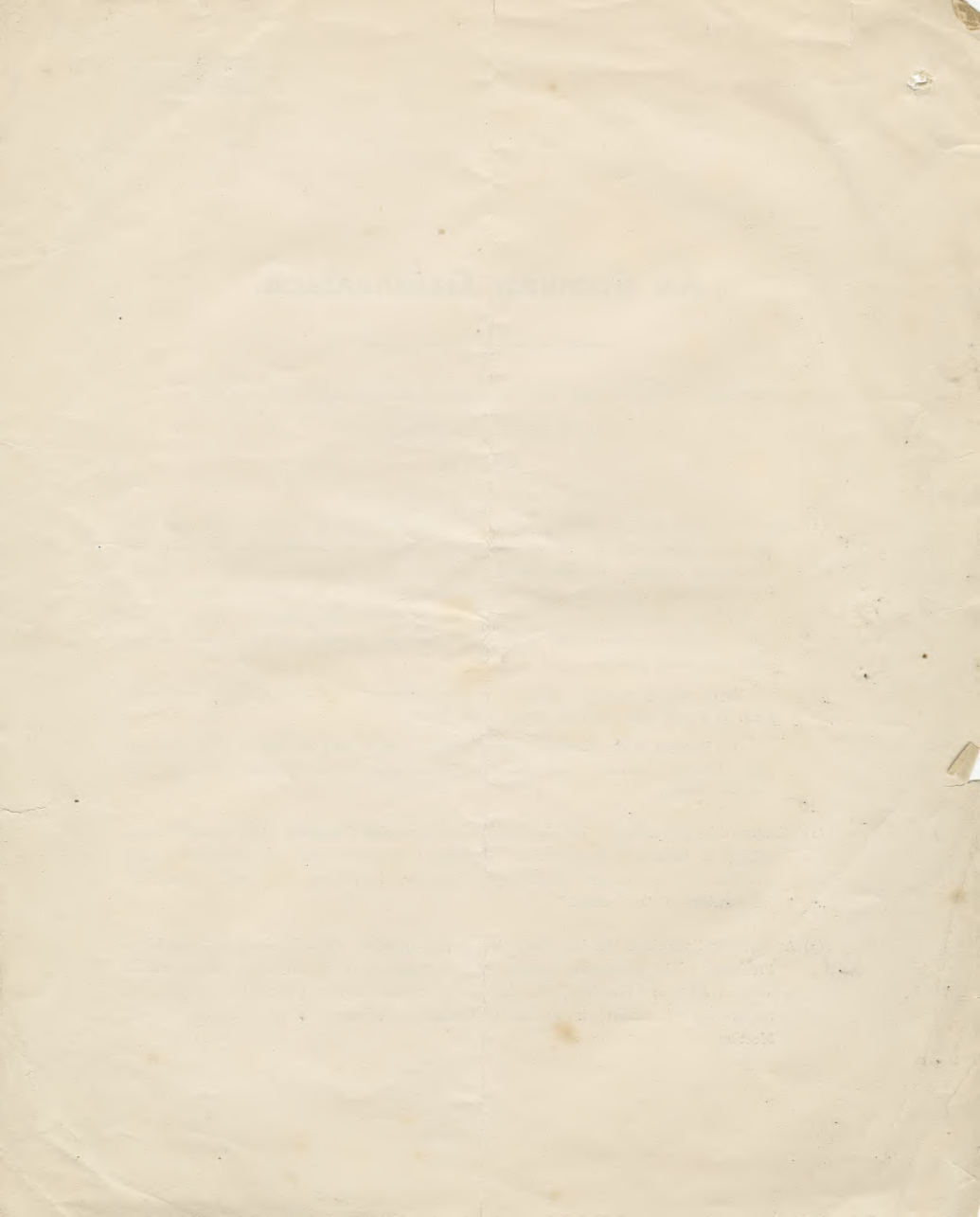
In the event of any office falling vacant during the year, the Executive Council shall have power to fill the same until the next Annual Meeting.

The meetings of the Executive Council shall be held in turn at Edinburgh or Glasgow, Oban, Inverness, Stirling, Perth, and Fort-William, except the one immediately following the Annual Meeting.

(2) minutes of its proceedings. The first business at a Standing Committee Meeting shall be the reading of minutes of last meeting. Standing Committees shall have power to co-opt members, but such co-opted members shall not have the privilege of voting, "unless they are members of An Comunn."

(3) At Standing Committee Meetings three shall form a quorum. The President and two Vice-Presidents of the Association, together with the Convener of the Finance Committee, shall form an Advisory Committee, who shall advise the Secretary on points of urgency, or on matters not of sufficient importance to necessitate the calling of an Executive Council Meeting.





MR. STEWART'S AMENDMENTS.

Mr. Stewart's first amendment applies to the same rule as Mr. Currie's No. 3, see above.

RULE XII.

- (2) *The syllabus of the Mod shall be drawn up in English and Gaelic.* The Mod proceedings shall, as far as possible, be conducted in the Gaelic language. All matter sung, spoken, read, or written by competitors, must be in the Gaelic language, except such quotations from other languages as are necessary to the subject matter. At each Mod, the President of the Association shall preside and deliver a Gaelic address, if possible. Failing him, some competent Gaelic speaker shall be appointed to take his place in regard to the address.

RULE XIII.

- (3) No circular, leaflet, document, pamphlet, booklet or book containing Gaelic matter, shall be issued by or for the Association without being submitted to competent editing by a person appointed by the Executive Council for the purpose. *No leaflet, pamphlet, booklet or book shall be issued by the Association, of which less than one half of the contents is in the Gaelic language.* No part of the funds of the Association shall be given in compensation or as awards for literary, musical, or artistic work which is not Gaelic or Celtic. *No part of any leaflet, pamphlet, booklet or book, shall be used by committees, members or others to promote or advertise competitions, or to announce awards in competitions, which are other than Gaelic or Celtic.* In all the publications of the Association, encouragement is to be given to the preservation of literary, musical or artistic matter which is in danger of being lost. No person who is unable to speak, read, and write the Gaelic language shall be appointed Secretary of the Association.
- (4) *To see that a full report of all meetings and other matters of interest to the Association is inserted in the official organ of the Association.*

RULE XVIII.

- (5) The official organ of the Association shall be under the control of the Executive Council, operating through the Publication Committee and the General Secretary.

MR. J. S. MACKAY'S AMENDMENTS.

- (1) Branches at least £1 for fifty members and under, and 3d. for every member over that number.
- (2) *Each Branch shall be entitled to representation at the General Meetings of the Association, in the proportion of one representative to every ten members.* These representatives shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Branch.

Mr. Whyte's amendment applies to Rule VII. See Mr. Currie's No. 1 amendment.

