

An Gaidheal.



W. CHITTY.

An Gaidheal:

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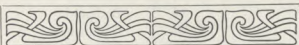


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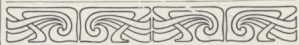
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AN GAIDHEAL

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[Earrann 1

OROID.

(*Chaidh an òraid so a labhairt leis an Ollamh Niall Ros aig fosgladh A' Mhòid, am Peairt, air an dara lù de'n Dàmhar, 1929.*)

Fhir na cathrach, a mhnathan is a dhaoine uaisle:—An uair a thig sinn gu Mòd thig sinn le deagh dhùrachd. Thig sinn le inntinn shaor, gun dragh gun chùram. Mar sin bidh sinn comasach ar n-aire a thabhairt do na chluinneas sinn, co dhìu is e moladh na Gaidhlig, no seinn nan òran. Tha cuid againn a bha iomadh uair aig Mòd. Thug sinn fainear, gu bheil a leithid so de chruinneachadh glé chairdeil. Is cinnteach gur e an t-aobhar airson sin, gu bheil muinntir a' tighinn cruinn le deagh dhùrachd, le inntinn fhosgailte, agus le faireachadh air maise a' chiùil agus na cànan. A chionn gu bheil a' chuideachda so mata air an tarruinn gu chèile le gnothuch a tha cho taitneach, bu chòir gum biodh an uair so freagarrach gu deagh rùn a chur romhainn. Ciod e an rùn àraidh a bu chòir a bhi againn anns an t-sealladh? Nach tàinig sinn do'n ionad so airson toil-inntinn, airson gu faigh-eamaid gairdeachas o bhi ag èisdeachd ris an luchd seinn? Tha sinn mar is trice a tighinn gu Mòd, a chum gum biodh ar n-aignidhean air an gluasad le ceòl. Ach bu chòir dhuinn mar an ceudna tighinn an so le iartus fìor gum biodh a' chainnt air a cumail suas.

Air an t-seachdain so chaidh bha feadhain againn an làthair aig cruinneachadh nan Ceilteach, am baile-mór Ghlascho. Thàinig teachdairean air astar fada, as a' Chuimrigh, a Manainn, agus a Eirinn gu bhi ag innse dhuinn ciamar a tha ag éirigh leis na chànan anns gach dùthaich fa leth. Bha deagh dhòchas aig

na h-Eireannaich; bha misneach mhaith aig na Cuimrich; ach is e bha aig an teachdaire a thàinig a Eilean Mhanainn ach sgeul a chuir mulad oirnn, oir chan eil a' Ghaidhlig Mhanainneach 'g a teagasg do'n chloinn anns a' sgoil. Bha an cunntas a thugadh mu chor na Gaidhlig an Alba misneachail a thaobh aireamh nan sgoilean anns a' bheil a' chànain 'g a teagasg. Ach bu bhrònach a bhi a' cluinntin gu bheil ar cainnt a' sìor dhol bàs anns an eaglais. Tha na coimhthionalan a' fàs nas gainne a h-uile bliadhna anns a' bheil Gaidhlig 'g a cleachdadh an aoradh follaiseach. Cha leig sinn a leas a bhi a' sìreadh dearbhaidh as cinntiche na sin gu bheil ar cainnt a' call a greim gu luath. Chan fhaod a bhi nach dùisg so a' chuid is treibhdhriche de na Gaidhil gu oidheirp a dheanamh a chum gum bi leasachadh ri fhaicinn anns an t-seadh sin.

Is minic a mhothaich sinn aig Mòd gu bheil na ceudan ag èisdeachd na seinn, an uair nach bi fichead ag èisdeachd ri labhairt no beul-aithris. Tha sin mi-fhortanach; oir is ann le labhairt a mhàin a bhios a' chànain air a cumail beò. Cha leigear a leas leisgeal a ghabhail airson a bhi a' glacadh an chothrom so gu bhi a' togail fianuis nach eil dòigh air ar cainnt a ghleidheadh mur bi sinn 'g a labhairt. Ma ni sinn dearmad air sin, chan eil anns gach cèilidh is mòd is cuirm chiùil ach fhad de dhìomhanas. Faodaidh iad a bhi 'n an toil-inntinn agus 'n am fearas-chuideachda aig an am, ach tha iad gu léir faoin agus gum stàth, mur bi iad air an comhlachadh le leughadh is labhairt na cànan. Is fada o chuala sibh mu "phìobaire an aona phuirt." Cha robh aig a' phìobair 'ud ach aon phort. Agus bhiodh e ga chluich gu tric moch is anmoch, gus mu dheireadh an d'fhàs muinntir

seachd sgith de bhi 'g a èiseachd. Tha e buailteach gur ann mar sin a dh'éireas an diugh do neach a bhios a' sparradh air a h-uile cuideachd anns an tachair e—a' sparradh air sean is óg gu bheil a gu léir ionchuidh agus riatanach a bhi a' buidheann na Gàidhlig a chum a cumail beò.

Dh' fadainn an ùine a thogail leis na nithean àbhaisteach, mar tha clùì ar sinnsir agus nàitheille eile air a bheil sinn gu léir eòlach. Ach b' fheumail gu mòr nam bithinn comasach air drùghadh air inntinn aon neach leis an fhirinn so—gum bu chòir dhuit rùn a chur romhad, nach rachadh latha seachad anns nach leughadh tu taobh-duilleig de Ghaidhlig. Ma tha thu idir 'gam thuigsinn aidichidh tu nach eil an iarrtus sin mòr. Cha mhòr am féin-àicheadh dhuit ceithir no còig de mhionaidean san latha a chur air leth gu beagan de Ghaidhlig a leughadh. Ma tha thusa dùrachdach anns an aobhar toisich an diugh fhéin, agus mus ruith mios, bi tu fada nas ealanta an leughadh na Ghaidhlig na bha thu riamh roimhe. Tha sin a nochdadh cia mòr an cuideachadh is urrainn gach aon a dheanamh leis an aobhar. Faodaidh nach eil aon duine anns an éiseachd a ghabhas mo chomhairle. Mata chan eil agamsa air, ach nach eil thu idir cho dìleas na cho dùrachdach is a tha thu an dùil a ta thu. Is e cion dilseachd agus dùrachd a tha toirt meatachadh do'n chainnt. Thubhairt muinntir mòran o chionn ghòirid mu theagas na cànan do'n òigridh. Chuala sinn an dé, an comh-fharpais na h-aithris, ciod e cho fileanta is a bhruidheas cuid de'n chloinn a' chànan. Ach a thuilleadh air foghlum na h-òigridh tha sinn a' cur feum air cuideachadh nan inbheach. Tha an geamhradh a' teannadh dlùth, an uair a bhios céilidhean a' tòiseachadh aig meanglain A' Chomuinn. Is e so an rùn agus an riaghailt a bu chòir a bhi aig gach meanglan, gum biodh leughadh na cànan air a chumail suas. Is e leughadh is comhradh anns a' chainnt a tha gu léir feumail. Tha Ughdarras an Fhoghlum ag aontachadh gu toilichte bhi a' tabhairt misneach is duais airson gum biodh croileagan leughaidh anns gach cearn. Is e so an aon nì a tha mi a' guidhe air gach aon a tha gam thuigsinn—gu leugh iad taobh-duilleig anns a' Ghaidhlig gach latha. Chan eil mi ag iarraidh ionmhas no tabhartas, ach eadhon an aon gnìomh beag so; agus ma nì thu sin, bi tu a' deanamh cuideachadh leis a' Ghaidhlig nach b' urrainn duit a dheanamh air dhòigh sam bith eile. Cha ghlòir a dhearbhas ach gnìomh. Biodh an gnìomh beag so mata na dhearbhadh air do dhìlseachd agus air do dhùrachd do'n chànan.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

A luchd mo dhùthcha agus a chàirdean nan Gàidheal

Our great National Gathering convenes this Autumn in the City of Perth. And there are sound reasons why the ancient, historic, City should find place among those modern shrines to which there is periodical Gaelic pilgrimage. Some of these are concerned with the present time, and others, equally powerful, are related to generations which have passed and gone. Of reasons of an immediate kind I recognise the abundant hospitality, corporate and individual, which Perth has so cheerfully bestowed; your munificence on behalf of the Gaelic movement repeats our agreeable experience last year in the Northern Capital, and the warmth and sincerity of your personal welcome have not been surpassed by any of the communities to whose invitation An Comunn Gaidhealach has made affirmative response. Then I am conscious that within your city bounds—as throughout your great county—there are many loyal-hearted Gaels zealous as the best for the preservation of our grand old language, and for the rehabilitation and development of that Culture with which our Language is indissolubly associated.

Perthshire belongs to a group of counties where Lowlander and Highlander alike are racy of the soil; but it can take rank, nevertheless, with any of the purely Highland shires in respect of its accomplishments in the region of Gaelic letters, a category which includes the works of poets, historians, and musicians, each and all of whom have achieved distinction for the great county in which we meet, distinction which we, whose origins are of territory beyond, acknowledge with gratefulness and with pride.

When Perthshire is mentioned in relation to Gaelic the name of Dugald Buchanan springs to the mind of every good Highlander. For it may be asserted with complete assurance that, the high quality of his poetry apart, there was no single man of the Eighteenth Century who exercised such commanding influence on the lives of his Gaelic countrymen as did the humble schoolmaster of Rannoch. The student of history is frequently intrigued by the lightning change which, in one generation, transformed the turbulence of the Highlands into a tranquility strikingly profound, a tranquility to be broken only when the soldiers from the glens took up arms against the enemies of the country of which they were citizens. To the accomplishment of this momentous change there was no contribution so potent as that of Buchanan,

and his name remains enshrined in the inmost hearts of his countrymen. Three stanzas from An Gaisgeach, that great poem of Buchanan's, mark as no historical record could, the advent of that new epoch when, the Clan no longer the supreme interest of the Highlander, his outlook widened to the recognition of a more expansive altruism and of a sounder ethic:—

Cha ghaish' an ni bhi liodairt dhaoin',
'S cha chliù bhi ann an caonnaig tric :
Cha'n uaisle inntinn ardan borb,
'S cha treubhantas bhi garg gun iochd.

Ach 's gaisgeach esan a bheir buaidh
Air eagal beatha, 's uamhunn bàis,
'S a chomhlaicheas le misnich cri',
A huile ni ata dha 'n dàn.

'S e 'n gaisgeach esan bheir fo chis,
A thoil chum strìochd' do reusan ceart,
'S a smuaintean ceannairceach gu léir,
Bhi 'n ordugh géilleachduinn d'a smachd.

The name of Dugald Buchanan immediately associates itself with the father and son, distinguished men both—Rev. James Stewart of Killin and Rev. Dr. John Stewart of Luss. Stewart of Killin, with the collaboration of Buchanan, was the translator of the New Testament into Gaelic, and the Gaelic version of the Old Testament now in use was the joint translation of Dr. Stewart of Luss and Dr. Smith of Campbelltown, a native of Dalmally just beyond the Perthshire boundary. Stewart senior and Stewart junior were men of whom Perthshire may well be proud: vital and momentous was their service to Gaelic and the Gael.

Contemporary with Buchanan were two men—also natives of your county—who did yeoman service to Gaelic Letters. The first of these was Rev. Donald Macintosh, a native of Killiecrankie, and the last of the old non-jurant Scottish clergy. It was Macintosh who compiled the collection of Gaelic proverbs upon which Sheriff Nicolson founded his notable volume, the Sheriff designating Macintosh's work as "a valuable addition to Celtic Literature!" Macintosh was a prominent member of the group of Scottish Gaels whose patriotic and scholarly endeavours were so powerfully counter-active to the hostility in high places, towards the end of the Eighteenth Century, to Gaelic and all the ancient language stood for. His valuable library the Reverend gentleman bequeathed to Dunkeld and the collection, with augmentations, is still, I believe, a cherished possession of the Cathedral city.

The other Gaelic writer to whom I would fain refer is Duncan Lothian, a native of Glenlyon, who actually served as a turner under Buchanan while the future schoolmaster still plied his trade of house carpenter. It is certain that Lothian fell under Buchanan's influence, and there are several books mainly of a didactic kind to the credit of his pen, but the work of his which I think well to mention here is the remarkable series of Gaelic verses, conform in every way to the canons which regulate Gaelic rhyme and rhythm, in which he includes the marrow of the Proverbs of the Highlands. It may well be that Lothian had access to Macintosh's manuscripts, and it is pretty certain that he was one of those upon whom Macintosh drew for assistance in his compilation. But, be that as it may, it can be said of Lothian that he serves up a considerable portion of the Proverbial Philosophy of the Gael with true poetic taste and feeling. The Proverbs of the Highlands stand comparison with the folk wisdom of any land, and I suggest that the memorising of Lothian's verses should form an excellent and agreeable auxiliary to the acquisition of Gaelic.

Survey of Gaelic scholarship in Perthshire in course of the Eighteenth Century may be appropriately rounded off by the recollection that Neil Gow was a native of the Perthshire Highlands—Neil Gow, the remarkable genius who may be said to have created that School of National Dance Music, the common heritage of Lowland and Highland Scot, and the admired and envied of every country in Europe.

To come down to a generation not long past, it is meet that Perthshire should be congratulated on the notable work of the late Colonel Stewart of Killin in the domain of Gaelic vocal music. No one can dispute that it was the merit and attractiveness of Gaelic song which gave original impetus to the movement, now multifarious in its agencies, which thirty-nine years ago this particular month was set on foot under the denomination of An Comunn Gaidhealach. And it is truth to say that at the beginnings of the movement the Killin Collection of Gaelic songs was perhaps the most valuable of the sources at the time available whence to obtain those beautiful lyrics, which have since captivated all lovers of National Music. It is well to-day thus to remember Colonel Stewart, for besides his enthusiasm for Gaelic song, and probably because of that enthusiasm, he was one of that noble band of patriotic Scots, led and inspired by Professor Blackie, of imperishable memory, whose advocacy of the claims of Gaelic accomplished the

establishment of the Celtic Chair in the University of Edinburgh—a reminiscence which recalls the fact that the first Medallist of the Celtic Class was young Macfarlane, a Perthshire student who was cut off in the prime of his scholarly youth.

Of close kinship to works in the old vernacular are those princelss volumes in which General David Stewart of Garth—*clarum et venerabile nomen*—tells the Homeric story of those Highland Regiments which from Quebec to Waterloo, in the hallowed works of Chatham, “conquered for Britain in every quarter of the world.” A Highland gentleman, speaking the language of his country, he devoted the evening of a busy and distinguished military life to the putting on record of the martial achievements of those men of Gaelic stock whose impulse to battle were those traditions of valour and of sacrifice which were embedded in the language of their sires. To-day in the City of Perth we pay homage to the illustrious memory of David Stewart.

And it is a pleasing duty to acknowledge the enthusiasm and the literary and historical skill with which Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl has supplemented General Stewart's work in her Military History of Perthshire. The Editor, and to a large extent the writer, of these eventful records, the Duchess of Atholl has placed the students of military history, and especially Highland Military History, under perpetual obligation.

Let me too make short but grateful allusion to the recent History of Forthingall by Mr. Alexander Stewart of Glenlyon, a gentleman who has given whole hearted support to An Comunn Gaidhealach since its inauguration right down to the present hour. Mr. Stewart has given us a model of what a local history should seek to be, and when I say with confidence that the volume belongs to the same class as the late Dr. Mackay's “Urquhart and Glemoriston,” it is easy to recognise the superior quality of Mr. Stewart's work. Moran laithean dha!

Similar gratification has to be expressed respecting the work on the Folk lore and History of Strathtay by Mr. James Kennedy, former schoolmaster of Logierait. In spite of the weight of years Mr. Kennedy is as ardent a disciple of our movement as in the far off days, when he conducted the young singers at Logierait to victory at the National Mod, and his book is a worthy addition to the Literature of Perthshire.

Passing reference has already been made to the bitterness of the old time hostility in

powerful quarters to the persistency of Gaelic as a spoken and written tongue. There was, it is true, no actual prohibition, but there were unremitting efforts, nevertheless, gradually to accomplish the death of the language, and looking backward it gives Highlanders cause for gratitude that there were so many in the land, gentle and simple alike, who were resolute, and in a considerable degree successful, in their opposition to the enemies of mother tongue. I cite but one of the many occasions on which the British Parliament demonstrated its determination to extinguish Gaelic. In the year 1795 an Act of Parliament was passed for the erection in the Highlands of what were termed English schools, and the purpose of these schools is declared in the preamble to be the “rooting out of the Irish (that is, the Gaelic) language.” I select this particular instance of the antagonism to Gaelic because of the striking coincidence that the Act was passed in the precise year that the Black Watch—charging it is certain with a Gaelic war cry—made that heroic charge at Guidermansen, which, recapturing the British guns, was rewarded with that symbol of Highland valour, the Red Hackle—the proudest symbol of the soldiery of Perthshire, and I daresay too of the City of Perth, the Scottish home of the gallant successors of the men of Guidermansen. We live, fortunately, in a very different age. There is recognition to-day that local patriotisms are the tributary streams of sound imperial patriotism. And the Parliament of Great Britain made full amends for the stupidities of other days when, in 1918, they passed that Gaelic clause which is steadily operating to restore to its legitimate place in the education of our Highland youth. In the successful operation of the Gaelic clause there was emphatic testimony within these halls in the course of yesterday's junior competitions.

An Comunn Gaidhealach continues its patriotic office as the rallying point of all who are concerned for the maintenance and extension of Gaelic culture. Their work is performed within well defined limits and, very wisely, although occasionally prompted to do so, An Comunn does not seek to invade territory so effectively occupied by other agencies sedulous, like An Comunn itself, for the preservation of all that is of good report in the customs of the Gael. The physical and the picturesque features of Highland life are well and truly sustained by those great Gatherings which, in course of the months of summer and autumn, brighten and enliven the Countryside, and it is fitting that acknowledgement should be made of the

encouragement by the Highland Gatherings to the music of the National Instrument. Just as An Comunn has effectively revived the literary and the musically-vocal departments of Gaelic so the Gatherings, among other laudable activities, have given their place in the national life to the Highland Dress and the Highland Pibroch. The triumph of the Kilt and the Bagpipes is not, indeed, a merely national triumph, for at the great Jamboree both were honoured and applauded by the youth of all nations.

Last week we joined in friendly conference and social intercourse with representatives of the other five Celtic families. The Congress was a complete success, and all who participated in the Celtic Congress realised anew the peculiar Mission of the Celt to the world—a mission, based on true Nationalism, which makes for Culture, Brotherhood, and those and other Idealisms which advance the world towards a better and a happier day. Be it ours—the Scottish Division of the Race—to perform its full share of the beneficent task of the sea-divided Gael.

THE NATIONAL MOD.

The Annual Mod of 1929 was held in the city of Perth during the first week of October. The geographical advantage of Perth is evident as affording a convenient rendezvous for competitors from the North as well as from the South. Remarkable in many respects as was the Mod at Inverness last year, yet the number of entries for the present occasion exceeded those of 1928 by 200. This is a very encouraging feature. It is now five years since this annual function took place in Perth. In that interval there have been striking developments both in the variety of competitions and the numbers of competitors. The same genial and enthusiastic welcome was extended to An Comunn by the city authorities.

A very energetic local Committee have been for many months organising the preparations for the Mod week. Prominent among the members of that Committee are Bailie Peter Baxter, who acted as Secretary, and Chief A. K. Beaton of the Gaelic Society of Perth. The arrangements have been excellently planned and carried out, reflecting great credit on the Committee. The proceedings of Tuesday were devoted to the different competitions for the Juniors. Although the entries were very high, yet owing to an outbreak of scarlet fever, The Oban High School Junior Choir were pre-

vented from coming, also the children entered from Tobermory Higher Grade School. This unfortunate circumstance no doubt interfered in a measure with the size of the competitions. The quality, however, was extraordinarily good, and received great commendation from the judges both of music and language.

In the vocal section the adjudicators were:—For music—Mr. Arthur Collingwood, F.R.C.O. Aberdeen, and Mr. H. Plunket Greene, London. For Gaelic—Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow, and Mr. Angus L. MacDonald, H.M.I.S. Kilmalcolm. Dr. D. J. Macleod, H.M.I.S., Inverness, took up duty on Thursday morning. The judges in the oral delivery classes, were:—Mrs. Alasdair Campbell, Ibrox; the Rev. John MacInnes, M.A., Connel; Mr. Angus MacMillan, Scotstoun; and the Rev. Alexander MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow. Miss M. Martin and Mr. David H. Nelson, Perth, acted as accompanists.

Mr. Collingwood, who, incidentally, was marking his first appearance at a Mod, remarked while giving his comments in one of the classes that An Comunn was taking great care in preserving the lovely Hebridean songs through the medium of those Festivals.

Mr. H. Plunket Greene, adjudicating in the choral singing competition, remarked that the singing of these choirs was a very good illustration of the truism that if they would only cheer up they would do twice as well. One or two of the choirs were really cheerful; others looked as if the whole thing was rather of a penance, and they suffered in consequence. Lack of spirits were the chief faults of that class.

The results were as follows:—

JUNIOR SECTION

VOCAL MUSIC

Solo Singing—Boys—(Songs prescribed, "Tobar na Traghaid" and "Caol Muile")—1, Duncan J. MacQueen, Easdale—86 for music and 90 for Gaelic—176. (Promise of a very big tone). 2, Roderick MacKay, Inverness, 88-87—175 (Fine sense of phrase moulding and rhythm). 3, Digby MacKenzie, Inverness, 84-88—172.

Duet Singing—Test piece, "O tha mo dhùil riut"—1, Misses Sylvia Cameron and Elsie Duncan, Inverness, 92-93—185. (Good colour and tone and admirable blend). 2, Miss Irene MacKenzie and Digby MacKenzie Inverness, 90-94—184. (Visible as well as musical unity. Here, two voices with but a single thought and speaking as one).

Solo Singing—Girls—Prescribed Songs "Fàil ill o" and "Ba ho mo leanabh"—1, Miss Mary MacDonald, Kingussie, 90-95—185; 2 and 3 (equal), Miss Flora MacFadyen, Greenock, 88-95—183, and Miss Jean E. MacDougall, Aberfeldy, 89-94—183.

Solo Singing—Girls—Prescribed songs, "Cha dirich min gleannan" and "Ho ro chaidil m' eudail"—1. (and the Silver Medal of An Comunn) Miss Mary

Campbell, Connel, 88-95—183; 2, Miss Margaret A. Mackay, Laxdale, 86-96—182; 3, Miss Etta M. MacDonald, Laxdale, 85-96—181.

Solo Singing—Boys—The songs prescribed are "Seinneam clu nam fear ùr," and "Cruachan Beann"—1, 41 and Silver Medal of An Comunn, Colin MacLeod, Inverness; 2, Colin Campbell, Greenock; 3, Alasdair MacLeod, Inverness.

Duet Singing of the song, "Duanag a' chibeir"—1, Misses Janet MacGilp and Margaret MacGilp, 94-98—192; 2, Miss Margaret M'Lellan and Alex. M'Lellan, Toberonochy, 88-96—184.

Choral Singing—1 (and Mrs. Miller's Trophy)—Greenock Gaelic Parish Church Junior Choir "B," 90-96—186; 2, Inverness Junior Gaelic Choir "B," 88-95—183.

Solos—Open only to former first prize-winners—Prescribed songs, "Chi mi bhuam" and "A Dhomhuill Bhig"—1, Colin MacLeod, Inverness, 95-96—191; 2, Miss Margaret MacGilp, Greenock, 93-97—190; 3, Miss Janet MacGilp, Greenock, 93-95—188.

Solos—Open to Girls over 16 and under 18 years of age—1, Miss Mairi MacLeod, Greenock, 98-92—190; 2, Miss Annie S. MacLellan, Greenock, 93-87—180.

Action Song (Paisley Highlanders' Association Prize)—Laxdale Junior Gaelic Choir, 98-95—193.

Choral Singing, with or without chorus—"Tig'n n mach a Steornablaigh" and "Tha mo bhreacan fuich fo'n dile"—1, Laxdale (Lewis) Junior Choir. (Real character; sung in one piece; free and delightful lilt; good musicianship), 95-98—193; 2, Inverness Junior Choir (nice rhythm; happy expression, but the trebles might have made more)—88-95—183.

Traditional Singing of Unpublished Song—1 (equal), Janet MacGilp, Greenock, 89-96—185 and Jessie M'Arthur, Toberonochy, 90-95—185; 3, Colin MacLeod, Inverness, 89-95—184.

Unison Singing for Choirs—"Tighearn og Locha Buidhe" and "Puir a Beul"—1, Laxdale Junior Choir (delightful freedom and rhythm; sense of giving message; forgot themselves), 95-98—193; 2, Inverness Junior Choir "A" (very good, nice rhythm; light and shade pronounced), 90-95—185.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading with expression a piece of Prose or Poetry by native speakers—1, Miss Effie Robertson, Blair Atholl; 2, Miss Janet MacGilp, Greenock; 3 and 4 (equal), Miss Morag Robertson, Greenock, and Chrissie MacKenzie, Toberonochy; 5 and 6 (equal), Mary Robertson, Greenock, and Catherine A. Smith, Laxdale.

Reading with expression a piece of Prose or Poetry by Learners—1, Miss Catherine Stewart, Blair Atholl; 2, Miss Kathleen R. MacDonald, Kilmacolm; 3, James Anderson, Greenock.

Reading at Sight—1, Miss Mary A. Smith, Laxdale; 2, Miss Murdina Reid, Laxdale; 3 and 4 (equal), Miss Johann MacLeod and Miss Margaret A. MacKay, Laxdale; 5, Catherine A. Smith, Laxdale.

Reciting from Memory—1, Miss Effie Robertson; 2, Miss Chrissie MacKenzie, Toberonochy; 3, Miss Johann MacLeod.

Conversation—1, Johann MacLeod, Laxdale; 2, Joey Carson, Laxdale; 3, Margaret MacGilp, Greenock.

Repeating 23rd Prose Psalm, or verses, 22 to 30, Chapter 12, St. Luke—(Boys)—1, Alex. J. MacIver; 2, Colin Campbell, Greenock; 3, Colin A. M'Leod, Laxdale. Girls—1, Murdina MacMillan, Laxdale; 2, Mary MacGilp, Greenock; 3, Eileen MacLean, Greenock.

Narrative based on local incident, tradition, or legend, followed by conversation—1, Mary A. Smith, Laxdale; 2, Johann MacLeod, Laxdale.

Excellence in Conversation—1, Effie Robertson, Blair Atholl; 2, Morag Robertson, Greenock.

JUNIOR SECTION.

LITERARY RESULTS.

Group A—1, Donald J. MacLeod, Sir E. Scott School, Tarbert, Harris; 2, Charles MacLean, Broadford Public School; 3, Murdo E. MacDonald, Sir E. Scott School, Tarbert, Harris; 4, Mary A. MacPherson, Broadford Public School; 5, Duncan MacLennan, Sir E. Scott School, Harris; 6, Donald MacLeod, Sir E. Scott School, Harris; 7, Mary MacLennan, Drimnin; 8, John A. Robertson, Broadford Public School; 9, Barbara Robertson, Broadford Public School; 10, Allan Paterson, Sir E. Scott School, Harris.

Group B—1, Hilda Miles, Oban High School; 2, Margaret Black, Oban High School; 3, Mary MacPhee, Tobermory H.G. School; 4, John Cameron, Oban High School; 5, Isabella Matheson, Broadford Public School; 6, John S. MacLeod, Portree Secondary School; 7, Christina Campbell, Oban High School.

Group C (1)—1, Calum Iain N. MacLeod, Knockbain School, Kirkhill; 2, James Robertson, Broadford Public School; 3, Ronald Robertson, Broadford Public School; 4 and 5 (equal), Annie MacIntyre, Public School, and Isabella MacKenzie, Oban High School; 6, John MacLean, Royal Academy, Inverness.

Group C (2)—1, John Nicolson, Portree Secondary School; 2 and 3 (equal), Annie MacDonald and Mary MacDonald, Portree Secondary School; 4 Angus MacDougall, Portree Secondary School; 5 and 6 (equal), Calum Iain N. MacLeod, Knockbain Public School, and Donald Bain, Portree S. School.

Group D (1)—1, Kenneth G. Cameron, Portree Secondary School; 2, Joan Nisbet, Oban High School; 3, Donald Cameron, Oban High School; 4, Mary Cumming, Portree Secondary School; 5, John M. Urquhart, Oban High School; 6, Mary MacAskill, Oban High School.

Group D (2)—1, Joan Nisbet, Oban High School; 2, Mary MacAskill, Oban High School; 3, Donald Kennedy, Oban High School; 4, 5, and 6 (equal), Angus MacAskill, Royal Academy, Inverness; John M. Urquhart and Christina MacSween, Oban High School.

Group D (3)—1, John MacDougall, Portree Secondary School; 2, Joan Nisbet, Oban High School; 3 and 4 (equal), Elizabeth MacPherson, Fort William H.G. School, and Joan Kerr, Fort William H.G. School; 5, Mary Cumming, Portree Secondary School; 6, Chrissie MacPherson, Oban High School.

Group E (1)—1, Catherine Ferguson, Dunvegan; 2, Mary A. MacGregor, Lochdonhead; 3, Catherine Chisholm, Gairloch; 4, Maggie M. MacLean, Earlish Skye; 5, Dolina MacKay, Geocrab (Harris).

Group E (2)—1, Mary MacIntyre, Auchnacraig; 2, Mary A. MacGregor, Lochdonhead; 3, Johan Morrison, Marig (Harris), all of Jordanhill Training College; 4, Annie M. MacVicar, Balmartin (N. Uist); 5, Euphemia Robertson, Broadford, Skye.

Group F—1, Catherine L. Rankin, Oban High School Continuation Class; 2, Morag Cameron, Oban High School Continuation Class; 3, Annie Black, Oban High School Continuation Class.

Group G—(Boys)—1, Harry R. MacKinnon, Portree Secondary School; 2, John MacKinnon, Portree Secondary School; 3, Lachlan Matheson, Portree Secondary School; 4, Angus MacDougall, Portree Secondary School.

Group G—(Girls)—1, Sarah Kennedy, Tobermory H.G. School; 2, Isabel Paterson, Tobermory H.G. School; 3, Donaldina MacPhee, Oban High School; 4, Hilda Miles, Oban High School.

PRIZES TO TEACHERS.

Group A (Average)—1, John MacPherson, M.A., Broadford; 2, Angus MacDonald, Sir E. Scott School, Harris; 3, Miss Harriet Stewart, Drimnin. Aggregate—1, Angus MacDonald, Sir E. Scott School, Harris; 2, Miss G. L. MacDonald, M.A., Tobermory H.G. School; 3, John MacPherson, M.A., Broadford P. School.

Group B—(Average)—1, Miss M. D. MacQueen, Oban High School; 2, Miss Harriet Stewart, Drimnin; 3, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School. Aggregate—1, Miss G. L. MacDonald, M.A., Tobermory H.G. School; 2, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 3, Angus MacDonald, Sir E. Scott School, Harris.

Group C—(Average)—1, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 2, John MacPherson, M.A., Broadford P. School; 3, Angus MacDonald, Sir E. Scott School, Harris. Aggregate—1, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 2, Miss M. D. MacQueen, Oban High School; 3, Angus MacDonald, Sir E. Scott School, Harris.

Group D—(Average)—1, Miss M. D. MacQueen, Oban High School; 2, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 3, D. MacPhail, M.A., Fort William H.G. School. Aggregate—1, Donald Graham, M.A., Royal Academy, Inverness; 2, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 3, Miss M. D. MacQueen, Oban High School.

SENIOR SECTION—LITERATURE.

Adjudicators:—Mr. James Thomson, M.A., Bayble; Rev. T. S. MacPherson, Campbeltown; Rev. G. N. M. Collins, B.A., Greenock; Mr. Angus Murray, Taynult; Rev. Alistair MacLean, B.D., Daviot; Mr. John MacPherson, M.A., Broadford.

A Gold Pendant to most distinguished prize-winner in Literary Competitions. Former winners debarred—George E. Marjoribanks, Dalmally.

Poem on any subject. Prizes—(1) Chaplet; (2), £5—1, Duncan Johnston, Islay; 2, Kenneth MacDonald, Cont.

Essay on "Gaelic Dialects." Prize, £5—Alex. Stewart, Aberfeldy.

One Short Story not exceeding 500 words. Prize, £2 2s.—Duncan Johnston.

Gaelic Story, extending to 2000 words or more. Prize, £5, presented by the Gaelic Society of Glasgow—George E. Marjoribanks, Dalmally.

Gaelic Dialogue, not more than 15 minutes in delivery. Prize, £5. "Archd. MacCulloch Memorial" Prize presented by Ceilidh nan Gàidheal—1, Duncan Johnston; 2, Kenneth MacDonald.

Essay on any subject. Prize, £5—1, Duncan Johnston; 2, George E. Marjoribanks.

During the evening a concert was held during which the opportunity was taken to present the prizes won throughout the day. The artistes at the concert were the successful competitors.

During an interval Lord James Stewart Murray, who presided, said he thought they might congratulate themselves that they had been able to attract so many competitors in the junior classes of this Mod. Nowadays, he thought, children were very important people, and they knew now that the children here could make a very pleasant noise. (Laughter.) He supposed all civilised countries put great importance on their national song. He thought

Scotland had for a long time been backward so far as Gaelic music was concerned. Of late years, owing, he supposed, to better education, there had been a greater appreciation of music with the result that the standard at their National Mod had been increasing yearly.

Mrs. A. K. Beaton thereafter presented the prizes, and was awarded a vote of thanks on the motion of the chairman.

Dr. Neil Ross, Laggan, said they had listened that day to much traditional music, to melodies that had lingered for hundreds of years. The juvenile had a very important place at this moment, and if they neglected the juvenile, and if they did not encourage him by training, their cause was a lost cause. Any failure in support would snap the final link.

Lord James, continued the speaker, with the happiness of his personality, could get into touch with all. Although his interests were in this county, his heart was in their cause, and they had no better supporter. He would call on them all to award him a very hearty vote of thanks.

WEDNESDAY.

The official Opening Ceremony was held in the City Hall at noon, when a representative gathering took place. The president, Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., presided, and delivered the Presidential address. The proceedings were opened with a Gaelic prayer by Rev. Dr. Neil Ross, who also gave a Gaelic oration at a later stage of the same meeting. In the absence of the Lord Provost, who along with other magistrates of Perth, were present in an official capacity at the Church Union ceremony in Edinburgh, Bailie Peter Baxter, a loyal friend and supporter of the Gaelic cause, extended a hearty welcome to An Comunn, and to all attending the Mod.

Mr. Davidson, a delegate from the Isle of Man gave a brief but graphic narrative as to the state of Gaelic (Manx) in the Isle of Man. He referred to the fact that in the little kingdom of Man they had had Home Rule and Women's Suffrage for ages past.

On Wednesday evening a brilliant scene was presented in the City Hall when the officials and competitors were accorded a civic reception by Lord Provost Dempster and the Magistrates.

For the occasion the hall, under the treatment of Messrs Love & Sons, Perth, was transformed almost completely. Tastefully arranged as an extensive lounge, and liberally decorated with tartans, it made a fine setting for a com-

pany of almost 1000, many of whom were attired in Highland dress.

In according the company a welcome to Perth, Lord Provost Dempster, who was attended by the Magistrates, expressed his gratification that such remarkable progress could have been made in the four years intervening since the last visit of the Mod to Perth. He himself did not know anything of Gaelic, but he was quite sure all those of them who were descended from the splendid race must, from a matter of sentiment, have the greatest desire to see the language preserved. He thought it would be one of the greatest losses the country could sustain if their beautiful language were lost. From the point of view of culture the languages were a necessity.

Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell returned thanks to the Lord Provost. Ever since they entered that hospitable city, he said, they had felt at home.

The evening was spent in a social capacity.

JUDGE'S REMARKS.

Adjudicating in the solo singing class for male voices, Mr. H. Plunket Greene, London, said he felt a great deal of diffidence in pronouncing judgment on people who were singing their native songs unaccompanied. But, after all, they did the same over in Ireland, and he thought unaccompanied songs went on the same lines whatever country they belonged to. Although English folk-songs were as far away from the Gaelic and Irish as they could be, they still had the same ideas. The English folk-song singer, however, kept his face expressionless. He never knew whether it was part of the ritual of folk-song singing, but at the same time while he was listening to the singers singing a song of praise to their home, or to their lady-love, he felt there ought to be something coming from their eyes at the same time. Whatever expression was in a singer's face came out in his voice, and he would defy the Archangel Gabriel to prove otherwise.

Mr. Angus L. Macdonald, H.M.I.S., Kilmacoll, adjudicating the Gaelic in the Oban and Lorne Commemoration Medal competition, said he was sure after having listened to the competitors all would agree with him that the standard had been exceptionally high. Mr. J. F. Campbell, who collected the "West Highland Tales," said about seventy years ago that he did not believe there were ten people living who would write 100 lines of Gaelic off hand and spell them all the same way. He (Mr. Macdonald) thought all would agree with him that there were at least forty who

could pronounce Gaelic, and pronounce it practically all the same way. What he had heard that morning was the best he had listened to since he started coming to the Mods.

VOICE AN INSTRUMENT.

Mr. Arthur Collingwood, F.R.C.O., Aberdeen, the adjudicator of music in this class, counselled the competitors that it was their responsibility to make their voice more instrumental. They had to make their own instrument, and he urged them to make it a good one. There was no use in bringing their temperamental and poetic gifts unless they were instrumental, and they had had several cases where the poetic ideas of the singers were far ahead of their voices. There was a love song among the pieces that morning, and, strange to say, it was very popular with the male competitors. He observed, however, that there were two approaches to it. Some of the men were tender and persuasive, rather hesitant and modest, as most men were when they approached a lady. Then the others were inclined to be compulsive rather than persuasive. It sometimes came off, but in his personal experience the persuasive method won more than the compulsive way.

REMARKABLE FEATURES

Both adjudicators for the male and female classes of the James Grant Memorial competition were full of praise for the singing. The marks, said Mr. Plunket Greene, in the female section, were the closest he had ever seen, both for music and Gaelic. From all candidates they got a fine spirit and understanding. The features were rather remarkable in that there were one or two candidates who, by their personality, although not highly gifted vocally, gave to their work a distinction.

THE AWARDS

The results were :—

Solo Singing (Male), confined to members of An Comunn, branches, and affiliated societies—1, Donald M'Isaac, Jura, 86.98—184; 2 (equal), Roderick Campbell, Minard, 90.00—180, and John S. Mackenzie, Achterneed (Gaelic very good), 84.96—180.

Oban and Lorn Association War Commemoration Medal (open) for best rendering of song by Lorn bards—1 and 2 (equal), James C. MacPhee, Glasgow, and Donald M'Isaac, Jura, 89.96—185.

Solo Singing (Female), confined to members of An Comunn, branches and affiliated societies—1, Miss Margaret MacInnes, Glasgow, 90.99—189; 2, Miss Bessie Campbell, Kilmartin, 90.97—187.

Gaelic Folk-Songs (best rendering two unpublished Gaelic folk-song airs)—1, Mrs. Colin MacLeod, Inverness, 91.94—185; 2 (equal), Miss Cathie M. Clark, Glasgow, 89.95—184, and Miss Nancy MacDonald, Oban, 89.95—184.



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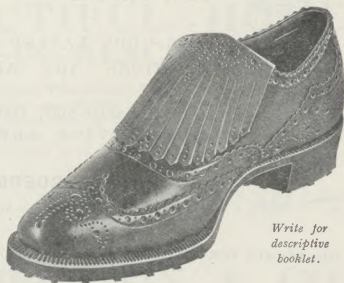
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Best rendering of two of Mrs. Kennedy Fraser's "Songs of the Hebrides"—1, Miss Madge Campbell Brown, Lochgilphead, 90-97—187; 2, Miss Mary M. Colquhoun, Glasgow, 89-94—183.

Solo Singing of song connected with county of Inverness, "James Grant Memorial Prize" (Female)—1, Miss Kirsty F. MacLennan, London, 91-95—186; 2, Miss Nancy MacDonald, Oban, 89-96—185. Male Class—1, James C. MacPhee, 96-100—196; 2, Donald M'Isaac, Jura, 88-100—188.

Solo Song for revival of district songs—1, Donald M'Isaac, Jura; 2 and 3, Miss Cathie M. Clark, Glasgow; and Alex. N. Nicolson, Greenock; 4 (equal), Miss Cissie B. Ross, Glasgow; Mrs. Flora MacLennan, London; Miss Cairna MacDonald, Oban, and Mrs. Colin MacLeod, Inverness.

THURSDAY.

The gold medals in the vocal section have been won by Miss Bessie Campbell, Dornie, and Mr. James C. MacPhee, Glasgow.

The gold medal is taken on the aggregate of three classes, and Miss Campbell had an aggregate of 561 marks out of a total of 600. The runner-up, Miss Margaret MacDonald, Inverness, had 557, while Miss Jean Cameron, Fort-William, was third with 555. Mr. MacPhee's aggregate was 571. Mr. Donald MacIsaac, Jura, was second with 559; and J. B. Munro, Aberdeen, third with 557.

The Glasgow Skye Association gold medal for the highest aggregate in specified oral competitions was won by Miss Catherine L. Rankine, Oban, who had 286 marks out of a possible 320.

Vocal Music—Female Solos (Oran Mór)—"Oran do Shìr Eachann MacGilleathain"—1, Miss Bessie Campbell, Dornie, 93-95—188.

Solo Singing (With Clarsach Accompaniment)—1, Mrs. Annabel Currie, Edinburgh, 97-99—186; 2, Miss Mary M. Colquhoun, Glasgow, 91-92—183; 3, Miss Cathie A. MacDonald, London, 89-91—180.

Male Solos (Oran Mór)—"Cumha Eachainn Ruaidh nan Cath"—1, J. B. Munro, Aberdeen, 92-95—187.

Male Solos (Gold Medal Class)—"Anna Ghaolach Ghlinn Cro" and song of own choice—1, James C. MacPhee, Glasgow, 94-97—191; 2, Alexander N. Nicolson, Greenock, 89-97—186.

Female Solos (Gold Medal Class)—"Tha mo chridhe trom, trom," and song of own choice—1, Miss Margaret MacDonald, Inverness, 94-96—190; 2, Miss Bessie Campbell, Dornie, 93-96—189.

Senior Solo Singing of "Puirt a Beul"—1 and 2 (equal), Mrs. Bessie Shaw, Edinburgh, 94-91—185, and Miss Madge Campbell Brown, Lochgilphead, 92-93—185; 3, H. Crawford MacAlpine, Ardrishaig, 90-93—183.

Rural Choirs—Pieces, "Till, Till Oigh mo ruin" and "Chunnaic mi'n damh donn"—1 and Lorn Shield, Badenoch Gaelic Choir, Gaelic, 91; music, 92—183½; 2 (equal), Glenorchy Gaelic Choir, 94-89—183; Toberonochy Gaelic Choir, 95-89—183.

Oral Delivery—Ancient Folk Tale—1, Duncan Johnston, Islay; 2, Donald MacMillan, Kinlochell.

Recitations (Gold Medal Classes)—Poem, "Tìr mhaiseach nan Cruach"—1, Miss Catherine L. Rankin, Oban; 2 (equal), Roderick Campbell, Minard, and George E. Marjoribanks, Dalmally. Prose Piece, "MacMhaoin a' Chnaip"—1, George E. Marjoribanks, Dalmally; 2 (equal), Miss Catherine L. Rankin, Oban, and Roderick Campbell, Minard.

Original Gaelic Speech—1, Miss Catherine A. Rankin, Oban; 2, Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban.

Reading Unfamiliar Prose—1, Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban; 2, Miss Nan Black, Oban.

Recitation of Original Poetry—1, John MacFadyen, Corkerhill; 2 (equal), Duncan Johnston, Islay, and Donald MacMillan, Kinlochell.

Best Acted Dialogue (By Two Performers)—J, Mrs. MacDonald and Allan MacLean, Greenock, 95; 2, Miss Helen MacGregor and Miss C. MacDonald, Pitlochrie; 3, Alex. N. Nicolson and William MacKenzie, Greenock, 85.

FRIDAY.

Friday evening was mostly devoted to choral work.

At the close of the afternoon session Mr. Collingwood said that in many cases their highest expectations had been exceeded, and it said a great deal for that movement that they found rural choirs giving pieces which a few years ago were test pieces for the best choirs. What they had heard was an eloquent testimony to the excellent work which the teachers were doing in the Highlands and Hebrides.

Mr. H. Plunkett Greene said that he had enjoyed the Mod immensely. He praised the standard of the work he had heard.

Dr. D. J. MacLeod, the Gaelic adjudicator homologated Mr. Collingwood's remarks. They could all be proud of the standard that had been attained in the old language.

Friday's results were:—

Solo Singing—(female voices)—Open only to former Mod gold medalists and first prize winners for singing—1, Nancy MacDonald, Oban, 96-97—193.

Solo Singing (male voices)—Open to former Mod gold medalists and first prize winners for singing—1, J. B. Munro, Aberdeen, 95-98—193.

Duet Singing—1, M. Maitland and Allan MacLean, Greenock, 94-96—190; 2, Margaret MacDonald and Duncan MacKenzie, Inverness, 90-97—187.

Instrumental Music—Playing of Gaelic Song Air, March, Strathspey and Reel on the Pianoforte—1, Jean E. MacDougall, Aberfeldy, 88; 2, Catherine Robertson, Aberfeldy, 85; 3, William MacDonald, Aberfeldy, 73.

Playing of Gaelic Song Air, Strathspey and Reel on the Violin—1, Iain MacNicol, Clydebank; 2, George Coull, Kenmore; 3, J. Clark, Blairgowrie.

Quartette Singing (Mixed voices), S.A.T.B.—Two songs, "O'a tu 's gur a tu" (A' Choisir Chùil) and "Creag Ghuanaich" (Coisir a' Mhoid I.)—1, Campbelltown G.M.A. Quartette, No. 2, 184-89—273; 2, Campbelltown G.M.A. Quartette, No. 1, 178-93—271.

Quartette, singing of the song, "The Island Sheiling Song," arranged by H. S. Robertson (Curwen)—Male voices only—1, Campbeltown G.M.A. Quartette, No. 2, 93-87—180; 2, Greenock Gaelic Choir, Quartette, No. 2, 88-89—177.

Choral Singing of the Songs, "Bi falbh o'n Uinneig" (J. N. MacConochie) (Mod Music) and "Crodh Chaillein" in three part harmony (Coisir a' Mhoid II.)—Female voices only—1, Oban Gaelic Choir, 188-97—285; 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, 184-94—278; London Gaelic Choir, 189-89—278.

Choral Singing of a song, with or without chorus, in three or four part harmony—Male voices only—The two songs prescribed are "C'ait an caidil an ribhinn" (M. G. MacCallum) and "Am bradar a chunnail Anna"—1, Greenock Gaelic Choir, 188-191—379; 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, 189-190—373.

Choral Singing of a song, with or without chorus, in four part harmony. The songs prescribed are "Tog orm mo Phìob" (Nesbitt) and "Tha e thighinn" (N. MacDonald)—1, Inverness Gaelic Musical Association, 191-191—382; 2 and 3 (equal), London Gaelic Choir, 185-193—378, and Campbeltown Gaelic Association, 190-188—178.

CELTIC ART DESIGN COMPETITION.

Adjudicators—Miss Elspeth Galloway, D.A., Perth, and Mr. Colin Sinclair, M.A., Glasgow.

Design for a Poster to advertise the Annual Mod—Prize, £5—1, Miss Augusta Lamont of Knockdow.

Leather Work. Pochette. For reproduction of Design No. 171B, "Kilkerran, Argyll." Prizes (1) £1 10s.; (2) £1; (3) 10s.—1, Miss Joan MacVicar, Lochgair; 2, Miss Mary MacLachlan, Lochgair; 3, Miss Joan MacDonald, Arisaig.

Needlework. Reproduction in colour of design No. 159. Prizes—(1) £1 10s.; (2) £1; (3) 10s.—1, Miss Winnie Murchie, Ayr; 2, Miss Margaret M. Veitch, Lochgair; 3, Miss Margaret H. MacColl, Glasgow.

The Mod was fittingly closed on Friday night with a grand Gaelic concert in the City Hall, when the trophies were presented to the winners by Her Grace the Duchess of Athol. The Duke of Atholl presided and said that as a Highlander he was glad and proud to have been asked to preside at this great meeting, and as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Perth to have the opportunity of still further emphasising the welcome that had already been extended to An Comunn Gaidhealach. As one of the early members of the Association, he could not help looking back on the first days of its existence and contrasting them with these present days, when, from small beginnings, this great and popular organisation had been built up. There were two reasons why they had succeeded. The first was that they had a good cause, and the other that, like the cobbler, they had stuck to their last. Whatever their private opinions, they had never allowed themselves to be tempted away from the objects of their genesis.

Religious differences did not affect them because, broadly speaking, they were a deeply

religious people, and he could not imagine any one who was not imbued with the principles of Christianity joining them. They had only one political platform, and that was love of their native land, and the desire to preserve all that was best in it.

To lose Gaelic would, he thought, be a national disaster, and An Comunn made its retention its first object.

An interesting part of the programme which followed was "The Crowning of the Bard."

Their Graces were thanked on the call of Sheriff MacMaster Campbell.

THE CELTIC CONGRESS.

The Pan-Celtic Congress of the Celtic races took place in Glasgow during the week from the 23rd to the 30th of September. A civic welcome on a magnificent scale in the City Chambers was extended to the Congress by the Lord Provost and Corporation of the City. The Lord Provost, in a speech which was both happy and genial, acknowledged the rich contribution that Gaels had made and were making to the life of the great city. Acknowledgment was duly made by Professor Douglas Hyde the President of the Congress, and a vote of thanks to the civic authorities was neatly proposed in the Gaelic language by the Rev. Dr. MacLean Watt of Glasgow Cathedral. The reception inaugurated the proceedings of the congress in a most auspicious manner.

It was not only the civic authorities who welcomed the congress. The University extended its hospitality by giving accommodation in the Class Room of Humanity to all the sessions throughout the week. In the absence of Principal Sir Donald Macalister, Bart., his place was taken in welcoming the delegates by Professor Taylor Jones. Professor Jones read a message from the Principal, who expressed the hope that the gathering would strengthen the bonds that united the Celtic races, and impress the community with the interest and significance of Celtic lore.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Dr. Douglas Hyde delivered an address which was marked by clearness of vision, hopefulness for the future, and an amazing grasp of the whole situation in Ireland. He said that in his opinion, the tie which bound them together as brother Celts, whether from France, Wales, Scotland, or Ireland, was not so much a social as a linguistic one. The habit of speaking languages which were neither Teutonic

nor Latin, but which all came from the same original Celtic root, was the thing that connected them most closely. Another thing that tended to give them a certain similarity of outlook was that they were all minorities in the midst of majorities—majorities, too, which were not always friendly to their speech. One of his colleagues of thirty years ago, continued Dr. Hyde, once said that if through some linguistic cataclysm the Irish had been forced to end their sentences with the verb, as the Germans did, instead of beginning with it as they did themselves, half the race would have died of apoplexy in their hurry to come to the point and get out what they had to say. Languages undoubtedly affected character, and all Celts were affected in nearly the same way. That brought about a certain unity, and their endeavour had always been to make their movement, as far as possible, a unified movement. Yet, linguistically, it divided naturally into halves—a Cumbrian and a Gaelic half. Wales, Brittany, and Cornwall went linguistically together, but not in matters of religion. Scotland, Ireland, and Man fell linguistically into a second group, but these again were unfortunately divided by religion, so that their world interests were not always the same.

But Ireland and Gaelic Scotland were both in speech and blood truly near kinsmen. They might be linguistic cousins of the Welsh and Britons, but they were much more than cousins of each other. They were brothers, and brothers they intended to remain. They would allow neither politics nor belief to sever them. The Irish farmer and the Highland crofter were one in their language, one in their outlook, one in their problems, and if the Irish emigrant had done more than his share in building up the United States, it was the Highlander who must be most largely credited with the making of Canada.

In relating at length the stern fight they had had to establish the teaching of the Irish language in Irish schools, Dr. Hyde observed that in Saorstát Éireann there were about 5700 primary schools and about 13,000 teachers. The Provisional Government of the Free State in 1922 completely revolutionised the work of these schools. It was stated by a large and representative conference which deliberated for a long time and reported in 1926 that an essential part of the educational aim of the Irish Government was "the strengthening of the national fibre by giving the language, history, music, and tradition of Ireland their natural place in the life of the Irish schools." This was nothing short of a complete revolution, for

the strengthening of the national fibre in this way was just the one thing that was most carefully provided, not for, but against under the old regime. How fast the language was dying out about the year 1880 his hearers might judge from the fact that out of 11,300 persons in Cork city who could speak Irish, only 4 per cent. were under twenty years of age. The case was worse in Limerick where, out of 2700 Irish speakers, only 52 were under twenty. It was only seven short years since a native Irish Government proceeded to change all that. They then inaugurated a scheme for the teaching of Irish to the primary teachers, but attendance was optional. The scheme in a reduced form was continued in the following years, and was a great success.

In concluding his address, Dr. Hyde said that in his opinion Ireland was making to-day one of the most adventurous and extraordinary experiments ever made in Europe. It was the daring attempt to revive and restore to use as the national language a speech that had almost been killed out, a speech that was to all intents and purposes dead. The difficulty of the attempt was unparalleled. The bulk of the teachers knew nothing of the language, had, in fact, under the old regime, been taught to despise it, and the majority of their pupils knew even less than they. The Government had within seven years introduced Irish into every primary school in Ireland. They had acted with sagacity and tenacity as well as the highest courage in this attempt to re-create the Irish nation through its language, and the nation was bound to reap its reward a hundred-fold later on from the sense of national pride, and the consciousness of nationhood that was bound to be engendered in the next generation, if not in this.

Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Hyde said that the Gaels in Scotland had no desire to be autonomous. They were quite content to be members of the Scottish nation, and were on excellent terms with their Lowland countrymen. One of the most hopeful features of the Celtic language for Scotland was that a considerable number of Lowlanders were now busily acquiring the language.

The Rev. G. W. Mackay, D.D., presided over the afternoon session, when papers were submitted by the Rev. George Calder and Dr. Myles Dillon, a son of Mr. John Dillon, the well-known Irish politician. Dr. Mackay, urging that a new history of Scotland should be written from a Gaelic angle, said they must not be content with the preservation of Gaelic

for the Scottish Highlands. They must aspire to make Scotland bi-lingual.

Speaking on "The Highland Chief as Portrayed by Contemporary Poets," Dr. Calder said that the Highland chief had survived tolerably intact. One reason he might suggest for this fact was that in reducing their power in order to subject them to Scottish rule, native chiefs disciplined each other, and seldom were they too severe. Even in flagrant cases of treachery and rebellion the Crown acted with extraordinary leniency.

Dr. Dillon, who is a lecturer at University College, Dublin, spoke on "An Outline of the History of Irish Studies."

On Wednesday, the 25th, papers were delivered on "The Present position of the Celtic Language," for Ireland by Lord Ashbourne, for Wales by Dr. Hartwell Jones, and for Scotland by Rev. Malcolm Macleod, M.A. Mr. Macleod pointed out that Gaelic was being systematically taught in 315 public schools in the Highlands. Twelve years ago it was being systematically taught in less than a score. A larger number of Highland children were able to read and write their mother tongue than ever before. Mr. Macleod deplored the fact that the rise of Gaelic in public worship was dying out in the north. Mr. Malcolm Macleod an ex-President of An Comunn, in leading the discussion on the Rev. Malcolm Macleod's paper, while corroborating all that the speaker had said, laid fresh emphasis on the need for a vast improvement in the economic position of the Highlands as a condition of the language being kept alive.

The programme for the afternoon comprised a lecture by Dr. W. F. Butler on, "Ireland and Wales—a Contrast and some Causes," and a lecture by D. J. Macleod, D.Litt., on the standardisation of Gaelic pronunciation. Dr. Macleod gave a clear and most able exposition of the richness of Gaelic in vowel sounds. He illustrated his lecture by numerous examples from French. Mr. John Macdonald, M.A., opened the discussion.

On Thursday, "The Clan as an Historical Unit," was the subject of an address delivered by Mr. George Moonan.

In the 5th century Ireland consisted of seven kingdoms in each one of which there were two special clans with special privileges, and from these clans the rulers of the kingdom were selected. The chiefs of these clans remained the acknowledged leaders of all the clans comprised in the kingdom down to the break-up of the Gaelic system in the 17th century. Rivalries, disputes, and fighting might occur

between different representatives of these families, but no usurper appeared outside the recognised families.

In consequent debate on the subject, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell said that the course of the clan system in each country ran very differently. The reasons which brought the clan period to a termination in Scotland were quite separate and different from those which existed in Ireland. So far as Scotland was concerned, the point at which the clan system might be regarded as terminating was the abolition of the Lordship of the Isles about 1460.

AIG MOD PHEAIRT.

Bha mise aig Mòd Pheairt agus is 's ann ari an aobhar sin a dh' iarr an t-Ollamh Niall Ros, fear-deas-chaidh "A' Ghaideil," orm facal no dhà a sgrìobhadh air mo bheachd air an iomairt a bh' ann, agus 's e a' chabhaig a chuir an Sgitheanach còir ud orm a tha 'n deidh mo chur 'n am bhreislich cho mor 's nach' eil fhios agam co dhìu is ann aig toiseach no deireadh laithean a' Mhòid a nì mi toiseach toiseachaidh, ach is coma. Cha mhor is d' fhiach mo bheachd sa co dhìu agus bithidh gach duine 'n a bheachd fhein air Mòd Pheairt a sguir Di-sathuirne so chaidh ged bhithinn-sa sgrìobhadh gus an dubhadh m' fhiacalan.

So an treas Mòd diag thar fhichead a bha aig A' Chomunn Ghaidhealach, agus ge b'e de na coireachan a dh' fhaodas neach fhaighinn do gach reachd a chuir An Comunn air blàr troimh na bliadhnachan sin, feumaidh gach Gàidheal eadar ceithir rannan ruadha an domhain an seachd beannachd a thoirt orra airson an adhartaig iongantach a thug iad air seinn nan òran Ghàidhlig. Bho chionn bhliadhnachan bha breitheamhan ceoil cho dealasach agus a gheibhte an Albainn a' sgrùdadh oidhirpean nan seinneadairean agus nan coisrean ceoil, agus 'n am beachdsan tha am Mòd gach bliadhna a' toirt am follais Gàidheil agus bana Ghàidheil aig am bheil alt air ceol a cheart cho afhuinneach agus a gheibhear am measg nan Gall agus nan Sasunnach. Agus nach cluinneadh neach sam bith a bha aig Mòd Pheairt am bliadhna firinn an ràda sin?

Tha sinn uile lan chinnteach gur h-ann ri òigridh na Gàidhealtachd a dh' fheumas sinn ar sùil a thogail ann an co-cheangal ri cumail suas cànain tìr nam beann, agus airson iomadh bliadhna bha e duilich do'n Chomunn Ghàidhealach fhaighinn a stigh air clann na Gàidhealtachd, ach rinn Achd an Fhoghlum 1918 cuideachadh mòr dhoibh anns an oidhirp sin,

a chionn gu'n tug i tigheadas do'n Ghàidhlig ann an sgoilean na Gàidhealtachd Tha toradh teagasg na canain anns na sgoilean air tighinn fo bhlàth ùrar a nise. Chuir tri sgoilean diag shìos is shuas feadh ar tire còrr agus coig ciad oidhirp litreachais a stigh gu na combh-fharpuisean sin am bliadhna, agus gach paipear a' toirt bàrrurraim air an aon eile. Chen e mhain sin ach eadhon aig Mòd Iolaidail Phort-rìgh am bliadhna rinn mi-fhein sgrùdadh air corr agus dà chiad paipear litreachais bho lamhan clann an Eilein Sgitheanaich, agus chuireadh leughadh dhiubh misneach a thaobh cor na Gàidhlig ann an duine sam bith anns a bheil boinne de fhuil a' Ghàidheil.

Tha mi-fhein a' creidsinn gu bheil barrachd air a dheanamh airson litreachas ar canain no airson ciuil ann ar sgoilean Gàidhealach an diugh, ach co dh' aithnicheadh sin air na combh-fharpuisean ciuil Di- mairt a' Mhòid am Peairt. Bha fichead, agus air uairibh dà fhichead sgoilear, a' seinn anns gach aon, agus comharradh an ionnsachaidh mhaith air gach aon diubh, agus an uair a tha bea an sgoilean mar so a' cur loinn air seinn na Gàidhlig aig gach Mòd, cha chumadh talla an Albainn no an Sasuinn aireamh na cloinne a dh' fhaodadh a bhi aig gach Mòd nam biodh gach sgoil anns a' Ghàidhealtachd a' deanamh an dicheill—ach chan eil, agus is iad fhein a chailleas air sin. Mo bheannachd aig gach balach agus nighean a chuir grinneas na h-òige air Di-mairt a' Mhòid am Peairt. Tha fhios agam nach dicheumhnicheadh iad an turus ud am feasdha, agus an uair a dh' fhasas iad suas gu'm bi canain an athraichean muirneach leotha-san. Dia 'n a thoiseach dhoibh, ma tha.

Bha e 'n a thoil-inntinn mhóir do neach a bhi 'n a shuidhe greis anns gach talla ag eis-deachd nan seinneadairean Di-ciadain, Diardoin agus Di-haoine a' Mhòid. Bha gach neach mar a bha dol suas a dh' ionnsuidh an ard-urair a' sealltuinn gur h-aon bho bhuaidh fìor spiorad a' Ghaidheil a bha e a' seinn, agus nach b' ann a mhàin airson pùnd Sasunach no dhà de dhuais a chosnadh airson gu'm biodh a ainm anns an "Oban Times" air an ath sheachdain. 'Se an spiorad neoghamhlach neoeudmhor so anns a bheil gach co-fharpuiseach bho bhliadhna gu bliadhna a' dol a ghleachd aig na Mòid a tha toirt a leithid de shoirbheachadh do'n aobhar, agus fhad 's a chumas sinn uile suas a' bhàigh agus an ceannaltas so do chach a cheile, bidh soirbheachadh leinn. 'S iomadh Mòd aig an robh mise 'n a m' latha, agus cha chuala mi riann co-fharpuiseach toiniseil ag ràdh, "'S mise bu chòir a bhi air a' chiad duais fhaighinn, agus cha b' e an neach a fhuair e." Chan' eil aon

aca nach' eil a' gabhail gu h-aon-sgeulach ir binn a' bhreitheamh do'n taobh. Cha chreideamaid an còrr mu aon sam bith de shìochd nan Gàidheal is d'fhiach an t-saothair.

An uair a tha An Comunn Gàidhealach a nise air a leithid de ghrinneas a chur air gach iomairt de'n Mhòd, nach bu chòir gu'm biodh barrachd de'n Ghàidhlig air a labhairt bho'n àrd-urair aig gach cuirm-chiul agus co-fharpais. Tha sinn uamhasach fada air ais seach Eirinn agus a' Chuimridh anns a' chuis so. Cha mhise idir an aon neach a tha gearan air cho beag agus a thatar a' deanamh de fheum de chàinain a' Mhòid aig na cruinnichidhean ud, agus chan urrainn duine sam bith a ghabhail mar leth-sgeul nach' eil ann an comhairlean a' Mhòid daoine agus mnathan cho dealasach air bruidheann na Gàidhlig ri seann bhodach am Barraidh. Tha fhios agam gle mhatht gur h-e an leth-sgeul a thatar a' deanamh gach uair gu'm bi a leithid de shluagh aig a' Mhòd nach tuig a' Ghàidhlig, ach 's e cuid de na ceart dhaoine sin a chluinneas mise gearan gach bliadhna nach cluinn iad Gàidhlig bho'n àrd-urair. Tha oraidean Beurla ro chumir deas-bhriathrach air an toirt gach bliadhna aig a' Mhòid, ach co chumas suas a' Ghàidhlig le bhi bruidheann Beurla Shasunn. Tha mi creidsinn gu bheil sinn uile na's fileanta anns a' Bheurla na tha sinn anns a' Ghàidhlig, ach fheumaidh sinn fiachainn ri bhi cho deas-bhriathrach 'n ar càinain fhein agus a tha sinn an te sam bith eile, agus mur a cleachd sinn a bhi 'g a labhairt air bialthaobh sluaigh, cha tig an ealantachd sin thugainn gu bràth.

IAIN N. MACLEOID.

MOD PHEAIRT.

Bha facal ann uaireigin gu'm fhèarr am meòg a bhiodh 's a' Ghaidhealtachd na am bainne blàth a bhiodh am Peart. An dèidh a' Mhòid oirdheir a ghabh àite 'sa bhaile an la roimhe agus falaidheachd muinntir Pheairt do na coirich as gach cearnaidh a thainig 'n am measg tha am facal so gu bràth tuilleadh, cha'n e a mhàin air a shàrachadh ach air a bhreugnachadh mar an ceudna.

Na'n robh an t-ollamh Sasunach sin, Mac Iain nach maireann, air a bhi an lathair aig Mòd Pheairt, mar a bha mise, tha mi làn chinnteach gu'm biodh a cheann cròm le nàire agus masladh airson a' mhì-chliù a thug e air a' Ghàidhlig agus an tàir a rinn e oirre an uair a chraobh-sgaol e am barail baoth nach robh innte ach cainnt neo-chneasda air a labhairt le daoine borba.

Mar fhear de na breitheamhan bha e 'na dhleasnas orm èisdeachd gu mionadach ris gach lide agus fuaim a thuiteadh o bhilean luchd nan òran agus nan còisir, agus ar leam nach cuala mi riamh roimh aig Mòd a' Ghaidhlig air a' labhairt cho glan, cho blasda, agus cho pongail. Tha e soilleir gu leòir gu bheil an luchd-farpais a' gabhail barrachd suim de mhodhan agus de riaghailtean a' chàinain, agus ged nach 'eil iad uile coimhlionta fhathast, tha aobhar a bhi toilichte leis an adhartas a thatar a' deanamh anns an t-seadh so o bhliadhna gu bliadhna. Tha trì litrichean anns a' Ghaidhlig a tha ag aobharachadh mòran tuislidh, gu h-àraidh do luchd-ionnsachaidh aig nach 'eil greim ro làidir air a' chainnt. Is iad sin *l, n, r*. Tha dà fhuaim air leth aig gach aon diubh so a réir mar a tha am facal anns am bheil iad a' tuiteam agus a' gabhail àite anns an t-seath-labhairt. Bu chòir do na co-fharpaisich a bhi air an earalas nach bi iad riaraichte leis an fhuaim chearr. Tha *b* agus *d* duilich mar an ceudna agus *ll, nn*; aig deireadh facail feumar a bhi glè fhaicilleach le na fuaimnean *-adh, -ein, -eig, -ain*; agus mar sin air adhart.

Mar a thubhairt an t-Ollamh Urramach, Niall Ros, anns an òraid fhileanta agus chothromaich a thug e dhùinn aig fosgladh a' Mhòid, tha seinn agus òran agus mòid gu math agus gu ro mhath 'nan àite fhéin, ach tha foghlum agus ionnsachadh na Gaidhlighe araon air mhodh labhairt agus leughaidh agus sgrìobhaidh na's tarbhaich na iad sin uile. Is i so a' phrìomh-chrìoch agus an ceann-uidhe a bu chòir a bhi againn anns an amharc aig na mòid bheaga agus na mòid mhòra. Mar a bha Eilean I 'na ionad-iùil agus 'na lòchran-soluis do na garbh-chrìochan anns na h-amannan a dh'fhalbh tha na h-ionadan anns am bheil na mòid a' cruinneachadh an diugh air dhòigh àraidh 'nan reultan-soillse a tha a' treorachadh nan Gaidheal anns an t-slighe air am bu chòir dhaibh imeachd. Tha sinn an dòchas gu'n tig iomadh là agus bliadhna mu'm mùchar an solus a chaidh a lasadh aig Mòd Pheairt.

FEAR DE NA BREITHEAMHAN.

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Leabhar XXV.]

An t-Samhuin, 1929.

[Earrann 2

TRI NITHEAN FEUMAIL.

Tha trì nithean ann a dh'fheumas neach a bhi aige mu'n urrainn e bhi 'na dheagh bhall de'n Chomunn Ghaidhealach. Faodaidh neach gun teagamh a bhi air a chunntas mar bhall, le a chis a Phaidheadh, agus ainm a chur sios combla ri càch. Ach tha nithean eile iomchuidh a thuilleadh air sin. Ciod iad na nithean a tha iomchuidh? Bheir sinn a nis oidheirp air beagan a ràdh anns an earrainn so mu thri nithean. Agus tha sinn an dùil gum biodh iad gu léir feumail dhuinn mar bhuill de'n Chomunn. Is iad sin—*Durachd; Dilseachd; agus Dicholl.* Tha againn an sin trìuir eireachdail; agus is ann leo a rinneadh gach gnìomh uasal as leth na cànan agus a' chùil, air feadh nam bliadhnan a bha An Comunn am bith. Is iomadh earail mhaith a chuala sinn. Agus faodaidh an earail a leanas a bhi glic gu leòr; ach ciod am maith a bhios an sin duitse, mur tabhair thu aire is éisdeachd, mas e 's gu bheil thu idir a' cur feum air an earail.

Agus air tùs, ciod a their sinn mu Dhùrachd? An neach a tha dùrachdach tha e an da rìreadh. Tha e a' cleachdadh a thuigse mu na nithean a tha 's an amharc aig A' Chomunn. Tha e a' mosgladh suas, a' dùsgadh mar gum b'ann a cadal. Tha sùilean na h-inntinn aige a' faicinn sealladh as ùr air na nithean a tha a' tachairt. Tha tìr aige a mhothaicheas gu bheil na Gàidheil a' dol nas gainne a h-uile bliadhna anns a' Ghàidhealtachd. An uair a chì thu neach a tha air a leòn gu cunnartach, agus an fhuil chraobhach a' dortadh o'n lot, faodaidh tu bhi cinnteach nach eil am bàs fada uaithe mur cuirear stad gun dàil, air sìleadh na fala. Tha an ni ceudna a' dol air aghart ann ar

dùthaich. Tha ar tìr a' call a daoine agus a cànan; agus mur cuirear casg gun dàil air a' chall sin is ann a bhios, an dùthaich a' fàs fann a chuid 's a chuid, agus mu dheireadh am fàg an deò i, agus an tig fuachd a' bhàis oirre, agus nach Gàidhealdachd dhuinne a bhios innte na's mo. A nis ciod e a shaoileas tu de neach sam bith de ar cinneadh, mur biodh e duilich gur ann mar sin a tha; agus air dha bhi duilich, gum biodh e mar an ceudna ag amharc air an ni so gu stòlda, agus gu cùramach, a dh'fheuchainn le dùrachd an gabhadh bacadh no casg cur air an dolaidh a tha ag éirigh do ar cainnt.

Agus a thaobh *Dilseachd*, chan fhaod e bhi gur ann air sgàth an fhasain a tha neach idir 'n a bhall de'n Chomunn. Bha uair ann agus bha ar cainnt 'ga cunntas mar chulaidh-mhagaidh, air chor is gum biodh nàire air feadhainn aineolach a bhi ag aideachadh gu robh Gàidhlig aca. Ach tha an uair sin seachad. Tha a nis ar cànan an déidh àite urramach fhaotainn an stìlhbh choigreach, is am measg chainntean eile na h- Eòrpa. An aon fhacal, tha ar cànan is ar ceòl an déidh fàs car fasanta. Tha sinn an dòchas nach eil a bheag de bhuill A' Chomuinn, a tha de ar n-àireamh air sgàth cleachdaidh, no air son ainm no cliù a gheibh iad mar mhuinntir tha saoitheachadh anns an aobhar so. Is e am ball dileas an neach sin aig nach eil crìoch eile anns an t-sealladh ach soirbheachadh is beothachadh do 'n chànan, agus buaidh is fàs do 'n cheòl. Bheir sin dhaibh gu seas iad gu duineal, gun athadh gun taise, gun bhi riarachta leis na gheibh iad o choigreach, eadar chainnt is cheòl is oilean; ach gur ann a bhios iad mór an an saoihbheas dùthchasail féin, an t-oilean, an ceòl is an cànan a fhuair iad o'n athraichean.

Agus a nis mu *Dhìchioll*, faodar a ràdh gur e so tobar is freumh gach gnìomha a nùthear air sgàth an aobhair. Is e so a dhearbhas an dealas eudmhor a tha brosnachadh nam ball sin a tha dìleas, dùrachdach. Tha cuid ann a thug seachad an ùine, an saothair, an airgead, agus eadhon an slàinte chorporra, air sgàth an gràidh do 'n gnothuch so. Cha do mheas iad nì air bith tuilleadh is cruaidh, a' frithealadh aig coinneamhan, ag oibreachadh an uaigneas, a' sgrìobhadh, agus a' rannsachadh a mach. A chionn is gu robh an dùrachd is an aigneadh blàth bha an dìchioll dian mar an ceudna. Tha cuid diu sin a nis air sgar de'n saothair, ach dh'fhag iad eismpleir soilleir do bhuill A' Chomuinn, a chum is gun cleachdadh iadsan air fad a' cheart dìchioll. Mar thoradh air an t-saothair chruaidh so tha meanglain A' Chomuinn air sgaileadh a mach. Tha cròileagan leughaidh a' fàs suas an sud 's an so. Tha còisrean dùthchasail a' dol an Ìomh-orachd. Leis an tuilleadh dhìchill am measg nam ball faodaidh feabhas tighinn air gach meanglan. Is ann le dìchioll agus dian iarrtus a fhuaradh cothrom an lagha do 'n Ghàidhlig, an coimeas ris mar a bha i, 'n a fògarach, diblidh tàireil eadhon 'n a tìr féin. Tha feadhain aig a bheil cuimhne mar chaidh iad féin a smachdachadh is a bhuail gu goirt anns a' sgoil, air son a bhi a labhairt na Gàidhlig. Ach le dìchioll nan gaisgeach dh'fhalbh an t-am sin, agus tha latha nuadh air dealradh, anns am bi dìchioll saothrachail mar bu dual.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

The Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, 5th October, in the Lesser City Hall, was one of the largest in the history of An Comunn. There were present 124 members, and the President, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., Campbelltown, presided.

The Annual Report which had been circulated among the members was adopted.

Mr. Robert MacFarlane, Treasurer, read the result of the election of members to the Executive Council, which was as follows:—Miss Burnley Campbell of Ormidale, Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A., F.S.A. (Scot.), Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, Capt. George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth, Mr. Colin Sinclair, M.A., Mr. Norman MacLeod, M.A., The Hon. Mrs. Iona MacLean, Mr. Charles Campbell, Mr. Donald Graham, and Mr. George Marjoribanks.

The Secretary read invitations from the Dunoon and Dingwall Branches for the holding of the 1930 National Mod in their respective towns. Glasgow was proposed by Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, seconded by Mr. John MacDonald, Oban. Mr. Charles Campbell, seconded by Mr. T. D. MacDonald, supported the claims of Dunoon, while a similar service was performed on behalf of Dingwall by Col. Gilbert Gunn and Mr. Alexander MacRae, Dundee. After some discussion a vote was taken, which resulted as follows. Glasgow, 34; Dingwall, 37; Dunoon, 37. A second vote was taken as between Dingwall and Dunoon, when the vote was again equal. The chairman gave his casting vote in favour of Dunoon.

Special mention was made by the President of the handsome donation of £160 received from the Highland Ball in London, and on behalf of the members he expressed their indebtedness to Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds), and to the other ladies and gentlemen associated with this most successful effort.

A report was submitted by Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale, on the rugs made under the auspices of the Art and Industry Committee, in the Ness district of Lewis, and it was intimated that out of the thirty rugs made, only four remained unsold. Mrs. Burnley Campbell undertook to act as Secretary for the Rug-making classes, and it was agreed to again proceed with a like number to that made last year.

Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, on behalf of Mr. Angus Robertson, moved:—"That the rule for excluding choirs who have won the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield for two consecutive years be abolished." Mr. Alexander Fraser seconded, and the motion was adopted.

Mr. Donald MacDonald, Inverness, proposed the motion of which due notice had been given—"That a whole-time organiser, with headquarters at Inverness, be appointed for the Northern area." The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Campbell. Mr. Malcolm MacLeod moved the amendment—"That the subject matter of the motion be remitted to the Executive Committee, with powers." Mr. T. D. MacDonald, seconded. After discussion the President suggested that a unanimous decision might be arrived at on the basis of the following motion:—"That An Comunn Gaidhealach, while approving of the principle underlying the projected appointment of a whole-time organiser for the Northern area is conscious of the necessity of ascertaining:—(1), the ways and means available for financing the requisite expenditure ;

and (2), the terms and conditions of the employment of the proposed organiser, and to that end resolve to appoint a committee of five members to enquire and report these two points to the Executive Council, who, if satisfied as to the financial competency of An Comunn to employ a Northern organiser, are authorised to appoint such organiser on such terms and conditions, and with such duties as the Executive Council may determine."

The original motion and the amendment thereto were withdrawn, and the President's motion was unanimously adopted. The following special committee was appointed:—Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow, Mr. Charles Campbell, Glasgow, Mr. Donald MacDonald, Inverness, Mr. Donald Graham, Inverness, and Mr. Alexander Fraser, Bishopton.

Captain George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth, seconded by Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, moved:—"That the Propaganda Committee cease to exist, and that there be in future a Northern and Southern Propaganda Committee, each Committee to be responsible direct to the Executive Council."

Miss Farquharson of Invercauld seconded, by Mr. T. D. MacDonald moved, the previous question, and on a vote being taken, 32 voted for the motion, and 30 for the previous question; and the motion not having received the necessary two-thirds majority, did not carry.

Mr. T. D. MacDonald moved:—"That it be remitted to the Executive Council to consider whether it be advisable and practicable to award a gratuity in excess of the prescribed remuneration to each teacher of music who prepares and qualifies a pupil to continue the teaching of music in his or her district under the auspices of An Comunn, and to give an annual honorarium to such qualifying teacher or teachers carrying on the work to the satisfaction of An Comunn, and that it be obligatory on every such teacher to hold an annual concert with the assistance of the pupils, the proceeds of such concert to be exclusively in aid of the expenditure involved in the services." The motion was adopted.

The motion by Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale—"That it be remitted to the Publication Committee to consider again the whole question of the position of the magazine, and report," was agreed to.

Captain George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth, was appointed a Trustee of the Feill Funds, to fill the vacancy caused by the retiral of Sheriff J. R. N. MacPhail.

The President warmly and most cordially thanked the members of the Local Committee for their splendid arrangements for the National Mod, and for their efforts to ensure its success. Chief A. K. Beaton, Convener of the Local Committee replied on behalf of his Committee and the Gaelic Society of Perth. Thereafter, votes of thanks were accorded to the Treasurer, Mr. Robert MacFarlane, C.A., and to Mr. Neil Shaw, Secretary, and his assistant, Mr. Hugh MacPhee, for their services.

The President expressed to the Rev. Dr. G. W. MacKay, the warm appreciation of the Executive Council, of his services as Convener of the Propaganda Committee for many years. It was the earnest desire of all the members that he would long be able to enjoy his well earned leisure.

A report of the work of Clann an Fhraoich was submitted by Mr. Iain Moffat-Pender, during the course of which he intimated his retirement from the office of Convener of the Committee, and that Mr. George Marjoribanks was willing to act in his place.

The vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale, to the President, brought the meeting to a close.

* * *

Executive Council.

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Mrs. Colquhoun, Alexander Fraser, Peter
MacIntyre, Donald Graham, Malcolm MacLeod,
Alastair C. MacLaren, Dr. Neil Ross, the Pre-
sident (*ex-officio*).

LUIMNICH.

Bha dithis ann uair an Srath Chonuinn,
'S theab am bàdhadh le dile is le doinninn.

Chaidh iad 'n aird Sgùrr a' Mhuilinn
Dh'fheuch an tachradh orr' turadh,
Is bhuaill sneachd orra a null a Gleann Oirinn.

Bha òigfhear de mhuinntir Chlann Néill,
Is b'e an gille ro-lùthmhor e féin,
Shuàmh e thar a' Chuain Sgith,
'S 'nuair a ràinig e tìr,
Ars' esan, "Nach mi bha guo chéill!"

Thàinig ministear gall'd gu Srath Pheofhair,
Air a chràdh leis an t-siataig 'n a mheadha.

Dh'òl e uisge an t-Sratha,
Rinn e lodan 's an lathaich,
Agus dhirich e Fuathais le meadhair.

Bha laoch anns na h-Eileacha Naomha,
Agus thaobhaich e teagasgan saobha.

Chaidh e dh' I Chaluim Chille,
'S an uair rinn e tilleadh
Bha a chridhe air a nighe mar chaora.

FEAR TURUIS.

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CELTIC CONGRESS.

(Continued.)

Submitting a paper on "A Literary Man's Life in Wales," Mr. Saunders Lewis made a scathing indictment of his country, and alleged that there was no country which husbanded its genius less than Wales. Wales to-day had the ugliest church architecture in Europe, and the result was the starvation of artistic literature and feeling in Wales. The artist suffered in Wales to-day because of a terrible moralism and the want of an aristocratic mind. Nothing uglified the mind more than an exaggerated moral fervour.

A lecture on "Survivals of Celtic Mythology in Manx Folklore and Song," was given by Miss Mona Douglas, and Professor Mary Williams dealt with the subject, "The Grail in Welsh Literature." In the absence of Professor Williams through indisposition, her paper was read by Dr. Neil Ross, who also led the discussion on the paper.

On the Friday a surprise visit was paid to the Congress in the morning by Sir Donald MacAlister, Bart., Principal of the University. Addressing the gathering, Sir Donald, who was warmly received, said that the subject of their conference was one of profound interest to himself as a pure-bred Highlander. He did not consider that any one who thought candidly on the matter could say other than that their proceedings had justified their gathering, justified the existence of their Congress, justified their continuance and their continued enhancement.

They in the Highlands, observed the Principal, felt themselves no mean people. He thought they had had evidence of that, and evidence was never lacking in Glasgow. They believed that the continued fostering of their language and literature, their traditions, and their music, made for the spiritual growth of those who were privileged to be of Celtic origin, and to lose this would be to lose something which English could never replace. For that reason he had always taken an active interest in the work of the Gaelic Association, and especially in its educational work, as he regarded it of profound importance in the future of the Highlands. The Highlands had for many generations the advantage of being bilingual. He regarded that as a supreme intellectual asset. To be bilingual was to have two minds, two ways of looking at things, two modes of expression and access to two

worlds. Even then commercial English could not give them the best of literature, romance, poetry, and tradition. For that reason he had observed with the utmost satisfaction the growth of the teaching of their native language in the schools where the language was still current, because he believed it made for the intellectual maturing of those children who were subjected to double discipline.

To illustrate a lecture on "Our Music," delivered by the Rev. Kenneth MacLeod, a number of fine Gaelic tunes were rendered by Mr. Hugh Mackay.

Music, said the Rev. Mr. MacLeod, had ever been a great accomplishment with Gaels. It had always been part and parcel of their daily life. In fact, music was regarded as one of the three essentials of life. When the ancient heroes made their vow it generally took the form of the following:—"I will not eat food, nor drink drink, nor hear music until the vow is accomplished." Music, too, was the accompaniment of everything that happened or could happen in a man's life from birth to death. This was still the case in some of the isles. Two years ago the speaker was overjoyed to find that in the Island of Barra every kind of labour had still its appropriate tune, even down to the washing of the dishes.

In discussing the question of whether Gaelic songs should be accompanied or unaccompanied; the Rev. Mr. MacLeod said that the ideal instrument for accompaniment on a city platform was the harp.

Submitting a paper on "The Solution of the Economic Problem in the Gaelic-speaking parts of Ireland and Scotland," Mr. Robert J. Whelan stated that they could not expect the people of the Gaeltacht in Ireland to continue to live in grinding poverty, living from season to season on the starvation line. During the period of complete national subjugation the people of the Gaeltacht kept the language safe for Ireland, and now it was the duty of Ireland to, in some measure to repay them. The speaker advocated the absolute safeguarding of the Irish markets for the products of the Irish fisheries. These fisheries were largely in the Gaeltacht, and the people must insist that no vested interests be allowed to stand in the way of the development of this industry, which could be made a source of livelihood for the people of the Gaeltacht.

Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, who outlined the position as it existed in Scotland, stated that there was a movement on foot to establish a carpet factory in the Highlands. Such a new

industry would certainly prove a boon to the Gaelic speaking natives.

Dr. Eoin MacNeill's paper on "Ireland and Scotland" was read by Dr. Myles Dillon, while other lectures delivered in the course of the day were:—"The Celtic Craftsman," by Mr. Hugh Munro, and "Some Notes on the Norse Invasions," by the Rev. John Mackenzie, B.D.

Maclean of Ardgour presided at a Celtic concert held in the Lyric Theatre on Friday night.



URRAM DO MGR. CALUM MACLEOID.

'Chan 'eil iad ach tearc, ma tha iad idir ann, air am bheil Gàidheil anns gach cèarn, araon aig an tigh is thairis, cho eòlach agus cho gaolach 's a tha iad air a' Ghàidheal urramach, dhileas so. Chaidh iomradh a thoirt a cheana an caoch-ladh phàipeirean mu'n choinneimh mhóir, chàirdèil, aighearaich a bha air a cumail an Aitreach nan Gàidheal, an Glaschu air an 10 mh. là de'n Dàmhair, a chum a bhi ag cur urrainn air Mgr. Calum MacLeòid, agus a bhi a' taisbeanadh, trid chomharraidhean follaiseach, spéis agus deagh dhùrachd Céilidh nan Gàidheal dha, mar Cheann-suidhe dileas, dealasach a' Chomuinn ghasda sin fad aon bhliadhna ar fhichead.

Ach tha e ro iomchuidh, agus bidh muinntir a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich, an fad 's am farsuing, ro thoilichte, gu'm biodh an gearr-iomradh so air a thasgadh anns a' "Ghàidheal," gu a bhi ag gléidheadh air chumhne gu maireannach cliù an usail chòir a rinn, 's a tha fhathast a' dèanamh seirbhis cho luachmhor air taobh gach deagh aobhair is gach Chomuinn 'sam bith aig am bheil maith coitcheann na Gàidhealtachd mar chrìoch Àraidh 's an amharc. Nach fhaodar an t-ainm sin a bha air Leòdach sàrchiùiteach eile a thoirt air Calum 'nar là fhéin, is e sin "Caraid nan Gàidheal"?

Air taobh-duilleig mar so chan urrainnear mion-chunntas a thoirt air an oidheche chridheil, chàirdèil a bha againn, ach b'e an sealladh briagh e, an uair a chaidh sinn a steach am measg a' cho-chruinneachaidh mhóir, anns an talla fharsuing, shoilleach ud. Is ann a dh'fhairich sinn mar gu'm biomaid anns an "Talla am bu ghnàth le MacLeòid," agus sin le mire is mànan. Bha bùird fhada bho cheann gu ceann de'n talla, agus na h-aoghean, de gach gairm is inbhe, 'nan suidhe cho dlùth 's a' b'urrainn doibh air gach taobh de na bùird so. Aig ceann an talla bha bòrd air a chur

tarsuinn, far an robh Mgr. MacLeòid, laoch na coinneimh, gu socrach, stuama, cuide ri a phiuthair fhiachail, cheanalta, agus air gach taobh dhoibh, diùlanaich na Gàidhlig, bho Chéilidh nan Gàidheal, maille ri àireimh de mhinistearan, agus uaislean eile a tha 'nan cùl-taic do ar cànan aosta, òirdheirc. Fhad 'sa bha a' chuirn a' dol air adhart, chluinnteadh torman ceòlmhor a' chonaltraidh Ghàidhlig a' tighinn bho gach taobh, a réir lagh daingnichte Céilidh nan Gàidheal.

An dèidh na cuirme shòghmhoir, chaidreachbhaich so, bha dòrlach litrichean air an leughadh le Mgr. Eoghann Mac-a-Phì, Rùnaire na Céilidhe, bho uaislean àrd-inbheach anns gach dreuchd, agus a tha ag cumail taobh ris a' Ghaidhlig, ach do nach b'urrainn a bhi an làthair aig a' choinneimh. Bha iad gu léir a' togail fianuis air an obair fhoghainnteach a bha air a dèanamh le Calum MacLeòid air son sliochd is cànan nam beann. An sin chuir Mgr. Niall Caimbeul, Iar-cheann-suidhe Céilidh nan Gàidheal fàilte air a' chuideachd, agus ann am beagan bhriathran grinne, dùrachdach labhair e mu'n deagh sheirbhis a rinn Mgr. MacLeòid, gun paris gus phàidheadh, ach mar shaothair-ghràidh do a luchd-dùthcha. Bha iad a nis air cruinneachadh gu a bhi a' nochdadh le'n uile chridhe am meas a bha aca air, agus na comaine fo'n robh iad dhà, mar an ceann-iùil dileas, comasach ré iomadh bliadhna. Bha iad gu a bhi a' toirt a dhealbh fhéin da, mar chomharradh air am mór-spéis dha, agus mar chumhneachan air a liuthad oidheche shona a bha aca cuide ris.

An sin ghairm Mgr. Caimbeul air Mgr. Mac 'Ille-na-brataich gu a bhith ag innseadh do Chalum an t-aobhar air son an robh e air a chuireadh do'n choinneimh mhóir, shònruichte sin. Is cinnteach gur maith a tha ainm an t-sàr-Ghàidheil so a' freagairt an àite a tha aige is na h-òibre ris am bheil e anns gach cùis a bhuineas do'n Ghàidhealtachd. Thug e òraid fhileanta, shnasmhor dhuinn, a bha coltach ri "Oran-mór" a' bhàird an talla nan triath o shean. Dh'innis e dhuinn mar chaidh Céilidh nan Gàidheal a chur air chois an toiseach, agus mu na seòid a chuir an gualann gu fearail ris an obair sin, is iad ag cur romhpa gu'm biodh aon Chomuinn, co-dhiù, a bhiodh coisrigte gu h-iomlan do a bhi a' dìon 's ag cumail suas cànan an sinnsre, agus a leanadh gu dlùth r'an cliù. Rinn e an sin luaidh air buadhan àrda cinn is eridhe Chalum MhicLeòid, ach is duilich leinn nach gabh ach earrann no dhà de'n òraid-mholaidh a chur sìos an so.

Arsa esan, "Bhiodh Calum 'gar còmhnaidh gun stad le a làthaireachd, le 'òraidean,'^s le

a bhrosnachadh, agus o'n là a ghabh e inbhe 'nar measg bha a bhlàth 'sa bhuil sin oirn, oir shoirbhich leinn gu pailt. Cha do chaomhain e riamh e fhéin ann a bhi ag árdachadh cliù na Céilidh, ged bu Ìomhhor na dleasnaid chudhtromach eile d'an robh aige ri frithealadh. Eadar e a bhi 'na Cheannsuidhe air a' Chomunn Ghàidhealach, 'na Cheann-suidhe air a' Chomunn Leòdhasach, is 'na bhall gnìomach an Comuinn eile gun àireimh, tuigidh sibh nach d'fhaod e riamh a bhi dìomhain. Tha a mhór luach 's a chomas mar fhear-gnothaich coimhcheangailte ri cùisean Ughdarras an Fhòghluim anns a' bhaile so aithnichte leis na h-uile, ach tha maith sgoilean tìr a chridhe daonnan air aire. Tha sinne 'san linn so, agus bidh mar an ceudna na Gàidheil a thig 'nar dèidh, fo mhór chomain dà, mar neach a rinn dìchioll a bha cho buadhach às leth teagasg na Gàidhlig 'nar sgoilean anns gach gleann is eilean."

"Tha a eòlas air cùisean na Gàidhealtachd an dà chuid mór agus mion, agus gràdh a chridhe aige d'a luchd-dùthcha, air chor is gur iomadh uair a ràinig am beachd so mo chluasan, gur esan an duine a chitheadh, mar ar fear-ionaid an Ard Chomhairle na Rìoghachd, gu'm biodh còir is ceartas aig a dhùthaich." Agus an sin, is e a' tionadadh ri Calum, arsa esan, "A Cheann-suidhe ionmhuinn, tha an tiodhlac so 'na chomharradh air ar mór mheas oirbh, agus is e dùrachd ar cridhe gu'm bi sibh iomadh là fhathast air ceann nan Gàidheal. Tha sinn mothachail mar an ceudna air mar tha bhrùthar ghràdhach 'gur misneachadh anns gach obair mhaith ris am bheil sibh ag cur bhrù làimh. Dh' iarramaid oirre-se am breacan guaille so, de thartan Chloinn Leòid, a ghabhail uainn, agus gu ma fada slàn sibh le chèile. Iarram a nis air mo phiuthair fhéin, bantrach Ghilleasbuig MhicChullaich a bha 'na bhall ainmeil de'n Chéilidh, na tiodhlacan so a thoirt dhuibh."

An sin thog a' bhean-usaail NicChullaich am brat de bhreacan buadhmhòr Sìol Thorcuil, a bha air uachdar an dealbha, agus cho luath 'sa bha e 'san radharc, cha robh neach a bha an làthair nach robh de'n bheachd gur e fìor ionmhaigh a bha ann, is iad gu léir de aon inntinn ann a bhi a' moladh grinneas is teòmachd làmh an uasail a tharruing an dealbh, b'e sin Mgr. MacGriogair MacGille-Bhàin bho'n Oban, ball de'n Chéilidh agus dlùth-charaid do Chalum, agus tha fhios gu'n robh dùrachd a chridhe cho maith ri innleachd a làimh anns an obair. Sheas a' chuideachd a suas, thogadh caithream, agus dh' òladh gu cridheil deoch-slàinte an dithis aoighean air an robhar ag cur urrainn.

Fhreagair Mgr. MacLeòid am briathran grinne, tioma, aoigheil, mar is àbhaist dà, is e a' toirt taing uath fhéin agus às leth a pheathar air son a' choibhneis mhóir a bha air a nochdadh dhoibh le chèile le muinntir na Céilidh agus le an càirdean gu léir. Thubhairt e gu'n robh e 'na shochair is 'na urram a bhi cho tric 'nan cuideachd thaitneach, oir bha e daonnan a' faighinn toillintinn mòire agus fòghluim glé phrìseil aig an cuid choinneamhan; ach bha eagal air gu'n d'fhuair e ná's mò de bhuannachd uatha an iomadh dòigh na b'urrainn da a bhi am feasd a' dholadh dhoibh.

Labhair cuid de na ministearan a bha an làthair gu h-àraidh mu dheagh sheirbhis is eudmhorachd Mhgr. MhicLeòid a thaobh ghnòth aichean na h-Eaglais. Cha b'esan an duine a dhèanadh uail às na nithean sòluimte sin, ach ceadaidhidh e dhuinn a ràdh gur ann fo bhuidh, agus an solus a chreideimh daingeinn anns na nithean àrda sin a tha e ag cur a làimh ris gach gnothach, air dhòigh is ge b'e air bith coinneamh a bhios e a' riaghladh, cha bhi àite ach do na nithean sin "a tha urramach, a tha ceart, a tha fìorghlan 's a tha ionmholta."

Chaidh a' chuid eile de'n oidhche a chur seachad gu toilichte le òrain bhinne is òraidean lònneil, agus mar sin chrìochnaich eadhn coinn-eamh air am bi cuimhne againn fad iomadh là.

I. MACDH.

CLANN AN FHRAOICH.

Tha sinn a' toiseachadh air obair a' gheamhraidh. Nach mithich do na Gàidheil mòran de na nithean sin nach deachaidh a dhèanamh roimhe so a nis a chur an gnìomh?

Anns a' cheud àite is e mo dhòchas fhéin gun tòisich na Gàidheil air an càine fèin a leughadh. An do leugh sibh-se a leughadair, an Oraid mhór, chumhachdach a thug an t-Ollamh Niall Ros seachad aig Mòd Pheairt?

Mur do leugh, c' arson nach do leugh? An e a tha ann gu bheil sibh leisg? Bha an Oraid air a clo-bhualadh anns *An Gàidheal* mu dheireadh. Cha ghabhar leth-sgeul Gàidheil sam bith nach do leugh i—cha ghabhar.

Tha mòran a gearan air bochdainn na Gàidhlig a tha r' a faighinn ann an duilleagan a' phaipeir-naidheachd so. Ma tà, riù-san a tha a' gearan, tha mi ag ràdh, ann an clàr an aodainn, gum bu chòir dhoibh a bhi gle-chinnteach nach ann orra fèin as còir a' chuire a bhi air a cur. Is ann dhòmh-sa is aithne mòran dìubh. Is beag orm iad.

Mar an ceudna, tha an t-am ann airson facal no a dhà a bhi air a ràdh ri *Clann an Fhraoich* do thaobh an dilleachd agus an treibhdhreas. Tha eagal mòr orm gu bheil cuid de na buill againn a' di-chuimhneachadh am bòid.

Tha feadhainn de an Luchd-riaghlaidh fhéin ann nach eil saor bho an dìteadh so.

A Chlanna! Biodh cuimhne agaibh air bhur bòid! Gléidhibh bhur facal!

Ma tha nàmhach sam bith ann a tha 'na bhall de Chlann an Fhraoich do nach urrainn a bhòid a dhaingneachadh no a fhacal a gléidheadh, is e ar guidhe gun leig e fios dhuinn.

A Chlanna! Cha b' ann gun saothair a chuir sinn Clann an Fhraoich air bonn. Deanamaid uile na's urrainn duinn airson aobhar na Cloinne a neartachadh agus a chumail glan.

I. M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

PRINCIPAL SIR DONALD MACALISTER, BART.

There are many calls on the time and attention of Principal MacAlister. Notwithstanding this he follows with keen interest the proceedings of An Comunn. The bard who was crowned at the Mod at Perth recently, is Mr. Duncan Johnston, who is Attendant in the Natural Philosophy department of Glasgow University. The Principal wrote a genial note of congratulation to the new bard, who replied in the following terms:—

“UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW,
8th October, 1929.

MY DEAR PRINCIPAL,

I am deeply touched by your gracious gesture in expressing your pleasure at my Mod success.

To have been so kindly noticed by our most illustrious Gael, is indeed a memory to be cherished. I humbly beg of you to accept of my heartfelt thanks and good wishes.

'Guidheam sonas is àgh,
Mu'r caguilt gu bràth,
'S gach là sibh a' fàs ann an neart,
Le dùrachdan blàth
A' sruthadh le gràdh
O Chruithear is Ughdar nam feart.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
DUNCAN JOHNSTON.”

SGEUL BEAG AIR CUILEAN.

Bho chionn beagan sheachduinean dh' iarr mo phiuthar orm cù no abhag Gàidhealach a chur do a h-ionnsuigh ann an Lunnainn. Thuir i rium gum biodh i toilichte le cù sam bith, “fhad 's is ann as a' Ghàidhealtachd no as na h-Eileanan a thigeadh e.”

“Ceart gu leòir,” thuir mi rithe, “gheibh mi cù no cuilean air chor-eigin air bhur son, agus chì mi gur i brod na Gàidhlig a bhios aige.”

A' tilleadh gu h-Uibhist air an la' r na mhàireach, agus am feadh agus a bha Murchadh Choimhneach Ruairidh, Niall Iain Eachainn agus Dòmhnall Bhruth is mi fhéin a' feitheamh ann an acarsaid Mhallaig gus an tigeadh an soirbheas, choisich mi gu Mòrар, gus an tigh aig Alasdair Dhòmhnall Ruaidh oir chuala mi ann am Mallaig gu robh abhagan aige-san a b' fhaicinn.

Bha feasgar grinn féathail ann, agus bha Beanntan Rùm agus Eige 'nan tàmh. Bha Beanntan an Eilein Sgitheanaich gorm agus fiacach. Na b' fhaigse air làimh bha Sléibhte coillteach agus feurach—agus solus nèimh air Ostaig.

Eadar tigh-òsda Mhòrар agus tigh Alasdair Dhòmhnall Ruaidh cò bha 'na sheasamh ri taobh an rathaid ach Ailean Dhòmhnall—Ailean MacEachainn. Nach e an t-Ailean so a tha tapaidh! Nach e a tha treun fhathast—ceithir fichead bliadhna a dh' aois—air leth-chois cuideachd—agus a' coiseachd ceithir mìle cha mhòr a h-uile latha.

*Ailein à Mùideart!
Ailein na Traighe Bàine!
Fhìr-taic usal nan Dòmhnallach!
Gu robh ciùneas na tìde
Is tiodhlacain Mhoire
'Gad chumail slàn,
'S 'gad bheannachadh.*

Mu dheireadh raineas tigh Alasdair nan Abhagan. Tha Alasdair 'na dhuine-usal eireachdail agus 'na fhrith-mhaighistir aig MacShimidh. Tha e cho eòlach air na Garbh-chrìochan agus a bha Iain Mór nan Creag fhéin.

Bha e a' tighinn a nuas as a' choille an uair a dh'lùthaich mi do an dorus.

Bu bhrèagha am feasgar, gu dearbh. Bha faileas gach craoibhe agus beinne ri fhaicinn anns an loch. “Nach ann air an dachaidh agaibh-se a tha an t-samhchair?” thuir mi ri Alasdair.

Bha cearcan, agus coileach mór ruadh 'nam meadhon, 'nan crùban air an fheur,



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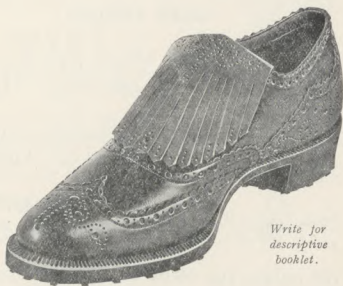
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Bha còmhraidh gu leòir ann mu'n d' thug mi iomradh air coin. Tha Alasdair Dhòmhnuill Ruaidh air an aon bharrail rium fhéin—gum bi buannachd agus feabhas an lorg an Achd mhóir ùir a thàinig troimh Pharlamaid an latha roimhe, a dh' aindeoin dè their Iain Mac a' Phearsain agus Tom Mac Iain a Kirkin-tulloch. "Is ann mòran na's fheàrr a bhios na rathaidean, cò dhiùbh," thuirt Alasdair. Ach dìreach air a' cheart mhionaid sin is ann a leum cù seang, buidhe a mach as a' choille, agus, ma leum, b' ann am measg nan cearc a thàinig e a nuas. Chòrd so ris gu mòr, agus rinn e ruithe agus suigeartachd gun eisimeil thairis orra agus mu 'n timchioll—a null 's a nall—a mach 's a steach, mu'n do chuir e an ruaig air a' choileach.

Chuir glocaireachd agus othail nan eun agus comhartaich a' choin stad oirnn féin agus air na bha sinn ag ràdh.

"Tha cù foghainnteach agaibh, cò dhiùbh," thuirt mi ri Alasdair, an uair a thàinig an slaointear ceithir-chasach air ais. Sheall Alasdair air a' chù, agus chaidh mi air m' adhart leis na bha air m' aire. Dh' innis mi dha gu robh cuilean a dh'ith air mo phiuthair ann an Lunnainn.

"A bheil cuilean agaibh féin?" dh' fhoighnich mi dheth. "O! chan eil," arsa esan, "ach cha chreid mi nach bi e 'nam chomas fear fhaighinn air bhur son."

"An urrainn duibh a chur gu mo phiuthair ann an Lunnainn?" dh' fhoighnich mi dheth a rithist.

"Och, cha chreid mi nach urrainn," fhreagair Alasdair, "ach cia cho mòr agus cho àrd 's a tha i 'ga iarraidh?"

"Och—dìreach fear òg—bithidh i toilichte le cuilean sam bith—beagan mhiosan a dh' aois."

"Ceart gu leoir. Iarraidh mi air Mac Shimidh agus gheibh mi cead bhuaithe-san agus togaigh mi fear maith as a' choille air son bhur peathar."

"C' arson a thogas sibh as a' choille e?" arsa mise, agus beagan iognaidh a' tighinn orm. "An ann anns a' choille a tha Mac Shimidh a' cumail nan con is nan cuileanan aige?"

"O! Tha mi a' tuigsinn a nis!" thuirt Alasdair Dhòmhnuill Ruaidh, "an e cuilean a tha sibh ag iarraidh?"

"Is e, le bhur cead, dè bha sibh a' smuain-eachadh?"

"Tha mi ag iarraidh maitheanas oirbh—smuainich mi gur e cuilonn a thuirt sibh."

MARBHRANN.

Marbhrann a rinneadh do Lieut. A. R. MacDhomhnaill, M.C., 7 Bn. na Camronaich le Lieut. Lachlann MacLeod, 7 Bn. na Camronaich. Bhuineadh MacDhomhnaill do'n Ob, anns na Hearadh, agus MacLeod do Bhearnaraidh na Hearadh. Air an 18 de an Mhàirt 1918 thug na naimhdean ionnsaigh gharg air an Fheachd XV. (Albannach). Thuirt MacDhomhnaill anns an araich. Bha "geill cha tug Camronach riamh" fìor a chum bais na eachdraidh-san. Chuir a' chomhdhail a thug e na aonar do na naimdean iognadh air daoine : Cha do naraich e Clann Domhnaill.

C.D.O.

Bha mhaduinn cianail, bha guilm air iarmailt, Le sgòthan iargalt os cionn a' Bhlairst, A dhruid a' ghrian bhuain, is threig ar ciall sinn, An aghaidh phiantan bu truagh ar càs ; Gach gunna smùideadh, le *shell* is fùdar, A mach a' cùltean, bho shùil an nàmh, Is am peilear sìubhlach 'na fhrasan dh'ghorm Le sgread mi-chùirteil a' giùlan bàis.

Am measg nam fiùrain bha sud air *duty*, Bha smior an diunnlaich, cha b'ann na thàmh, Ach duineil grùnndail, gu h-aidheil sunndach, Le faire sìùleach gu teann an sàs ; Gach fear 's a shùil air 's iad air a' chùlaibh, Is e sin a dh'ionnsaich e dhaibh na thràth, Oir riamh a' chùlaibh, le geilt a' chùlgair, Chan fhaca sùil a bha 'n dig an nàmh.

Bha ghnùis gu nàdurra colgach gràdhach, Bha taruuing làidir an cainnt a' bheoil, Is measg nan Gàidheal sin chluinntè Ghàidhlig Is mo charaid gràdhach ga cur ri ceòl ; B'i rogha cànan, b'i cainnt a' mhàthar, B'i tùs a' mhanrain 'na bhalachan òg ; An uair ghluais a' nàdur, le Goill gun tàbhachd, Is i gheibheadh àite, 's ann di bu chòir.

Bu treun an gaisgeach, bha sud nam bheachd-sa, Bu mhòr an tachds e an am na teinn, Le fheile breacain, le osain gartain, Le cualach bata gu teann an greum. Bha crios na leasraidh de smior na seice Is an ris bhiodh crochte ann daga grunn Ceap-tuislidh bàsmhor do chorp an naimhaid Is e daonnan làn ann an làimh gun sgios.

An uair gheibhte cruinn sinn, an cùil bhig ìosal, Cha laigheadh sgios oirnn, 's e bhi nar pàirt, Gu tlachdmhor bruidhneach, e sin ag innse, Am briathran simplidh gach ni mar bha, Na Staitean Aonaicht gun chaith e tìm annt, A sin gu Ciombarlaidh nan Transbhàl, Cha bhi mi ag innse ach gu'n do thill e, Gu fearann brioghmhor Rodaisià.

Cha b'ann 'na gheòcaire an cuideachd phòitearan
Gheibhte an t-òganach, ach, le spàirn,
Ag cruinneachadh stòrais, gun cheilg gun
seoltachd,
Gus, fa dheoidh, cha robh'n còrr ach tàmh;
Oir thar nan cuantan, a ghearr sinn uaithe,
Is ann thainig fuam air cuis-uamhann bàis,
Gun robh an Rìoghachd an gleac ri milltear,
Bha feum air miltean, is sin gun dàil.

Cha b'ann le tàmailt, is brundail chanranaich,
A leugh mo nàbaidh an naidheach mhór,
Bha Tìr nan Ard Bheann, on d'fhuair e àrach,
Gach bliadhna is la stigh na intinn beò;
Gach bodach ceutach le fhiasag liathghlas
Gach cailleach rianail a's nìomh nan clò,
Iad sud chan iarrte chur cath air biastan,
Ach gillean às-gaidh gun mheang gun ghò.

Bha Alasdair Ruairidh dhiu sud, cha shuarach
E fein le ghruidhean 's iad mar an rós,
Pearsa an diunnlaich, gu h-eutrom lughmhor,
Is le mosgaid dhùbailt a chur na dhorn
Neo-thaitneach leamsa mo chur air raoinne,
Gun ni gam shaoradh bho chudthrom meoir,
Is am peilear siubhlach ri tachds an fhùdair
A feitheamh stinraidh o shùil gun sgleò.

Mar sin cha thàladh an t-òr mo nàbaidh,
Is mòr gum b'fhear leis bhi anns an Fhraing;
Am fearann gruamach tha ghaor am chluasan,
Oir lot am Fuamhair gach coill is crann;
Bha blàth nan raointean na crìonaich aognaidh,
Chan fhaicte air craobh ann am meas ach gann,
Gun bhò gun chaora, gun each a' slaodadh
Mar chleachd iad daonnann, an cliaith 's an crann.

Ach air gach taobh dhìot, air cnoc, air aonach
Bha sàr nan laoch ann an glaic a' bhàis,
Gach fear a' triall dh'ionnsaigh dachaidh
shiorruidh,
Nas mò chan iarrar iad sud am blàr;
Bheir fear na Réit iad gu ceann na rèise,
Mo dhùrachd fhein air taobh thall a' bhàis
Gum bi iad comhla an dùthaich ghlòrmhor
'Nan òighrean òirdhearc air baile tàimh.

Am measg na còisir bha sud is brònach
Gun robh MacDhombaill air leabaighd fhuar;
O diomhain domhsa bhi ag innse sgeoil duibh,
Mo chridhe brònach mi fada bhua;
Thuit sac air m'intinn, is threig mo chli mi,
On rinn iad innse b'ì sud "an uair"
Na deoir cha phill e, oir is naidheachd chinnteach
Gun rachadh mìle gu beul na h-uigh.

Ach 's maith mo chàirdean gach cùis ma
dh'fhàgar
Ar beatha an làmhnan a' Ghaigich threin,
Thug buaidh air bàs duinn tre chorp a
thàirneadh,
Mar sin cha nàmhaid do neach an t-eug,
Ach aiseag sìtheil a saoghal mìlteach
Gu cathair rìoghail tha dhuinn air nàmh;
Is na laigheadh bròn air an intinn fheolmhor,
Biodh sùil ri sòlas aig ceann na réis.

ROMANS AND GAELS IN SCOTLAND.

Sir,—In a recent issue of *An Gaidheal* an article on "Celtic Heroes of Roman Times," signed A. Lamont, deals at some length with the battle of Mons Graupius in which Agricola overcame the Gaelic hero, Galgacus, and on the competent authority of Tacitus, destroyed the Caledonian host. The writer of the article says the Roman victory was dearly bought, and adds this remarkable statement:—

"At any rate the Battle of Mons Graupius was not followed up by any further advance into the territory of the Caledonians, or even by military occupation of the area which had been the scene of the campaign."

This statement is a very good example of what is current, even in authoritative historical works on the Roman occupation, but it is quite untrue both in regard to the area of Roman military movements in the North of Scotland and the period of occupation. Usually, it is not worth while to correct these customary mis-statements, but in a periodical specially (and, let me say, admirably) produced for the instruction of Gaels, it is important that the actual facts of recent investigation in the subject should be known.

The site of the battle of Mons Graupius is a topic of legitimate discussion, and a case can be made out for any of the Roman sites from the great Camp of Ardoch, in Perthshire, to the still finely preserved Roman Camp of Raedykes, in Kincardineshire. The writer of the article above mentioned will be surprised to know that there is a Roman Camp at all so far north as Kincardineshire, but even it is only one in a chain of Roman Camps that extend through Forfarshire, Kincardineshire, Aberdeenshire, Banffshire—in fact, all along the flat coastal region to Burghhead on the Moray Firth, the jumping off place for the Roman expeditionary forces.

Up till about a quarter of a century ago not only did very few persons believe that the

Roman forces had been in the North of Scotland, but the very best books on the subject rather scoffed at the idea. Distinguished teachers, who could not deny the authenticity of Ardoch, taught that Ardoch was about the northern limit, and most intelligent persons have not got beyond Ardoch yet.

The following are a few definite facts of recent years on this much misunderstood subject.

1. In 1913, Sir George Macdonald—as he is now—the most accomplished scholar on the Roman occupancy of Scotland, and himself rather sceptical, along with the late Professor Haverfield, Oxford, with the aid of a special Carnegie grant, excavated the reputed Roman Camp of Glenmailen, Aberdeenshire, and found it, not only indubitably the work of Roman engineers, but one of the greatest Roman Camps of the country, 120 acres, and showing evidence of repeated occupation.

2. In 1914, Sir George excavated the reputed Roman Camp of Raedykes, Kincardineshire—which, even on the surface, shows all the characteristic features, even the transverse rampart in front of each entrance, and again the proof of Roman construction was clear and enlightening.

3. A Roman day's march north of Raedykes is the Roman Camp at Culter, Aberdeenshire, within eight miles of this city, with fosse and vallum largely complete, and having a unique defensive feature which shows that, for once, the Roman forces made certain of safe retreat back across the river Dee if it should prove impossible to hold the main position of the Camp.

4. The features of the individual Camps northward, so far as known, would take too long to describe, but Burghead must be mentioned. It possesses, in its subterranean, carefully built, Roman well one of the most significant objects in the whole country. The structure is precisely in keeping with much of the Roman work laid bare along the line of the Hadrian Wall in Northumberland, and even in the great fortress of Richborough, near Sandwich, the landing-place of the Roman legions. I had the pleasure of re-examining the structure and excavations at Richborough within the last month, and was more than ever struck with the similarity of much of the remains there, the first spot touched by the Romans in England, and what may be seen at Burghead, the last known site of their power in the far north of Scotland. For not only have you at Burghead the remarkable well above mentioned, but there is a wonderful

collection of Roman objects found on the site, and you can still see the tool marks on the rocks where the Roman engineers operated for the better construction of the harbour.

5. The above shows clearly enough the long range of the Roman power through the north of Scotland. But I am going to mention a still more remarkable thing as showing the long period of the Roman occupancy. The battle of Mons Graupius was fought probably in A.D. 86, and the writer of the article in *An Gaidheal* seems to think that ended the Roman influence in the North of Scotland. In Blairs R.C. College, Aberdeen, is a hoard of ancient coins discovered nearly a century ago near the line of Roman march through Aberdeenshire. About fifteen years ago the then Rector of Blairs, and the writer selected twelve of the best preserved of the coins, and sent them for identification to Dr. G. F. Hill, Keeper of the Coins and Medals Department of the British Museum. He found that, not only were they all Roman coins, but that they covered the period from Claudius I., A.D. 41-54, to Constantine the Great, A.D. 307-337, thus bringing the Roman occupancy of Scotland down by something like a century later than had ever before been suspected.

These things are true, and should be known by all Gaels, for they make the ancestry of Gaels in Scotland more significant than dreams can do. These things show what an unsleeping and resourceful foe the Romans encountered in the north of Scotland—a triumphant foe, as it proved, when the legions were finally withdrawn.

G. M. FRASER.

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GLASGOW FOLK.

[We congratulate our esteemed Secretary on being given a place in the interesting series of sketches which is being published by the *Glasgow Evening News*. This is how the *News* literary artist pictures "Niall."]

MR. NEIL SHAW.

"AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH."

Never a man of Jura left the isle but his brogues were heavy with sorrow, yet never was a son of the island that did not fret his way at last to sea. It is the fate of these home-loving people that they should wander to the uttermost parts of the earth and there in dreams behold the Hebrides.

Mr. Neil Shaw has followed the line of destiny. He was born amid the weeping mists and sighing winds, spent his boyhood in the island, and then sailed from silent moors into the far-off cities of men.

It was to the Clyde that he came first, the Clyde that is so near his home, yet to the island youth seems so far away. Then for years he was at work on the big steamers that carry the voyagers to the West and the Southern Seas. And then again he cruised on the blue waters of the Mediterranean, and touched the lands of Greek and Roman, Turk, and Arab.

Yet even there among the memorials of ancient civilisations his heart was full of the thoughts of the Gael. The Necropolis of Athens he saw through the mist of a Highland dirge, he dreamed a Gaelic oration beside the walls of the Colosseum and the best of Oriental tomtom gave only new rhythm to *Ho ro leannan*. And so it happened to him that the tides which drew him away bore him back.

It was the time when the Gaelic language, scorned for fifty years, was luring folk back by its beauty, and with the language also the thought and story of the people who spoke it. An Comunn Gaidhealach in 1913 was in need of a secretary who would be also a missionary of the new movement.

And there was Niall Mac-Ille Sheathanaich, the man of world-wide travel, whose Gaelic verses had gained prizes in five successive Mods, who had taught Gaelic in Rothesay and was Bard to the Bute Branch. He was chosen, and for sixteen years has devoted his life to the propaganda of Gaelic things.

He is just now off to his 14th Mod for this year. With such enthusiasm, and free from financial anxiety on account of the £10,000 raised in 1927, An Comunn Gaidhealach goes from strength to strength. "God be about us."

MELBOURNE BRANCH.

Members and friends enjoyed themselves at the "Bannockburn" Night, which was held on nearest Saturday to 24th June. It was opened with playing of "Scots wha hae" on the pìob mhór by Hon. Piper A. M. Robertson, and a few words on Wallace and Bruce. Gaelic and Welsh songs were ably rendered by Miss Effie MacDonald and Mrs. Ure, which were appreciated by the audience. Miss Ella Robertson gave an exhibition of Highland dancing, and was encored. The rest of the evening

was given up to the dancing of Highland Reels and modern dances, only stopping to partake of the supper provided by the Ladies.

A good number of Gaels and their friends attended the Gaelic Service on June 23rd, in Kew Presbyterian Church, when they enjoyed the pleasure of listening to a fine sermon preached by Rev. M. S. Maclean of Stornoway. The duties of Precentor were ably carried out by Mr. D. MacDonald. It is hoped to have more of these services, and arrangements are in hand for same.

The Ceilidh was held on 9th July in Unity Hall, 636 Rourke Street, Melbourne, and an interesting programme was presented to the audience.

It was opened with an address in Gaelic and English, and the Scottish National Anthem by Mr. A. J. MacRury on the pipes.

Gaelic songs were ably rendered by Messrs Duncan MacDonald and John MacLeod, and by Misses Chrissie MacKay and Effie MacDonald. Mr. Jack Kennedy and Miss J. Morrison sang Scots songs, and were listened to attentively. It was a treat to see the display of Highland dancing by Miss Ella Robertson and her pupils, and by Miss Maxwell. The evening was brought to a close with the singing of "Oidheche mhath leibh 's beannachd leibh," by the Company.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS IN THE HIGHLANDS.

August 9, 1929.

SIR,—I observed that at the last meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach at Stirling last month, An Comunn discussed the question as to whether officers of police in Gaelic-speaking areas should be conversant with that language. The newspaper report states, "Stress was laid upon the obvious necessity that all officers of police in the Gaelic-speaking areas should be thoroughly conversant with the language." The report went on to say that communications had been made on the subject to the Scottish Office, and sympathetic consideration was confidently anticipated.

This is all very well so far as it goes, but there is a much more clamant deficiency in the judicial administration of the Highland counties than the comparatively paltry one as to whether police officers in these counties should be able to converse in the Gaelic language. What about the appointing of Sheriff-Substitutes and Procurator-Fiscals in Gaelic-speaking counties during the past quarter of a century? Were any precautions taken that they should be

Gaelic-speaking? I am afraid the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach "strain at a gnat and swallow a camel." An Comunn Gaidhealach have shown great apathy in this matter which they should have considered long ago, but now they show some qualms of conscience albeit, they have started at the wrong end of the administrative line; they should begin with Sheriff-Substitutes and take the other law officers in sequence.

And what is the position in Sheriff Courts in the Gaelic-speaking Sheriffdoms of the Highland counties to-day. There are still many litigants invoking the aid of His Majesty's Courts who cannot speak English, or very little English, and there are many witnesses in the same position. What else could be expected? They come from Gaelic-speaking areas and always converse in Gaelic, and have done so during their lifetime. They have to appear in the Court. They feel very much handicapped at the outset because they come before Court officials who know no Gaelic, and they have a disinclination to give their evidence in English because they feel a decided disadvantage in doing so. They state before being put on oath that they should like an interpreter as they have little or no English. I may say there is no provision, in the Sheriff Court Acts, as far as I know, for an interpreter being retained in the Highland Sheriff Courts. The witness does not wish to appear to show his ignorance, and stumbles on with his evidence in some way, feeling very dissatisfied with himself and generally making a mess of his case. He meets with "combers" of words in his examination which would do credit to a student who had studied and mastered "Macaulay." Not having the least understanding of the meaning of these words, he answers "yes" where he should have said "no," because again he does not wish to show his ignorance in the Court.

Now I write what I have seen, and this is British justice in the Highland Law Courts! The British Government takes pains to see that justice is meted out to Hindus and Mohammedans in their Indian Courts by seeing that Judges on the Bench are conversant with the language of their subjects, but the legal judiciary in Scotland would appear to pay little attention to this. It may not happen very often. But I ask why should it take place even once. Why should any of my countrymen even once be put in a false position, sometimes to his irreparable loss, as where an action is decided against him, or still worse where he is wrongly convicted and sentenced? This would be very easily remedied by the Sheriff-Sub-

stitutes and Procurator-Fiscals in Gaelic-speaking areas being able to speak the Gaelic language. I hope An Comunn Gaidhealach will take up this very important matter at the next meeting of the Executive, and make representations to the Scottish Office on the subject.—I am, etc.

GLEANN MOR.

From *The Scotsman*.

ISLAND SANCTUARY.

Peaceful art thou amongst thy green hills,
The grey rocks about thee,
The dark waves beating at thy door.
Peaceful are they who sleep in the grey
shelter of thy walls,
Chiefs and warriors who hear no more the
din of swords.
The sweet singer of the isles thou hast in
keeping,
Silent her voice, her songs aflame from isle
to isle.
Guard well thy sleeping children, O grey
St. Clement's,
The sound of the wind is their pibroch for
evermore.

BESSIE J. B. MACARTHUR.

SUTHERLAND PROVINCIAL MOD.

The fifth Annual Sutherland Provincial Mod was held at Lair on Friday, 6th September. This was the most successful of the series, and the local committee, Mr W. G. M. MacLeod, convener; Mr. Angus MacNeill, hon. secretary, and Mr. A. MacKintosh, treasurer, are to be congratulated on the result of their labours. Miss Jean MacNab, M.A., did excellent work for An Comunn in the county by preparing Soloists and Choirs for the Mod. Nine parishes out of 13 were represented at the Mod, thus proving that the movement is spreading and taking firm root. Mr. A. N. MacAulay, D.L., Convener of the County, presided at the Mod proceedings and also at the grand concert held in the evening when fully 700 people attended. Lady Edgar Horne, Lairg House, presented the prizes to the successful competitors. The prize-winners were assisted by Mr. John M. Bannerman, Mr. Roderick MacLeod, and Miss Rhoda MacLeod, Inverness.

The adjudicators were:—Gaelic—Rev. R. L. Ritchie, Creich; Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Glasgow; and Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow. Music—Mr. D. T. Yacamini, Perth; and Mr. Rod. MacLeod, Inverness.

BRANCH REPORTS.

VALE OF LEVEN.—The opening Ceilidh of the Branch for this Session was held in the Lesser Co-operative Hall, Alexandria, on Wednesday, 2nd October, and took the form of a Lantern Lecture. The Lantern was very kindly given by the Bridge Street Church, and operated by Mr. Robert MacRobert and Mr. W. Ritchie. The Chairman was Mr. Donald Cameron, in the absence of Mr. Bannerman, who was engaged at the Mod in Perth, who presided over an attendance of over 150. The Lecturer was the Rev. Dr. McGregor, Jamestown, and his subject, "A Ramble in the Highlands." Starting at the Queen of Watering Places, "Rothsay," the Lecturer took his audience round the more popular resorts by way of the Kyles of Bute and Loch Fyne. The inclusion of a number of slides on Iona also added to the interest of the Lecture. From the West Highlands the tour was continued to Aberdeen via the Caledonian Canal, and from Aberdeen through Perthshire to the Bonny Banks O' Loch Lomond. Bagpipe selections were given by Pipers Niblick and Roderick Campbell. Miss MacMillan M.A., and Miss Macdonald gave very fine renderings of Gaelic songs and had to respond to repeated encores. Miss May Scott was an able accompanist. Much credit is due to the Officials and Committee for such a large and successful gathering for the opening Ceilidh. The success of this Ceilidh augurs well for the ensuing Session, as among other Lecturers who have promised to give Lectures, are the Rev. John M'Kechnie, Govan, Hugh McCorquodale, and Mr. and Mrs. Neil Orr, Edinburgh.

The second meeting of the Branch, on Wednesday 16th, was equally as successful as the opening Ceilidh. On this occasion the members were fortunate in having with them the President, Mr. J. R. Bannerman, who has just recently returned from his labours at the recent successful Perth Mod. In his opening remarks Mr. Bannerman warmly welcomed the members, and felt proud at seeing such a large and successful gathering. An excellent programme of Gaelic and English songs, together with violin selections and Highland dancing was submitted, the following artists contributing:—Miss Mary C. MacColl, Mod Gold Medallist, Miss Jenny Finlay, Miss Helen MacNaught, Mr. Allan MacLean, and Mr. Tom Scott. At the close a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded by Mr. Donald Cameron, Vice-President, to all who helped in promoting such an enjoyable evening. With the singing of "Oidhe mthath leibh," the company dispersed, and thus ended one of the finest ceilidhs yet held in the Vale of Leven.

AYR.—The opening Ceilidh of the session was held on Thursday evening, 17th inst., in the Liberal Club Rooms with a very large and enthusiastic audience present. Major Stewart (Fasnacloich), president, occupied the chair, and expressed his pleasure in seeing such a splendid gathering at the first meeting. This was a happy augury for the forthcoming session, and he hoped that each present would interest themselves earnestly in the purposes of the Branch. A nicely varied programme of Gaelic and English songs, with bagpipe and violin selections was submitted. Among the artists were Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary of An Comunn, who also addressed the meeting in Gaelic and English. Mr. Donald MacIsaac, Glasgow, was also among the singers. The members of the Gaelic class have already commenced upon the work of the session with a much increased membership, and considerable progress is being made in the learning of the language.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Faclair Beirla gu Gaidhlig.—Ins an earrann déanach den *Ghaehdeal* dubhairt an fear eagair gur dhein an Duinnineach foclóir Béarla go Ghaehdhilg i gcoir Gaedheal Eireann. Níor dhein. 'Sé obair a rinn an t-Athair Pádraig O'Duinnín ná "Foclóir Gaehdhilge-go-Béarla." Do loisgeadh na plátaí cló in Éirighe amach bhliain a 1916 ach rinn an Duinnineach an obair as an nua agus mhéadaigh sé go mor í. Tha an foclóir nua fé chló le bliain nó dhó.

Tha foclóir Béarla-go-Gaehdhilg againn a rinn Niallach O'Liatháin. *O'Neill-Lane's English-Irish Dictionary*, saothar mór a rinn an Liathánach in 'aonar—agus ós íseal, nach mór. Chan fhuair sé cail ná creidiúint an fhaid bu bheo dhó. I ndiaidh a bháis a cuir-eadh an leabhar iomlán fé chló. "Más áil leat go molfai thu, faigh bás!" i gCorcaigh, in Éirinn, 15/9/29. S.T.

NEW MEMBERS.

LIFE.

Miss Frances MacPhee, Gourcock.
Miss Edith L. O. Taylor, Dunblane.
Sir Charles Campbell MacLeod, Bart, Surrey.
Alex. Innes, Esq., Oban.
Miss Munro, Aberfeldy.
Miss Mary C. MacColl, M.A., Glasgow.
Mr. Graham Campbell of Shirvan, Lochgilphead.

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Miss Catherine MacDonald, Arisaig.
Mrs. Brodie of Brodie.
Miss Cathie M. S. MacKechnie, Glasgow.
Angus MacEachan, Arisaig.
Miss Catriona L. MacLean of Ardgour, Ardgour.
Miss Anne MacLean of Ardgour, Ardgour.
Donald Seumas Cameron, Yr., of Lochiel, Achnacarry.
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Alasdair Grant, Esq., Glasgow.
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Miss M. V. Wanliss, London.
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Leabhar XXV.]

An Dùdhlachd, 1929.

[Earrann 3

MEANGLAIN URA.

A chionn gu bheil beatha is comus fais anns A'Chomunn, faodar a ràdh gu bheil e coltach ri craobh, aig a bheil a freumhan anns an talamh, agus a tha a' sgaoileadh a cuid mhean-glan a mach gu dosrach tiugh. Cha tàinig a' chraobh sin fathast gu a làn mheud is inbhe. Mar is mo ghabhas na freumhan greim gu h-ìosal, is ann is mo a dh'fhaodas dùil a bhi againn ri meanglain ùra gu h-ard. An comh-samlachd na craoibhe tha rud no dha ri fhaicinn, mar tha fallaineachd an fhiodha, cruth is dealbh na craoibhe, agus maise na duillich fo bhlàth. Tha seadh is earail anns gach aon diubh sin fa leth. Ach aig an am bheir sinn faineir na meanglain ùra a bu chòir bhi a' fàs air craoibh A' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich. Saoilidh sinn gu bheil samhla de'n t-seòrsa feumail is freagarach; freagarach mar chomhsamlachd a tha ann féin fìrinneach is maiseach; agus feumail mar mheadhon gu bhi tabhairt cothrom air sgrìobhadh mun obair a tha ri dheanamh. Is e sin is còir bhi aig a' mhìosachan so anns an amharc an Comhnuidh.

O chionn dà fhichead bliadhna air ais, is gann gu robh buidhean sam bith a' strì gun sgar as leth na Gaidhlig. Bha neach an sud 's an so gun teagamh a bha dìleas. Gidheadh cha robh oidhirf choitcheinn 'ga cleachdadh. Cha robh muinntir a' seasamh gu dìneal ri guailibh a chéile air taobh na càin. Aig an am ud bha staid na cainte glé lag agus eudochasach. Bha a' chlann anns a' sgoil air an toirmeasg o bhi labhairt na càin. Agus nì neònach—bha na pàrantan riarichte le sin. Feumaidh gu robh aobhar sonruichte air mì-chùram cho mòr. Tha sinn de'n bheachd

gur e so an t-aobhar. Bha foghlum nan Gaidheal air a stiùireadh agus air a riaghladh le Goill, aréir toil is miann nan Gall. Cha robh feum no meas air Gaidhlig. Cha robh i chum buannachd sam bith. Cha deanadh i cuideachadh do'n òigridh an uair a rachadh iad a mach gu Galldachd. Ma bha òganach an dùil ri faotainn air aghaidh anns an t-saoghal, mar bu luaithe chuireadh e cùl ris a' Ghaidhlig is ann a b'fhearr dha fhéin. Is e so am beachd aineolach a bha air a theagasg anns a' sgoil, agus air a craobh-sgaoileadh leis na paipearan naidheachd. Gun teagamh bha na pàrantan a' creidsinn so, a chionn gum b'e sud a bha iad a' chluinntinn is a' leughadh air gach laimh. Cha robh misneach do'n Ghaidhlig ri fhaicinn o Bhòrd Sgoile no o Pharlamaid. Bha maigh-stearan sgoile Gallda, gun smid Ghaidhlig 'n an ceann, air an suidheachadh an cearnaibh anns nach tuigidh na leanaban lideadh Beurla. Is gann gu robh dòigh idir a b'fhearr na sud gus a' chàin a mhùchadh 's a mharbhadh.

Is e buil a bh'ann gun tug an dearmad so fuachd a' bhàis air ar càin. Bha i lag fann mar gum biodh i air a meileachadh le eigh is roedh geamhraidh. Mar chreutair a tha lomnochd ri gaillinn, gun dìon o'n doininn, bha ar càin air a fàgail a mach, gun chùram gun chaoimhneas a nochdadh rithe. Is e cùis iongantais a tha ann gun do chum i idir an deò. Is e an obair luachmhor a rinn An Comunn an iomadh àite gun do leagh e sìos an eigh fhuar le blàths is dealas is deagh dhùrachd. Ach tha fuachd is eigh gu leòr fathast ri leaghadh an àite no dha, a thaobh gnothuch na Gaidhlig. Eadhon an cearnaibh anns a bheil muinntir 'g a labhairt, tha feadhain ann aig a bheil an sean bheachd aineolach gu bheil a' Ghaidhlig gun mhòran luach dhaibh. Tha

obair A' Chomuinn feumail gu bhi a' fosgladh sùilean an leithid sin, agus gu bhi nochdadh dhaibh maise is brìgh as ùr an cannt am màthar. A nis is ann leis na meanglain a tha aig A' Chomuinn feadh na dùthcha a ghabhas an obair so deanamh. Mar is lionmhoire na meanglain is ann is blàithe deoin nam ball ris a' chàinain. Aig an am so tha iomadh caochladh is càradh a' tachairt an cùisean eaglais is cùisean riaghlaidh anns na sgìrean is anns na siorramachdan. Tha atharraichean ri tachairt a thaobh an fhoghlum Tha nìthan a' tabhairt ceum air an aghaidh. Bu choir do 'n Chomuinn ceum air aghaidh a ghabhail cuideachd. Dh'fhaoidte sin a dheanamh leis na meadhanan iomchuidh a ghabhail gu meanglain ùra fhosgladh air a' Ghaidhealtachd. Tha feum mòr air an leithid sin anns na h-eileanan, far nach eil an sean fhuachd air fhuadach fhathast. Tha cuid an sin a tha eòlach gu leòr air Gaidhlig ach aig nach eil meas oirre no suim di. Mar is luaithe a chuirear crìoch air an t-sean aineolas, is ann is fearr cothrom na Gaidhlig air mairsinn beò.

THE BANFF SPRINGS HIGHLAND FESTIVAL IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES.

(BY MARJORY KENNEDY FRASER, MUS. DOC.
Edin., C.B.E.)

It is a long cry from Braemar to Banff Springs. But the Scot in Canada is at home in the "Rockies." For was it not a Scot, and a Hebridean at that, who first found a passage by land across the "Sea of Mountains," left his card, so to speak, on a rock on the Pacific Coast: Alexander MacKenzie, from Canada, by land, July 22nd, 1793, and thus early led the way for the spanning of the continent by the steel road that now carries us swiftly over the well nigh 3000 miles from Montreal to Vancouver.

When I myself was last in Western Canada, in Winnipeg in 1882, there was as yet no trans-Canadian Railway, no "C.P.R." Yet that year, 1882, was the very year of the birth of this great steel highway, its full stature, 3000 miles of railway, being finally attained in four short years.

To-day, the "Trans-Canada" leaves Montreal daily on its way by Lake, Prairie, and Rocky Mountains to the great city, which in 1882 was not yet born, the Port of Vancouver, the gateway to the Orient. The construction of this railway "through mountain fastnesses and

quaking bogs until the steel trail reached tide-water," was an amazing engineering feat. But its projectors, who were mainly Scots again, had vision beyond that of the mere commercial exploitation of a richly productive country. They wisely, therefore, chose a route across the mountains which affords some of the most magnificent Lake and Mountain scenery in the world. Wisely indeed, for to-day the tourist traffic through "the Rockies" adds more to the coffers of the company than even the transportation of the millions of bushels of wheat.

Appropriately enough then, to Banff Springs, one of the most beautiful spots in "The Rockies," a Highland Festival has been transplanted and has taken firm root. Every year now, toward the end of August, pipers and dancers in their gay tartans and glengarry bonnets are silhouetted against the milky glacial waters of the Bow River and the spruce-green-clad slopes of the everlasting hills. Out of doors there are sports and games. Indoors, young Canadian singers keenly cultivating traditional Scots song, attempt and study the authentic song-lore of "the old country." From all parts of Canada they come, these young professional singers, and in the magnificent Banff Springs Hotel a veritable school of Scottish Song is being set up. The inspiration comes from Mr Murray Gibbon, an Aberdeenshire Scot, writer of *The Scot in Canada*, and zealous collector and translator also of the songs of the *habitans*, the French Canadians of Quebec.

The Highland Festival extends over four days, including a Sunday. The forenoon of the day of rest is devoted to a revival of the old-time out-of-door religious services such as I have myself seen in my childhood in the Scottish Highlands. A beautiful spot within easy walking distance of the Hotel, encloses by a semi-circle of steepish hills, a small lake.

The preacher (Ralph Connor, the well-known novelist), speaks from a small island in the middle of the lake, his resonant voice reaching easily the vast congregation seated or standing 'mong the scrub on the steep hillside. Then, rising up to the branches of the spruce, the poplar, and the birch, that clothe the lower slopes of the 10,000 ft. higher peaks, float the familiar tones of the old Scots psalms:—"I to the hills will lift mine eyes," and "All people that on earth do dwell." Strange sounds these to issue from the "Devil's Cauldron," for such is the name by which the retreat is known. The service over, all disperse, and if you are among the last, and the road is fairly empty you may have the luck to be

greeted by a big beautiful, brown bear, and her two cubs coming straight out of the woods to beg for sweets. But beware of her seeming friendliness and drive on!

On the other three days "even a child might understand, the Deil (!) had business on his hand." Hardly was breakfast over when all the pipers and kilties that could be mustered were marched down, to the skirl of the pipes, from the Hotel porch to the stretch of green sward where, in orthodox fashion, with adjudicating platform and grand stand, the Games are held. Once there, the pipers scattered to the adjoining groves, each to practise his own "spring," and while the surrounding woods re-echoed to his piping, the judges had to concentrate on the playing of the chosen one who had mounted the platform. On the last day the weather was unsettled, for even in Canada "it sometimes snaws."

The concerts, devoted entirely to Scottish subjects, were held every evening in the Ballroom of the Hotel, and were attended by an audience gathered from all parts of Canada. Some there were also from the old country and many from the United States. Most loyally, the Governors of the various Canadian Provinces travelled long distances to be present. Long distance travel, however, loses its terrors in the luxuriously appointed cars of the "C.P.R." No travel, indeed, can be more fascinating than that in one of their up-to-date Observation Cars. Rupert Brooke, the poet, humorously described "a day of being perpetually drawn backwards at a great pace through some of the grandest mountains in the world." But in the Observation Car of to-day you lean back in the open, as comfortably as in a motor car, and with incredible ease, sense the beauty and awesomeness of these immemorial heights.

To the Concert programmes two short plays lent variety and cohesion. One of these, "Prince Charlie and Flora," was in the nature of a ballad opera, the libretto written specially by Mr. Murray Gibbon. The airs were old Scots, French, and English, the scene, laid in the Isle of Benbecula, the midnight meeting of the Prince and the maiden on the eve of their sailing, "over the Sea to Skye." The captivating airs were held together musically by an instrumental setting for a small orchestra. Unaccompanied singing was the feature of the other playlet, devised by Miss Ethel Bassin, formerly of Edinburgh. She presented a number of fine Gaelic singers, Hebridean immigrants all, from Vancouver, and these were disposed on the stage as folk coming and going on the quay at Stornoway. The songs

seemed to rise quite naturally out of the occasion and were delivered with wonderful piquancy, pathos and humour.

Altogether it was a rare sensation this of the meeting of Scots from "a' the airts" at a central point in those barren rocks, rocks that in a sense seem to repel humanity, repel it as a thing apart. Rupert Brooke, who was deeply impressed by these strange "Rockies," wrote of "their homeless grandeur." Man there seems a stranger, "neither Nature's enemy nor her child." And yet, "on either side go up the dark processional pines, mounting to the sacred peaks, devout, kneeling, motionless in an ecstasy of homely adoration, like the donors and their families in a Flemish Picture."

SOME PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE MOD.

There is nothing more pleasant than to be agreeably disappointed. To find that the Sahara of anticipation is a Garden of Eden in realisation is far more exhilarating than if one had started one's explorations without prejudice—not that I had any suspicions about Perth; if I could not be happy in Perth I could not be happy anywhere.

But I had been given to believe (more or less) that at the end of the Mod I should find myself a nervous wreck. This was to be the inevitable result of listening for four consecutive days to an endless series of bearded giants in sea-boots, and with a lobster-pot under each arm, droning in a foreign tongue ballads a hundred verses long in commemoration of the exploits of a remote ancestor in a scrap with the Spanish Armada—not that I am not in sympathy with the Highlander in the sea-boots; some of the most romantic times of my life have been spent at the edge of the sea in the far north of Sutherlandshire, sixty miles from a railway-station. One thing the Mod taught me—what an easy prey a guileless Irishman can be to the sinister imagination of the Lowland Scot.

As a matter of fact I was fresher at the end than at the beginning. I attribute this to several things:—to the novelty; for the Mod, though belonging in a way to the great Competition family, has a life entirely its own; to the vivid personality of its folk-song and folk-singers, as far removed in character from its English prototype as Everest from the sea; to the understanding of its audiences so in-

fectious as almost to persuade the judge that he had been born in Rhona instead of in Dublin; to the musical stability and vital rhythm of unaccompanied song in the hands of those born to it; to the first day with the children; and to the happy, humorous spirit which seems to pervade not only the Mod but the whole city of Perth.

Unfortunately I did not know that I was to write my individual impressions or I should have kept detailed notes for reference, but the things which impressed me most were the interpretations of the winners and runners-up in the senior solo-classes, of one or two of the duets both Senior and Junior, of two or three of the Choirs at the end and, perhaps most of all, of the Laxdale Junior Gaelic Choir on the opening day.

I had not heard unaccompanied folk-song singing for many a long day, and it came to me with the freshness of a new art. Its idiom was more or less familiar to me in its affinity to the Irish, but I either never had known, or had forgotten, how shapely it was musically, and its free rhythm, so far from marring its design, seemed to give it an additional grace. Some of the soloists had lovely voices and sang beautifully; others fell short in this respect, but sang so patently true to style that they compelled admiration; no one, so far as I remember, over-sentimentalised sinfully, or committed any of the major vocal crimes; their obvious sincerity, combined with the help of his Gaelic colleague, made the understanding of the strange tongue by the stranger an easy matter.

It is not inappropriate to say here that our own Competition Festival movement, like rhythm itself, is always moving on, and that our thoughts and our future are with the children. And this brings me to the children's day at the Mod. I would urge once more all conductors to impress upon their children that singing is primarily a happy thing, that the nearer you are to laughter the nearer you are to song; that if your eyes are shining, your voice will be shining, and that the judge is also a man and a brother, and loves the cheery giver. There are some performances which light a lamp in one's brain and leave it alight. Such a one was the singing of the Laxdale Choir. Whether in the part-song or in the irresistible Waulking Song—they lit a lamp for me. They were a conspicuous example of the affectionate response of a happy team to the genius and personality of its conductor.

It was worth the journey to hear them alone, but I can truly say that those four days at Perth were four happy, humorous, hospitable days for me.

H. PLUNKET GREENE.

BIODAG MHIC THORCADAIL.

Bha'n oidheche air fàs anmoch, an uair a chaidh an t-seana-bhean chòir a bha 'gleidheadh an Tigh-Thàirne air an Iomaire-Chòmh-nard, mu'n cuairt, mar bu ghnath leatha, a chraunadh nan dorsan.

Thug i an aire do dhuine foghainteach, sgeadaichte an éideadh an Airm-Dheirg, 'na shuidhe 's gun coslas griollam 'sam bith air gu falbh. Dh'fhoighnichid i dheth, an robh fad aige ri dhòl. Thuir e rithe gu robh e air a cheum a' dol dachaidh gu bràigh a' ghlinne.

"Tha seanachas làidir ann an dràs," ars' ise, "gu bheil dà thamhasg oilteil, bodach agus cailleach, air am faicinn gach oidheche aig Chachla-Pholain, agus chomhairlichinn dhuit fuireach anns an tigh so gu briseadh an latha."

Rinn an saighdear, do'm b'ainm MacThorcadail, gàire-magaidd.

"An e gum bithinn-sa" ars' esan, "a' chuir seachad an roinn is motha de m' shaoghal ann an Arm an Rìgh, air m' fhaotainn cho socharach 's gun creidinn amaideachd de'n t-seòrsa sin. Thoireadh sibhse dhòmh-sa "Deoch-an-Doruìs," 's òlaidh mi deoch-slainnt' a' bhodaich, 's rachadh a' chailleach a' dh'ìomain nan con."

Fhuair e mar dh'iarr is rinn mar thubhairt, is ghabh e ri astar. Is beag bha aona-chuid tamhasg no manadh a' ruith an aire Mhic-Thorcadail an uair a thainig e air a' mheadhon-oidheche gu Chachla Pholain. Ach mar thubhairt b' fhìor. Bha am bodach 's a' chailleach roimhe anns a' chachlaidh. A' chailleach le draoch agus sgraing sgreabhail a' cur roimpe bhi 'na bhàd, agus am bodach a cheart cho diorrasach 'ga dhìon.

Cha robh uair a bheireadh a' chailleach, le olcas, agus naimhdeas uamhasach, ionnsuidh air MacThòrcadail, nach rachadh am bodach eatorra.

Anns a' chàs a bh'ann bu mhinic a' chuimhnich an saighdear air deoch-an-doruìs an Iomaire Chòmh-nard,—"So gu deoch-slainnt' a' bhodaich, is rachadh a' chailleach a' dh'ìomain nan con."

Le còmhnaidh a' bhodaich air an oidheche ud, fhuair MacThòrcadail a bheatha leis, ach riamh tuille cha robh chridhe aige bhiair taobh-a-muigh tighe an deidh dol fodha na gréine, ar-neo bhiodh a' chailleach 'na charaibh.

Ré ùine, dh'fhàs MacThòrcadail seachd searbh de'n chuibhreach a bha chailleach a' cumail air, agus leig e a Sgeul-rùin ri seann duine bha anns a' choimhearsnachd. Chomhairlich an seann-duine dhà dol do Cheanntire far an robh gobha sònraichte a bha fòghluimte anns gach eòlas is taibhsarachd.

Eadar éirigh is laighe gréine, rinn MacThòrcadail dheth a' cheardach a ruigheachd, agus a ghnòthach innseadh do'n ghobha. Thoisich an gobha air deanadh biodag-shéunta dha, agus an uair a bha e dol g'a fadhairt ann am fuil coin, thug e leis MacThòrcadail air eùl na h-inneine. Cha robh buille a bheireadh an gobha leis an òrd air a' bhiodaig, nach robh a' chailleach a' gearra-leum air ùrlair na ceàrdaiche.

Bha aig MacThòrcadail ris a' bhiodag a' ghiùlan leis daonnan am broilleach a chòta, agus ged chitheadh e a' chailleach an deigh dol fodha na gréine, gidheadh bha e éu-comasach di coire sam bith a dheanamh air.

Bliadhnachan an dèidh so, bha MacThòrcadail le chuid dhaoine, a' buanachadh an latha fhada fhogharaidh, a' ruith na caillich-bhuana, agus an uair a ghearradh 's a thogadh, 's a chuireadh an adag gach sguab, dh'fhalbh MacThòrcadail a shireadh a chuid adaidh, a dh'fhàg e 'sa mhaduin, air a' cheann-iomaire aig ceann shuas na geathail.

An uair a b'fhada leis na daoine nach robh e tilleadh, chaidh iad m'a thuaiream, agus fhuaras e fuar, marbh, air an achadh.

A réir coslais, laigh a' ghrian nu' do ràinig e 'adach. Fhuair a' chailleach eadar e 'sa bhiodag, is chuir i as da.

Bha m'illeadh a bha air an duine, agus an stàireachd a bha anns an àite, a' leigeil ris gu soilleir do na daoine nach b'ann gun spàirn chruaidh a chluich an saighdear MacThòrcadail an cath deireannach.

CROMAN.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A largely attended meeting of the Executive Council, was held at Stirling, on the 22nd November, at which some subjects of considerable interest were discussed. A full report will appear in our next issue.

SECRETARY'S TOUR.

Acting on the instruction of the Northern sub-committee I left the office on Tuesday, 22nd October, *en route* for Barra and South Uist. The steamer left Oban at 6 o'clock the following morning, but owing to stress of weather had to put back to Tobermory from Tiree. Fortunately for me this synchronised with the opening of the Tobermory Branch winter Ceilidhs, and I was able to attend and take part in the programme.

On Thursday morning at 4 o'clock the steamer returned to Tiree and took up the ordinary run from Tiree, Coll, Kilchoan, and Tobermory to Oban. We were more fortunate on Friday, and arrived at Castlebay about 6.45 p.m. I was met there by Miss Anne Johnston. On the following day (Saturday) I called on the Rev. Dr. Campbell, the local R.C. clergyman whom, I found, as indeed I fully expected, to be much interested in the proposed singing class and local Mod. I gathered from Dr. Campbell, and from others that the chances of Barra children or grown ups attending a Mod at Lochboisdale were very remote. The cost and uncertainty of transport are too great. They will manage a Mod at Castlebay all right, and for this purpose Dr. Campbell has offered to place the hall of his church at our disposal free of charge. This also applies to the singing class. Miss Johnston accompanied me to Northbay on Saturday afternoon. We, first of all, interviewed the local postmaster, Mr. MacPherson. Thereafter we interviewed Mr. Neil Sinclair, Headmaster of Northbay School. Both these gentlemen are keenly interested in our work, and promised to help all they can. I made a courtesy call upon Mr. William MacGillivray, Eolligarry, a life member of long standing. It has been arranged to hold classes at Northbay and Castlebay—three nights per week in each place. The classes should begin soon after New Year, when the women are home from the fishing.

I landed at Lochboisdale on Monday night (28th). I had a long talk with Mr. Neil MacLennan, postmaster, to whom I was introduced by Mr. Stewart MacInnes (Gold Medallist) on landing. He very kindly agreed to accompany me on the following day to the north end of the island. We accordingly left Lochboisdale at 11 o'clock, and motored direct to Lochdar schoolhouse. We were enthusiastically received by Mr. A. J. MacKay, headmaster. The idea of a singing class and local Mod appealed to him very strongly, and his support is assured. We then drove on to Ardenkenneth

to interview Father Galbraith, and were fortunate in finding him at home with Father MacDonald, Benbecula, and Father MacMillan, Glencoe, who is being transferred to Northbay, Barra. Father MacDonald undertook to make known to the people of Benbecula our contemplated Mod in South Uist. I had fully intended visiting Benbecula on this journey, but the delay caused by the boisterous weather prevented me from accomplishing the task I set myself when leaving headquarters. Father Galbraith will support us whole heartedly in the north when the time comes to call on his services. We returned to Carnan where we had luncheon.

Our next place of call was the Manse of the Rev. Malcolm Laing, but he was out visiting. However, we met him shortly after and discussed propaganda on the highway. His support is also assured. Next we called on Mrs. MacLean, late of Carnan, a lady who has always shown keen and practical interest in Gaelic matters. She is now resident at Howbeg.

Another disappointment met us when the Rev. D. MacLean, late of Laggan, was absent from his home at Bornish. We met him later on returning from Dalliburgh and this was another case of propaganda on the high road. Father MacLean has lost none of his enthusiasm for An Comunn since leaving Laggan, and is very keen to start a Branch of An Comunn in one or two districts in South Uist. I confined myself on this occasion to Class and Mod propaganda. Father MacLean's support is assured.

The following day I called on Father Gillies, but like the others found him from home. I tracked him to Boisdale on my way to Garrynamony. He is very keen on singing classes, and delighted with the prospect of a teacher being sent to South Uist. Mr. Borland, Headmaster, Garrynamony, offered whole hearted support, also Mr. Lomax, Headmaster at Dalliburgh. The Gaelic teacher at Dalliburgh, Mr. Alexander Fraser, M.A., also promised to do all in his power to help the classes. Later in the evening I called on Mr. MacPherson, Lochboisdale School, and received every encouragement from him.

Eriskay will have to be grouped with South Uist for the Mod, but the teacher will have to take it as a separate centre. The ferrying is too uncertain to group it with any other district.

The end of May and beginning of June were suggested as the most appropriate times for holding Mods. They agreed with my suggestion that the four Mods, Castlebay, South Uist, North Uist, and Harris, should be taken in sequence by whatever party of judges was

sent out, and they were agreeable to fall in with any dates during the period mentioned if that was going to suit our convenience.

I was delighted with the reception accorded me in Barra and South Uist, and I anticipate successful Mods at Castlebay and Dalliburgh.

I attended the opening Ceilidh of the Tainuill Branch, on Monday, 11th November. Dr. MacNicol, President, was in the chair, and the local choir opened by singing the Rallying Song. There were fully 80 members and friends present. Addresses in Gaelic and English were delivered, and Gaelic songs sung, also instrumental music. The opening meeting augurs well for a successful session.

On Tuesday, 12th, I was at Ballachulish. Only a small number turned out, but those in charge of the Branch are determined to make the Ceilidhs a success if possible. It is very encouraging to hear so much Gaelic spoken in this district, but one would like the local people to take more active interest in the efforts made to preserve the language as a cultural asset.

I met with complete success at Kinlochleven on the 13th. A meeting was hurriedly called by Mr. T. B. Cameron, and 18 attended in the Hall to meet me. After speaking to them on the duties of Branch members, I put the question of forming a Branch to the meeting, and they all agreed to the proposal. Office-bearers were appointed as follows:—President, Miss Mary Stewart; Vice-President, Mr. Alex. Mac'aren; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Alex. MacIntyre, 10 Lismore Road; with a Committee of five members. It was proposed to hold a Ceilidh on 18th December.

I am indebted to the Committee of the Benderloch Branch for arranging a meeting for me so soon after their regular Ceilidh. About 50 members met me in the School, the Rev. Alex. MacDonald, president, presiding. The proceedings were entirely in Gaelic. Members of the choir contributed Gaelic solos. This Branch is in a very healthy condition.

Appin Branch opened with a Grand Concert on the 15th, Mr. D. MacPherson, M.A., president, in the chair. In addition to local talent, Mr. Donald MacIsaac, Glasgow, contributed Gaelic and Scottish songs which greatly pleased the audience. I spoke briefly in Gaelic and English, and sang several songs. Mr. Angus Black proposed votes of thanks at the close. A reading class, conducted by the President, is now in progress. Singing classes will commence in the Upper Lorn district after New Year, and much interest is being evinced by the Branches concerned.

NIALL.

DO'N GHEALAICH.

LE DONNCHADH MAC IAIN, ILE.
(A' cheud duais aig Mod Pheairt, 1929.)

Feuch! Banrigh na h-oidhch' a' gluasad,
Ag éiridh air cùlthaobh nan neul,
'S i dearcadh a sùil gu mbeirneach,
Air gorm-bhrat ùr nan speur.
'S rìoghail, fìathail is cùrteil,
A' siubhal troimh dhùmhlaichd nan réul,
'S gach rionnaig a' sleuchdadh le ùmhlaichd,
Toirt urraim d'a cumhachd 's d'a leus.

Thall aig fàire na tunne,
'A' dìreadh do'n chruinne 'na glòir,
'Sa h-lomhaigh cruinn-làn, cuimhir,
Mar ubhal a thumtadh an òr.
Ailleachd an sgàile tha uimpe,
Cha thuigear le duine tha beò.
Sneachd-gheal, ròs-dhearg, òr-bhuidhe,
An fhalluinn a shnìomhadh le ceò.

Na sgàilean gun dàil air an sgaradh,
'S air an sgànradh le fuath nach gann,
'S gun àite tàimh ac' r'a mhealladh,
Ach gabhail fo bharrach nan crann.
No steach do uamhan nam bearradh,
As an t-sealladh an dubhar nan gleann,
'S ruagadh gach doille agus faileas,
Gu cùlthaobh dubha nam beann.

Faic an lòchran fìathail,
Mar ghnùis bean-baile gu sèimh,
A' tàladh gach beò le aighear,
A mhealladh aon sealladh air Nèamh,
'S i togail an àird a bathais,
Le mùirn air monadh an t-sléibh,
Air srathan an fhraoich tha 'gathan,
'S air sàile na mara a' leum.

Sòlas a' mharaiche thusa,
A ghealach, air aghaidh nan speur,
'S e seòladh an luing gu subhach,
'S gach cunnart 'na shealladh gu léir,
Sòlas gach cré 's a' Chruiththeadh,
Gach gineal, fine agus treubh,
Aoibhneas an t-suiriche cuideachd
Le 'chruinneig fo dhubhar nan geug.

Air am fidealadh dlùth a'd' lùib-sa,
Tha gisreag, creideamh is creud,
Le cinnich a chunnaic air tùs thu,
Mu'n cuailas guth air an "Sgeul,"
Bheannaich iad uile do ghnùis-sa,
'S tu deàrsadh a nuas o Nèamh,
Agus aoradh, ùrnuigh is uamhas,
'Gam buaireadh uile gu léir.

'Nuair bheachdaicheas Alasdair Sheumais,
Air t'ìne mar chorrán 'san iar,

Bidh e tionndadh gach peighinn gu gleusda,
'Se guidhe ort sonas d'a riar,
Tarruingidh e mach gach crèidhleag,
Gach achfuinn, àsaig is cliabh.
Ruigidh e charraig gu h-éibhinn,
Tha aige-san rabhairt g'a mhiann.

'S cuimhne leam maduinn na h-òige,
'S mi gòrach is maoth 'san àm,
'Nuair dh'aithriseadh seann duine còir dhomh,
Naidheachd mu bhodach a bh'ànn,
'Nuair chaidh e a bhristeadh an Dòmhnach,
Do'n choille a' ghearradh nan crann,
Le fuath, do'n Ghealach chaidh fhògradh,
'S an tuagh a' sparradh 'na cheann.

'S fhada o'n dh'innis mo mhathair dhomh,
—Tha rabhadh is earail 'san sgeul,—
Gur h-annadsa mulachan càise,
Tha'n sàs air spàrraibh nan neul,
Gun d' fhàgadh shuas gu h-àrd thu,
Leis a' ghràin ud, Cailleachag Bheurr,
'S thu air t'itheadh gach trian de'n ràithe,
Leis na balaich bha clachadh nan eun.

Theirear "Gealach-an-Abachaidh" riutsa,
Is toradh na talmhainn trom,
"Gealach-nam-Broc" their euid riut,
'S tu buidhe mar òr nam bonn.
Is "Gealach-an-Aigh," thu cuideachd,
Ged thuiteadh t-adharc bhi crom,
'S am bàta dol air "Laigh-chuige,"
An gàbhadh garbh nan tonn.

'Nuair shnàmhast thu domhain 'sa' chèathradh,
'S do rotha car glas-neulach gorm,
Bidh daoine pongail is tearuint',
A' gabhail an rabhaidh tha ad lorg,
Tha do riomball gu minic a' bèarnadh,
Air an t-slighe o'n imich an stoirm,
Th'aig an sgìoba ud sanas air deuchainn,
Theid an uidheam mun cluinnean an toirm.

Smaointinn trom dhomh r'a aithris,
Bheil iognadh ged chromainn mo cheann.
'S m'ìm sheasamh a' d' fhianuis, a Ghealach,
A' dheàrrs o thùs aig gach àm,
Is tu shoillsich Eden beannaicht',
Mu'n tàinig mallachadh ann,
'S laigh do ghathan gu sèimh air bathais
An Tì bha'n sàs air a' chrann.

Mo bheannachd gu dìlinn ad chuideachd,
Is t'ìomhaigh cho sìobhalta, sèimh!
Cò thuigear gu sìorruidh an cumhachd,
Tha 'gad chumail aig ursannan Nèimh?
Bho chian nan cian do thurus
'S thu fhathast an toiseach do réis!
Mo bheannachd gu dìlinn a' d' chuideachd,
A' siubhal gu iomall gach ré.

GAELIC TEXT BOOKS.

In a recent article T. Douglas MacDhomhnuill has given several excellent suggestions with regard to the creation of suitable literature for those who have to learn Gaelic from books, and very often without a teacher. In speaking about the trials and difficulties that face one who attempts to learn Gaelic from books, and away from all assistance from native speakers (I am in such a position myself, mo chreach!), T. Douglas MacDhomhnuill urges the creation of a new book forming something like a definite "course," composed in a scientific manner with the special needs of the average "lay" student in view.

I am very glad this matter has been taken up, yes, I too, had to start with *Leabhar na Cloinne Bige* and was soon bored (no one, however, enthusiastic can be expected to lower his intellectual level to that of wee bairns without soon getting bored), on the other hand, some other text books that were more interesting were unhappily too "advanced" for me, and had to be put away until my knowledge of Gaelic should be such that I would be able to read them without having to look up every second word in the dictionary.

A series of books designed for the adult learner where subjects likely to be of some interest to him are treated with something of the simplicity of *Leabhar na Cloinne Bige* is what T. D. MacD. advocates, yes, that is it, I think that such a series of books would be a boon to students.

His suggestions about the pocket books of Gaelic prose with vocabulary is excellent. Being myself compelled by circumstances to live far from the Gaidhealtachd, I know perfectly well how difficult it is to learn Gaelic all by yourself in books, and, therefore, I greatly appreciate T. Douglas MacDhomhnuill's contribution on the subject.

Besides the teaching of Gaelic in Highland schools the learning of the language by Gaels who have not been taught Gaelic in their youth is of great importance to the future of the language. For not every Gael born outside the Highland Line is indifferent to the heritage that by right should be his, but many of them, through no fault of their own, have no Gaelic, but are willing to learn it, and to help them every thing should be done to make the study of the language as easy as possible.

A Gaelic old-word says :—

"An uair chailleas an Gaidheal a' Ghaidhlig
Caillidh e gun dàil a' mhisneach."

But if there is still enough courage left in him to attempt to make good, I think all concerned should do their utmost to make the study of Gaelic an easy matter.

Therefore, I think it is advisable and necessary that a serious effort be made with the view of standardising the language.

Gaelic by itself is difficult enough, and it is quite unnecessary to increase the difficulties of Gaelic Grammar by adding some more by different ways of spelling. In studying the language I have had to do with different text-books, and I found it most difficult to have to get used to two, if not three different ways of spelling one word. In one book they'll spell a word in one way, and in the other book it will be spelt quite differently. This is also very difficult in looking up a word in the dictionary, for you never know how it will be spelt there! Take for example :—
cibeir and ciobair, abhainn and amhainn, cha'n 'eil and chan' eil, am màireach and a màireach, bleedhainn and bleoghainn, foidh-idinn and foighidinn, Doncha and Donnehadh, Ionbhirnis and Inbhirnis, cuig and còig, gu'm beil and gu'm bheil, etc.

Why can we not have a standardised language? Why cannot the etymology of the various words be taken into account, and one definite form of spelling be adopted once for all?

I admit it is not an easy thing to do to introduce a standardised spelling in Gaelic. In Gaelic, like in many other languages, there is a local pronunciation according to the different districts in which the language is spoken, and the aim of the written language should be to be as near as possible to the actual pronunciation of the words. The Gaelic for "fine" is spelt brèagha in my dictionary, yet in *Baile a' Chaolais* for example, the è in brèagha is never sounded, and an i is pronounced instead thus, briagha. It is so with many words, and therefore, before a definite decision can be taken it will be necessary to consider the claims of all districts as far as local pronunciation is concerned, but I think that, at least, the spelling could be standardised where it does not affect the pronunciation, for example :—abhainn, amhainn ciobair, cibeir, etc.

In the report of the Meeting of the Executive Council held on January 27th, last, it is stated that a letter was read from Mr. James Allan, B.Sc., Rector of Kilsyth Academy, urging the Committee to take up the question of standardising Gaelic pronunciation, but that it was resolved to take no action in the matter meantime. I do not know the reason why such



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an important matter should not be considered by the Committee, but no one can deny that as far as the study of Gaelic is concerned the actual state of Gaelic spelling, and in many cases the differences in pronunciation are a real drawback, and as it is essential that every effort should be made to encourage the study of the language, it is of great importance that the necessary attention should be given to the above mentioned problem.

I think it would be very interesting to have other readers' opinions on this subject.

P. H. VAN DEN BROECK

ALASDAIR MACMHAIGHSTIR ALASDAIR.

BY THE HON. R. ERSKINE OF MARR.

This great Gaelic bard is drawn to the very life in Dòmhnall Mac-na-Ceardaich's play, *Crois-Tara*. It is admittedly extremely difficult to make an historic figure re-appear with success in play or novel; but in the piece named the feat glahced at is done to perfection. In *Crois-Tara* MacMhaighstir Alasdair truly lives again. He is there tremendously vehement, full of fire and passion, declamatory as he was in real life, ruthless, overbearing, and eloquent beyond compare. He is the true hero of this striking Jacobite drama, I know no more vivid and convincing portrait of a great historic figure.

Comparatively little is known of the private life and circumstances of this prince of modern bards. His father was an Episcopalian clergyman, and he had a brother who though of diminutive stature, yet was famed throughout Gaeldom on account of his great physical strength. The poet received a fair classical education, married young, and died in his own country at a ripe old age. These few particulars might be added to; but it is rather the poems than the man who composed them that have the first claim to our regard.

The common opinion is that Alasdair MacDonald is the greatest of the Gaelic bards of modern times; and for my part I think it would take a deal to upset that settled judgment. There are some, however, who think differently. For instance, Professor Fraser

of the Oxford Celtic Chair says that, "measured by European standards, MacDonald is not a great poet;" and for this he thinks that "the conditions under which he and his contemporaries and successors lived are responsible." Further, the same critic asserts that, "the indispensable conditions for the production of great literature, a wide-spread general culture and a literary tradition, were not present in the Highlands" in Alasdair's time.

Of course Professor Fraser is entitled to his opinion touching MacDonald's *bardachd*, but personally I should be sorry to share it with him. It seems to me, as it has seemed to many others, that the best of MacDonald's work contains all the elements of true poetic greatness. I would hold his candle, as bard, against that of any of his "European" contemporaries. It is absurd to set his genius in the low light Professor Fraser places it in; and from the latter I appeal to the poems themselves to justify this assertion.

Professor Fraser asserts in effect that there was no literary tradition worth mentioning in the Highlands when MacDonald lived. I venture to think him mistaken. There was strong tradition, if there was not "widespread general culture." It should be remembered (says the late Professor Quiggin) that the Books of Clanronald contain ten panegyrics composed at various times between 1514 and 1736, thus proving that the old encomiastic poetry lingered on in Scotland for about a century after it had disappeared in Ireland." This encomiastic verse was the product of the bards who succeeded the more ancient professional poets, and MacDonald's work abundantly proves that he was a pupil of the school in question. Apparently, the last of the "Chief-Preceptors of the poets of Ireland and Scotland" was "Teige Oge," who died about the middle of the fifteenth century; but it is absurd to suppose that the office itself, and the love connected with it, passed away without leaving any tradition behind it. The poems of Alasdair, and those of the Jacobite bards in general, are eloquent witness to the contrary.

Most of the poems of Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair are quite untranslatable, some of them have been done into English, but hardly tolerably. He must be read in the original to be understood, and pondered in the same to be admired as he deserves to be. And now they have put up to him a monument of sorts; but a far better and worthier memento would be a respectable edition of his poems.

STANDS SCOTLAND WHERE IT DID?

"Foundations of Scottish Character," reviewed from 2,000 years of literary history, was the subject of an inaugural address given by the President of the Scottish Literary Society, Dr. W. J. Edmondston Scott, in the University of Toronto, on Monday, 21st October.

The men who fought under Galgacus, said Dr. Scott, under Montrose, Prince Charlie, at Ticonderoga, Fontenoy, Quatre Bras, were in character no different from the "Iron Regiments" who fought in Flanders fields for four years. Dourness, grit, and pride of race, a sturdy spirit of independence, and a national faith in the power of knowledge leading to the truth, were dominant traits of the Scottish character emphasised by classical writers, and a host of early Irish and foreign observers.

One reason for the strength of Scottish virtues could be traced to the scarcity of the root of all evil which fostered the latent powers of argumentation and metaphysics in Church and State. Still more potent was the fact, that since the Glacial Age all the best people from the united and disunited states of Europe had kept migrating westward to Ireland and Scotland, where were found to-day the oldest, and presumably the wisest, branches of the human race that had survived the Flood. These were they who had travelled far to seek a dry country, and were still travelling.

Throughout the Christian era seven different languages had flourished in Scotland, but the change in speech betokened no change of race. Neither had the Gaelic people, representing the dominant element anthropologically, been much affected, from a psychological standpoint, by their absorption of alien blood. The ancient race had remained in continuous possession of the soil, despite all manner of cultural and political changes; and its main traits of character could be seen to be the same to-day as were described in the pages of early historians. Its strength lay in its homogeneity. If Highlanders now surrendered the language of Eden in favour of the Edinburgh accent or the Glesca' twang, it was through no sense of inferiority complex, but the belief that this change of speech offered easier approach to the golden gates of Easy Street.

Scottish ideas of democratic government, personal thrift, individualism in commerce and industry, and the national faith in the power of knowledge, had found most congenial soil in America, where they were making themselves responsible for the intelligent direction of

American gun-power in the settlement of international problems. In Canada they had recently brought about a definite and permanent cleavage in Canadian religious life and history, that originated in the deep-rooted convictions of Scottish Presbyterianism.

Upon the goodwill of the Scottish people, said the President in conclusion, rested the fate of the British Empire, regardless of any agreements and conventions of other nations; and this was well and truly laid on a foundation of strength and stability of character that would continue to weather the buffeting of Fortune.

The next meeting is held on 18th November in the University of Toronto, when the President addresses the Society on: "Languages of the British Army and Navy, 1914-1919." This will be followed by a Lantern Lecture on the Scottish National War Memorial, Edinburgh Castle, by the Rev. Mr. Patterson of Peterboro.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Romans and Gaels in Scotland.

Sir,—I agree cordially with Mr. G. M. Fraser in deprecating looseness of historical statement, no matter what its source. But in describing Galgacus (more correctly, perhaps, Calgacus), the Caledonian chief, as a "Gaelic hero," has not Mr. Fraser himself gone beyond the limit prescribed by contemporary (or even later) evidence?

As Mr. Fraser knows quite well, the implications of his statement are of ethnological importance. Hence my reason for asking your permission to question its accuracy.

Yours obediently,

W. C. MACKENZIE.

LONDON, 12th November, 1929.

* * *

Sir,—A letter in your November issue under the above heading, signed by G. M. Fraser, and purporting to criticise certain statements in my recent article on *Celtic Heroes of Roman Times*, calls for a reply.

It must have been obvious to all who read my article, except to Mr. G. M. Fraser, that the portion of it which was concerned with Scotland professed merely to sketch the figure of Calgacus, not to give an account of the whole course of Scoto-Roman history. A brief outline of

Agricola's operations in Scotland was necessary in order to present Calgacus in his proper setting, but Roman penetration of the country subsequent to Agricola's recall was entirely outside the scope of my article.

Mr. G. M. Fraser considers it "remarkable" and "quite untrue" that I should state that the Battle of Mons Graupius was not "followed up" by the Romans. Nevertheless, the historic fact remains that Agricola and his troops retreated after the battle and failed to occupy the territory which was the scene of the conflict, wherever that may have been. A general who so acts cannot be said to have "followed up" his victory. Neither can subsequent campaigns on the part of the same nation of invaders in later generations be spoken of as "following up" this long antecedent battle.

Assumptions regarding the ignorance of writers because they do not allude to irrelevant events are uncalled for and superfluous.

AUGUSTA LAMONT.

* * *

Judicial Appointments in the Highlands.

Dear Sir,—The exclusion of Gaelic from the Sheriff courts, to which "Gleann Mor" refers, is an outstanding instance of the complete administrative disregard which is still accorded to the vernacular in the Highlands. It is extraordinary to think that the policy of extirpating the Gaelic has been tacitly continued from 1747 down to this very day, with the sole exceptions of the Pentland Act of 1911, which stipulated the presence of, at least, one Gaelic speaker on each land Court, and the Education Act of 1918. It is even more extraordinary to consider the complacency and fatalism with which Highlanders have accepted such a state of affairs. It is high time that An Comunn set itself the task of procuring for Gaelic, in those parts of the Highlands where it is still in use, administrative status equal to that of English. It is a task that should have been begun some time ago; its completion will do far more to ensure the permanence of the language than any number of appeals to Highland sentiment; its neglect will allow a fundamental cause of the language's decline to remain unremoved.

Mise, le mor mheas orraibh,

JOHN CAMPBELL.

15th November.

BROADCAST TALKS ON HIGHLAND SUBJECTS.

We have pleasure in announcing that the British Broadcasting Corporation have arranged a series of weekly talks beginning on Tuesday, 3rd December, on Highland affairs. These are to be given by Mr. Evan Barron, Inverness, Lady Elspeth Campbell, Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, and Cameron of Lochiel. These talks will deal with some of the most vital of the big problems, both social and economic, which concern the Highlands to-day.

GAELIC CONCERT AT DUNOON.

There was a good attendance of the general public in the Pavilion on Wednesday evening, 20th November, when a Gaelic and English concert was held under the auspices of the Dunoon Branch of An Comunn in aid of funds for the national Mod, which is to be held here next September.

A lengthy and varied musical programme was sustained by the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, who were assisted by Miss Phemie Marquis, the well-known Gaelic and English singer, Mr. Alex. D. Cameron, Highland dancer, and the Dunoon Grammar School Cadet Pipe Band.

The choir, under the conductorship of Mr. J. N. McConnachie, submitted numerous pieces in beautiful voice, the haunting and merry melodies infecting the audience who, on occasions, showed their enthusiasm by joining in the choruses.

At an interval Mrs. Burnley-Campbell of Ormidale, after addressing the audience in Gaelic, said she had been asked to introduce Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, which was practically unnecessary, as he was well-known all over Scotland as President of An Comunn Gaidhealach. It was very good of him to come and preside, and they made him very welcome indeed. They had great days before them in the coming year, and they must all work shoulder to shoulder to make the great National Mod in Dunoon a tremendous success. Everybody interested would have to work, because it was a big undertaking, but she thought they would be able to overcome the difficulties satisfactorily.

Sheriff Macmaster Campbell said that after the words of welcome from Mrs. Burnley-Campbell, and the response of the audience, he no longer felt a stranger in Dunoon. Dunoon had earned a wonderful reputation as the Mecca of Highland pipers. Inverness or Oban could claim their tens of pipers, but Dunoon could claim its hundreds. It said a great deal for the organising capacity of its Highlanders—or those who would like to be Highlanders, and it was possible for some one else to become more Highland than the Highlanders themselves—that there was such a thing as the two days gathering at Cowal Games, and that they have made it such a tremendous success. He hoped it would go on from strength to strength.

Continuing, he said he regarded it the duty of every Highlander to cultivate the Gaelic language, not only for its own sake. They would have the Mod here next year, and from what he saw that night it was going to be a tremendous success. He could assure them that the Central Executive would do all in their power to second the local efforts to make next year's Mod a success. (Applause).

At the conclusion of the concert votes of thanks to the artistes were accorded on the call of Mr. D. Macdonald, president of the Local Branch, and to the chairman on the call of Provost Turner.

BRANCH REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA.

MELBOURNE.—The usual monthly Ceilidh was held as usual in the Unity Hall, and a good number were present to appreciate the programme. The Scot's National Anthem was played on the pìob-mhor by Hon. Piper A. J. MacRury. The song "An t-Eilean Muileach," by Mr. D. MacKinnon, was appreciated and encored. The audience were equally appreciative of Miss Effie MacDonald in "Ho ro Eileanaich" and "Hi oro 's na horo eile." Gaelic songs by Mr. Alex. Maclean, and an address in the Gaelic by Rev. M. S. Maclean of Stornoway were attentively listened to. Mr. D. Maclean was good in "S toigh leam a' Ghaidhealtachd" and the encore, "Moch 's mi eiridh." Scots songs were also rendered by Misses Murray and Morrison, and by Mr. Dickson. Pipers MacKenzie, MacRury, and Robertson played for the Reels, etc. The evening closed with the singing of "Oidhe mhat leibh 's beannachd leith," by the company.

The monthly Ceilidh was held in Unity Hall, Bourke Street, and proceedings were opened with playing of "Scots wha hae," by Mr. D. MacKinnon on the pipes. An interesting programme followed. Gaelic addresses were given by Mr. D. MacDonald and Rev. M. S. Maclean. Gaelic songs were sung by Miss Effie MacDonald and Messrs. D. MacDonald, N. MacInnes (Pres.), Neil MacLeod, and D. Maclean. Scottish Songs were rendered by Miss Morrison. The company indulged in the dancing of Scottish Reels. Proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of "Oidhe mhat leibh 's beannachd leith." Members and their friends enjoyed themselves dancing reels and other Highland dances at the Annual Show Week Dance, on September 21st, in the Oddfellows Hall. Over a hundred Gaels assembled on Sunday, 22nd September, at West Melbourne Pres. Church to worship their Maker in their own language. A very fine sermon on "The Mysterious Life, a Believer," was delivered by Rev. M. S. Maclean (of Stornoway), an able exponent of the Gaelic. The text was Galatians ii. 20. The duties of Precorator were ably carried out by a worthy Gael from Loch Torridan side (Ross-shire)—Mr. Duncan MacDonald. One of the Highlanders present had not heard a sermon in the Gaelic for 45 years. It is hoped to be able to have more services later on.

ABERFELDY.—This branch held their annual meeting in the Town Hall, presided over by Mr. Alexander Stewart. The Treasurer's statement showed a balance of £9 in the branch funds. The Secretary's report was read by Mrs. MacKintosh, Laggandarrach. The following office-bearers were appointed:—President, Mr. Stewart; Vice-Presidents, Miss Johnston, Ardrennoch; and Mr. James MacNaughton, Edragoll; Hon. Secretary, Miss Calder, Selma; Hon. Treasurer, Bailie John MacLaren; Representative to An Comunn, Miss Calder; Members of Committee, Miss Dunn, Mrs. Haggart, St. Ann's, Miss Munro, Breadalbane Villas, Mrs. A. Menzies, Mrs. J. Menzies, Mrs. H. Halliday, Mrs. Elmslie, Mrs. MacDougall, Miss MacLean, Rev. Ian MacLellan, Mr. Andrew Clow, solicitor, and Mr. A. S. Robertson.

APPIN.—The opening lecture to the newly formed branch was delivered in the Strath of Appin School, by Mr. D. MacPherson, the President, when there was a good attendance. Mr. MacPherson made a wise choice of his subject:—"Eobhan Macleachluinn, Bard and Scholar." It goes without saying that Mr. MacPherson did full justice to his subject in the use of idiomatic Gaelic. It was appropriate to the purpose for which Comunn Gaidhealach nab-Apuinn was formed,

namely, to master the language of the Highlands, that the theme on the first night should be the life story of a hero, who in the face of much discouragement and opposition had by sheer force of character paved his way to greatness in scholarship and esteem. It is hoped that with so capable a teacher as Mr. MacPherson the local branch will apply a like determination in the pursuit of its subject, and shall be crowned with success. Miss Annie Munro and Miss Margaret MacIntyre sang a Gaelic duet, and a Gaelic solo was rendered by Miss Christina Livingstone.

BADENNOCH.—The efforts on behalf of the promotion of the Gaelic language and music in the district commend themselves to the people of Badenoch, and credit is due to Miss Farquharson, who has been an indefatigable upholder of the cause, and to Mr. Jas. Murray, music teacher under the Badenoch School Management Committee, who has revealed the talent necessary to the correct interpretation of the old airs. The last of a series of concerts arranged by Mr. Murray was held at Newtonmore on Friday evening of last week, when it was a privilege to hear and judge the merits of the Badenoch choir after its success at the Perth Mod. Miss Farquharson, who presided, paid a tribute to the careful and painstaking tuition and conducting of Mr. Murray. They had on view the shield which had been won, and which she hoped would be seen on future occasions in Newtonmore. The artistes apart from the choir were:—Miss Mary Macdonald, Kingussie, Miss Urquhart (Glenorchy Gaelic Choir), Mrs. Stewart, Newtonmore, Miss Nan Munro, L gganlia; Mr. Barrie Kingussie. An interesting presentation took place at the interval, when Miss Farquharson presented to Mr. Murray a solid leather attache case, suitably inscribed, being a gift from the choir. Mr. Murray returned thanks to all and to Miss Farquharson for her kind words. He appreciated the gift. At the conclusion of the programme Miss Farquharson proposed a vote of thanks to the artistes, including Mrs. Murray, who had played the accompaniments. A well attended dance followed to music by Newtonmore Dance Band. The catering arrangements were ably carried out by Miss Grant and Mrs. John MacKintosh. A sum of about £18 was realised.

BENDERLOCH.—The first Ceilidh of the winter season was held in the Victory Hall. In spite of the unfavourable weather there was a good attendance. Rev. A. MacDonald, Ardochattan, President of An Comunn, gave an excellent "Oraid" on the satire found in the songs and poems of the Gaelic bards. Mr. MacDonald did full justice to his subject, and his quotations from the old bards were both amusing and interesting. The "Oraid" was delivered in very good Gaelic, and was very much enjoyed by the audience. Mr. MacDonald was accorded a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Mr. P. MacDonald, who presided. Thereafter a musical programme was sustained by Mrs. MacDougall, Miss MacLucas, Mr. P. MacDonald, and Mr. MacDougall, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was awarded. A similar vote to the Chairman, given on the call of Mr. Black, brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

BONAR BRIDGE.—A delightful entertainment was recently given in the Territorial Hall, the object being to stimulate interest in the good work of An Comunn, and to widen its appeal in the district. The concert did not come short in its purpose, and added impetus has been given to public interest. While, regarded as an entertainment it provided a real treat for the large audience assembled. Mr. A. MacPherson, Inveran, presided, and among others Mr. Roderick MacLeod contributed to the evening's programme.

BUTE.—The opening meeting for this session of the Branch held in the Tower Hall, Rothesay, was an auspicious success. The hall was packed, and

latecomers had to be content with standing room. Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Lyle was in the chair, and expressed regret at the absence through illness, of Captain Kennedy, the genial President. Referring to the varied and interesting programme arranged by Mr. John C. MacLean, the indefatigable secretary, the chairman expressed his pleasure in welcoming two Greenock vocalists who were appearing at Rothesay for the first time, as well as Mr. Alex. N. Nicolson, from the same town, the winner of this year's London Mod gold medal, who had already, on previous occasions, established himself a warm favourite with the Rothesay members, and he was certain Mr. Nicolson would give them something good. The audience was an enthusiastic one, and readily showed appreciation of the programme which comprised the following:—Gaelic solos by Miss Flora MacDonald, Greenock; Miss Veronica Smart, Port Bannatyne; Mr. Alex. N. Nicolson and Mr. John Gillies, Greenock; and Scots solos by Miss T. MacDonald and Mr. Jack L. Strachan, Rothesay. A pleasing selection of Gaelic melodies was given by Chantrey's Orchestra, with Mr. Chantrey at the harp. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. Lamont, Miss MacDonald and Mr. Nicolson. A cordial vote of thanks proposed by Baillie Brown, was accorded the various artistes, while Mr. MacLean moved a similar compliment to the chairman. An enjoyable dance followed, with Pipe-Major P. Stewart, who, earlier in the evening, had contributed stirring bagpipe selections, as M.C.

DINGWALL.—The audience in the Town Hall recently were charmed with the singing of the Inverness Gaelic Choir, and cordially acclaimed them as the champion Gaelic choir of Scotland. Their presence in Dingwall was at the instance of the local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and the object was to encourage the study of the language and song of the Gael in the capital of Ross. There was a huge audience, representative of a wide area—from Culbokie to Strathconan and Garve, and from Muir of Ord to Aines. The programme submitted was a lengthy one, and consisted of part songs, solos, duets, and trios. But the piece-de-resistance was the Choir's rendering of the Perth Mod test songs, which gained for it the Tullibardine Shield. Both pieces were submitted, but the better, and certainly more popular, was "Hì ri ri tha e tighinn," which roused the enthusiasm of the audience. The soloists were Miss Ruth Maciver, Miss Betty Macleod, Mr. Fred Miller, Mr. D. M. Mackenzie, Mr. Neil Ross, and Mr. Fraser Sutherland. All had to respond to encores. Captain Finlayson was a genial chairman, and in moving a vote of thanks to the choir, soloists, and accompanist, Miss Rhoda Macleod, cordially congratulated Mr. L. J. Owen, the talented conductor, on the success which had attended him and his choir.

DUROR.—Mr. Hugh MacInnes, the Secretary of the Branch organised a very happy and successful Ceilidh in the Schoolhouse recently. This branch has grown considerable in numbers and prosperity since its formation last session. It has now been decided to amalgamate with the Kentallen Branch, with meetings to be held alternatively at each. Rev. John MacLean, Appin, presided over the Ceilidh, and in appropriate terms commended the aims and object of An Comunn, and remarked that no matter how zealous and devoted their laudable efforts were to uphold and perpetuate the language by conferences and Ceilidhs, their best endeavours would prove abortive unless the incentive and inspiration found its stimulus by precept and example within the family circle. A fitting tribute was paid to the memory of the late president, Rev. Kenneth Smith, by the maintaining of one minutes silence. The concert programme opened with the singing of "Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig," and was much enjoyed throughout.

FORT AGUSTUS.—The first Ceilidh of the session, presided over by the Rev. Angus MacIntyre, president of the Branch, was most successful. A crowded audience was present, including many friends of the movement throughout the district. The chairman intimated that they were fortunate in obtaining the services of Miss Jean MacNab, M.A., as music teacher. A choir of 30 voices had already been formed, and classes will be held in the Public Hall. Miss MacNab will also teach the children of the two local schools. The concert programme was excellently varied and of a high order, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience. At the close fitting reference was made to the illness of Mr. James C. Campbell, and the wish expressed for his speedy recovery. During the evening an eloquent address was delivered by Mr. John N. MacLeod on behalf of the movement.

A considerable amount of routine business was dealt with by the Executive Committee of the Branch, which met in the War Memorial Hall, a short time ago. The chair was occupied by Rev. Angus MacIntyre. On the motion of Mr. D. MacGregor, Rev. A. J. Kesting was appointed Hon. Treasurer of the branch in place of Mr. Angus MacArthur, who has been recently transferred to the Killin (Perthshire) office of the Bank of Scotland. The meeting agreed to record in the minutes their deep appreciation of Mr. MacArthur's services as Treasurer (a post which he held since the local branch was formed. Miss Bowie (Hon. Secretary) was asked to send a copy of the minute to Mr. MacArthur.

GLENGARBY.—Mr. John MacGillivray, president, presided over a crowded gathering at the opening meeting of the Branch. The Ceilidh was thoroughly successful, and the musical fare maintained a high standard throughout the proceedings. Before the programme commenced sympathetic reference was made by the Rev. James Hill, to the illness of Mrs. Elliot, the wife of their respected and much esteemed Honorary President, Major Elliot.

KILMARTIN.—Under the auspices of the local branch a very enjoyable concert took place in Paltalloch Victoria Hall on Friday evening, 15th November. On the motion of Mr. Malcolm Clerk, president of the branch, the Rev. J. M. Munro took the chair, and in the course of a short opening address urged all present with a knowledge of the Gaelic tongue to give practical demonstration of their interest in the old language. A good programme of vocal and instrumental music was then entered upon, and was ably carried through.

KINGSUSSIE.—The Rev. Neil Ross, B.D., D.Litt., presided at the first Ceilidh of the Laggan Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach in Balgown Old Schoolhouse. Following an inspiring address by the chairman, in which he said that there was a marked strain of music in Badenoch which these Ceilidhs served to bring out, an extensive programme of songs was sustained by Misses Gillies, Macdonald and Ross, Mrs. Hicks and Mrs. Mackintosh, and Messrs. Cattinach and Cameron. The junior choir gave a pleasing rendering of a couple of songs, and Mr. John Macpherson contributed bagpipe music. Tea, served by the Misses Macdonald, Ivybank, added to the evening's enjoyment.

LEWIS.—Under the auspices of this Branch, the Laxdale Choir, fresh from their successes at Perth, delighted a large audience at the concert given in the Town Hall recently. The function was a real musical treat of a high order, and the stillness and attentiveness of the audience, together with the manner in which they expressed their appreciation after each item was, indeed, a high and deserved compliment to Mr. MacIver and his singers. Provost Bain, presided, and during the course of his remarks, in which he referred to the honour the children had brought upon themselves and to Lewis, he read a letter received from Mr. D. Tod, commenting upon the manner in which the children won the hearts of the large audience at the Mod concert.

The usual order of the Branch's activities was changed this year, when the session opened with a concert in October, but the first of the popular social gatherings or Ceilidhs was held in the Masonic Hall on Friday, 22nd November. The arrangements for the musical programme were in the capable hands of Mr. Angus Macdonald, Sandwick, and the excellent items presented were a tribute to his energy and popularity. Miss Annie Morrison and her capable assistants were in charge of the catering; both arrangements and fare were excellent. Mr. Donald Macleod, Knock, president of the Branch, who was in the chair, bade every one a hearty Gaelic welcome at the beginning of the evening, and at the close thanked all who had taken part and made the gathering such a success, paying a special tribute to Miss Morrison and Mr. Macdonald. Despite counter-attractions, there was a gratifying attendance. The musical programme which followed was a very attractive nature. The next of these gatherings takes place on Friday, 20th December.

NEWTONMORE.—At the commencement of the proceedings at the opening meeting of the Branch, Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, delivered a very interesting and informative address on the Gaelic songs and poems from the collection by the late Rev. Dr. Sinton. There was a large attendance at this meeting, a happy augury for the success of the session. The Lorn Shield which was won by the Badenoch Choir, was on view, and much admired. The musical part of the proceedings commenced with bagpipe selections, and thereafter an interesting programme was proceeded with, and much enjoyed by the large and appreciative audience. At the close Miss Farquharson made touching reference to the recent death of Mr. John MacDonald, Upper Craggan, whose passing away removed one of their best friends and staunchest supporters. It was agreed to send an expression of sympathy from the Branch to the widows and family.

On Friday evening Miss Farquharson of Invercauld presided at a very successful concert in the Public Hall under the auspices of the local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach. There was a large attendance of the local public, whose appreciation of the various items on the programme was testified to by the frequent encores. Songs and part songs were tastefully rendered by the Badenoch Gaelic Choir (winners of the Lorne Shield at the Perth Mod) under the conductorship of Mr. Murray, musical director for the Badenoch district schools. Mrs. Murray, L.R.A.M., acted as accompanist. During an interval Miss Farquharson, on behalf of the Gaelic choirs in the district, presented Mr. Murray, the popular conductor, with a handsome leather attache case, suitably inscribed, as a mark of their high appreciation of his splendid services in training the choirs, including the winners of the Lorne Shield. Following the concert the members of the Choir and their supporters were entertained to supper in the Balavil Hotel in honour of their winning the Lorne Shield. Mr. Thomas Grant, Craighmor Hotel, who presided, proposed the toast of the choir on their success at the Mod. Replying for the choir, Mr. Murray said they (the members of the choir) deserved the congratulations extended to them because it was their first year. He, however, warned them that they were not to rest on their laurels. There was a great field yet to cover, and he hoped still more honour to come to that part of Badenoch. Mr. Hume Robertson, Kincaig, and others also complimented the choir on their success. The proceedings were enlivened by Gaelic songs, contributed by Mr. John Anderson, Mr. Hume Robertson, and Mr. John Cattanach, Catlodge, Laggan. The company afterwards adjourned to the Public Hall, where dancing was engaged in for several hours to music supplied by the Newtonmore Dance Band.

TAIN.—The first meeting of this Branch, which took the form of a Ceilidh was held in Queen Street Church Hall. Rev. Angus Cameron, presided over a large gathering and extended a real "faillte agus furan"

to the Gaels of Tain who are interested in the old language. In his address he traced the history of the Gaelic movement, producing evidence of effort put forth by the various churches in appointing Gaelic speaking ministers in every Highland Parish, despite the antagonism shown by those in authority towards the language. He was glad to state that it was now in a flourishing condition. The Tain Branch in this their third year were putting forth every effort to revive Gaelic in Tain and district, by holding Gaelic services monthly, and instituting Gaelic classes in Tain Royal Academy. The following contributed towards the evenings enjoyment:—Mr. Murdo MacKenzie, Mr. Donald Ferguson, Miss Macdonald, Miss MacVicar. Stories by Messrs. Campbell and Leitch. Violin selections by Mr. and Mrs. Dundas, Mr. MacRae, Logie, Schoolhouse, moved a vote of thanks to the ladies for the tea, and to the artists for their contributions towards the nights entertainment. Mr. MacArthur, Pitcairn, Schoolhouse, asked for a similar compliment to the chairman. About 40 members were enrolled in the branch, and 25 in the Gaelic class.

VALE OF LEVEN.—Two meetings of this thriving Branch have to be noted. At the first of these, Mr. John R. Bannerman, presided over a large audience. The proceedings took the form of a most interesting and highly informative lecture by the Rev. Gillespie Campbell, Paisley, on "Deirdre." Thereafter a Ceilidh was held which included among other matters, a well acted dialogue, as well as vocal solos.

In the absence of Mr. Bannerman, the chair was occupied by Mr. Donald Cameron at the second meeting on the 13th inst. The entire evening, on this occasion, was devoted to a musical programme of a highly entertaining and enjoyable nature. Since the advent of the present session this branch has introduced twice monthly meetings with very pleasing and gratifying results. There is an undoubted enthusiasm for things Gaelic in the district, which is not only reflected in the large attendances at the branch, but also in the large membership of the Gaelic Choir and the Gaelic Class.

WICK.—A happy, homely atmosphere pervaded the opening public Ceilidh for the current session held in the North Parish Church Hall, Oct. 30th. Mr. Millar presided over a goodly gathering, and the programme was much enjoyed. After opening selections on the bagpipes by Piper D. Davidson, the juvenile Gaelic choir, which is under the training of Miss K. McKenzie and Mr. M. Mackenzie, M.A., sang the rallying song, "Sua leis a' Ghaidhlig." The chairman then briefly outlined the work proposed to be carried through this season. Miss Dulcie Alexander sang "The Bens of Jura" and "The Embarrassed Maiden," in charming style, and was heartily encored. Mr. John Duncan rendered "The Skye Fishers' Song" in his expressive light baritone, and Mr. John Budge greatly entertained the company by Highland song and story. In both parts of the programme the Wick Strathspey and Reel Band—consisting of eight members, five gentlemen, and three ladies—played selections with a finish and spirit that were vastly appreciated. Miss Dorothy Gibson delighted the company with dances, including "Seann Triubhais" and the "Irish Jig." Miss Alexander sang "There's nae luck" and being heartily recalled, gave "Comin' through the Rye." Mrs. Gilbertson was accompanist. More choral singing by the juvenile choir, two Highland songs by six girls of the choir, and interesting stories from the papers sent in for the literary competition (read by Mr. Mackenzie) completed the programme. Tea was served during an interval, when a happy half-hour was spent in social conversation. On the call of Mr. Geo. M. Calder, all who took part in the programme were awarded a rousing vote of thanks, and the chairman received a like compliment proposed by Mr. Budge. The singing of the parting song, "Oidheach mhath leith" and "God Save the King" (in Gaelic) by the young people's choir concluded the Ceilidh.

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Leabhar XXV.]

Am Faoilleach, 1930.

[Earrann 4

EACHDRAIDH NA GAIDHEALTACHD.

Rùnaich Comhairle A' Chomuinn o chionn ghoirid gum biodh Eachdraidh na Gaidhealtachd air a sgrìobhadh as ùr. Thug iad fainear gu bheil iomadh mearachd ga teagas an diugh fo ainm eachdraidh fhìrinnich. Is truagh ri aideachadh gu bheil an òigridh Ghaidhealach anns a' sgoil a' faotainn beachd feallsa mu eachdraidh an dùthcha fein. Is ann a chum an cron so a sheachnadh, a dheonaich An Comunn gum biodh leabhar-sgoile ga chur ri cheile, a bheireadh cuideachadh ceart do luchd teagaisg na h-òigridh. Gus an latha 'n diugh bha na Gaidheil a' cur suas leis na bha Goill is coigriche a' cantuinn mu'n dèidhinn an leabhraichean eachdraidh is an sgrìobhaidhean eile. Bha sinne riamh cleachdta ri bhì leughadh mu ar sinnsir féin mar shluagh borb is aineolach, gun lagh gun riaghailt. Tha na sgrìobhaichean Sasunnach a' cumail a mach gu robh na saum Ghaidheil anabarrach fada air ais, an comhnuidh ri mort is meirle, a' creachadh is a' marbhadh a chéile. Agus air a' laimh eile tha an luchd eachdraidh ceudna ag innse dhuinn gu robh na Goill mu dheas eadarthealaichte gu tur o na Gaidheil, a thaobh an t-seorsa dhaoine d'am buineadh iad, a thaobh an oilein is an eòlais, a thaobh an onair agus deagh bheus. A h-uile turus is e an Gall a gheibh a mholadh airson gach aghart maith; agus airson a stuamachd, a ghliocais, agus a cheartais.

A nis tha e coltach a réir is mar bha cùisean da rìribh, nach ann mar sin idir a thachair. Tha e coltach gur ann bha an Gaidheal fada nas sònruichte agus nas cudthromaiche an eachdraidh na dùthcha na tha na leabhraichean Beurla a' cumail a mach. Chan eil ach beagan

bhliadhnaichean o thoisich sgoilearan Gaidhealach ar rannsachadh na ceist so. Tha Mhr. Eoghan M. Barron air aon diubh sin. An uair a bha esan a' dol troimh chùrs an fhoghlaim an Oilthigh Dhùineideann, thug e mach an t-urram a b'airde an eòlas na h-eachdraidh. Thug e aire shonruichte do mhodh sgrùdaidh nan seann chunntas mu eachdraidh ar dùthcha. Mar sin tha an duine foghlumta sin cho fogh-aiteach is cho creideasach anns a' cheist so ri Sasunnach sam bith a ghabhas obair sgrùdaidh as laimh. Anns an leabhar iomraiteach a sgrìobh Mhr Barron mu Chogaidh Saoirse na h-Alba, ri am an rìgh Raibert Brus, nochd an t-ùghdar cìod e cho luachmhor agus éifeachdach is a bha cuideachadh nan Gaidheil an gleidheadh saorsa na h-Alba. As eugmha is nan Gaidheil bhiodh batal Allt a' Bhonnaich air a chall, agus bhiodh saorsa na h-Alba air a call comhla ris.

O chionn ghoirid thug an t-ùghdar sin òraid air an *bhrath chlis* mu dhéidhinn eachdraidh na Gaidhealtachd. Thug e fainear gu bheil Gaidheil agus Goill na h-Alba de'n aon fhuil agus de'n aon chinneadh; agus gur e mearachd a tha ann a bhì gan cunntas mar mhuinntir a tha fada o cheile a thaobh càirdeis, daimh, is dualachais. Ach tha na leabhraichean a' sìor theagasg na mearachd ud. Thug am fear eachdraidh so fainear cuideachd nì son-nichte a ghabhas dearbhadh o na seann chunntais, gur e an taobh tuath a thug an taobh deas fo chis; gur ann air an bhonn sin a rinneadh Alba na h-aon rìoghachd air tùs fo aon rìgh; agus gur e sin is aobhar nach deachaidh ceann a deas Alba a dheanamh na cheann a tuath Shasuin. Chan eil so na ghnòthuch a bheir taitneas do'n fheadhainn a chaidh eideachadh air eachdraidh bhreugaich. Ach tha e coltach

gur ann mar sud a thachair. Agus mar is luaithe a theagasair so do chloinn nan Gaidheal is ann is fhearr dhaibh fhéin.

Agus tha Goill mar an ceudna gle thoilichte gu bheil An Comunn a' cur rompa an eucoir sin a chur ceart. Mar tha sinn a' sgriobhadh na duilleig so tha earrann o phaipear an fhoghlaim, *The Scottish Educational Journal* to ar comhair. Tha am paipear sin a' moladh gnìomh A' Chomuinn anns na briathran a leanas: "We wish An Comunn well in their task of getting the truth told about the Highlands. One of the few causes of hopefulness we can find to-day is the greater attention now being paid by educated Highlanders to the history of their own part of Scotland. It is not, we trust, in vain that the best Parish History we know is that of a Highland Parish—the late Dr. William Mackay's *Urguhart and Glenmoriston*. Mr. Evan Barron's treatment of the *Scottish War of Independence* is another favourable portent. We can conceive of no more truly patriotic service than that to which An Comunn has set its hand. The Comunn will find plenty of work on its hands, but it is highly important work, which, well done, will not only add much to our store of knowledge, but enhance the repute of Scottish Nationality."

THE HIGHLANDS AND THE REVIVAL OF GAELIC.

The following Address was delivered on the Wireless by the President, Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, C.B.E.

Gaelic was the vernacular of the Columban Church, and, concurrently, it was the language of the Court of Scotia Minor, the territory progressively occupied by the Dalriadic migrants from Northern Ireland. When, in the ninth century, Gadhelic and Pictish Scotland was welded into one kingdom under Kenneth Macalpine, Gaelic, enriched it is true by Pictish vocabulary, became the universal language throughout the consolidated dominion, English in its early form being spoken only in the Angle-land of Lothian and certain contiguous districts like Lothian, the fruit of Anglie conquest from the Picts or the Britons. Nor did the Scoto-Gaelic kings content themselves with an Anglie Lothian; the "crowning mercy" of Carham (1018 A.D.) laid Lothian and its Scottish dependencies at the feet of Malcolm II., and the place-names of Lothian, so admirably explicated by Professor Watson,

attest conclusively the habitual use of Gaelic by the people of the Lothians for a period of time not inconsiderable in its duration. Thus it was that, on the accession of Malcolm Canmore, Gaelic was the language of Church and State and people throughout the whole of what is now Scotland.

The causes which operated to the well-nigh destruction of Gaelic as a spoken tongue are writ large in the History of Scotland; it is right, however, to indicate the conspicuous absence of one condition which, in other countries generally, if not invariably, attended the supersession of one language by another, and that was the element of subjugation. Gaelic-speaking Scotland was not conquered by English-speaking England: the head and front of the linguistic transformation was the surrender of Malcolm Canmore to the undoubted piety and goodness of his Saxon Queen, who promptly introduced English as the language of the Court. Through the influence of the Queen, and subsequently of her royal sons, reinforced as that influence was by the foreign clergy called north from time to time to supplant those of the Celtic Communion, the ancient vernacular, before many generations had passed, gave place to English, or its Scots equivalent, throughout large tracts of the Lowlands. And, academic and other powerful influences supervening, the use of Gaelic by the middle of the eighteenth century was well confined within the territory beyond the Tay, and there were portions even of those regions where the Scots form of English had completely superseded Gaelic as the every-day tongue of the people. When the persistent hostility of the Scottish Legislature and Council is recalled, the wonder is that the language, Scotland over, did not go the way of Pictish, and its survival to-day betokens a virility demonstrated by tests unremitting, truculent, and severe. Let me cite but two examples of antagonism at the centre to our old historic tongue. In 1609 the Western chiefs, beguiled into the wardship of the Bishop of Argyll, were constrained to obligate themselves to the notable Statutes of Iona. One of these—that which proscribed the bards, was unmistakeably directed against the language of their songs and poems, and that other of the Statutes which enjoined the education of the children of Highland gentlefolks in the Lowlands is, with equal certainty, another attempt to discourage the use of Gaelic. The disposition towards Gaelic of the Scottish

authorities is frankly avowed seven years after in an Act of the Privy Council directed to the establishment of parish schools, and which enacted "That the vulgar English tounge be universallie plantit and the Irishe (i.e., the Gaelic) language, which is one of the chief principall causis of the continuance of barbaritie and incivillitie in the Highlands, may be abolisheit and removit." There is unanimity now that the Scots statesmen of the seventeenth century erred egregiously when they ascribed to Gaelic the then disordered conditions in the Highlands. To reprobate thus the language of the early Scottish evangelists, and the home tongue in subsequent centuries of men, like Sedulius Scottus, who ranked high among the learned of Europe, was to pervert a rudimentary historical fact. The eighth Duke of Argyll, in his notable study of Highland History, draws convincing parallel between the conditions in other days in the Highlands and on the Borders, and he traces the disorders in both areas to the self-same cause, and this was the perpetual conflict between the clan form of social organisation and the strictly feudal order of Society naturally favoured by the King and Council. Feud and foray were characteristic of Highlands and Borders alike; but we do not discover any attempt by the Scots authorities at linguistic innovation in the Borders! Gaelic had as little to do with the turbulence of the Highlands as Braid Scots with that of the Borders. Throughout the seventeenth century Gaelic continued to be the step-child of the Scottish authorities, governmental and educational; the one bright spot throughout these depressing years was the sense of high duty which animated the Synod of Argyll, when they effected the first translation of the Scriptures into Scottish Gaelic. But for this great undertaking, and the subsequent translation by Drs. Stewart and Smith, the ancient language to-day would be in plight infinitely less encouraging than it is.

The romantic happenings of the '45 begot a definite revival of Gaelic, and especially of Gaelic song: the two Gaelic bards most venerated to-day—combatants both, albeit on opposing sides—belong to the half-century which followed Culloden. And fourteen years after the defeat of Prince Charles there issued from the press those translations, or, as certain hyper-critics think, purported translations, of ancient Ossianic poems by James Macpherson, which intrigued, and continue to intrigue, the interest of scholars Continental as well as British. Significant, too, of the new-

born importance of Gaelic letters was the formation in 1784 of the Highland Society of Edinburgh—now the Highland and Agricultural Society—among other purposes for the encouragement of Gaelic music and poetry. The Society, it is true, but pursued its Gaelic department for fifteen years; it is something that it still retains the old designation, and the directors may one day demonstrate again the interest of their predecessors in the cultural, as well as the agricultural, advancement of the Highlands. As the eighteenth century wore to its close, there were other indications that the national attitude towards Gaelic and its concomitants was undergoing a salutary, if belated, improvement, and the speculation may be safely hazarded that the change should be mainly attributed to that magnificent valour of the Gaelic-speaking soldiery of Britain which gained for them the admiration of four continents. The new atmosphere was soon disturbed, however, by two conditions which produced the effect, in the event, of postponing the apparently imminent reconstruction of the culture native to the Highlands. There was, first, the economic developments, which involved the migration to the towns and overseas of a large section of the people of the Highlands, but, a more potent factor still, there was the emergence of ecclesiastical controversies which became for several generations the leading intellectual interest throughout the northern and north-western counties. For many years, consequently, anterior to 1871, there was almost complete cessation of endeavour to preserve Gaelic or to seek the evolution of its literature; the one bright spot throughout these troubled years being the island of Islay, where flourished a band of tuneful poets and learned folklorists. Appropriately enough, it was in the Highland capital the first organisation came into existence which gave intimation that Highlanders had re-awakened to the consequence of their linguistic patrimony. The Gaelic Society of Inverness was formed in September, 1871, and has gone on from strength to strength, the recognised literary centre of the new Gaelic movement. Its service to Gaelic culture is inestimable, and it is pleasing to recall that it was at an early meeting of the Society Professor Blackie first propounded his scheme—so triumphantly realised—of a Celtic Chair for Edinburgh University. Let it be said that no one individual deserves such distinctive credit as does Professor Blackie for the re-discovery to Scotland that the ancient language of its people was

supremely worthy of preservation, not alone for its own sake, but as an instrument as well of sound academic culture; and there is something of the character of poetic justice in the conjecture which produced a gentleman of the Lowlands (the home of the erstwhile enemies of Gaelic) to earn the gratitude of every loyal Gael by gaining for his language an honoured place in the Scottish halls of learning.

The next landmark in the movement for the revival of Gaelic was the constitution at Oban, in April, 1891, of An Comunn Gaidhealach. The founders of An Comunn were deeply conscious of the distinguished place which was filled by the Inverness Gaelic Society as a Gaelic literary centre and as a medium for Scottish historical research, but they reckoned, and the event proved that they were right, that the Gaelic movement, to be successful, must needs make an appeal more general than that of the Society. Hence the widespread character of its organisation, and its sequent appeal to the whole of the Gaelic-speaking districts of the country.

Recognising, as it correctly did, the annual Mod as an agency of the highest value, An Comunn set itself, at an early stage in its existence, to supplement the influence of the Mod by the supply of school books adapted to the exiguous provision by the Code of the time for the teaching of Gaelic. And there is gratification in the reminiscence that it was the School Board of Oban, reinforced by active members of An Comunn, which made the first appointment in Scotland of a whole-time Gaelic teacher. The Provincial Mods, annually increasing in number, are red-letter days in their several districts, just as the Branches enliven country life, agencies, as they are, of sound instruction and wholesome entertainment. Reference must not be omitted to the corps of bilingual teachers employed by An Comunn, and whose operations throughout the Highland area are so fruitful of musical and linguistic improvement.

An Comunn Gaidhealach has brought into being a considerable body of Gaelic literature, mainly of an educational character, and it is constant in its encouragement of original Gaelic composition in prose, in poetry, and in dramatic form. It was An Comunn, when the Scottish Education Bill of 1918 was passing through Parliament, which organised, and successfully organised, the movement for the inclusion in the Bill of what is termed the Gaelic Clause, and the

application of the Clause is producing a new race of young people educated in their native language. Certain of the Education Authorities still display a regrettable supineness in relation to their duty to Gaelic; and there is need also for an amendment of the Clause, which will render it more widely applicable. It will become the duty of An Comunn appropriately to deal with both these conditions.

I have collected statistics relating to the teaching of Gaelic in the universities and colleges, and in the schools, the Highland districts, and in certain other parts of Scotland where Authorities have patriotically answered the demand for continuation classes. And I submit these statistics with the one observation, that older people, conversant with and regretful for those lean years when Gaelic educationally was persistently discouraged, will hear of the new position with gratified surprise. Ross-shire leads the way with 66 schools in which Gaelic is taught, and 4300 pupils who are benefitting by the instruction; of continuation classes there are two, with 62 students. Inverness-shire is a good second, with 136 schools equipped with Gaelic teachers and 3377 pupils; there are also 4 continuation classes with 68 students. It is pleasant hearing that there is an increase of 7 day schools giving Gaelic instruction over the previous year. Considering the composite origins of its people, Argyllshire makes pretty good showing. Gaelic is taught in 92 day schools—an increase of 13 over the previous year—and in 3 continuation schools. The numbers of day pupils and evening students are, respectively, 1600 and 53. Sutherlandshire does not come out so well as its neighbouring county, but is determined to do better. The present return is: Schools with Gaelic teacher, 15; pupils being taught the language, 200. It is good to know that Bute and Arran has not become completely anglicised. Gaelic is taught in one school in Arran, and there are agreeable portents which point to early additions to the unit.

It is a pity to find Caithness a blank respecting Gaelic instruction in schools, for there is enthusiasm for the old language in Wick and other populous centres. Perthshire is in similar plight to Caithness, but there is good reason to anticipate definite improvement soon. Aberdeen City Authority, conscious that the higher parts of the county is distinctly Gaelic, has established a continuation class in the ancient tongue, but

the County Authority is still inert. The Authorities of Dumbartonshire, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, and Glasgow have given proper recognition of the presence in their several areas of communities of Gaelic speakers, citizens of the highest credit. In these latter counties there are, in all, 12 continuation classes in Gaelic, with students whose numbers approach 400. Respecting Edinburgh University, I am not able to state the number of students, but the Celtic lecturers in Glasgow and Aberdeen report a combined roll of 41 for the current session. And the training centres for teachers in Glasgow and Aberdeen contain classes aggregating 39. It is pleasing to record that the Director of Studies at Glasgow Provincial College, like his colleague at Aberdeen, is in thorough sympathy with the Gaelic Cause and the inexorable time-limit, but allows me to add that it is in the profession of teaching the Gaelic movement is reaping the first fruits of its endeavours to give the Gaelic definite vocational value. Throughout the area in which Gaelic is taught, the candidate who can give instruction in the language is of necessity preferred to the candidate who cannot.

Educational trainers ought to note well the provision by the two training centres for instruction in Gaelic.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Summer School of Gaelic will be held this year at Inverness, beginning on 1st August and continuing for three weeks. Classes as last year.

GISREAGAN.

Le DONNCHADH MAC IAIN, Ile.

(A' cheud duais aig Mod 1929.)

Nach eòlach sinn air bhi cluinntinn daoine ag ràdh!—"Chan eil an sin ach amaideachd, faoinéis, gisreagan!" A' tagradhis a' toirt fainear dhuinn gu bheil gach nì a' bhuineas do'n t-seana chréud sin ri bhi air a mheas, mar fhaoineis, mar amaideachd, 's mar ghisreagan anns nach 'eil aona-chuid, seadh, brìgh, toinnisg no bladh, is nach d'rinn iad feum do nì no do neach riamh.

"Tha dà thaobh air a' Mhaol," is chan eil nì 's am bith gun seadh air choir-eiginn. Gun teagamh sam bith, tha na gisreagan a' coimhead amaideach agus faoin dhuinne air an la'n diugh, agus tha sinn gan tilgeil bhuainn a cheart cho suarach sa thilgeas sinn air falbh 'ar seana-bhrogan, no bad aodaich tha air fas droineach. Nach cuimhne leinn a liuthad uair sa ghàir sinn gu cridheil, an uair chith-eamaid ad-àrd agus deise chaol an tuathanaich an crochadh air stob no dhà anns an achadh a' deanamh "Bodach Rocaideach." Dh'fhaodamaid beachd a bhi againn cuideachd gur h-i a' cheart deise sin, is aobhar ghàire dhuinn, an deise anns do phòs an tuathanaich. Nach 'eil cuimhn' againn air cho rìomhach 's cho snasmhor sa bha i coimhead nar sùilean, agus an cùram mór a bha aig fear-na-bainne dhith. Rinn an deise na bha'n urra rithe, agus chan eil tuille feum oirre air son eireachdais, ach, a mhain, eirson sgaoin a chur air eòin chronail.

Tha na gisreagan air a' cheart doigh! Dh'fhalbh an latha 's an linn anns an robh iad feumail, measail agus eireachdail, agus a nis tilgear air falbh iad mar nithean anns nach eil tuille tairbhe; mar chulaidh-mhagaidh gun bhun gun bhàrr.

Theagamh gu bheil seòrsa feum anna fhathast a chum eagal a chur air fìtheach an sud 's an so, agus gu bheil iad anns an dleas sin r'an coimeas ri deise-chàil an tuathanaich, a tha cur sgànradh air na cathagan.

Cha'n urrainn duinn a' ràdh gur h-e aona-chuid creideamh no créud a bh' anns na gisreagan; ach 'se ar barrail gur h-e bh'annta modh teagaisg.

Chaidh an cur air bhonn leis na Draoidhean. 'Se daoine anabarrach géur, glic, aig an robh eòlas mór a bh'anns na seana Dhraoidhean. Ged nach robh aithne aca air an Dia Bheò, gidheadh, bha aithne aca air a' Chinne-daonda, agus bha làn fhios aca ciod e an t-eadar-dhealachadh bha eadar math is olc, eadar eòlas agus aineolas, do thaobh caithe-beatha agus giùlan ceart anns a' bheatha so, a réir mar dh'fhiosraich iad le bhi géur bheachdachadh air cùrsaichean, agus air reachdan nàdurra a' Chruinne-ché.

Bha na Draoidhean, glic, stuama, measarra, ach bh'an slugh bha fo'n cùram, ann an tomas mór, aineolach, borb, ceann-laidir.

Leis an tuisge bha aca air laigse-inntinn nan cinneach, theagaisg iad iad anns an aon doigh anns an robh e comasach dhaibh sin a'

dheanamh; le bhi buintinn riutha troimh na feartan sin tha air am breith gu nàdurra leis gach beò, agus 's e sin buaidh na féin-theàrnadh. Tha bhuaidh so nas làidire an cridhe gach creutair de'n Chinne-Daonda ann an làithean maoth na h-òige, na tha i ann an seann-aois, oir tha feartan inntinn gu mòr a' bathadh na buaidh so, 'nuair tha duine a' tighinn gu aois, agus gu àm bhi mealladh toradh gach nì a' dh' fhiosraich e tré chuart thalmhaidh.

Cha bhuin a' bhuaidh so idir do'n inntinn, oir tha i cho nàdurra, agus cho làidir anns na h-ainmhean, an èunlaith adhair, 's an iasg na mara, 'sa tha i ann am mac an duine.

Thug sinn uile an aire cho luath 'sa theicneas sgaoth-eùn, greidh-fhiadh, no créutair sam bith eile nuair a mhothaicheas iad cunnart a' bagradh orra, air tàillibh cho làidir sa tha bhuaidh nàdurra so chum féin-dhìon air a' ghintinn anna.

Leis gu bheil na feartan so air am breith leinn an inbhe iomlan, chan eil oilean na ionnsachadh a dhith airson an neartachadh, agus is maith a bha fhios aig na Draoidhean gu robh dorus fosgailte aca gu cridheachan an t-sluaigh tré an bhuaidh so, agus leis a sin stéidhich iad am modh teagaisg sin ris an abar sinne gisreagan.

Ged bha'n teagaisg neònach, agus ged their daoine gu robh e amaideach agus faoin, gidheadh bha toradh na luirg, oir rinn cumhachd nan gisreag a leithid de ghreum air inntinnean agus Mac-Meanma nan Cinneach, agus gu'm b'fhearr leatha am bàs fhulang na am bristeadh, agus leis gu robh gach gisreag 'na meadhon air daoine aiseag gu sligheachan ceart; feumaidh sinn aideachadh nach b'urrainn nach drinn iad feum ana-cuimseach agus do-thuigseach, ann bhi dealbh gluasad, cleachdainnean, agus caithe-beatha gach trèubh, air mhodh a bha ciallach agus ceart.

An uair a fhuair eòlas air an Aon Dia Cheò; cha robh aig an t-sluaigh ach gabhail ri "Sgeul-an-Aigh" gun dragh, gun amharus sam bith; ach a bhi 'g imeachd air a' cheum, agus a bhi togail air an stéidh sin a' shuidheachadh dhaibh, air reachdan mòrachd obair Naduir o chian nan cian, le uile ghliocas nan Draoidh.

Cha'n urrainn duinn a bhi cur coire air na Draoidhean, oir a réir coisla, ghabh iad an aon doigh teagaisg a bha e comasach do na daoine bhi thuigsinn.

An uair fhuair iad am modh teagaisg so a' freumhachadh, agus a' dhaingneachadh ann an cridheachan a' phobuill, cha robh dhaibh ach reachd no riaghailt 'sam bith bha chum

leas an t-sluaigh, a' stéidheachadh air smior gliocais, agus an sin, an reachd sin a' sgeadachadh am briathran simplidh, agus a' thaisbeanadh do'n t-sluaigh ann an riochd gisreag, a bha dlùth cheangailte ri cumhachdan uamhunn agus dorchadais.

Bha na gisreagan sin air freumhachadh cho doimhinn an cridheachan an t-sluaigh, gus nach tug fhathast, dlùth air dà mhìle bliadhna de theagaisg an De bheò, buileach a bun iad, ann an inntinnean nan ginealach a nuas gus an latha 'n diugh.

Fiodaidh sinn a' radh às leth nan gisreag; ged a bha iad amaideach 'nan dealbh 'nan gnè 's nam briathran, gidheadh, bha seadh, anna bha anabarrach tearuinte, glic, a' bha teagaisg—dichioll, duinealas, dilse, caoimheanas, càirdeas, curam, stuamachd, gaisge, foighidinn, trocair, fearas-cuideachd, banas-cuideachd, làn-aighear, feala-dha, maitheanas, agus a bha di-moladh leisg, mèirle, breugan, olcas, farmud, eud, mort, agus gach nì a' dhimolas sinn an diugh fo sholas an t-Soisgeil bheanaichte.

Their sinn fhathast ri doigh teagaisg nan Draoidh—"Bòcan."

'S e sin ri ràdh—"Leigidh mi 'thuigsinn dhà, mar an dean e mo thoil-sa, a chum a leas fhein, gu bheil cunnart air nach 'eil comas aige, a' bagradh air."

Faiceamaid leanabh beag, agus e buailteach air bhi dol an cunnart. Labhramaid ris le àrd thuigse. Inneamaid dhà gu bheil e cunnartach dhà bhi dol cho dlùth air bearradh na creige, an earalas gu sleamhnaich a chasan bhuaith, agus gun tuit e 'na spreadrach air clachan a' chladaich, a tha fada shìos aig iochdair a' ghlomhais.

A' bheil e comasach do inntinn mhaoth an leinibh bhi 'gar thuigsinn? Chan eil!

Is dòcha gun abar e ruinn, agus e 'g amharc oirn le shùilean gorma, neo-choireach, gu bheil e an geall air leum thairis air bile na creige, ceart mar rinn dealan-de boidheach a chunnaic e an dé.

Chan 'eil comhairle ghlic a chum feum far nach eil gliocas.

Ach èisdeamaid ri màthar an leinibh. Am bruidhinn ise mar sin ris? Cha bhruidhinn! Tha i na's eòlaiche air an inntinn mhaoth na tha ann. 'Se their ise, "Fhir bhig! fhir bhig! Chugad! Chugad! Bòcan air cùl na creige! Bòcan air cùl na creige!"

Tha buadhan nàdurra an leinibh, gu grad a' comh-fhreagairt do'n t-sanas, agus gun dàil, gun cheist, bithidh e a' teicheadh air

falbh, agus a' seachnadh a' bhearraidh sin tuille, air eagal gum beir am Bòcan air.

A' bheil am boireannach còir sin a' creidsinn gu bheil Bòcan air cùl na creige? Chan eil! Ach tha i a' creidsinn anns an fheum a tha anns a Bhòcan, mar mheadhon air son a pàisde a chumail a cron 's a cunnart.

'Sann a chum na crìche sin a labhair sinne ris an leanabh cuideachd, ach cha robh breathnachadh-inntinn aig a' mhaotharan chrìon a bheireadh fainear brìgh na comhairle. Bha ar modh teagasg-ne a dol os cionn comas tuigse an leinibh.

Ged a labhair màthar an leinibh le briathran cho neònach, gidheadh, bha'm modh-teagasg ceart aice, agus nochd i gliocas mòr seach sinne.

Tha'm Bòcan so r'a chluinntinn air fearann na Galltachd air a' cheart mhodh. 'Se theirear ris anns a' Bheurla—"Bogey man."

'Nuair bha Lachunn mòr Dhubhaird a' crìoslachadh air a chuid airm a thoirt lèirsgrios air Domhnallaich Ile, dh' fheuch a mhuime, a bha mion-eòlach an Ile, ri comhairle glic a thabhairt air. Bha fhios aice, ged bha Lachunn garg, bras, treiseil, agus feachd mòr aige fo làn an cuid airm, nach robh e idir pongail, no tearuinte dha dol a stigh do'n Eilean Ileach agus dùlan a thoirt do na Domhnallaich air an dùnan fhéin.

Is maith bha fhios aice nach éisdeadh an Leathanach uaibhreach rithe ann an earail 's am bith de'n t-seòrsa sin, agus 's e rinn i; dh' fheuch i ri Bòcan a chur air.

Their cuid gur h-e fiosachd a bh'ann. Cuid a their gur faidheadaireachd a bh'ann, agus tha cuid a their gur h-e buidseachas a bh'ann; ach 's e ar barail-ne gur h-e Bòcan a bh'ann, agus a stéidheadh air smior tearuinteachd aig gliocais.

An uair bha cabhlach Dhubhaird air bheul seòladh, thuir a mhuime ri Lachunn mòr—"Stad am Pol Nùsdaig Diardaoin. Na h-òl deoch a tobar Néill Neònaich. Na caidil air cnoc nan aighean."

Tha Pol Nùsdaig aig beul Loch Ghruineird. 'S maith a bha fhios aig a' bhoirionnach ghlic so, na stadadh a' chabhlach am Pol Nùsdaig air oidhche Dhiardaoin, gum biodh e soilleir do Lachunn Mòr 's d'a luchd comhairle, bhi faicinn Loch Ghruineird traighte tioram air maduinn Diahaoine, ("Cha robh rabhairt riamh 'na h-àirde ach Di-Màirt 's Diahaoine.") Agus leis a' sin gum biodh e tighinn fainear dhaibh cho fìor chunnartach 'sa bha e dhaibh dol suas air an loch so idir. An eearlas nach stadadh e am Pol Nùsdaig, thoirnisg i dhà deoch òl a' Tobar Néill Neònaich, Nis tha'n

tobar so crioman beag a suas air taobh an locha, agus cha'n eil e ro-shàbhailte dol a bheag na's fhaide suas le bàta.

Sheòl Lachunn troimh Phol Nùsdaig, agus nuair a thainig Birlinn Dhubhaird ma choinneamh Tobar Néill Neònaich, dh' iarr e air an sgioba a chur air tìr. Stadadh an soitheach, 's chuireadh air tìr e. Chaidh e suas gu ruige an tobar; thug e dheth na làmhainnean; Chrom e sìos agus dh' òl e deoch; a' srùbadh an uisge suas le bhois. Thill e air bòrd agus dh' òrduich e do'n chabhlach uile seoladh gu Ceann Traigh Ghruineird.

Rinneadh sin. Chambaich is chaidil e air Cnoc-Nan-Aighean.

Chaidh e le ceannachas-làidir is uaibhreas calg-dhlreach an aghaidh na chaidh a thoirmeasg dha, "'s bha bhàth 'sa bhuil." An uair a chaidh an cath air an lar-na-mhaireach an aghaidh Fir Mhuile, bha gach birlinn air traigh thioram, 's cha robh comas aca air dol às. Thug muime Lachunn Mhóir oidheirp air Lachunn a theagasg le Bòcan teagaisg nan Draoidh, ach bha Lachunn Mor os cionn teagasg de'n t-seòrsa sin a' ghabhail, 's cha d' fhàg a bheò no mharbh Ile.

Anns a' chomh-dhùnadh, ged a' ghàireas daoine le làn-aighear agus f-eala-dhà air amaid-eachd nan gisreag, ceart mar a' nithear culaidh-mhagaidh de ad-àrd an tuathnaich air stob 's a gheadhail, cuimhnichamaid gun dròin iad na bha'n urra riutha 'nan latha fhéin, agus ged tha iad air an dealbh agus air am briathradh ann an doigh shimplidh fhaoine, a bha' comh-chòrdadh 's an àm ri breathnachdadh inntinn na muinntir a' chaidh an cur an céill air an son, gidheadh, tha seadh agus brìgh anna a bhuineas do smior gliocais, agus cha mhisde sinn uile, Bòcan a bhi oirnn air cùl creige an àit-eiginn a chumas sinn an ceann ar gnòthuich, cho moch sa mhaduinn shamhraidh, is nach bi cunnart ann dhuinn "gun cluinne sinn a' chuthag 's gun bhiadh 'nar broinn."

SECRETARY'S TOURS.

I left Glasgow at 4.15 a.m. on Friday, 29th November, and proceeded direct to Brora, where I was asked to form a Branch. I was met at the station by Mr. David Grant, who had made all arrangements for the meeting. Before appearing at the school at the appointed hour for the meeting, I called on Mr. Hugh A. Ross, M.A., Director of Education. I was very pleased to find that he was much interested in the formation of a Branch at Brora, and that he was going to

support it. We discussed the question of Gaelic teaching generally, and in this also Mr. Ross showed that he was quite sympathetic. The number of schools under the Sutherland Education Authority where pupils receive instruction in Gaelic has increased materially within the last year.

The meeting in the school was presided over by the Rev. Hector MacKay, and there was a very large attendance. A Branch was formed with the chairman as president; Miss Annie MacKay, Doll, and Mr. David Grant, vice-presidents, and Messrs. John MacLennan and Murdo MacLeod as joint secretaries and treasurers. (Since my visit, over 56 members have been enrolled.)

On returning to the hotel, I was invited to join the members of the bowling club, who were celebrating their annual dinner. I was asked to give an address, and many present intimated their intention of joining the Branch.

On the following morning I proceeded to Skelbo, where I had arranged to meet Mr. Grant, president of the Balvraid Branch. This interview was proposed by Mr. John N. MacLeod, to whom it had been suggested that a Branch might be formed at Birichen. Mr. Grant thought that, by holding alternate meetings at Balvraid and Birichen, the district could be well served by one Branch, as there is only about two miles between the two centres. He suggested that a meeting might be held in Birichen some time in January, at which a representative from the Northern Sub-Committee could attend and inaugurate a Balvraid-Birichen Branch. Mr. Grant undertook to interview Mr. Murray, Birichen, and put this proposal before him.

I returned to Golspie, and interviewed Miss Christina Sutherland, secretary of the Golspie Gaelic Choir, and Miss Anderson. They were anxious to form a Branch, of which the choir members would form a nucleus. I hope it may be possible to do this later on.

I spent some time with the Rev. Mr. MacKenzie afterwards, and was pleased to be informed that he instructs the members of the choir in Gaelic at their weekly practices.

I returned to Inverness, and remained over the week-end with Mr. MacDonald, convener of the Northern Sub-Committee.

On Monday, 2nd December, I called on Mr. John N. MacLeod, secretary of the Northern Sub-Committee, and discussed various matters with him.

I afterwards went on to Dingwall, and interviewed Mr. George Souter, acting secretary of the Dingwall Branch. They are very anxious to have the services of a music teacher there, but their difficulty is to arrange a group of districts which would employ the teacher five evenings per week. Their own class can only meet once a week. I suggested employing a local person, if such could be secured. We also discussed the possibility of holding a Provincial Mod. The probability of having the National Mod in Dingwall on some future date was also discussed, and the important matter of hall and hotel accommodation gone into. The Dingwall Branch is a very live one, and much good work is being done locally. The Gaelic Class conducted by Mr. Alasdair Fraser is well attended. Before returning to Inverness I called on Mr. John MacRae, who has much good work for the cause to his credit.

I arrived at Kyle on the afternoon of 3rd December, and took up quarters on board the steamer "Plover," which was due to sail for Harris at 6 o'clock the following morning.

We arrived at Tarbert at mid-day, and I was met by Mr. John Campbell, who had kindly arranged for my visit. A meeting, attended by about 100 people, was held in the Leverhulme Hall at night, presided over by Mr. A. Morrison, president of the local Mutual Improvement Association. A Branch was formed, with Mr. Angus MacDonald, headmaster, as president; Mrs. Ross and Mr. A. Morrison, vice-presidents; Mr. A. G. MacKie, Bank House, treasurer; and Miss J. A. MacLeod, Tweed Warehouse, and Mr. John MacLeod, Urgha, secretaries. It was decided to hold a Mod some time in June, or other convenient date, and that Leverburgh, Stockinish, Scalpay, and Tarbert should be the centres from which the teacher would operate.

I arrived at Lochmaddy on Friday, 6th December, and was met by Mr. Rànaid MacDonald, C.M.G., who is always willing and eager to promote the cause for which An Comunn stands in his native isle. A local Ceilidh meets every Friday evening during the winter months in the school, and the Committee very kindly allowed me to take charge after the members had debated and decided on the question, "Should Capital Punishment be Abolished." I spoke in Gaelic and English, explaining that the object of my visit was to form committees which would organise singing



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classes and generally prepare for the coming of a teacher of singing. The result, we hoped, would be a Mod confined to the island of North Uist. This was enthusiastically received, and a small committee was formed, with Mr. Ranald MacDonald as convener and Mr. Malcolm A. MacLeod, M.A., headmaster, as secretary.

I attended an exhibition of Arts and Crafts in the small hall on Saturday afternoon, and met quite a number of people who were much interested in my visit, and who helped to make my meetings in the West so successful. I commented on the absence of Celtic Design in any of the rugs and needlework displayed, and promised to send some of our transfer designs. All the work exhibited was of excellent workmanship, and showed care, patience, and originality of design.

On Monday, 9th December, I went across to Clachan, and was the guest there of Mr. Alex. Ferguson, J.P., who had arranged meetings for me at Claddach Kirkibost, and Tigharry. Mr. Ferguson presided over the meeting in Claddach School, and the proceedings were carried through entirely in Gaelic. Mr. Ewen Ferguson was appointed convener of the Local Committee, and Miss M. F. MacKinnon, teacher, secretary.

The Local School Management Committee met on Tuesday at Westford, and at the close of their regular business I was called in to address the members. They were most sympathetic, and agreed to do all in their power to assist our teacher, both with junior and senior classes, and to allow a general holiday on the day of the Mod. I thanked the members for the privilege of addressing them, and for their very cordial reception.

Mr. Peter Morrison, who is a member of Committee, invited Mr. Ranald MacDonald, also a member, and myself, to accompany him to his home at Sollas, where we were hospitably entertained. Mr. Morrison presided over the meeting in the school at 7 o'clock, and urged on all to support the Uist Mod. There were fully 70 people present, and only Gaelic was spoken. A committee was formed, with Mr. MacLean, M.A., headmaster, as convener, and Mr. John MacAulay, Sollas, secretary.

Mr. MacDonald and I left the meeting shortly after 8, and appeared before another large gathering in Tigharry School. Mr. Roderick MacAulay, Baleloan, presided. This also was an all-Gaelic meeting. Mr. MacAulay was appointed convener of the Local Committee, with Mr. MacLeod, M.A.,

headmaster, as secretary. This being the last meeting of my tour, I put it to those present that I had gathered from the various meetings, and from general conversation, that Bayhead seemed the most favoured centre for the Mod, both as regards accommodation and population. The finding was unanimous in favour of Bayhead, and Mr. MacLeod, headmaster, Tigharry, was appointed Mod secretary. I am sorry that no meeting was arranged for Bayhead, but a ceilidh can be arranged there on the arrival of the teacher.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Ranald MacDonald, Mr. Alex. Ferguson, Mr. Peter Morrison, and the teachers for their splendid help, and for making my second visit to North Uist so pleasant and profitable.

I left Lochmaddy on Wednesday, 11th December, en route for Mallaig and home. During the time the steamer lay at Lochboisdale I met Father Gillies, Daliburgh; Mr. MacPherson, headmaster, Lochboisdale, and Mr. Neil MacLennan, postmaster. We completed arrangements to receive Miss Margaret MacDonald immediately after New Year. Mr. Neil MacLennan agreed to act as secretary for the Lochboisdale, Daliburgh, and Garrynamony Singing Class Committee. Father Gillies is giving the classes in South Uist his whole-hearted support. Miss MacDonald will have classes in South Uist, Barra, Eriskay, and Benbecula; the order in which these are to be taken will be decided by the local committees.

I arrived in Glasgow at 5.45 on the evening of the 12th, and attended the Clann an Fhraoich Ceilidh reported on in this number of "An Gaidheal."

I was in the office on Friday, and in the evening travelled to Dunoon, where I addressed a large gathering under the auspices of the Dunoon Branch.

On Monday, 16th December, I left home at 6.30 a.m., and addressed a meeting of the Lochaline Branch in the evening. There was a large attendance in the school, presided over by the president, Mr. D. B. Fletcher. The proceedings were entirely in Gaelic. The Committee of this Branch cannot see their way to accept the services of a teacher offered them by the Southern Sub-Committee.

On Tuesday, 17th, I attended a ceilidh of the Connel Branch. The Captain of Dunstaffnage presided, and he was accompanied by Captain and Mrs. Campbell of Succoth, and Rev. John MacInnes, M.A.,

president. The meeting was very enthusiastic, and the Connel Branch may well be regarded as being in a healthy and vigorous condition.

There was an attendance of 150 at the first ceilidh of the newly-formed Branch in Kinlochleven on 18th December. Mr. MacLaren, vice-president, presided. I spoke in Gaelic and in English during an interval in a splendid programme of Gaelic song and pipe music. Members were enrolled at the close.

A friendly commercial traveller took me in his car to Onich on Thursday afternoon. The night turned out one of the stormiest of my experience, and only 30 people braved the elements to attend the meeting. This was the first Ceilidh of the session, but the members meet twice a week for choir practice. Mr. John MacNeill presided, and Mr. Archie Cameron conducted the choir.

I crossed Corran Ferry on Friday forenoon and attended a Ceilidh in the school in the evening. Notwithstanding the storm and heavy rain about 80 people attended. MacLean of Ardgour presided, and he was accompanied by the Hon. Mrs. MacLean of Ardgour, and Miss MacLean of Ardgour. The Ardgour Ladies Choir, under the leadership of Miss MacIntyre, rendered Gaelic songs. The Rev. A. D. MacLean read a short *còmhradh* from "*Caraid nan Gaidheal*," and, in addition to a Gaelic address, I gave a short recital of Gaelic songs.

I returned home via Fort William on Saturday morning. I estimate that I addressed, on the aggregate, fully 1000 people since I left Glasgow on 29th November.

NIALL.

TEACHERS OF SINGING.

The Propaganda Committee is prepared to receive applications from persons willing to act temporarily as Music Teachers. Applicants, who must be able to speak, read, and write Gaelic, should communicate, stating qualifications, to the General Secretary, 212 West George Street, Glasgow.

LEIS AN FHEAR DHEASACHAIDH.

Tha sinn a' guidhe Bliadhna Mhaith Ur do ar luchd leughaidh anns gach cearn. Gu robh slàinte agus soirbheachadh agaibh; agus gu robh 'ur tlachd is 'ur èirinn de'n t-seann chànan a' dol am meud mar thig bliadhna an déigh bliadhna air ar cinn. Cìod is urrainn sinn a' ràdh ribh mar theachdaireachd, ach gu bheil obair A' Chomuinn a' sìor fhàs; tha oidheirpean ùra gan deanamh; tha fearann ùr ga bhriseadh sìos, agus tha sinn an dòchas,

ga chur le deagh shìol. Tha na meanglain a' cinneachadh; agus tha na h-uile coltas gum bi obair na bliadhna ùire so a cheart cho 's a bha saothair na bliadhna a tha nis air crìochnachadh. Ach tha mòran an crochadh air dìchioll is dìlseachd buill A' Chomuinn, gun dean iad na bheil nan comas gach uair air sgàth na cànan.

* * * * *

O chionn trì seachdainean thachair taghadh feadh Alba gu leir airson Comhairlean nan Siorramachd. Mar tha fhios aig muinntir a cheana, tha caochlaidhean mòra ri bhà an ùine ghoirid. Air an earrach so tighinn thig crìoch air Ughdarrais an Fhoghlum feadh na dùthcha. Is ann le Buidheann shonruichte de'n Chomhairle ùr, a bhios obair an fhoghlum ga riaghladh uaidh so a mach. Bidh a' Bhuidheann sin fada nas tearca an àireamh na na h-Ughdarrais air a bheil sinn eòlach. Is i a' cheist àraidh is còir do bhuill A' Chomuinn a chumail gu faiceallach anns an amharc, cia mar bhuineas Buidheann an Fhoghlum an Siorramachdan na Gaidhealtachd, ri teagasg na Gaidhlig anns na sgoilean.

* * * * *

Tha deagh fhios is cinnt gu bheil cuid de na buill ùra de'n bheachd gu bheil mo is mór de airgid nan cisean coitichionn ga chur a mach air foghlum a cheana. Tha cuid dhiu an duil gu bheil tuilleadh 's a chòir ga thabhairt mar dhuaisean do chlann nam pàrantan sin aig nach eil comas air an clann a chur gu ard foghlum air an cosg féin. Their iad ruinn gum bu cheart an t-airgid sin a chaitheamh air rathaidean is drochaidean. A nis is iomadh òganach Gaidhealach a fhuair cuideachadh o na h-Ughdarrais fad nan deich bliadhna mu dheireadh. Ach ma bheir A' Bhuidheann ùr na duaisean sin air falbh is iomadh òganach is maighdean aig a bheil Gaidhlig mar an cainnt, a chumar air an ais a chion cuidichidh.

* * * * *

Tha dà mhios o chaidh guinea a thairgsinn mar dhuais. Bha an duais airson comhfharpuis am measg cloinne anns na sgoilean feadh na Gaidhealtachd. B'e an cuspair na faacail Ghaidhlig a tha cumanta airson chnoc is bheanntan. Is e Mhr. Alasdair Philip, fear lagha am baile Bhrechin, a thug seachad an duais. Tha sinn a' tairgse taing dha airson a chaoimhneis. Chur an nigheanag Fionnghal Nic Illiosa, a sgoil Ghlinn Fhionnain, comh-chruinneachadh pongail air aghart, anns a robh corr is sia fichead faacail. Choisinn ise an duais agus chaidh av guinea a chur ga h-ionnsuidh. Tha a leithid sud de shaothair feumail ug eòlas na cànan a mheudachadh.

Tha innleachd ùr an *bhrath chlis* a' deanamh cuideachadh leis a' Ghaidhlig. An oidhche roimhe bha Cèilidh an Abaraidhean, agus chaidh a craobh sgaoileadh feadh na dùthcha. Bha mu thrì fichead a làthair de luchd foghlaim, gillean is nigheanan òga as a' Ghaidhealtachd, a tha ag ionnsachadh anns an Oilthigh. Bha iadsan a' comhradh an Gaidhlig. Chaidh sgeulachdan innse agus òrain a sheinn. Bha cuideachd cridheil ann; agus chualas an cèilidh gu h-eagnaigh mu thuath is mu dheas. Bu chòir de'n Chomunn bhi taingeil do Mhr. Niall MacIlleathain airson cho dìleas is a tha e gu deagh chothrom a thabhairt do'n Ghaidhlig air a' *bhrath chlis*. Is i so a' cheud chéilidh a chaidh a chraobh sgaoileadh a Abaraidhean.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Executive Council was held on Friday, 20th November, in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling. The President, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., Campbelltown, presided, and there were also present:—Mr. John R. Bannerman, Mr. William D. Barclay, Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, ex-Bailie Archd. Campbell, Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale, Mr. Charles Campbell, Capt. George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth, Mr. Alexander D. Cumming, Mrs. J. B. Dunlop, Mr. Alexander Fraser, Miss Lamont of Knockdow, Mrs. MacDonald of Dunach, Mr. Donald MacDonald, Mr. John MacDonald, Mr. T. D. MacDonald, Mr. John MacIntyre, Mr. Peter MacIntyre, Rev. Dr. G. W. MacKay, Rev. J. MacKechnie, Miss Flora MacKinnon, Capt. Alasdair MacLaren, Mr. James MacLaren, The Hon. Mrs. Iona MacLean, Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Dr. R. R. MacNicol, Mr. George E. Marjoribanks, Mr. John A. Nicolson, Mr. Neil Ross, Rev. Dr. Neil Ross, Mr. H. S. Shield.

Attending:—Robert MacFarlane, C.A., Treasurer; Neil Shaw, General Secretary, and Hugh Macphee, Assistant Secretary.

The Treasurer submitted minute of Finance Committee, which included a statement of the financial position of the Singing Classes. There was a balance outstanding to the Committee for the work of the session, and it was agreed to ask the Treasurer to press districts in arrears for their quota of payment.

The provisional accounts of the Mod at Perth were submitted. These showed that the balance at present ascertained is £517 18s, without including any surplus

from the Mod dance. Congratulations were extended to the local Committee for their work.

An application by the Propaganda Committee for authority to spend up to £1000 for propaganda purposes during the session 1929-30 was agreed to.

The Committee had before them the report by the special Committee appointed at the annual general meeting to consider the appointment of an organiser for the northern area. The report stated that the special Committee had resolved to recommend that an organiser for the northern area be appointed, with a salary of not less than £4 per week, plus travelling expenses. The Committee were of opinion that the central funds could meantime only assist to the extent of one-half of the proposed expenditure. The minute was adopted under reservation of the portion relating to the appointment of an organiser.

The General Secretary read the minutes of the Education Committee, which showed that there was a credit balance remaining from the accounts of the Summer School of Gaelic held at Port Ellen, Islay. It was suggested that the next Summer School be held at Inverness. Miss Lamont of Knockdow was thanked for her report on the school, and a special vote of thanks was accorded to the Local Secretary and the Local Committee at Islay for their work. Correspondence was read from the Director of Education for Sutherland regarding the teaching of Gaelic Continuation Classes, suggesting that An Comunn might help with providing teachers. The Committee were of the opinion that it was most important to give every encouragement to Gaelic teaching in this area, and it was decided to communicate with such persons as the Committee thought might be suitable for the work. Attention was drawn to the lack of provision for instruction in Gaelic in the Kingussie and Campbeltown schools attended by Gaelic-speaking bursars. Minute was approved.

The Publication Committee reported that arrangements were being made by the "Northern Chronicle" Publishing Company for the re-issue of MacEachan's Gaelic Dictionary. Letters were read from Father Cyril Dieckhoff, Fort Augustus, and from Mr. Edward Dwelley. It was recommended to grant £20 to Father Dieckhoff to assist in his proposed Gaelic dialect dictionary, and to ask the Propaganda and the Mod and Music Committees to suggest to Provincial Mod Committees to make use of as many copies as possible of the new edition of Mr. Dwelley's dictionary for Mod prizes. Letters

from Professor Watson were also read, suggesting that An Comunn should issue one or more books of selections from Gaelic prose and poetry already published, but not at present readily accessible, for use in schools and for students of Gaelic generally. He offered to act as editor, but wished to be empowered to enlist the services of competent young men to make the selections, these to be remunerated by An Comunn. The Committee recommended that the Executive approve generally of this proposal, and that it be remitted to the Committee to further confer with Dr. Watson on the subject. It was also agreed to recommend that the re-issue of "Bardachd Ghaidhlig" be now proceeded with, subject to revision by Dr. Watson. The Committee had dealt with the remit from the Executive Committee in reference to the magazine, and had made certain proposals with a view to increasing its interest and usefulness. The minute was approved.

Several proposals were discussed in the minute of the Propaganda Committee. It was recommended that a special Committee should consider the report by Mr. Owen and Mr. Murray, who conferred in reference to a suitable course in music for the music teachers employed by An Comunn. The proposal that a short school text book of the History of the Highlands from the Gaelic standpoint be published for use in schools was remitted to the Publication Committee, while the proposal that a conference, or series of conferences, to which teachers and educationalists associated with Gaelic teaching in State-aided schools be invited, in order to widen the scope of Gaelic teaching in schools, was referred to the Education Committee. The matter of introducing a course of training for music teachers and their employment by the Education Authorities was remitted to a special Committee. The minute was approved.

It was intimated in the report by the Mod and Music Committee that several new competitions are being introduced in the syllabus for the 1930 Mod. It was recommended that the offer by Lady Elspeth Campbell of a prize of £5 for the choral rendering of the original words and melodies of "A mhnathan a' Ghlinne so" and "Cumha Mhic an Toisich" be accepted as a special competition for Senior Choirs. It was decided to introduce the competition promoted by Provost MacEwan, Inverness, on "How to develop the economic resources of the Highlands" as the Essay Competition.

A letter was read from Mr. D. Cleghorn Thomson of the British Broadcasting Corporation, offering a prize annually in memory of his grandfather, the Rev. John Sinclair MacPhail, for the best setting of a Gaelic folk-song air. The Convener and the Secretary were requested to confer with Mr. Cleghorn Thomson on the matter.

A letter was read from Mr. Alexander MacKechnie, London, suggesting that a more suitable rallying song than "Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig" should be obtained. He offered, on behalf of "Teachdaire nan Gaidheal," a subscription of £5 as the nucleus of a fund for the author and composer of the approved song. The matter was continued for further consideration. It was decided to reduce the number of times tunes had to be played in the instrumental competition, and a special competition for pianoforte playing was recommended. The words "bagpipe setting only" with pianoforte playing is to be deleted. A competition for "puirt-a-beul" singing in part harmony for rural choirs was recommended. It was decided to add to the syllabus rules that ladies' and male voice choirs must consist of 10 and not more than 26 singing members. Minute was approved.

The report of the special Committee on the appointment of an organiser for the northern area was submitted and approved, it being understood that a substantial proportion of the expenditure involved would be contributed from local sources, and that the appointment would be reviewable from year to year. It was remitted to the special Committee to invite applications for the post, and to submit a short list of names to the next meeting of the Executive Council.

Consideration of Mr. T. D. MacDonald's motion, remitted from Annual Meeting, was deferred until next meeting.

CLANN AN FHRAOICH.

Bha Céilidh chairdeil shunndach aig Clann an Fhraoich air feasgar Diardaoin an 12mh là de'n Dùdhlachd, ann an "Aitreach nan Gaidheal." Bha aireamh mhaeth an lathair 's moran dhiubh a thainig astar fada a dh'ionnsuidh na coinneimh. Rognnaicheadh Mgr. Calum MacLeod mar fhear-cathrach agus chuir esan ann am briathran taghta failte chridheil air an luchd-céilidh. B'e aon de dh'aobharan sonruichte na coinneimh failte a chur air an Fhear Ghairme, Mgr. Seoras E. Marjoribanks, ni a rinneadh agus fhreagair

esan mar a leanas. Is urram ro mhór a chuir sibh orm a bhi ag iarraidh orm treòrachadh “Clann an Fhraoich” a ghabhail os làimh, urram air am bheil mi gu tur neo-airidh, ach a mhàin a thaobh a’ ghràidh a th’agam do’n Ghàidhlig, agus sin agaibh rud a tha cheart cho math aig a h-uile gin de’n chloinn. Tha e iongantach leam gu’n cuala duine sam bith a’ Ghàidhlig riamh gun a bhi an gaol orra; ach ‘s e rud eile an gaol a chur ann an gnìomh. Ach fhad’s a tha e am chomas ni mi mo dhìchioll ann an treòrachadh Clann an Fhraoich gun faigh sibh duine a’s fhearr a ni a’ bhuachailleachd gu ruig ra raointean gorma air uachdar an t-sleibhe.

Nuair a sheallas mi mu’n cuairt orm an so agus a chi mi na gaisgich air an cruinneachadh comhla a rithist, tha fhios agam gum bi oidhche againn, chan e mhàin cridheil, sunndach, ach tarbach buannachdail do’n aobhar a tha cho dlùth do chridhe gach aon againn. Tha mi ag innseadh dhuibh mu’n d’ionnsuich mi a’ Ghàidhlig, nach d’fhuair mi riamh roimhe san t-saoghail so toileachas intinn a dh’fhaodha a chomas ri bhi ag eisdeachd ris na daoine fòghlumta a gheibhear anns na Cèilidhean Gàidhealach, a h-uile fear dhiubb na’s fhearr na’m fear eile ag cur dheth anns a’n aon chainnt bu bhòidhche chualas riamh. Is e fòghlum falaidh agus urram mòr dìreach a bhi am shuidhe ‘nam measg ‘s ag glacadh facail a’ ghliocais a’ tuiteam bharr am bilean, agus tha rud eile ann, ‘s ann a thug mi’n aire da so—‘s cha b’ionnan ‘s na h-oraiden Beurla—cha chuala mi Gàidheal fhathast ag cur dheth ‘na chànan fhein nach robh e soilleir gu’n robh e a mothachadh a h-uile facail a bha e a’ labhairt. Cha toir Gàidheal seachad facail a thogail na h-ùine a luathsaicheadh dha, ‘s ann a bhios e a’ leigeil ruith da fhairreachduinn fhein. Mar so, is math is fhiach dhuinn cuimhne a ghleidheadh air na briathran a chaidh a labhart ‘nar measg cheana, ach is e a’ cheist, am bheil sinn ‘gan cur gu buil no nach eil? am bheil sinn ag aontachadh riu gu buileach no nach eil? Bu mhath leam, ma bheir sibh dhomh cothram, gearr iomradh a tharruing air facal no dha a labhradh aig a chèilidh mu dheireadh an so. Rinn iad drùdhadh mor orm. Bheir na h-uaislean sin maith-eanas dhomh, tha mi cinnteach, ma thig mi thairis air cuid d’am briathran, s gun an cead agam. Luaidh iomadh fear air facal suaicheantais Clann an Fhraoich—“Foighidinn,” agus ‘s e chuir am cheann an smaoin a tha sonruichte air m’aire Mgr. Iain MacDhomhnuill anuair a thubhairt e “Tha’m facal sin ro fheumail anns gach gnòthach, mur cuir e sinn gu cadal.”

Chan urrainn mise an t-earalas a tha suainte ris na facail chiallachail sin a chur air falbh le crathadh a thoirt air mo ghuaillan. Is mi nach cuir mo chùl ri “Foighidinn.” Is mòr ar feum air, ach is e mo mhòr bheachd, gur i cabhag a cheart cho ma ri foighidinn a tha a dhith oirm. So agaibh mar a tha mise a’ faicinn staid na Gàidhlig an diugh. Tha cuid mhòr dhi—anabarrach mòr—‘na laighe mar gu’m biodh am falach fo’n talamh air feadh na dùthcha. Tha mìltean ann, air mòr-thìr an Earraghaidheal a mhàin as urrainn a’ Ghàidhlig a bhruidhinn gu math, no meadonach math, agus a leanas seanachas Gàidhlig gu h-iomlan, gidheadh, tha iad coma ged nach bruidhinn iad facal dhi eadar da cheann na bliadhna, air neo, athach no nàrach na dheidhinn air eagal nach bi iad ‘ga labhart gu ceart. Is e facal suaicheantais Gàidheal òg an latha ‘n diugh “O tuigidh mi a’ Ghaidhlig ged nach bruidhinn mi i,” agus nach mi a tha seachd searbh bhi ag chunntinn nam facal sin. Nis tha a’ cheart Ghàidhlig falaichte mar a tha i sin againn an diugh ri oibreachadh oirre. Cha bhi i ann am maireach. Is cinnteach mur dean sinn spàirn chruaidh gus an caoin-shuarachais no an nàire so a cheannsachadh gu’n caill sinn an cothram a tha againn an diugh, agus nach bi againn gu bràth tuilleadh, air greim fhaotainn air a’ Ghàidhlig a tha ‘na laighe falaichte ‘s an dùthaich, agus a cur ann an cleachdadh cumanta a rithist. Agus is ann mar sin a theirinn nach mòr nach eil cabhag a dhith òrnn cho math ri foighidinn. Ach gleidhidh sinn an foighidinn air a h-uile cor.

Tha sinn a’ cluinntinn, ‘s chan eil mi ann an teagamh sam bith nach eil e fìor, gu bheil barrachd Gàidhlig air a leughadh ‘s air a sgrìobhadh an diugh na bha riamh roimhe. Tha so maith is romhaith, ach tha cuid ag ràdh nach eil ùiread feum air togradh a dhùsgadh ‘s an t-sluagh gu leughadh ‘s gu sgrìobhadh fhad ‘s a bhios sinn a’ brosnachadh a’ Ghaidheil gus a chànan fhein a bhruidhinn. Their iad so “Dh’fhoghainn fìor bheagan leughaidh is sgrìobhaidh do ar n-atraichean, ‘s ma tha mòran tuille ann an diugh na bha acasan, fòghnaidh sin.” Chan fhoghainn a reir mo bharail sa. Cuinchnichibh gu bheil barrachd feuma againne air leughadh is air sgrìobhadh na bha aig na daoine bho’n tàinig sinn. Bha meadhanan acasan air dreach is loinn is deagh chumadh an cànan a chumail suas nach eil aig an t-sluagh an diugh, ach an tomhas ro bheag. Bhiodh iad a’ leughadh a’ Bhiobuill Ghàidhlig a h-uile là agus ag eisdeachd searmoinean prìseil, anns am biodh an fhìrinn gun mheang, a h-uile Dia-dòmhuich

ann an ceudan dedh Eaglaisean air feadh na dùthcha, bho na daoine a b'fhòghlumaichte a bh'ann, agus a bharr air sin bha na h-uile rud air a theagasg dhoibh anns na sgoiltean tre mheadhon na Gàidhlig, mar sin bhiodh iad, chan e mhàin a' fuaimneachadh gach foghair is co-fhoghair gu ceart, pongail, ach ag cleachdadh le cinnt agus le mion eadar-dhealachadh gach facail ghoireasaich agus gach gnath-cainnte 's a bheil a' Ghàidhlig choir cho beirteach. Chan ionnan 's an sluagh an diugh, mo thruaighe. Tha 'n greim 's an eolas air ceart chaint 's air fuaimneachadh a' fàs fann, ceothar agus tha facail is sean-fhacail a' dol á cleachdadh 'nan ceudan am measg na h-òigridh. Chan eil mi faicinn dòigh sam bith 'sam fearr a dh'fhaodamaid ar seanachas làthail a ghleusadh suas a rithist gu fonn uasal ar sinnsirean na le bhi cleachdadh a h-uile meadhan a tha 'nur comas chum oigridh na dùthcha a bhrosnachadh gu bhi a' leughadh agus a' sgrìobhadh na Gàidhlig.

Tha ceist eile na's dorra na sin againn ra fuasgladh fhathast. "Am measg iomadh bean-nachd phrìseil," deir an t-Urr Calum MacLeoid, "chan eil buaidh eile annainn mar Ghaidheil as sònruichte na so, an tiodhlac spioradail a bhuineas dhuinn" agus chaidh e air adhart ann am briathraibh romhaiseach a' leigeil ris dhuinn mar a tha 'n sluagh a' trèigsinn na h-Eaglaise-Ghaidhlig, nach eil, mo chreach, uasal gu leor leotha. "An tèid aig Clann an Fhraoich" tha e a' feoraich agus aig a' Chomunn Ghàidhealach gu léir so a leasachadh"? Cha do fhreagair sinn a' cheist so fhathast. Chan abair mi diog mo dheidhinn an drasd ach so, tha e car duilich do'n Chomunn a' chùis so a ghabhail os làimh, ach tha e an comas Clann an Fhraoich an cuideachadh mór a dheanamh anns a chùis chudthromaich so, agus bu mhath leam a chur fa'r comhair aig am sam bith an dòigh 'sam fearr a dh'fhaodamaid sin a dheanamh.

Ach ged a tha iomadh cnap-starra 'nar ceum r'a fhaotainn thairis air, iomadh sloc tuislidh r'a sheachnadh tha ar deasdanas soilleir gu leoir. Nach e thubhairt Mgr. Eachann MacDhùghaill "Na seallamaid idir air a' bhliadhna mar bhliadhna, ach deanamaid ar deasanas ré nan làithean is ré nam mionaidean bho a tùs gu a h-éis." Nach math a' chomhairle sin? Agus mar an ceudna, ged a tha gach aon againn 'na bhall fa leth de bhuidhinn a bhios, tha sinn an dòchas, a' dol an lòn-mhorachd 's an tréine a h-uile bliadhna, cha bhi sinn a' feitheamh gus an amais ar luchd-riaghlaidh air innleachd mhóir gus ar n-aobhar a chur air adhart, ach bidh gach fear ag iomram

leis an ràmh is fhaig air a làimh, ré nan làithean is ré nam mionaidean, agus ag cumail sùla mu'n cuairt air feuch an tèid aige air làmh a thabhairt do fhear eile "Beiridh am beag tric air a' mhór ainmrig."

Aig coinneamh Luchd-Reaghlaidh Clann an Fhraoich am Baile Shruibhle an là roimhe chaidh a shocrachadh gu'm biodh a' Chéilidh so gu sònruichte 'na cothrom seanachais do'n Chloinn air fad 's gu'm fadamaid ar cinn a chur r'a cheile feuch an amais sinn air dòighean 's am fearr a dh'fhaodas sinn aobhar na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart, seach a bhi dileas dhi sinn fhéin. Beachd sam bith a bhios aig neach againn mu staid is obair, deasdanas is rùintean Clann an Fhraoich, cuireadh e fa'r comhair e gun fhiamh gun eagal, agus mar sin bidh a' Chéilidh so an dà chuid toil-ìontinneach dhuinn fhein agus buadhmhor do aobhar ar canain. Tha'n luchd riaghlaidh am beachd, ged a tha cùl-taic a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach ro-fheumail agus ro-phrìseil dhoibh, gum bi e nas fhasa do'n Chloinn an rùintean sònruichte a ghiulan a mach mur a bi iad ceangailte gu ro-theann le riaghailtean agus le dòighean-ghnòthaich nan iar-chomhairlean eile. Gur e prìomh chuspair-stiùraidh aig a' chloinn cuideachadh leis a' Chomunn anns gach dòigh a bhios 'nan comas, agus gur e staid na Cloinne "croidhlean as fhaide steach" air son cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a neartachadh, gum bi cuid mhór de obair na Cloinne air a dheanamh ann an uaigneas, agus leis a sin gur còir dhoibh a bhi ann an tomhas mór, saor bho smachd Ard-Chomhairle a' Chomuinn.

Cor na Gàidhlig agus caochladh bheachd aig daoine air! Cha léir dhuinn na làithean a tha ri teachd, chan eil againn ach ar fìaclan a chasadh, ar casan fhorcadh agus cumail air, streap suas. Anail a ghabhail air a mhullach! Cìod e ceann crìche ar turais? Chan fhoghainn ach mullach na beinne is àirde, agus 's e a tha mi a' deanamh dheth gun sgoil Clann an Fhraoich ann an lànachd an treibhdhireachd uidhe air n-uidhe, gu foighidneach, foghainnteach, thairis air gach gleann is srath; eilean is mor-thìr; clachan is baile beag is baile mór, gus nach bi Gàidheal anns a' Ghàidhealtachd is fhiach ainm nach bi 'nar measg-ne.

Thaitinn an òraid gu h-anabarrach ris gach aon, agus labhradh orra gu dealasach le Mgr. Iain Moffat-Pender, Mgr. Iain R. Mac'Ille na Brataich, An t-Urr Calum MacLeoid, agus Mr. Tormod MacLeoid. Bhuilicheadh an corr de'n fheasgar gu h-aobhneach le biadh is ceòl.

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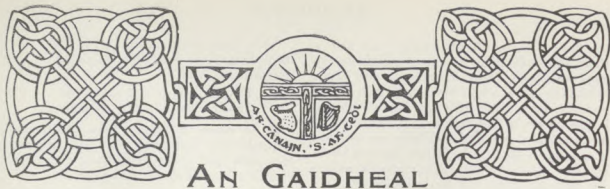
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Leabhar XXV.]

An Gearran, 1930.

[Earrann 5

CLO IS CALL.

Ciod e tha sinn a' ciallachadh leis an fhacal Clo? Tha gach leabhar beag no mór, agus gach paipear naidheachd is mhosachan, a chaidh riamh a chlo-bhualadh an cànan nan Gaidheal. Agus ciod is ciall do'n fhacal Call? Tha call airgid. A nis is tàmailteach ri aideachadh nach deachaidh leabhar riamh a chur a mach an cainnt ar sinnsir a thug duais no buannachd na luirg. Cha robh riamh an clo-bhualadh Gaidhlig ach call airgid is briseadh spioraid. Ma tha neach sam bith a' miannachadh leabhar Gaidhlig a sgrìobhadh airson airgid, is dìomhain dha dùil a bhi aige ri luach a shàothrach. Is bochd an innse sin air na Gaidheil. Coltach ri muinntir eile cuiridh iad a mach an cuid airgid air nithean feumail agus air nithean faoine, ged nach cuir iad ach glé bheag da rìribh de an ionmhas air leabhar no paipear Gaidhlig. Tha an fhìrinn searbh air uairibh. Ach is aimideas a mùchadh an uair bu chòir bhi ga h-innse.

Annas a cheud àite tha an raige is an doicheall leibideach so a' marbhadh misneach an luchd sgrìobhaidh. An fheadhainn aig a bheil a bheag no mhór de thàlant is de chomas, tha iad sin air am bacadh le cion misnich. Is mór an éis cion misnich. An àite bhi solar nithean rinneal, snasail nan cainnt mhàtharail, is ann a thionndas iad gu cainntean eile; agus có bheir beum asda. Nach faoin a bhi an dùil gu faigh sinn sgrìobhadh Gaidhlig, rann no rosg, anns am bi brìgh no maise, ma tha sinn am beachd gun tig sud oirnn mar thuiteas braon na h-oidhche gun sìreadh gun iarraidh, gun taing gun duais! Chan eil e idir furasda bhi faotainn earrannan taitneach, air neoni,

airson duilleagan a' mhìosachain so fhéin; agus mur bhiodh gu bheil cul-taic a' seasamh creideas *A' Ghaidheil* is fhada an latha sin o bha esan an geall a b' fhiach e. Ma tha litreachas a dhith oirnn feumaidh sinn pàidheadh air a shon.

Is mór am milleadh air obair *A' Chomuinn* gu bheil na buill an cumantas cho mall gu leabhraichean Gaidhlig a cheannach. Bu chòir cumhnant is bòid as ùr a dheanamh. Bu chòir gealltanais iarraidh air gach ball de'n Chomuinn, gun ceannaicheadh iad leabhraichean Gaidhlig. Aon uair is gun cuireadh iad beagan thasdan a mach air leabhar Gaidhlig bhiodh an tuilleadh coltais gu leughadh iad an leabhar. Gun teagamh is aithne dhuinn cuid aig a bheil cruinneachadh gasda de leabhraichean Gaidhlig, agus a tha areir coltais ga leughadh cuideachd. Ach mar is trice tha e na chùis bhròin cia lìon iad a tha eòlach anns a' chànan, agus aig a bheil pailteas airgid, ach gidheadh, a tha buileach suarach mu leabhraichean Gaidhlig. Cha mhaith an comharradh air Gaidheal a bhi splocach mu'n sgillinn an uair a tha a' sgillinn airson na Gaidhlig, ged a dh'fhaodas e bhi fialaidh gu leòr ri coigrich is ri cainnt choigreach.

Bu tric a chuir sinn a' cheist so, ciod is aobhar gu bheil ar slugh cho suarach mu leabhraichean an cànan fein. Faodaidh gu bheil aon aobhar ann co dhù; agus is e sin, gu bheil iomadh neach a' labhras Gaidhlig nach eil idir comasach a leughadh. Ma tha sin fìor, mar is luaithe a theannas a leithidean sin ri leughadh a thogail is ann is fhearr daibh féin agus do'n aobhar. Nach mór na bheil ri dheanamh fhathast anns an ghnòthuch so—gum biodh iadsan a bhruidhneas a' chànan a cheana gum biodh iad a' faotainn còthrom air leughadh ionnsuchadh. Cha bhiodh so

am faisg cho duilich dhaibhsan. An uair a theid fear taghail ùr a chur fo mhuinntearas anns an taobh tuath bu mhaith gun tugta comhàirle air a h-uile meanglan, gum biodh cròilean anns gach baile gu bhi a' teagasg leughaidh do 'n fheadhainn do nach aithne sin a dheanamh, ged tha Gaidhlig am pailteas, aca. Aig a' cheart am bu mhaith gum biodh earail ga tabhairt a chum gun cuireadh muinntir tuilleadh meas air na leabhraichean, mu fàs iad nas gainne agus nas daoire. Tha e nis mar chleachdadh aig na cuairtearan Americanach a bhi ceannach leabhraichean Gaidhlig; agus ma theid an nòs sin am meud, chan fhada bhios leabhar Gaidhlig ri sheachnadh ann ar dùthaich.

THE GENITIVE OF VERBAL NOUNS IN -ADH.

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In modern Scottish Gaelic the genitive of verbal nouns in *-adh* is regularly in *-aidh*, e.g. marbhadh, act of killing, gen. marbhaidh. In the older stages of the language, however, and still to a large extent in Irish Gaelic, these genitives were formed by an ending which appears as *-tha*, *-the*; *-ta*, *-te*, according to the nature of the stem of the present tense.

1. Stems with broad vowel—

marbhaim, I kill	marbhadh	marbhtha
bacaim, I hinder	bacadh	bactha
cumaim, I shape	cumadh	cumtha
lìomhaim, I polish	lìomhadh	lìomhtha

2. Stems with slender vowel :—

básuighim, I slay	básughadh	básuighthe
sáruighim, I harass	sárughadh	sáruighthe

3. Stems (broad and slender) which end in a consonant which prevents aspiration of the suffix :—

báidh-im, I drown	bádhadh	báidhte
sáith-im, I thrust	sáthadh	sáiththe
mol-aim, I praise	moladh	molta
lìon-aim, I fill	lìonadh	lìonta
céas-aim, I torture	céasadh	céasta

The above are the forms in modern Irish Gaelic. In modern Scottish Gaelic we have little trace of the aspirated endings. Yet Alexander MacDonald in his first edition (p. 109) has :—

Tha sinne déis ar sáraiche,
Ar náraich 's mórán sgios oir'n.

"We have been outraged, we have been shamed, and we are sore a-wearied." Here later editions have :—

Tha sinne 'n déis ar sàrachadh,
Ar nàrachadh, 's mòr sgios oir'n.

It is clear, however, that MacDonald's original text represents the older genitives, *sàruighthe* and *nàruighthe*, with the regular change in our Gaelic of Irish *gh* to *ch*.

Instances of the unaspirated genitive ending (*-ta*, *-te*) are fairly common in our modern literature, though not in the speech of to-day. The difficulty in recognising them as genitives is increased by the fact that they are identical in form with the passive participle, which latter has been retained in common use. Thus no ordinary reader thinks of *bàite* (*bàidhte*) as having any meaning other than "drowned;" consequently, if he reflects on what he reads, he is apt to be puzzled by *muir bhàite*, and to ask what is the sense in speaking of "a drowned sea." The true meaning—plain enough to an Irishman—is "a sea of drowning," i.e. a sea that drowns.

Here it may be noted that the genitive of the verbal noun has often the force of a relative clause in English. Thus, Bishop John Carswell wrote: "cumaoin ghráidh fhuir dhénta an t-saothair," "obligation of love on the part of the man who does the work." Here *fear dhénta*, literally "man of doing," has the force of the English, "man who does," and is to be so translated. The construction is exactly the same as our "fear rannsachaidh nan sgoil," "the man who examines the schools," or shortly "school inspector;" so in Psalm 121:

Feach air fear coimhid Israel
codal chan aom no suain.

Behold, he that keeps Israel,
he slumbers not nor sleeps.

John Maclean, from his home on Barney River in Nova Scotia, complains of the misrepresentations by the emigration agents of his time :—

Gach naidheachd mheallta 'g a toirt gu'n ionnsaigh; "bringing you all manner of reports that deceive." *Meallta* is genitive of *mealladh*, "act of deceiving," not the participle passive.

The Rev. John Maclean of Cill Naoinin in Mull, in his poem to Edward Lhuyd, says of the Gaelic language :—

B'í bh' oide múinte luchd gach dùthcha is teangth', "she was the foster-parent who instructed folk of every country and tongue."

An anonymous poet wrote of Sir Norman MacLeod of Bernera, who died on 3rd March, 1705 :—

Aiceacht múinte gach mhic óig
'n a luighe fá lic Thormóid.

"A lesson that instructs every young man lies beneath the grave-slab of Norman." Here *múinte* is genitive of *mínadh*, the noun from *mínim*, I teach, instruct.

In "Cumha Choire Cheathaich," Duncan Macintyre says of the deer :—

O'n tha iad gun fhear-gléidhte,
Chan fhuirich iad 'a chéile.

"Since they are without a man to tend them, they will not stay together," but go wandering. *Gléidhte* is genitive of *gléidheadh*, the noun from *gléidhim*, I keep, tend. We should now use *fear-gléidhidh*, as in "fear-gléidhidh an ionmhaí," the man who keeps the treasure, the treasurer.

Niall MacMhuirich says of Ailein mac Mhic Ailein, Chief of Clan Ranald, who was mortally wounded at Sheriffmuir :—

Cha bu lothagan cliaththa
Gheibhte ad stábull 'gam biathadh.

This means probably, though not certainly, "it was not fillies for harrowing (corn, etc.), that would be found being fed in your stable." This is the meaning if we take *cliaththa* as genitive of *cliathadh*, the act of harrowing. The poet goes on to say that the steeds in Mac Mhic Ailein's stable were "eich chruidheacha shrianach," "stallions well shod and well bridled." Here the poet is not talking by way of idle compliment. Professor John Walker in his valuable "Economic History of the Hebrides" (1808), states :—"The Captain of Clanranald, who was killed in the year 1715 at the Battle of Sheriffmuir, had been a colonel in the Spanish service. On his return home, not long before the action, he brought with him some Spanish horses, which he settled in his principal island of South Uist. These, in a considerable degree, altered and improved the horses in that and the adjacent islands. Even in the year 1764, not only the form, but the cool fearless temper of the Spanish horse, could be discerned in the horses of that island, especially those in the possession of Clanranald himself, and his cousin Macdonnell of Boysdale" (vol. ii. p. 160).

In the poem to a later Ailein of Clan Ranald Alexander MacDonald says of Clann Domhnail of Sliabh Ruadh in Leinster (p. 114 of 1st edn.) :

Gur mairg a chasadh ri 'n tuasaid,
'S iad na 'n armabh ri h uchd buailte.

"Woe to the man who would encounter their quarrel, when they were in arms on the point of smiting." Alexander Mackinnon in his poem on "Blàr na h-Olaind" has :—

An uair a dh'ionndrainn a chonnspuinn
Moirear Gordon o uchd buailte,

"when his heroes missed Lord Gordon from the fore-front of smiting," i.e. from the front of the battle. In Gaelic of the present day this would be *uchd buailidh*; and this is what Alexander MacDonald has in "Moladh air Pìob Mhóir Mhic Cruimein" (p. 69 of 1st edn.) :—

Riabh ri h uchd buailaidh
'S crann ághor 's an ruaig thu.

In the same poem (p. 67) he has :—

Le mór sgairt, théid gu grad,
An airm 's am brat buailte,

"with loud roar who will go with speed into armour and array of smiting."

"Crann ceusta," the tree of torture, i.e. the tree on which Our Lord was crucified, appears in *Carmina Gadelica* and elsewhere, and even in prose of to-day. The regular expression now, however, is "crann ceusaidh," as in the Gaelic Bible.

"Air an achadh bhuainte" usually means "on the field of reaping," "on the harvest field;" not "on the reaped field"—though, of course, it might mean this.

The genitive of *reodhadh*, act of freezing, is *reòdhta*. "Latha reòdhta," is "a day of freezing," "a frosty day;" not "a frozen day." Rob Donn in his poem on Winter has, "fulang sàrach' an reòt," "enduring the oppression of the frost." Elsewhere the full form is found in "fo anail an reòta," "under the breath of the frost." Rob Donn's adjective for frosty is *reòtach*; a frozen state is *reòtachd*.

In his fine poem on hearing of the death of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, William Ross says :—

Albainn àrsaidh, is fathunn bròin
Gach aon mhuir-bhàit' tha bàrcadh oirn;
"ancient Scotland, woeful news is each whelming wave that rushes on us." Alexander MacDonald in the poem commonly called "Birlinn Chlann Raghnaill," gives as a duty of the "teller of the waters" (fear innse nan uisgeachan) :—

Ma chl' e coltas muir-bhàite
Teachd le nuallan,
Sgairteas cruaidh ceann-caol a fiodha
Chumail dlùth ris.

"a man who if he sees a whelming sea coming roaring, will cry sharply to keep her prow

full on to the billow." In the heading of this section of the poem the later editions have "fear dh'inns nan uisgeachan," unnecessarily, for "fear innse" means "a man who will tell;" *innse* is genitive. A poem in the *Fernaig Manuscript*, composed by Duncan Macrae (the compiler) on the occasion of his wife's serious illness, contains the prayer:—

Mar thugadh leat Ionas

A iasg mór an mhuir-bhàit', etc.

"Even as Jonah was taken by thee out of the great fish of the whelming sea . . . so do thou protect us from our ill deeds." Here the author makes *muir* masculine in the genitive case.

This old genitive is found sometimes in our names of places. Above the Rock of Weem, opposite Aberfeldy, at a height of over 1000 feet above sea level, is a farm named on the map Tominteold. As pronounced in Gaelic this sounds like *Tom an t-seobhalt* (*bh* being silent), which is dialectic for *Tom an t-Seallt*, Knoll of the prospect. *Sealladh*, a view, has genitive *seallta*, of which *seallt* is the shortened form. Similarly in Menteith the site of one of the ancient Keirs or circular forts is Achinsalt, pronounced in Gaelic *Ach an t-seobhalt* for *Achadh an t-Seallta*, Field of the View.

The Old Statistical Account of Barrie in Forfarshire mentions traces of a camp at Carnoustie, "i.e. the Cairn of Heroes." It is hard to say whether the first part of Carnoustie is *carn* or *cathair*, a fort; but the second part may well be *fosta*, the genitive of *fosadh*, a station: *Carn* (or *Cathair*) an Fhosta, Cairn (or Fort) of the Station, or level spot. A battle fought at Fossad dá Gort, Station of two Fields, in Ireland, is referred to as *Cath Fosta* (LL 44b36). I have shown elsewhere that a final Gaelic *-a*, from whatever cause arising, is not uncommonly represented by *-ie* (CPNS, p. 439). Carswell uses *fosadh* in the sense of habitation or abiding place: "is creite dùinne go bfuil sé sa fosadh sìobhbhuan sin," "we should believe that he (i.e. Our Lord) is in that everlasting habitation." Numerous instances of the term as occurring in our names of places are given in CPNS, pp. 499, 500.

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RAIBEART BURNS.

Ann an iomradh goirid so a tha mi a' feuchainn a thabhairt air Raibeart Burns, chan eil e comasach ach cuid bheag de na dh'fhaodainn a ràdh m'a dheibhinn aithris; ach tha aon no dha de beachdan no seallaidhean air a bheatha agus 'obair nach biodh, ma dh'fhaoidte, as àite, aig an am shonraichte so—mìos a bhreith. Tha e air a ràdh gu'n d'fhàinig a mhuinntir bho Thigh-an-Uillt ann an Siorrachd Earra-gaidheil, agus gur e sin màthair-aobhair an ainme Burness no Burns. Biodh sin mar a dh'fhaodadh e, tha mi a' smaoineachadh gu bheil spiorad anabarrach Gaidhealach ri fhaicinn ann an cuid mhór de dhuain agus òrain a' bhàird, agus tha e a' mosgladh, chan e mhaoinintinn a luchd-dùthcha anns a' Ghalldachd, ach mar an ceudna cridhe nan Gaidheal, ann an doigh a bheir oirnn smuaineachadh gu'm bheil smior na firinn anns a' bheul-aithris d'an tug mi aire an drasda. Tha e a' tabhairt barr air na h-uile bàrd Breatunnach. Tha baird ainmeil, mar an Ridire Ualtar Scott agus Tannahill's a' Ghalldachd, agus tha againn's a' Ghaeltachd baird Ìomh-mhor, Donnacha Bàn, MacMhaighstir Alastair, Rob Donn, agus mòran eile; ach nam measg uile, cha chreid mi gu bheil aon co-ionann ri Burns, no a dhruidheas gu cridhe muinntir an t-saoghail air fad mar a tha a chuid bàrdachd a' deanamh. 'S ioma bàrd eile a tha a' tabhairt faineair maise nàduir, (agus b'e Burns a bha comasach air sin a dheanamh cuideachd), ach cha d'amaid mi fhathast air aon a tha a' leigeil ris diomhair-eachd, bròn, maise agus gaisge beatha an duine, mar a tha "an gille a rugadh anns a' Chaol, (Kyle)."

Nach domhain an smuain a bh'aige an uair a thachair e air an luchag bhiag's an achadh threabhaidh, agus a thubhairt e gu'm b' airidh an creutair beag, diblidh sin air a beatha fhéin a mhealtuinn ionnann ris fhéin? Bu chaomh, iochdmhor, blàth cridhe Bhurns, ach bu dàna e, mar an ceudna. Cha robh e a' gabhail tuille suim de mhaithlean móra na dùthcha, agus cha b'urrainn dha àrdan no uabhar fhulang. Tha e a' cur an céill nam beachdan sin anns an òran ro-aithnichte, ainmeil ud, "*A man's a man for a' that.*" Tha iomradh air a thabhairt dhuinn mar a chaidh Òran na h-Alba a sgriobhadh leis. Bha e a mach air a'mhonadh ri oidhche anabarrachghaillionnach, an dealanach a' sgoltadh nan neul, agus an tairneanach a' tabhairt freagairt uamhasach do dharraraich nan clacha-meallain. An ceann uair no dha, thàinig e dhachaidh fhìuch agus

sgìth, ach mhothaich muinntir an tighe a shùil a' lasadh le smuaintean àrda, agus coltas air mar gu'm bidheadh air gaisgeach a' pilleadh bho'n fhaiche bhlàir. Shuidh e air ball, agus an ceann beagan mhionaidean sgrìobh e "*Scots wha hae,*" na rannan glormhor sin, a mhosglas cridhe agus fuil nan Albannach—Gall no Gaidheal, anns gach cearn iomallach, far am bheil bratach bhuidhe an Leomhain, no Crois Naomh Aindreas a' snàmh ris a' ghaoith. Ach 's ann anns na h-òrain ghaoil gu sonraichte a tha Burns ag éiridh gu ard-mhullach a neirt. Gun teagamh 's am bith is e prìomh-sgrìobhadair nan òran ghaoil anns na h-uile linn. Nach binn an clisg a mhosglas ann an cridhe neach 's am bith a smuainicheas air na briathran sin, "*When over the hill the Eastern star tells buchtin' time is near, my Jo!*"? Thug an t-òran sin agus iomadh fear eile a sheinn esan barr air na h-uile òran de'n seorsa a chaidh a sgrìobhadh riamh. Cha'n fheudar iomradh a thabhairt seachad air Burns gun bheantuinn ri taobh dorch a bheatha. Feumaidh cuimhne a bhi againn gum b' àbhaist do dhaoine anns an linn sin a bhi a' gabhail tuille dìthe na tha air a mheas ceart air an latha an diugh; agus chan eil teagamh nach robh Burns air uairibh a' gabhail tuille 's a chòir, agus gu robh e ann an doighean eile, mar an ceudna, fada cearr 'n a ghàrlan. Tha fios againn na rinn e cearr, ach chan eil fhios againn air a lughadh oidhirp a rinn e air ana-miannan a cheannsachadh. Tha sinn bitheanta a' mothachadh comharra na strì so 'na bhàrdachd; tha sinn a' cluinntinn a ghlaoidh shearbh, agus 'g a fhaicinn, mar gum bidheadh e "a 'seasamh fad air ais, agus a' bualadh air 'uchd." Chaochail e, 'nuair a bha e fathast 'n a dhuine òg, fada roimh chrìch a' chogaidh sin, agus na'n robh e maireann gus an robh c' sean, chan eil fhios aig duine ciamar a bhiodh a' chùis. A thuilleadh air sin, bha e daonnach a' strì, ré a bheatha ghoidh, an aghaidh mì-fhortan, bochdainn, agus droch shlàinte, trì rudan nach eil e furasda cur nan aghaidh. Tha sinn a' sealltainn air ais thar corr agus ceud gu leth bliadhna, agus a mach as an strì, a' bhochdainn agus am buaireas a dh'fhuiling e, agus thairis air an cheò agus na neòil dhubhairidh a tha Tim a' sgaòileadh eadarainn agus linn Bhurns, chì sinn ag éiridh os an cionn uile an cruth sin ro-aithnichte, an t-sùil shoilleir ann an aodann caoimhneil Albannach, na làmhnan saothair-chaithte, agus an t-aodach glas-neulach (hodden grey). Sud e a' seasamh, Ard Bhàrd na h-Alba, Raibeart Burns.

ALASTAIR MACLABHRAINN.

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA, 1929.

An attempt to review the new Encyclopedia Britannica would, of course, be out of place in *An Gàidheal*; but an account of the articles which deal, directly or indirectly, with Gaelic language and literature may very properly be given.

In the previous editions the Celtic Languages were described under the one heading, in a scholarly article of some length by the late Professor E. C. Quiggan. It included an account of the philological differences between the six dialects, their history, literature, and the various recent attempts at their revival. We were told, for instance, of the foundation and progress of the Gaelic League in Ireland and an Comunn Gaidhealach in Scotland, and provided with statistics showing the number of Celtic speakers in each country at various dates, and with much more useful and interesting information of a similar nature.

In the new edition the comparative account of the Celtic languages is reduced to a beggarly half-column, in which may be found the remarkable statement, presumably due to careless proof-reading, that "the various Celtic dialects are . . . Goidelic, including Irish, Scottish, Gaelic and Manx." A great deal of matter of considerable philological interest has been most ruthlessly cut, while the accounts of An Comunn and the similar organizations have been omitted entirely. The literatures of the Celtic languages are now to be found under separate headings in various volumes, "Scottish Gaelic Literature," "Breton Literature," etc. Reading these we find Quiggan's article has been considerably shortened, and brought up to date by various modern authorities, chosen each from the country that is in question, with the exception, that the article on Breton Literature has been completed by a Welshman.

Now as far as the actual subject-matter of these articles is concerned, there is no cause for complaint. They have been written and revised by scholars whom it would be an impertinence to criticise. But it does seem regrettable that an account so well written and arranged as Quiggan's should have been subjected to this cutting and sub-division; an effort so erudite and interesting might well have been allowed to stand whole. Readers of *An Gàidheal* may judge for themselves the expediency which

decides that "An Comunn Gaidhealach" is not of sufficient interest or importance to merit mention in an "Encyclopedia Britannica"; but apparently Celtic matters are considered of so little interest that not even the name of Professor Loth, greatest of living Celtic scholars, is included. It is extremely disappointing to find, in a work which includes substantial accounts of Middle-Western American towns, such scanty mention accorded a subject which one would expect to see exhaustively described in an "Encyclopedia Britannica," if anywhere.

Elsewhere, where Gaelic matters are concerned, we find evidence of the same off-hand treatment. For instance, the articles on the Scottish counties give statistics of the Gaelic speakers in each of them; but the usefulness of this information has been greatly reduced, by the omission of these figures for the counties of Lanark, Stirling, Dumfries, Kinross, and Peebles. If these statistics were worth giving at all, they should have been given completely. In the article on the Long Island we find the remarkable statement that Lewis and Harris contain 32,283 inhabitants, of whom 15,103 speak Gaelic alone and 25,134 Gaelic and English. The former figure should, of course, be 5,103.

The treatment of Gaelic place-names is not felicitous. As the derivation of many of these is still highly debatable, one of the first necessities in any work of reference which mentions them is the authority for the form adopted. In no case where any such derivation is given does the Encyclopedia quote an authority for it. It is difficult to believe it could have found one at all for such statements as "Bute . . . is derived from the Gaelic *Ey Bhiod* (*sic*) the island of corn"; "St. Kilda (Gaelic *Hirta*, the Western Land)"; "Clackmannan . . . close stands the stone that gives the district its name (Gaelic *clach*, a stone; *Mannan*, the name of the district)." Nor is the derivation of the name "Glasgow" such a settled point that it can be disposed of by "Dark green, from *Clescu*, afterwards *Glesco* or *Glasghu*; or, dear green spot (*Glas*, green, *cu* or *ghu*, dear)." Did space permit, these examples could be extended.

One can hardly help thinking that the new edition of the Encyclopedia has been prepared with a careful eye on the American market. It has the appearance of a "work of vulgarisation" in more than one respect. But enough has been said to show that the

real student of Gaelic matters will, if he ventures far enough, find himself in a maze of inaccuracies and inconsistencies which do little credit to a book which holds the place of premier work of reference in the British Islands.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

BY THE EDITOR.

Tha dlùth air dà bhliadhna o thàinig mìos-achan ùr am follais an Eirinn. Is e *An Tìr* is ainm do'n mhìosachan ùr. Chan eil facal ri fhaotainn ann ach Gaidhlig a mhàin. Gheibhear earrannan gearr glic ann, a' buintinn ri cor na cànan agus ri nithean eile a tha a' tachairt o sheachdain gu seachdain. Anns an àireamh mu dheireadh tha taobh duilleig air a sgrìobhadh leis an Ollamh an t-Athair Pádraig Ua Duinnín, ùghdar an Fhoclair. Is e an cuspair "Sgrìobhadh is Litreachas." Tha so a' sealltuinn dhuinn gu bheil na h-Eireann-ach a' cleachdadh na cànan air mhodh inbheach, a' laimhseachadh nithean tromha, agus a' nochdadh teomachd na cànan gu soilleir. Tha Gaidhlig na h-Eireann fada gu mòr a' thoiseach òirne anns an t-seadh sin. Agus tha tuilleadh de phaipéaran Gaidhlig gan cur an clò an Eirinn na tha an Alba. Gun teagamh tha Saor Stàt na h-Eireann a' tabhairt mu naoi ceud púnd Sasunnach gu bhì a' cabhair le cosgais nam paipéaran Gaidhlig. Is beag suim a ghabhas Ard Riaghladh Bhreatainn de chosgais mu chlà na Gaidhlig an Alba.

* * * * *

Chan ann a h-uile la thig leabhar bardachd Gaidhlig a mach anns a bheil cur is ceithir cheud taobh duilleig agus ochd fichead òran. Thàinig a leithid sin a mach mata o chionn mìos air ais. Is e an t-ùghdar Mhr Aonghas Moireasdan, an Duneideann. Is fhada o'n chuir sinn deagh eòlas air an ùghdar agus air a chuid eud is dilseachd do chànan nam beann. O chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean chuir e a mach leabhar ciuil anns a robh àireamh de a chuid òran air an cur ri ceòl. Ach anns a' leabhar ùr so rinn e obair shonruichte gu bhì dearbhadh gu bheil spiorad nam bàrd beo fhathast. Is iomadh cuspair ris an do bhuin e anns an leabhar ùr. Is iomadh smuain thaitneach a tha e a' nochdadh. Ach gu h-àraidh bu mhaith leinn a ràdh gu bheil bardachd a' Mhoireasdanaich a' tabhairt fianais air lànachd iongantach de gheur-nìohachadh mu aignidhean dhaoiné agus mu obair nàduir. Is iad sin a ghnàth na nithean a tha dlùth air inntinn

nam bàrd. Tha sinn an dòchas gun tabhair Gaidhil anns gach cearn deagh aire do'n leabhar ghasda so agus gun ceannaich iad e. Ma ni iad sin, gheibh iad buannachd do'n spiorad, agus cha ghabh iad aithreachas. Is e a' phris da thasdan deug is sia sgillinn, saor gu leòr airson luach is tomaid an leabhair.

* * * * *

Mhothaich sinn o chionn ghoirid gu bheil Gaidhlig Albannach a nis air a cur air àireamh nan cuspairean ann an Oilthigh Lunnainn. Tha e nis comasach do na foghlumaichean a bhi a' faotainn ceum ard fhoghlum, eadhon ceum nan ealadhaidhean, *Bachelor of Arts*, ann an Gaidhlig na h-Alba. Tha so 'na dheagh chomharradh gu bheil ar cànan a' gabhail àite urramach cho maith ri cainntean eile. Tha greis o bha cànan nan Eireannach agus nan Cuimreach air an gabhail mar chuspairean an Oilthigh Lunnainn. Tha e 'na chuideachadh mòr gu bheil ar cànan a' fàs am meas aig coigrich. Bìodh meas againn fhéin oirre.

* * * * *

Bidh seirbheis Gaidhlig air a cumail anns an t-seann eaglais an Colaiste an Rìgh, an Oilthigh Abaraidhean, air an naodhamh latha de cheud mhios an Earraich. Is e an searmonaiche an t-Urramach Niall Ros, Ollamh Litreachais. Bidh an t-seinn anns an t-seann nòs, fo stiùireadh an uasail Niall MacIlleathain M.A., B.Sc. Tha àireamh mhaith de Ghaidhil eadar mhaighdeanan is òganaich anns an Oilthigh. Theid an t-seirbheis air fad a chraobh sgaoileadh, air chor is gum bi cothrom aig muinntir éisdeachd aig astar. Tha buidheachas ri thabhairt do luchd riaghlaidh an Oilthigh.

SEANN LARACH.

Tha mi a chomhnuidh an àite cho aillidh agus gum bu deacair nas boidheche fhaotainn air aghaidh an t-saoghail. Tha beanntan ceòthach gar cuartachadh air gach taobh far a bheil na féidh

"Le cuinnean geur biorach
A' sireadh na gaoithe;"

thig a mhuir dlùth mar chaochas fada; agus air cùl an tighe, dealaichte bhuaith le doire bheithe, tha abhainn bhradanach, a' sruthadh an measg chreagan móra, agus eadar bhruachan feurach, far am b'e mo thlachd anns an t-samhradh, a bhi blianadh agus a' leughadh, air m' altrum leis an fhannan an uair a bhitheas torman is dùrdan na h-àibhne, ceilearadh nan

eun 's an doire, agus sgreach nam faoileann fad as, am chluasan. B' fhada an smuain so uainn mu fhichead bliadhna air ais, an uair a bha sinn ri cluich-catha le aoibheas agus ri folach-fead air cùl nan craobh agus anns a' chlais m' cuairt na seann làraich, air achadh 'sa choimhearsnachd. Bha an ùir ainmeil ga saltairt fo'r casan, oir b'e sin làrach nan cairtealan aig "Strachan," am feadh a bha e a feitheamh ri teachd Mhontrois as an àirde tuath.

Tha fuigheal nam balla fhathast ri'm faicinn agus tha mòran chraobh mu'n timchioll, a' seasamh 'san gheamhradh mar fhir-faire loma, le aodainn ghreannach, agus le gairdean caol sìnte, a' diùltadh do'n choigreach tighinn dlùth do'n àite sheunta sin thairis air nach deachaidh crann-treabhaidh no corran riamh; agus an am an t-samhradh mar shaidhearan sgeadaichte fo làn éideadh air reidhlean air, a' cagar na seann sgeulachd ri chéile anns an fhannan. Tha an àraich air an do chuireadh blàr deireannach Mhontrois, mu astar trì mìle bho sin, agus fagus ris an rathad mhór mar a tha duine 'dlùthachadh, chi e glumag nach eil glé fharsuing, ach dorcha, domhain is duaichnidh, gu oillt-chrith is eagal a chur air. Their feadhainn gu bheil an ghlumag sin gun aigéal no gun ghrund, ach their feadhainn éile gu bheil mòran ionmhais 'na luidhe an sin, a chaidh a thilgeadh innte le saighdearan Mhontrois mu'n do theich iad.

Cha ruig sinn a leas tighinn thairis air sgeul theichidh Mhontrois, ach is ionmhainn le mòran creidsinn gu'n do chuireadh e an toll-dubh caisteil Asaint; agus an deigh sin gun deachaidh a liubhairt do na saighdearan dearga le MacLeoid a tha fo thàmailt mhór gu ruig an là an duigh. Ach bheir ùine mòran nithean, olc is maith gu follais a cheartaicheas na neo-chlòntaich agus a chuireas teangannan dhaoine breugach 'nan tosd. Fhuaradh litir ann an seòmar nan seann sgrìobhaidhean an Caisteal Dunrobin mu fhichead bliadhna is coig air ais, a sgrìobhadh le MacLeoid, agus a chuireadh a' Dunbeth air a cheart la 's an do ghladhadh Montros aig Asaint. B' eucomasach do MacLeoid, Asaint a ruigheachd air an là sin, agus bho so tha e air a dhearbhadh nach robh MacLeoid ann idir, is nach robh e ciontach.

Chuireadh litir gu an *Scotsman* le ministeir air am bheil mi eòlach, a thairgsinn seallaidh de an litir sin do neach sam bith, air an robh miann a faicinn, ach cha d'fhuair e freagradh fathast. Is annsa le daoine sean uirsgeul faoin a ghleidheadh na an fhìrinn a rannsachadh.

T. D. MOFFAT.

LEANNAN AN T-SAIGHDEIR.

Fonn: Cumha Mhic Mhuirich.

O 's fheudar dhomh innse cho dubhach 'sa tha
m'ntinn:

O 's fheudar dhomh innse mar thà.

O 's fheudar dhomh innse cho dubhach 'sa tha
m'ntinn,

Bho'n thainig sgeul mo mhi-ghean o'n bhlàr.

Tha piobaireachd! piobaireachd! o uilt is ghlinn a'
dìreadh;

Tha àrmuinn ar tìr ann an càs:

Peileir seang gun lobradh 'gan gearradh sìos 'nam
mìltean,

Mar speal ri bun nan dìas ann an stàbhl.

O 's fheudar, etc.

An saighdear bu ghrinn leam le chiabhan tais gun
chìreadh,

O dhùthaich! dean cuimhn' air a bhàs!

Airraoin tha e sìnte, mar 's tric a dh'ìoc a shìnnis,
'S e fad o chridhe briodail a ghràidh.

O 's fheudar, etc.

Bha chruth le lùth mar aoibhle,* 's a shùil mar
rionnag oidhche;

Guth-leannain, bha gun fhoill domh, 'na dhàin.

Mo mhiann a bhi 'nad choibhneas! mo chiall a bhi
'gad fhaighneachd!

'S gu'n taghainn thu, air loinn, fad o chàch.

O 's fheudar, etc.

'S e rùn mo shùl am fiùran, rinn aising de mo
dhùsgadh;

Bidh mis' ad dhéigh-sa tùrsach gun tàmh;

Is eitig 'ga mo chiùrradh nach leasaich fleadh no
càram,

Gu'n càirair mi an ùir dhubb nan clàr.

O 's fheudar, etc.

AONGHAS MAC DHONNACHAIDH.

* Symbol or token.

SECRETARY'S TOUR.

I presided at a Ceilidh of the Kilmodan Branch in Stronafian School on Wednesday, 15th January. There was a very large attendance, and included in the company were Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale and Mr. and Mrs. MacNaughton of Ardachearanbeg. Gaelic songs were rendered by several members, and Mr. James Livingstone, Dunoon, conducted community singing from sheets of Gaelic songs supplied by Mrs. Burnley Campbell. The Rev. John Cameron delivered an old Sgeulachd, and Mrs. Gillies read a Gaelic story

from one of the earlier volumes of An Deo Gréine.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell, whose guest I was, very kindly sent her car with me to St. Catherine's the following day. Miss Flora MacIntyre, the Schoolhouse, had arranged a meeting for me in this Lochfyneside village, and when Dr. MacLennan took the chair there was a company of fully 50 present in the Village Hall. At the close of my address a Branch was formed, and the following office-bearers appointed:—President, Mr. Allan MacDonald; Vice-Presidents, Dr. F. MacLennan and Mr. Robert Cameron; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss F. C. MacIntyre, The Schoolhouse, with a Committee of six. A splendid programme of Gaelic songs was gone through, and the meeting was most enjoyable. The Inveraray Branch sent a party across to assist in the formation of this new Branch, and several of their members contributed to the programme. Thanks are due Mrs. MacIntyre and Mr. A. J. MacIntyre, Inveraray, for arranging the party. I am much indebted to Miss MacIntyre, the newly appointed Secretary, for arranging the meeting, and for kind hospitality during my visit to St. Catherine's.

I crossed to Inveraray on Friday morning, and while waiting on the 'bus to take me to Minard called on Mr. A. J. MacIntyre, and discussed Branch activities with him. The Inveraray Branch is meeting regularly, and the meetings are well attended.

I arrived at Minard shortly after mid-day, and passed the afternoon at the Schoolhouse. Mr. Roderick Campbell, Headmaster, arranged a meeting for me, and it was most encouraging to find an audience of 60 or 70 people in the Hall at 7.30. Mr. Peter Boyd, Crarae, presided in the absence of Capt. Campbell of Succoth, who was unfortunately from home. The meeting was most enthusiastic, and decided unanimously on re-forming the Branch. Office-bearers were appointed as follows:—Hon. President, Capt. G. I. Campbell, Yr. of Succoth; President, Mr. Roderick Campbell, Headmaster; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Peter Boyd and Mr. Donald Urquhart; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Mary Greenshields, The Schoolhouse, and a Committee of seven. An excellent programme of Gaelic songs was gone through, which included pleasing items by the School children. I thank Mr. Roderick Campbell for arranging the meeting, and for hospitality given to myself during my visit.

Gaelic predominated at all these meetings and the newly formed Branches have had a most auspicious beginning.

NIALL.



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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gàidhealach was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Friday, 24th January, 1930. The following members were present:—

John R. Bannerman, Rahane; Alex. K. Beaton, Perth; William D. Barclay, Glasgow; John Cameron, LL.B., Glasgow; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Capt. George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth; Neil S. Campbell, Glasgow; Mrs. J. B. Dunlop, Glasgow; Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; Col. Gilbert Gunn, Inverness; Rev. Donald Lamont, D.D., Blair Atholl; Angus MacAulay, Greenock; John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow; John MacIntyre, Glasgow; Rev. G. W. MacKay, D.D., Killin; William MacKenzie, Greenock; Miss Flora MacKinnon, Glasgow; Alastair C. MacLaren, Dalmally; James MacLaren, Glasgow; The Hon. Mrs. Iona MacLean, Edinburgh; Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Norman MacLeod, M.A., Cardonald; Dr. R. R. MacNicol, Taynult; George E. Marjoribanks, Sonachan; John A. Nicolson, M.A., Glasgow; Neil Orr, Edinburgh; Colin Sinclair, M.A., Glasgow; George Thomson, M.A., Glasgow, and Miss Millar Weir, Alexandria.

In attendance:—Robert Macfarlane, C.A., Treasurer; Neil Shaw, Secretary, and Hugh MacPhee, Assistant.

In the absence of the President, Miss Campbell of Inverneill, senior vice-president, presided.

The minute of meeting held on 22nd November, 1929, was read and approved.

The following motion, by Mr. T. D. MacDonald, held over from previous meeting, was remitted to the Propaganda Committee for consideration and report:—

“That it be remitted to the Executive Council to consider whether it be advisable and practicable to award a gratuity in excess of the prescribed remuneration to each teacher of music who prepares and qualifies a pupil to continue the teaching of music in his or her district under the auspices of An Comunn, and to give an annual honorarium to such qualifying teacher or teachers carrying on the work to the satisfaction of An Comunn, and that it be obligatory on every such teacher to hold an annual concert with the assistance of the pupils, the proceeds of such concert to be exclusively in aid of the expenditure involved in the services.”

The Treasurer read a minute of meeting of the Finance Committee. The final accounts of the Perth Mod show a surplus

of £548, after crediting the sum of £34 received in respect of the Mod Dance. The Committee, as instructed at last meeting, considered the question of balances arising from these dances, and recommended that in future the dance should be run directly by the Local Committee under the auspices of An Comunn, so that An Comunn would be responsible for any loss arising and similarly would be entitled to any balance accruing.

The Committee recommend that, for Mods held after 1930, the payment to a local secretary should be as follows:—An honorarium of £25, whether or not the Mod was a financial success, and a commission at the rate of 5 per cent. on the profit of the Mod after debiting said £25, and after deducting the sums credited to the Mod in respect of invested funds belonging to An Comunn.

It was reported that no further objection will be taken by the Inland Revenue authorities to the recognition of a charitable title to the Feill Trust.

The Treasurer reported that a sum of £75 had been received from the Edinburgh Highland Ball Committee, to be allocated as follows:—£50 to the Art and Industry Committee and £25 to the Mod and Music Committee. The Committee expressed hearty thanks for this handsome donation.

It was further reported that, for the Session 1928-29, a sum of rather more than 50 per cent. of the cost of the Singing Classes had been received from the districts.

The Secretary read minutes of two meetings of Education Committee. It was reported that all last year's teachers had accepted appointments for this year's Summer School.

With reference to remit from previous meeting of Executive, the Committee, after due consideration, recommend that a conference on a more limited scale than was originally intended, to which Directors of Education, Inspectors of Schools, and representative teachers should be invited,

should be held on the closing day of the Summer School at Inverness.

A draft of proposed leaflet showing practical reasons for learning Gaelic was submitted and authorised to be published.

The Committee proposed to issue a circular to parents of Gaelic-speaking children in Glasgow schools with a view to ascertaining their attitude with regard to the provision of instruction in Gaelic for their children before approaching the Education Authority on the matter.

Minutes of two meetings of Publication Committee were read. The Committee considered the remit made to them at last meeting in regard to issuing a new History Book. The Constitution of An Comunn will not permit of such a book being subsidised by them if written in English, and the Committee agreed to communicate with the Royal Celtic Society on the subject, and to continue consideration.

Suggestions by Mr. T. D. MacDonald for improving the circulation of the magazine had been continued for further consideration.

The Minutes were adopted on the motion of the convener, Mr. Malcolm MacLeod.

The Propaganda Committee met in Stirling that afternoon, and had before them reports from sub-committees. The Northern Sub-Committee reported on the formation of three new Branches—Brora, Tarbert (Harris), and Nairn. Three music teachers were employed at Lairg, Lochcarron, and Lochboisdale respectively.

The Southern Sub-Committee reported on the formation of new Branches at St. Catherine's and Minard. Teachers of singing are employed at Kinlochrannoch, in Mid Argyll and Upper Lorn district.

The appointment of Miss Kirsty MacLennan, L.R.A.M., London, was confirmed, and it was reported that Mrs. J. B. Dunlop

had agreed to conduct a singing class in the Lochdon district.

A minute of the Art and Industry Committee gave a report on the rug-making industry in Lewis by Mrs. Burnley Campbell. Miss Jane MacLeod, Greenock, is giving instruction in the Ness district, as last year.

The Mod and Music Committee reported that they recommended the acceptance of the sum of £5 from Mr. Alasdair MacKechie, London, to form the nucleus of a fund to provide a prize for the author and composer of a new Rallying Song. The Convener and Mr. Alexander Fraser were appointed representatives on the Mod Local Committee in Dunoon.

A minute of the Advisory Committee was read and adopted.

The Special Committee on the appointment of proposed Organiser for the Northern Area reported that they had considered 12 applications, and selected a short list of five, viz.:—Mr. Neil Grant, Broadford; Mr. Murdo MacDonald, Ness, Lewis; Mr. Donald MacPhail, Uddingston; Dr. Norman Morrison, Campbeltown, and Mr. A. N. Nicolson, Inverness. It was reported that Mr. Donald MacPhail had withdrawn his application. It was agreed, on the motion of Mr. William D. Barclay, to remit to the Special Committee to interview candidates and bring forward a recommendation to the next meeting of Executive.

Mr. Bannerman reported on the finding of the Special Music Class Committee. It was recommended that a grant in aid of £5 be offered to teachers to attend the Summer School for special training to enable them to qualify for a Teacher's Certificate. The report was adopted, and passed on to the Propaganda Committee for attention.

Mr. George E. Marjoribanks gave notice for next meeting of a motion bearing upon membership of Clann an Fhraoich.

“SMEÒRACH CHLANN DOMHNUILL”
(The Mavis of Clan MacDonald)

Words by John MacCodrum (the ‘North Uist Bard’). Air noted down by Somerled MacMillan, Kirkcaldy.

Key A. Slowly with great dignity.

Chorus.

$\left\{ \left \begin{array}{c} r:-m:r \\ \text{Hoilibh o} \\ \text{or Ol-i-bhag} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} r:-s:d \\ \text{hir-i-ag} \\ \text{il-i-bhag} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} d:t:l \\ \text{o-halil} \\ \text{o-halil} \end{array} \left \begin{array}{c} s_i:-:- \\ \text{o,} \\ \text{o,} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} m:-f:m \\ \text{Hoilibh o} \\ \text{Ol-i-bhag} \end{array} \left \begin{array}{c} m:-s:r \\ \text{hir-i-ag} \\ \text{il-i-bhag} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} m:r:d \\ \text{o-horo} \\ \text{o-horo} \end{array} \left \begin{array}{c} r:-:- \\ \text{hi;} \\ \text{hi;} \end{array} \right\}$

$\left\{ \left \begin{array}{c} s:-l:f \\ \text{Hoilibh o} \\ \text{Ol-i-bhag} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} m:-s:r \\ \text{hir-i-ag} \\ \text{il-i-bhag} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} d:t:l \\ \text{o-hulil} \\ \text{o-hulil} \end{array} \left \begin{array}{c} s_i:-:- \\ \text{o —} \\ \text{o —} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} d:-r \\ \text{'Smeòrach} \\ \text{'Smeòrach} \end{array} \left \begin{array}{c} m:-s \\ \text{le} \\ \text{le} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} r:-s \\ \text{Clann—Dòmhnuaill} \\ \text{Clann—Dòmhnuaill} \end{array} \left \begin{array}{c} d:-mi. \\ \text{mi.} \\ \text{mi.} \end{array} \right\}$

Verse.

$\left\{ \left \begin{array}{c} r:-r:r \\ \text{Smeòrach} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} r:-d \\ \text{mis'} $
$\left\{ \left \begin{array}{c} s:-f:m \\ \text{deòn —} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} r:-r \\ \text{achd} \end{array} \left \begin{array}{c} d:t:l \\ \text{a thèid —} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} s_i:-s_i \\ \text{ni's} \end{array} \left \begin{array}{c} d:-r \\ \text{faid-e.} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} m:-s \\ \text{Truimead ma bhròin} \end{array} \left \begin{array}{c} r:-s \\ \text{thoirleum} \end{array} \right \begin{array}{c} d:-d \\ \text{m'aighe.} \end{array} \right\}$

THE GAELIC SUMMER SCHOOL.

As briefly announced in the January number of *An Gàidheal*, this year's Gaelic Summer School is to be held at Inverness. The date is provisionally fixed for the first three weeks of August—that is, if school accommodation can be obtained from Friday, 1st, to Thursday, 21st August, inclusive, and if the services of the desired teachers can be secured for that period, these dates will then be definitely fixed. Failing these conditions, however, it will be necessary to arrange for the school to run for the last week of July and the first fortnight of August. Many schools re-open after the summer holidays at the beginning of the third week of August, and it is questionable if it will be found practicable to continue in session after the 15th.

The Education Committee of An Comunn is endeavouring to secure the services of the same four teachers who so successfully instructed the classes at Port Ellen last summer, and it will be a cause of satisfaction to all concerned if the announcement can be made in due course that Mr. John MacDonald, Miss Ann Johnstone, Mr. Neil Orr,

and Miss Anna MacBride are again to take charge respectively of the Senior and Junior Gaelic Classes, and of the classes of Gaelic Singing and Celtic Art.

The fees for the classes will be the same as last year, viz., 30/- for a full course, 15/- for Art alone, and 5/- for Singing alone.

Intending students should send their names and addresses to Mr. Neil Shaw, 212 West George Street, Glasgow, and fees for the classes should also, if practicable, be sent to him in advance.

It is hoped to obtain local assistance for securing lodgings for students, as was done at Port Ellen last year, and it will be announced later what arrangements it has been found possible to make.

Students of Gaelic in the East and North, to whom neither Broadford nor Port Ellen were easily accessible, are urged to make use of the opportunity for further study which An Comunn is providing. A large enrolment would be a great encouragement to the Committee, who are very desirous of making provision in this way for learners of the language.

AUGUSTA LAMONT.

**"FAREWELL TAE SCOTLAND:
A'M AWA' TAE FIFE."**

Recently the Scottish Literary Society of Toronto met in the Mining Building of the University of Toronto to celebrate St. Andrew's anniversary, when a lengthy programme of literature, music, and song was submitted. Dr. W. J. Edmondston Scott, M.A., D.Litt., president of the Society, was in the chair.

The speaker of the evening was Professor the Rev. John Dow, of Emmanuel College, whose address on "St. Andrews in Song and Story" dealt specially with modern St. Andrews and the history of its university and colleges. Academic life in the olden time was described in a racy and humorous vein, with many illustrations from old and modern students' compositions. Many of St. Andrews' most popular student songs were delightfully rendered by Mrs. John Dow, the audience joining in with several of the choruses.

The President's address dealt exclusively with the ancient history of Fife, and was entitled, "A Review of the Racial History and Ethnology of Fife and the Lothians, 1-1000 A.D." In illustrating the drama of Scotland's national growth during a thousand years, when Gaelic was the Court language of Edinburgh and Pictish the language of Fife, Dr. Scott showed from the evidence of classical geographers, who had surveyed the whole Scottish coast from the Tweed to the Orkneys, the Isle of Skye, and southward to the Solway, that the Romans had discovered the country was racially homogeneous. Traces of a pre-Celtic system of topography such as survived in names like *Bodotria* (Forth), *Ituna* (Eden), *Deva* (Dee), *Tavaus* (Tay), belonged to the older substratum of Iberian speech common to all Western Europe, but the Romans were only made acquainted with Pictish and Gaelic as spoken in *Alba*, or Scotland. The differences between either speech were probably about as well marked as those between modern Scottish and Irish Gaelic.

Anthropologically, the population of Fife and the Lothians was represented by the same indigenous stock that was dominant in the shipyards and factories of to-day; not the tall, fair-haired, blue-eyed Celt of history, but the short, swarthy, black-haired, and tall, red-haired types that are featured in the writings of Tacitus and old Gaelic literature. The latter were the *Caledoni* of

the Central Highlands who have left their name in "Schiehallion." Although Tacitus mistook them for Germans, the red-haired Picts of Ireland were as familiar to the early Irish as the darker folks, and those from whom Fionn and Ossian claimed descent, Clan Baoisgne, derived their name from the old Irish word *basc* (red).

The former race was known to the oldest legends of the Gael as the "Race of Loth," the "Black Race" which went out from Tara before the victorious Lugh who led the Milesian Gael against the native Irish. The word *loth*, or *loch*, in old Gaelic, signified "black," and *loth* was the preferred spelling in a number of Irish manuscripts quoted to prove that pagan Gaelic history regarded this legendary monarch as the eponymous ancestor of the "Black" race, whose territory was known as *Loth-lind*.

Interest in these Gaelic traditions centred in the fact that British traditions, as recorded by Joceline and others, traced the origin of the name "Lothian" to a legendary king, Loth, who was a contemporary of King Arthur. The Pictish topography of Fife and the Lothians suggested that this dynasty was of the race which left its name in the "Pentland Hills," and may have later changed its name to MacDuff, Duff, or Dow, when the royal family of the "Blacks" had been Gaelicized after the Sootic conquest of the Lowlands and the establishment of Gaelic rule under Kenneth MacAlpine in the ninth century.

Whether the people called themselves Picts or Scots, and spoke Pictish or Gaelic, they were so racially homogeneous that every attempt to segregate them according to fine ethnological or linguistic differences had ended in confusion. A thousand years of historical development, illustrated from the history of Fife and the Lothians, proved that this homogeneity of race was the foundation of the national consciousness of unity, such internal feuds of dynasties and vested interests could never weaken, nor external military pressure from England destroy.

Finally, the traditions, place-names, and history of Fife gave evidence that the teachings of Iona had illumined this part of Scotland from a period when Pictish was the language of Court and people, but Irish Gaelic that of the Church. Its influence in the course of centuries could be traced in the reactions of the people to the claims of the Pope of Rome at the Council of Whitby; throughout the Reformation period, and in

more recent times when the racial consciousness was still working toward national unity in Church and State. The greatest exponent of Scotland's soul was Robert Burns, who expressed this homogeneity of the Scottish race in his doctrine of the "Brotherhood of Man." There could be no spiritual unity of this kind without physical homogeneity, and the political relations between England and the Scots-Irish nations had always proved their absence between Celt and Saxon.

NEW MEMBERS.

LIFE.

The Duchess of Montrose, Buchanan Castle.
Mrs. MacKintosh, Nairn.

ORDINARY.

Miss Gilmour, Nethy Bridge.
John Lawrie, jun., Kinlochell.
Rev. D. MacLean, Lochboisdale.
David Cleghorn Thomson, Esq., Edinburgh.
J. N. H. Justice, Esq., London.
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Mrs. Mary Hickey, York.
Mrs. N. Johnstone, Corstorphine.
Miss Cathie B. MacLean, Glasgow.
Hugh MacCorquodale, Esq., Glasgow.
Alastair R. MacKenzie, Esq., Fearn.
Mrs. E. Medley, St. Andrews.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Gaelic Teaching.

Sir,—In reply to the letter in a recent issue as to the difficulty learners experience in teaching themselves Gaelic I experience this, and consider it is largely due to a lack of uniformity in the use of letters and accents over the various letters.

In India I experienced no such difficulty in learning three vernaculars, and think this was entirely due to the Hunterian method of spelling these languages in English. So far as I can judge, Sir W. W. Hunters' system is admirably adapted for use by writers in Gaelic, and I am sure this would do much to help those who are not in reach of teachers.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

P. G. BLACK, Captain.

Ladysfield, Amport, Andover.

Scots History.

Sir,—With your permission, I would like to point out a historical error or two that appears in the course of your report of the recent broadcast given by the President of An Comunn Gaidhealach. He states that "when in the ninth century, Gadhelic and Pictish Scotland were welded into one kingdom under Kenneth MacAlpine, Gaelic, enriched it is true by Pictish vocabulary, became the universal language throughout the consolidated dominion," etc. The consolidation to which the President refers did not effect more than Southern Pictland: the North stood out against it. The true era of the consolidation spoken of is the reign of Alexander

II, when Northern resistance to the South was finally broken down. Again, historically speaking, there was no such thing as a separate Pictish language, so I fail to see how Gaelic could be "enriched" by it. The language spoken within Pictland in historic times was Gaelic. These two points I hope I have made quite clear in my *Inverness Courier* study of MacBeth.

"Gael-speaking Scotland," says the President, "was not conquered by English-speaking England: the head and front of the linguistic transformation was the surrender of Malcolm Canmore to the undoubted piety and goodness of his Saxon queen, who promptly introduced English as the language of the Court." Here also is myth. Malcolm had no "court" in the accepted, that is feudal, sense of the word. "Malcolm," says the historian Robertson, "left his kingdom as Gaelic as he found it," and if any one thinks to upset this conclusion he must bring as strong proof against it as Robertson advances in support of it; and to that matter the President brings nothing but mere assertion. Neither, when it did come (as it did later) to a question of displacement, was it the English that ousted Gaelic from Court, but French, which, however, was only the principal language spoken at the semi-feudal court of the Alexanders, Gaelic being yet in favour in royal circles. It is high time all this pseudo historical nonsense about Margaret, the consort of Malcolm III., were expelled from knowledgeable quarters.

I learn there is a movement afoot to prepare and publish a history of the Highlands. What is needed, however, is a good short history of Scotland that shall embrace the Lowlands as well as the Highlands. You cannot justly separate, historically or ethnologically, one from the other. And, in any event, it is devoutly to be hoped that grave errors of historic fact, such as are briefly glanced at above, will not be allowed to figure, to perpetuate themselves, in the suggested compilation, no matter what form it may take.—Yours faithfully,

R. ERSKINE OF MARR.

Aboyne, 15th January, 1930.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BRORA.—Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow, Secretary and Organiser of An Comunn Gaidhealach, addressed a meeting in Clyne Higher Grade School. Rev. H. W. Mackay, B.D., Manse of Clyne, presided over a large gathering. It was unanimously agreed to form a branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach. The following office-bearers were elected:—President—Rev. H. W. Mackay, B.D., Manse of Clyne; Vice-Presidents—Miss Anne Mackay, teacher, Doll School; Mr. David Grant, Manse Park; Committee—Miss Ross, Inverbrora Farm; Miss M. M. Hunter, Aldersyde; Miss J. Mackay, teacher, Brora; Mr. Thomas M. Hunter, Aldersyde; Mr. Robert Wilson, Gower Street; Joint Secretaries and Treasurers—Mr. Murdo Macleod, North of Scotland Bank, and Mr. Jack MacLennan, Rosslyn Street.—A meeting was held in Clyne Higher Grade School for the purpose of enrolling members for Brora Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach. Rev. H. W. Mackay, B.D., presided over a good attendance. Following on his address an encouraging number desired to be enrolled. It was intimated that a Gaelic class would be held in the School on Tuesday evenings. The class will be taught by Rev. Mr. Mackay. Any who have not yet

joined the class should communicate with the honorary secretaries—Messrs. Jack MacLennan and Murdo Macleod, but only those who have registered as members of An Comunn Gàidhealach shall be eligible to join the class. The business of the meeting being over, the remainder of the evening was spent in the form of a ceilidh.

BUTE.—"A mhnathan is a dhaoine uaisle, is ann le fior thoilintinn a tha mi so a nochd.—A well-attended meeting of An Comunn Gàidhealach Bhoird took place in Tower Street Hall, at which Captain Kennedy presided for the first time since his long illness. The speaker was Mrs. N. Myles, Wester Kames, who chose as her subject, "Stands Scotland Where it Did?" and treated the burning question in a most original and instructive fashion. She referred in an interesting and very entertaining manner to Scottish customs in the younger days of the older generations, and contrasted them with the customs of the present day. The audience much appreciated the fine lecture, which was enhanced by subtle humour and fun, and by excellent bagpipe selections by Mr. J. C. Maclean and Pipe-Major P. Stewart. Solos were also rendered by Mrs. Robb, and Misses Duncan and Drummond, Mrs. D. Lamont accompanying. Votes of thanks to the speaker and artistes were proposed by Messrs. J. Macdonald and J. Clark.

DUROR AND KENTALEN.—The first Ceilidh since the amalgamation of Duror and Kentallen was held in the Hall, Kentallen, before a large audience. That the people of Kentallen are enthusiastic in support of the Gaelic cause is very evident and encouraging to the local organisers. An appreciative audience enjoyed a varied programme, instrumentally and vocal, sustained by local talent. The singing of the National Anthem brought a very successful evening to a close. The second meeting since the amalgamation, which was held in the Reading Room, Duror, proved an unqualified success, the Hall being taxed to its utmost capacity. Mrs. Stewart of Achara proposed that the newly elected President, Mr. Wm. McLean of Invernahyle be asked to take the Chair, and called on Mr. Angus Cameron, Ardsheal to introduce the President in Gaelic. An excellent programme of Gaelic and English songs, with bagpipe and violin selections was submitted (also melodeon). Over 40 Branch members are now enrolled. The usual votes of thanks and the singing of "God Save the King" brought a record meeting, full of Gaelic sentiment to a close.

INVERARAY.—The Branch held the fortnightly meeting, the attendance was most encouraging. Mrs. Nicol MacIntyre, Vice-President, presided. Tea was served, and reference was made to the proposed memorial to Evan MacColl at Kenmore, and the feeling was expressed that the branch should support the movement. A much appreciated programme was submitted, and consisted of a Gaelic reading by Mrs. Alexander Gillies, and songs by Miss Peggy Ferguson, Mr. A. J. MacIntyre, Miss Jenny Bain, Mr. C. MacInnes, Miss Hebe MacGugan Mr. Hope MacArthur, Miss E. MacLaren, and Masters Willie Stewart and Hugh Stewart. Miss Campbell accompanied the singers. The usual votes of thanks were passed at the close of the meeting.

KILNINVER.—Under the auspices of the Branch, a successful Ceilidh was held recently. Rev. Mr. Anderson, Kilbrandon, presided over a large attendance. The following ladies and gentlemen contributed songs and instrumental music:—Mrs. MacLean (Miss Mary Lamont), Miss L. MacLeod, Miss M. Clark, Miss Helen MacGregor, and Messrs. Grant, MacInnes, Ferguson, and Campbell. An enjoyable dance followed under the guidance of Mr. John MacLean, music being supplied by Mrs. MacAlister and party, Oban.

LOCHGILF.—There was a large attendance at the third Ceilidh of the Branch, held in the Masonic Hall. After the singing of "Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig," Mr. D. Grant, who presided, introduced the Rev. J. M. Munro, M.A., Kilmartin, who had kindly accepted an invitation to address the Branch. Mr. Munro, whose subject was "Scenes and Stories, Poolewe, Ross-shire," spoke first in Gaelic, and paid a tribute to the grandeur of the scenery of that district, and to the kindness of its people. He had the privilege when there, he said, of making the acquaintance of Alexander Cameron, the venerable bard of Turnaig, and he appreciatively read a passage from the poet's works. In English, the lecturer continued his account of daily incidents in the life of the people, and of the legendary lore of the country. To the Chairman's request for a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr. Munro (with whom he also associated the Rev. Mr. Cameron), the audience responded in a way that left no doubt of their appreciation of his most instructive and excellent address. Gaelic songs were sung by Mr. Andrew Grinlaw, Miss Flora Campbell, Mr. Wm. MacGregor, Mr. Donald MacLean, Miss MacCormick, and Mr. Crawford MacAlpine. In conclusion, there were votes of thanks to the singers, to the M.C., and to the musicians; and the singing of "Oidhech Mhath Leibh."

TOBERMORY.—The local Branch were entertained in the School by the Rev. J. M. Menzies, at their Ceilidh, when an excellent programme was presented, as follows: Ceòl air a' Phìob-mhòir, Donnachadh MacLeod; Oran, Fionnaghal Medlicott; Sgeulachd, Iain Camshron Oran, Niall Macdonnmuinn; Oran, Adhamh MacIlle Dhuinn; Sgeul goidir, M. MacAoidh; Deasbairachd, An t-urramach Iain MacAonghas; Oran, Mairi N. Mhoireasdan; Oran, Niall Macdonnmuinn; A roghainn, Fear na cathrach; Ceòl air a' Phìob-mhòir, M. MacIlleathain; Oran, Bean Eeachainn Mhic Illeathain.

WICK.—A Ceilidh, well attended by members and friends, was held in the Academy. Mr. Millar presided, and Rev. George Sutherland, formerly of Bruan U.F. Church, gave a most interesting paper in which he related many of the stirring stories of lore and mystery that used to be told at fireside Ceilidhs in the Parish of Latharon in olden days. The paper, which was both a literary and folk-lore treat, was greatly enjoyed. A story selected from one of the papers sent in in connection with the recent literary competition was read by Mr. M. Mackenzie, M.A., and instances of strange happenings, occult powers, and the like, were related by the chairman and other members. Miss K. McKenzie gave a solo, and Miss M. S. Henderson played delightful selections on the violin. Mrs. Gilbertson was accompanist.—A very happy and successful public Ceilidh under the auspices of the Branch took place in the North Parish Church Hall. The programme consisted of Gaelic and English songs by the Juvenile Singing Class, under their instructor, Miss K. McKenzie; Gaelic songs by a quartette of the Class—Misses Budge, Swanson, Clyne, and Tait; selections by Wick Strathspey and Reel Band; solos by Miss Isobel Bremner and Mrs. Sutherland; violin selections by Miss Henderson; humorous readings and stories by Mr. D. Mackay, Shebster; and extracts from the folk-lore literary competition read by Mr. Millar. Tea was served during the evening. A letter of good wishes and the season's compliments was read from Miss G. D. Sinclair, Vice-President, who is at present in Glasgow. On the call of Mr. Millar, votes of thanks were passed with great heartiness to all who contributed to the entertainment, and to the Chairman. The Ceilidh concluded with the singing of "Oidhech mhat leibh," and a verse of the National Anthem (in Gaelic) by the choir.

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Leabhar XXV.]

Am Màrt 1930.

[Earrann 6

LEUGHADH GAIDHLIG.

Ma their neach sam bith gu bheil sinn ag iomradh ro thrì air a' chuspair so chan eil againn dha ach aon fhreagairt. Is e sin gur e crìoch àraidh a' mhìosachain so, a bhi a' tarruing aire gu staid na càinain. An uair a bhios duine a' fulang fo thinneas, is dualach gum bi cùram air a chàirdean. Is miann leo fios fhaotainn mu dheidhinn, ciamar tha a neart a' seasamh, agus am bheil e a' tighinn air aghaidh a chum slàinte. Tha a' Ghaidhlig an diugh coltach ri duine tinn. Ach ged tha i sean, gidheadh chan e sin a tha 'ga lagachadh. Is e tha 'ga lagachadh cion cleachdaidh. Fhad 's a tha cainnt air a cleachdadh, chan fhàs i fann idir. Tha an t-eadar dhealachadh so eadar duine tinn agus càinain. Ma tha an duine tinn glé aosmhor is dualach dha gun tréig a spionnadh e co dhui. Cha leig e leas dèilig a bhi aige ri fallaineachd bhuan. Cha tig snuadh na slàinte air ais gu a ghruaidh; cha tig beothalachd na h-òige gu a cheum nas mò. Anns an t-seadh sin chan eil an comhsamhlachd fìor eadar seann duine agus càinain shean. Ged tha a' Ghaidhlig os cionn dà mhìle bliadhna dh' aois, tha i fhathast comasach air mairsinn beò, ma gheibh i cothrom le bhi 'ga cleachdadh.

Is tric a chluinnear gu bheil obair A' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich a' comh-sheasamh an tomhas mór an seinn nam òran. Mar tha fhios againn uile tha guth-cheòl nan Gaidheal taitneach ri éisdeachd ris. Tha e na thoil inntinn do chàirdean is do choigreach. Is e sud aon de na crìochan sònruichte a tha aig A' Chomuinn 's an amharc. Ach is e *Ar Càinain 's ar Ceòl* na faicil a tha air saicheantas A' Chomuinn. Tha a' chàinain air thoiseach air a' cheòl. Ach aig an mòid feumar aideachadh gu bheil an

ceòl 'ga chur air thoiseach air a' chàinain. Is minic a bha e 'na aobhar iomagain do chàirdean na Gaidhlig gu bheil muinntir cho ullamh gu bhi riaraichte le luchd seinn aig nach eil eòlas air a' chàinain. Bhiodh sud maith gu leòr airson fearas-chuideachda. Ach chan eil sud maith gu leòr airson comhfharpais aig Mòd. An uair a thig dà fhichead, no eadhon dà cheud, de'n t-seòrsa sin air an aghaidh gu Mòd saoilidh an saoghal gu bheil aobhar na Gaidhlig a' deanamh aghart mòr. Is muldach am mealladh sin. Is truagh faoin am beachd sin, ged thigeadh mìle dhui sud go mòd. Ni iad oidheipir air faicil an òrain aithris air la a' mhòid. Cho luath 's a tha am mòd seachad theid na faicil air dichuimhne. Chan eil miann no dùrachd nas mò gu Gaidhlig a leughadh no a labhairt. Tha àireamh mhór de'n luchd seinn nach tuig brìgh nam briathran a tha iad a' seinn. Chan eil sin gu cuideachadh sam bith do'n aobhar.

Ma sheallas sinn ri obair nam meanglan gheibh sinn gu bheil cuid mhór de na coinn-eamhan air an tabhairt suas do cheòl is àbhachd. Faodaidh gun tig dannsa an deigh na cèilidh. Ged a tha dannsa gu maith 'na àite fén, gidheadh tha sinn an dùil nach eil sud mar an ceudna 'na chuideachadh mòr do'n aobhar. Faodaidh gun abair neach cìod e bhios a chum cuideachaidh. Tha sinn cinnteach gur e leughadh is comhradh an aon leigheas air laighe na càinain. Far a bheil cròilean beag de luchd leughaidh, sin far am fearr a bheil an obair a' dol air aghart. Is e sin a mhàin an aon bhar-antas gu bheil muinntir a' togail agus a' tuigsinn na Gaidhlig. Faodaidh nach eil iarrtas làidir air leughadh am measg nam meanglan. Ach feumar a nochadh dhaibh cìod e cho riatanach 's a tha e gum biodh iad a' leughadh is a'

labhairt na cànan. Is gann gu bheil leisgeul aig meanglan sam bith anns a' chùis so. Oir anns gach gleann is clachan feadh na dùthcha tha cuid eigin a tha comasach air Gaidhlig a leughadh, agus air cuideachadh a dheanamh leis an fheadhainn a tha ag ionnsachadh.

Tha sinn da riribh taingeil airson gach cròilean leughaidh a tha air bonn a cheana. Chuir e gairdeachas oirn a bhi a' cluinntinn gu bheil trì fichead foghlumaiche aig aon chròilean, an aon de na meanglain ùra a chaidh fhosgladh air a' gheamhradh so fhéin. Tha sin 'na dheagh eisimpleir do mheanglain eile. A thaobh leabhraichean, tha iad sin a' dol an lionmhorachd gach mìos. An ùine ghoidrid tha An Comunn a' dol a chur am mach leabhar anns am bi àireamh de chomhraidhean freagarach. A rithist chaidh àireamh de dhealbhuichean goirid a chur an clò, o chionn bliadhna no dhà. Tha iad sin uile gle fheumail airson leughaidh aig na céildhean. Tha dealbh-chluichean eile ann airson na h-òigridh. Is còir gun tugta a h-uile misneach do'n chloinn gu bhi gabhail pàirt an obair nam meanglan. Ged tha seinn nan còisirean taitneach, gidheadh is taitniche na sin fuaim na sean chànan air a labhairt gu poncail binn. Is e sin an aon dòigh gun a' chainnt a chumail beò, agus air saobhreas an litricheachais a dheanamh aithnichte do'n linn a tha ag éiridh suas.

CABAR FEIDH.

Professor WILLIAM J. WATSON,
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This most stirring and vigorous poem, or rather song, was composed with reference to an incident of the Rising of 1715, set on foot by the Earl of Mar, in autumn of that year. William, Earl of Seaforth and Chief of the Mackenzies, was a warm supporter of the Jacobite cause. He had been brought up in France, where his father, Kenneth, the fourth Earl, was in exile for his devotion to the Stuarts. In September of 1715 the position in the North was as follows:—Inverness was in the hands of the Jacobites, the Castle having been seized by Brigadier Mackintosh of Borlum, who had distinguished himself in the French service. About the end of the month Mackintosh marched south to join Mar at Perth, and he was succeeded at Inverness by Sir John Mackenzie of Coul. Seaforth himself was expected to join Mar at Perth as soon as possible. Meantime his forces were gathering at his seat of Brahan,

near Dingwall, and causing great apprehension among the neighbouring Munros of Ferindonald and the people of Easter Ross generally. Colonel Munro, son of Sir Robert Munro of Fowlis, Chief of the clan, formed a camp at Bridge of Alness, occupying a position on the eastern side of the river Averon, which at this point issues from a long deep gorge. Here he was joined by the Rosses, and soon afterwards by the Earl of Sutherland, his son, Lord Strathnaver, and George, Lord Reay, also by some of the Frasers, Grants, and Forbeses of Culoden, the whole force amounting to about 1800. The effect of this move was twofold; it served to protect the Munro country from depredation by Seaforth's forces, and also by the threat to his own country from the rear to prevent him from marching south to join Mar.

Seaforth, however, was strengthened by accessions to his army from the MacDonalds, the Mackinnons, the Chisholms of Strathglass, the Macraes, and others. Fully aware of the difficulty and danger of a frontal attack on an enemy strongly protected by the river Averon, he detached a portion of his forces to cross the hill ground behind Dingwall, ford the river about six miles above Alness, and take the enemy in flank and rear, while he himself advanced along the coast route towards Alness. These tactics were successful. The Royalists, finding their position in imminent danger of being turned, broke at once and scattered in all directions. The Sutherland men made in haste for Bonar, going across the high moors by what is called the Struy route. The Rosses went east, the Forbeses and Grants fled across the Cromarty Firth. Ferindonald, the Munro country, suffered severely. Am Baile Nodha, now Evanton, was burned, the country was harried, the libraries in the manse of Alness were burned.

This account is taken mainly from the *Memorabilia Domestica* of the Rev. Donald Sage, minister of Resolis in the Black Isle, whose grandfather was present at the retreat in the company of Lord Reay. Eneas Sage, then a young man, and a student of Aberdeen, ventured to say to Lord Reay, "It is a pity that such a brave body of men, and they Highlanders, should be seen turning their backs upon their enemies when they have right on their side." "What you say, young man, may be true," said Lord Reay; "but is it not better to make a wise retreat than a foolish engagement?" This is the old Gaelic view, "is fhearr teicheadh tràth

na droch fhuireach." So far as can be judged, Seaforth's victory was bloodless; the opponents never came to blows. Had the Royalists waited to be attacked, their case would have been hopeless.

Seaforth was thus free to join Mar, and he did so; but the delay caused by the Alness affair proved most harmful to the Rising.

Besides Mr. Sage's account, there are some interesting particulars in the Records of the Burgh and Presbytery of Tain, the former edited by W. MacGill, the latter by the Rev. Colin MacNaughton.

Already on 2nd August, 1715, the Magistrates and Council of Tain, "considering the Rumors of Confusione that is likely to happen through Britton, and finding their neighbours making motions of preparatione for warr, judge it necessary that the whole inhabitants of the toune and presincts betwixt sixty and sexteine be listed," and further that "ane nightly gaird be keepit within the toune, each gaird ten men and a Capt'n," to keep watch from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m., with a fine of 40 shillings (Scots) for each night's absence.

In regard to the age limits of sixty and sixteen, we may compare the sentiments of honest Ailein MacDhughail, "no, mar chomhainm Ailein Buidhe nan Oran," who was in Gleann Domhainn on Loch Awe side in Prince Charles Edward Stuart's time:—

"Gur bochd an reachd a tha 'n ar dùthaich,
Bhi toirt dhiùbh nan gillean òga;
'S coimhdheis fear coibe leo no sùisde,
Na fear nach do chuir bidh am pòsadh;
Eadar sia-deug is trì fichead
Is coimhdheis leo miotailt no fiodhar,
Le corr 's trì chairt dh'iarunn sgriosaidh;
'S i leannan na misnich nighean Deòrsa."

On 12th September, the Magistrates being informed by the Sheriff of Ross that the Pretender's friends "are in arms in severall countreys besouth this place," determine to "put themselves in a postor of defence" and "to oppose any invation or disturbance of the peace." They therefore "appoyntit that all betwixt sextie and sexteine Randivuz uppon the Links with their best cloaths and arms tomorrow be eight in the fornone under paine of £10 Scots. to receive their orders from the Magistrates"; further "ordaines the Dean of Gild immediatly to make search for all the poulder and lead within the burgh," and to secure the same on the toune's behalf.

On 23rd September, 1715, it is determined that the whole inhabitants of Tain meet at

the High Street next day at 2 p.m., with their best clothes and arms, and answer to their names by tuck of drum.

On 29th September, Hugh Ross of Tollie presented a letter from the Earl of Sutherland, as the King's Lord Lieutenant of Ross, directing the people of Tain to arm themselves to oppose such as shall after a traitorous and rebellious manner pretend to enter the Burgh in order to proclaim the Pretender. The Council ordered an answer in loyal and proper terms, and expected Mr. Hugh Munro, minister, to be the bearer thereof; who, being present, willingly accepted the mission. The Laird of Culrain and Captain Munro of Westoun, sheriff depute, informed the Magistrates that the enemy had declared open hostility; whereupon the Council appointed 50 sufficient fencible men with four days' provision (loaning) to march that day to Alness to join Captain Robert Munro of Foulis; Hugh Ross of Tollie (Ardross) to be captain, Charles Ross lieutenant, and George Ross ensign (antient).

A letter comes from the Earl of Sutherland asking the Magistrates of Tain to send sixty well-armed men to join Captain Munro, and to give the Laids of Newmore and Culrain such ammunition as the town can spare; which they agree to do on the understanding that the arms are to be returned under forfeit of thirty shillings sterling for each gun and bayonet (buyknet*).

Thereafter the Earl desires the favour of all the arms in the place, which was granted unanimously, and the Treasurer was instructed to deliver forty guns with their bayonets (buyknets).

On 14th October, 1715, at a meeting of Tain Burgh Council, Bailie Robert Ross presented a bill drawn by Lord Duffus, "commander of a considerable partie of the rebels that cam heir from the Earle of Seaforth his camp," upon the Magistrates for payment to him of £6 5s 2d sterling for His Majestie King James viii.'s use. This the Magistrates agreed to do under protest, "to prevent further trouble to the toune."

On the 18th of October, 1715, "because of the confusions and troubles occasioned in the County by the Mackenzies, MacDonalds, and Chisholms, and other rebels, none of the Presbytery met this day except Mr. Hugh Munro, Tain; Mr. George Munro, Nigg;

* This was the pronunciation in Easter Ross in my boyhood.

and Mr. Walter Ross, Kilmuir Easter; the other ministers were absent, and the Presbytery, knowing that the tumults in the county occasioned the absence of the brethren, excused their absence."

A year later, on the 5th day of September, 1716, the Presbytery drew up a libel against Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, chaplain to the Earl of Cromartie, in which it is alleged that he "did correspond with, aid, and comfort the rebels that were in arms against his Majesty King George, under the command of William, Earl of Seaforth, and particularly upon the 10th day of October last, or on one or other of the days of the said month, he went to the camp of the rebels at Braham for the purpose above mentioned." It is further labelled that Mr. Mackenzie "did pray for the Pretender," and "did express himself in the following terms, or terms to a like purpose, 'I thank God that He hath heard my prayer, for I was praying for his coming.'"

On 20th April, 1718, the Presbytery seek the Assembly's advice and concurrence in a process by the Presbytery of Dingwall for recovering payment of the Presbyterial Library and two parochial Libraries which were destroyed in the Manse of Alness," in the time of the late unnatural and horrid rebellion, and of the damages which Mr. Daniel McGilligan sustained at that time." In 1720 the matter was still unsettled.

These are interesting sidelights, and they could probably be supplemented from unpublished papers.

In the poem the poet speaks as an eye-witness:—

"Gur mise a chunnaic sibh gu gunnach,
Ealamh, ullamh, acuinneach,
Ruith nan Rothach, 's math bhuir gnothach,
Thug sibh sothadh maidne dhaibh;
Cha deach Catach air an tapadh,
Dh'fhàg an neart le eagal iad,
Ri faicinn ceann an fhéidh ort
'Nuair dh'éirich do chabar ort.
B'e an t-amadan Fear Foghlais
'Nuair thòisich e cogadh riut;
Rothaich agus Ròsaich—
Bu ghòrach na bodaich iad;
Frisealaich is Granndaich,
An campa cha stadadh iad,
'S thug Foirbeisich 'n an teannruith
Cu seann taigh Chuil-lodair orr'.
Theich iad uile is cha d'fhuirich
An treas duine bh' aca-san;

An t-Iarla Catach, ruith e dhachaidh—
Cha do las a dhagachan.
MacAoidh nan creach gun d'thàr e as,
'S ann dh'éigh e 'n t-each a b'aigean-
aich,
Ri gabhail an ra-treuta,
'Nuair dh'éirich do chabar ort.
'S ann an sin a bha am fuathas,
'G an ruagadh thar bhealaichean;
An deas dhuinn 's an tuath dhuinn,
Gu luath ruith roimh d' cheanneideadh,
Mar sgaoth de eoin nam fuar bheann,
Is gruaim air a h-uile fear,
A' tearnadh bho na sléibhteann
Gu réidhlein 's gu cladaichean.
Bh'éigh iad port, 's gun d'fhuair iad coit,"
etc.

The glee and gusto of all this would be hard to match; the venom is to some extent part of the game. The poet goes on to exult over the fallen state of the Munros, especially over the burning of Am Baile Nodha (also very commonly styled Am Baile Ur):—

"G an cur romhadh le ruith choimhich,
'S am Baile Nodha 'n a shradagan,
'S 'n a lasair anns na speuran,
'N uair dh'éirich do chabar ort."

Am Baile Nodha must have been a very insignificant place in 1715; in 1791 the minister of Kiltarn, describing his parish for the Old Statistical Account, makes no mention of it, though he mentions the "small village of Drummond, situated in a level field contiguous to the river Skiach. This village is yet in its infancy." Drummond is a little to the west of Evanton; the Skiach flows between the two places. The New Statistical Account of 1841 states that Evanton had no existence as a village thirty years before the time of writing, i.e., in 1810. In English form Am Baile Nodha appears as Newton, the name of a farm on the left side of the Allt Grannda, near Novar Station.

Further on the poet taunts the Munros with their style of food. They are consumers of brochan (gruel) and of kale—Dingwall is still known, rather slightly, as Baile a' Chàil; for all the cheese from the shielings of Assynt, the Eagle's Nest is a hungry place for lads: no beef turns on spits before the fire; the feast of Fowls consists of a "drappie" of brochan and a bit of hen.

"Tha am brochan a' toirt sàr dhuibh,
'S tha an càl a' toirt at oirbh,

Ach 's beag as misde an t-àrmunn
 Bhur sàth thoir an asgaidh dhuibh.
 Ge mór a thug sibh chàise
 Thar àirighean Asainne,
 Chan fhacas cuilm am Foghlais,
 Ge mór bha de chearcan ann.
 Caisteal biorach, nead na h-iolair,
 Bidh na gillea gortach ann;
 Chan fhaicear biora ann ri teine,
 Mur bi dileag bhrochain ann.
 Chaoidh chan fhaicear ac' a' mhairtfeoil,
 Mur bi cearc ann poit aca,
 'S 'gan tional air an deirce
 'Nuair thréigas gach coisneadh iad."

Here Assynt is the district at the mouth of Glen Glass, near Novar Station, not Assynt in the west of Sutherland, as John Mackenzie of the *Beauties of Gaelic Poetry* thought. This misconception doubtless helped to mislead Mackenzie when he wrote the erroneous note at the end of Cabar Féidh in his valuable book, placing the date of composition as after 1745. Mackenzie omits the stanza which mentions William, Earl of Seaforth by name; but this may be accidental, for he very strangely thought that the gentleman referred to was William Munro of Achany, near Lairg.

When the poem was composed, William, Earl of Seaforth, was in France, having fled thither after the Rising of 1715. This comes out in several parts of the poem:—

"Ge fada bho thir féin e,
 Mhic Dhé, greas g'a fhearann e."

And again:—

"Gun greas e thu gu d'dhùthaich
 Gu h-ùiseil 's gu h-urramach!"

Lastly he foretells:—

"Bidh tu fhathast gabhail aigheir
 Ann am Brathainn bhaidealaich;
 Bidh cinne t'athar ort a' feitheamh:
 Co a bhrathadh bagradh ort?"

This expectation was fulfilled in 1726, when William, Earl of Seaforth, received the royal pardon.

In Turner's Collection the poem is ascribed to "Am Bard Mac Mhathan," "the Bard Matheson." On this point, however, the testimony of Sage should be conclusive. He states: "The retreat and Seaforth's success formed the subject of a highly satirical Gaelic song . . . under the title of Caberféidh. This song was composed by Norman Macleod, a native of Lochbroom, in revenge against the Munroes. His son, Eneas Macleod, was minister of Rogart in Sutherland. I never met him, but with his widow and family I was acquainted

intimately." Later on he mentions that Norman Macleod was well known in his native parish of Lochbroom as a poet, by the name of Tormoid Bàn, or the fair-haired Norman. "His eldest son was Professor of Hebrew in the University of Glasgow, and bequeathed his valuable library to King's College, Aberdeen, of which both he and his brother, the minister of Rogart, were alumni." The Roll of Alumni in Arts of the University and King's College of Aberdeen has at 1751-1755 the entry, "Hugo Macleod, Rossensis, A.M.; D.D., 1780; Librarian, 1756-59; Professor of Church History, Glasgow, 1778-1807." At 1760-1764 there is, "Aeneas Macleod, Rossensis, e par. de Assin., A.M." According to this, Eneas was resident in the parish of Assynt at matriculation; but he is described as "of Ross-shire." It would be interesting to know whether any descendants of either of these men are now living.

An outstanding memory of student days in Aberdeen, shared, I feel sure, by my still surviving fellow-students from the Highlands, is Moladh Chabair-féidh as sung by Mr. George R. Macleennan, now minister of Thurso, at our gatherings in connection with the University Celtic Society and in our lodgings when two or three were gathered together; ceòl bu bhinne de gach ceòl! I fear that at the present day the words of that famous song are not as accessible to young people as they were then, when John Mackenzie's *Beauties of Gaelic Poetry* was a common possession. But this is only one instance of the need now existing for republishing our Gaelic literature, prose, and verse.

GOOD TEETH.

The school children of the lonely Gaelic-speaking township of Aird-of-Sleat, in the extreme south of the island of Skye, so isolated that it is approached only by a footpath, hold the dentistry record for Scotland.

On his last inspection, Mr. W. J. Inglis, the dental officer of Inverness-shire Education Authority, failed to find a single tooth that showed the slightest defect. "There is no doubt," he states, "that the natural food of the children in these lonely island districts is the chief factor in the preservation of their teeth. Many of them do not eat a single sweet from one year's end to the other, and the contrast between them and town children is so marked that it is impossible to overlook the moral."—*Good Health*.

AIR IOMALL NA H-IMPIREACHD.

Le SEORSA E. MARJORIBANKS.

Dh'fhalbh na laithean 's an robh a' chuid mhòr d'ar luchd-dùthcha caoin-shuarach mu obair ealanta nan coilltean, no mar theireadh iad an diugh, forsaireachd. Chaidh oibrichean Buird nam Frithean a chraobh-sgaioleadh air feadh na h-Alba o' chionn bhliadhnanach, air chor 's gu bheil coilltean ùra, gu sònruichte coilltean giubhais ioma-ghneitheach 'gan cur ann an iomadh cearn dìth, is iad gu bhi air an oibreachadh gu riaghailteach chum buannachd luchd-locaidh nan cisean. Agus le sin bithidh a bheag no mhòr a dh'èolas a nis aig a h-uile duine ionnsaichte air a' ghnothach tharbhach, thlachdmhor sin. Ach tha e fhathast air chuimhne an uair nach robh ach beagan èolais 's an dùthaich air nithean a bhuineas do dh'àiteachadh chraobh. Ged a rinn iomadh uachdaran fearainn atharrachadh mòr air an àitean féin le bhi cur coille, anns na laithean a chaidh seachad, cha robh na badain giubhais sin a' faotainn na giollachd a bha dhith orra. Ni mò bha na daoine còire a chuir iad a' faotainn móran cliù o'n tuath air son an saothreach. Nach e thubhairt Fionnladh Pìobaire fhéin ri Iain òg, an Comhradh nan Cnoc:—"C'ait' 'am faighainn iad (na slatan bòidheach caoil sin) ach anns an doir' ud thall o'n duin' uasal cheanail, nach do dhùilt riamh slatag do dhuine bochd a dhèanamh chliabh no chroileag: agus tha' bhuil, 's bòidheach, dosrach a tha' choill' aige-san a' fàs, o linn gu linn, mar a dh'fhàs a choill' o'n d'thàinig i. Cha'n ionann 's an giubhas riobach, Gallda, a tha iad a nis a' cur air gach cnoc mu na tighean ùra, air an cumadh mar gu'n tigeadh iad o làimh tailleir, agus a' seasamh 'nan sreathan doigheil, guala ri gualainn, mar a b'abhaist duinn a dhèanamh 'an àm nam *Volunteers* air an fhaiche."

Agus Cluinnear Fionnladh còir uair éile a gearan ris an t-seana Charaid Ghallda air an riailadh chianail a rinn an duine ùr air Cnoc-na-gréine:—"Cha d'fhàgadh dris air am faigh sinn smeur, no preas air am faighear cnò—tha'n t-aoineadh cho réidh, lom, ri tulchann an tighe. Loisgeadh a' phreasnach bhòidheach choille a bha bho cheann gu ceann de'n oighreachd so."

'Fhionnlaidh a ghràidh! Is dealbh ro mhaith a rinn thu de na badan giubhais dà rìreadh! Agus tha mo cho-fhulangas agad mu chall nan doireachan riabhach, peallagach sin, ged a b'ann a thabhairt àite do'n learaig 's do'n spruis ùr-fhasanta mu'm bheil thu cho

tarcuiseach, a chaidh an gearradh. Ach ciod e theireadh an maor-coille an diugh ris na beachdan borba a th'agad?

Biodh sin mar sin. "Is fad an éigh o Lochdha, is cobhair o Chloinn Dùbhnhe," agus is fhaide na sin an éigh o Innsean na h-airde 'n ear gu ruig Tìr nam Beann. Ach air a shon sin faodar samhlaichadh a bhi eadar Gaidhealtachd na h-Albann agus cearnan monadailnan Innsean, gu sònruichte na garbh-chrìochan dhiubh ris an abrar *Western Ghats*. Tha baile-puirt àraidh mu cheithir ceud mìle mu dheas air Bombay, do'n ainm Karwar, a' tighinn fo m' smaointean an dràsda. Tha an t-àite iomallach, tha am baile sean, gun mhòran mughaidh air ré ceud bliadhna. Tha acarsaid bhreàgha aige, air a cuairteachadh le beanntan àrda a tha comhdaichte le coilltean domhail a' ruigheachd ach gann a' chladaich. B'e sud an sealladh brèagha air latha soilleir geamhraidh. 'S le sin, cha bhi iongnadh mòr ort a chluinntinn mu Kharwar gu bheil suaip mhòr aige ri Bail' Ionbharaora againn fhéin! Ach 's ann mu thuath a gheibhear na ceàrnan is motha bheir air an diobarach bhochd a bhi sìor bheachd smaoineachadh air a dhachaidh fhéin:—

"Chi thu creagain gruamach àrd

'S na neòil a sguabadh thar am bàrr."

Cha'n iad so na ceàrnan a tha sgeadaichte le coilltean farsuing gu ruig cuairt nam speur, as nach faighear sealladh air an t-saoghal a muigh. Tha na beanntan corrach, garbh, air an sgaradh as a chèile fo chumhachd nan uisgeachan móra, an leacannan air an stialladh le sgrìodain agus glacan domhain, 's gun dad a' faotainn greim orra ach riasg is fòlach, dris is preasarnach luideagach. B'fhurasda do dhuine creidsinn, is e gabtail a cheum troi' gharbh-chrìochan *Nasik* agus *Khandesh*, gur h-ìad monaidhean Earraghaidheil a tha ma thimchioll. Cha'n eil ach an aon rud nach fhaic e thall ud—dathan iomadach na Gaidhealtachd.

Tha e 'na obhar iongantais, math dh'fhaoidte gu'n do thòisich ar luchd-dùthcha air riaghladh nam frithean, no coilltean móra nam Innsean, corr math thar leth-cheud bliadhna m'an do thòisich sinn air a lethud a dhèanamh 'nar dùthaich fhéin. Ciod e a b'aobhar da sin? Tha, gun teagamh, gu'n robh coilltean farsuing luachmhor 's an dùthaich sin cheana, 's iad a' cinntinn 'nan staid nàdurra o chionn linntean. Cha robh 'g an dìth ach an gleidheadh, 's an leasachadh 's an oibreachadh, agus airgid a thabhairt seachad chun na crìche sin. Agus ciod e barail an Ard-Riaghaidh air an oighreachd phrìseil sin a bh'aca? Bha dìreach, a'

bharail a bh'aig a' bhroc air a ladhran—barail bhochd! Bha barrachd seòltachd na gliocais 'san Ard-Chomhairle air an àm, agus is iomadh car is lùb a chuir iad air briathran an luchd-comhairle air son gun dad a thabhairt seachad. "Tha na frithean gu math agus gu ro mhaith, leigibh leò." Ach taing do'n Fhreasdail, bha daoine geurhùiseach, treuna ann cuideachd. Sheas iad gu dùrachdach as leth nan frithean móra, agus ciod a th'agad air no dheth, bha Gaidheil fhoghainteach 'nam measg. Dh'fhogha-inn sin. Ciod a rinn iad ach gu'n do bhuanaich iad gus an do bhuidhinn iad air a' cheann mu dheireadh.

Chaidh Bòrd nam Frithean Innseanach a chur air bonn, mata, mu thuaiream ceithir fichead bliadhna roimhe so. Ghabh iadsan thairis frithean, no fearainn fhàs na dùthcha air fad, agus thug siad iad, lion beagan is beagan, mar a dh'fhaic an cat an sgadan, gu iomairt dhòigheil. Be sud an obair ghoirt, fhadalach. Tha fuath aig na h-Innseanaich daonnan do nithibh ùr' air bith, 's cha mhotha dh'amhairc iad air riaghaltean a' Bhùird ach mar fhoirneart gun seadh. Uaithe sin gus an latha 'n diugh cha'n eil ann an eachdraidh Seirbhis nam Frithean ach comb-stri an aghaidh mì-rùin neo-aonachd is mì-theist, ach a dh'aindeoin sin uile agus cleasan an luchd-ceannaire, tha na coilltean an diugh air an oibreachadh 's air an gleidheadh air feadh nan Innsean.

Maith dh'fhaoidte gu'n cuir e ioghnadh air mórán a chluinntinn gu bheil coilltean nan Innsean a' comhdachadh gu léir corr is an treas cuid de'n dùthaich sin. Cha'n ann gu bheil iad uile a' tabhairt fiodha mar thoradh. Tha mórán dhiubh nach dean feum ach mar àite ionaltraidh air son muilleanan dò-aireamh de chrodh. Tha cuid eile air an cumail suas gu h-àraidh a chinntinn toraidhean a's lugha luach, mar tha ann *lac*, bithean, ola, teudagan, drisean, feur tioram, 's an leithidean sin. Tha frithean eile a' cumail an fhearainn agus na h-ùireach air leòidean casa nan ard-bheann, a chum agus nach teid an glanadh air fùlbh le uisgeachan an fhaolteich. Ach co-dhiu, bithidh a' chuid mhòr de na frithean air an gleidheadh a chum 's gu'm bi aca mar thoradh fiodh agus connadh.

Cha ruigear a leas toiseachadh air oibricean a' Bhùird air fad. Tha'n dùthaich sin tuilleadh is farsuing. Is feàrr, mar so, rud no dhà nise dh' mu dheidhinn coilltean Bhombay, agus leigeil fhacinn 's an dol seachad co ris a tha obair agus beatha a' mhaoir-coille coltach anns an Rìaghalrachd sin a tha fada na 's motha na Alba fhéin mar tha. Bithidh mìltean gach rathad a dh'fhearann os cionn

fichead mìle an sin fo riaghladh a' Bhùird. Tha 'chuid a's mo de na coilltean móra ri'm faotainn air garbh-chrìochan nan *Ghàt*, beanntan móra a tha 'g éiridh suas bho'n chorsa'n iar gu ruig an *Deccan*, agus a tha cóig mìle troigh air arde, ann an àitean, 's iad air an eadar-ghearradh le beulaich 's le glinn dhomhain, fhàsil, coltach ris an dùthaich a tha eadar Loch Linne agus Mòinteach Raineach. An toiseach, cha robh ach ceud no dà cheud punnd Sasannach a tighinn a steach o na coilltean sin. A nis tha corr agus leth-muillean, 's chan eil teagamh nach gabhadh an t-suim sin meudachach a dheich uiread ri ùine, nan tugadh an ard-Riaghladh seachad na dh'fheumar a dh'airgid a leasachadh agus ambeudachadh nan rathaidean agus dòighean eile a chum toradh nan coilltean a thabhairt a dh'ionnsuidh a' mhargaidh. Tha chuid as mo de'n airgid a' tighinn a stigh à fiodh na *Teak*. Reicear sin ann an cumadh shàilean agus *sleepers* nan rathad-iaruinn.

An uair a ghearrar slos an *Teak*, craobh a's luachmhoire 's a tha anns na h-Innsean, tha fùirain làidir, sìnte fada, a' cinntinn as a bun. Fàsaidh iad nan craobhan móra, agus is ann mar sin a dh'èirich na croinn fhada, dhìreach, luachmhor de'n t-seòrsa so a tha ri'm faotainn anns na coilltean a's fhearr. Ach ma dh'fhàgar i gun sealltuinn as a déigh, cha'n urrainn gu'n soirbheas an *Teak*, ach annamh. Bithidh i am bitheantas air a cur foidhe le seòrsachan eile air nach eil meas no iarraidh idir. Mar sin tha e 'na chleachdadh aig an luchd-coille, an deigh dhaibh coille a ghearradh, a bhi cur sìl nan *Teak* anns an raon a chaidh a ghlanadh. Cruinnicear le chéile na croinn gun mhath—agus is lionmhor sin—na feòrnagan suarach, drisean, geugan, turrach air tharraich, gu bhi 'tìormachadh fo theas na gréine. Loisgear a h-uile gas dhiubh 's a' chéitein òg, agus theid an sìol a chur am measg na luatha. Eadar teas an t-samhraidh agus an t-uisge a leanas e, fàsaidh na craobhan òga gu làidir, tìugh, 's cha'n urrainn fàs eile tighinn comhla riu, bho'n tha na freumhan loisgte, co-dhiugh mum bi na *Teak* gu math air an adhart. Fadar ionaidean sìolaichte nan *Teak* bithidh craobhan eile de gach seòrsa 'gan sìolachadh fhéin, mar is bitheanta thachras anns na trean blàtha. Be sud an sealladh grunn, aodann nan slabh 's nan gleann air a chomhdachadh le grunnain chruinn de fhiùrain *Teak*, le'n duilleagan móra, aotrom-gorm, agus fàs is cinneas sìor-uaine a' tighinn suas eatorra 'nam meallan 's 'nan stiallan, mar gu'm biodh ann breacan nam Caimbeulach.

Sin mar a bu chòir do'n obair a bhi. Ach, mo thruaighe! Latha bha sud, thàinig am

maor-coille a dh'fhaicinn a leithid so a dh'àite. Bha craobhan beaga nan Teak an sin, glan, bòidheach, ach thàinig càil-eigin de amharus foidhe. Rug e air té dhiubh le a leth-laimh, agus an sin air té eile, agus té eile. Cha robh freumh aig a h-aon dhiubh, 's thàinig iad leis! Gille nan car! Cha robh annta ach geugan chaidh a ghearradh bhàrr nan seann chraobhan agus air an stobadh a stigh do'n ùir an oidhche roimhe, air son a mhealladh. Abair thusa, b'ann an sin a bha am mionnachadh. Feumaidh mo charaid, fear buidhe nan Innsean, sùil gheur a bhi air daonnan.

(Ri leantuinn.)

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

The syllabus for the National Mod to be held at Dunoon on 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th September, 1930, is now issued. It contains two new choral items, open to all choirs, viz., "Cumha Mhic an Tòisich," and "A Mhnathan a' Ghlinne so," for the singing of which Lady Elspeth Campbell is giving a prize of £5, and the singing of Puirt à Beul in harmony. It is intended to take the latter competition on the Thursday afternoon of the Mod.

* * * * *

I wish to direct the attention of Gaelic essayists to the competition under the Literary Section on, "How to develop the Economic Resources of the Highlands with the maximum of advantage to the Highland People." Provost MacEwen, Inverness, is giving £5 for the best essay on the above subject, and it is hoped that there will be a large entry.

* * * * *

For the best performance of an Action Song the Paisley Highlander's Association are continuing their prize of £4 4s., and Mr. Compton MacKenzie is presenting a trophy to be known as the "Shiant Shield." The other Junior competitions are similar to those of former years. Several hitherto unpublished songs have been prescribed for the Solo and Choral competitions.

* * * * *

The Mod Local Committee at Dunoon has already done some good work. Concerts and other forms of money-making efforts have been organised, and the result of those held augurs well for the success of the Committee's efforts. The Dunoon Branch is also very active and at a recent meeting enrolled a large number of Juniors and Seniors for Gaelic reading and singing classes. Mr. Alex. F. Dobie, Town Clerk's Office, Dunoon, is the Mod Local Secretary.

NIALL.

SECRETARY'S TOURS.

I attended a meeting of the Kilninver Branch on 30th January. Mr. John J. Currie, Culfaig, President, presided, and there was a gratifying attendance of members. The members of the singing class gave pleasing renderings of songs in unison, and several song solos. Mr. Archibald Campbell read a Gaelic story with fine expression. This was my first visit to Kilninver since the Branch was formed by Dr. MacKay and myself nine years ago, and the office-bearers and members are to be congratulated on the way they have kept together during these years. Miss Bena MacCulloch, the present secretary is indefatigable in her efforts to keep the Branch alive.

On the 31st of January I went to Easdale and attended the closing concert in connection with the singing class conducted by Mr. Hugh MacLean. The Rev. Adam E. Anderson, M.A., presided, and the entire programme was sustained by the Senior and Junior choirs in part songs, duets and solos. The night was very stormy, but notwithstanding there was a good attendance from the surrounding district.

The purpose of my visit was to appeal for the formation of a Branch. The chairman intimated at the close of the concert that a meeting for the purpose of forming a Branch would be held on Tuesday, 4th February. I am glad to report now that a Branch has been formed and office-bearers appointed. Mr. Neil MacDougall, Balvicar, is secretary.

On my return journey home via Ardrishaig on Saturday I interviewed Mr. Donald Grant, secretary of the Mid-Argyll Provincial Mod Committee in Lochgilphead, also Mr. Malcolm MacAlpine, Ardrishaig.

On 7th February I travelled to Jura. I had asked for a meeting at Ballygrant, Islay, that evening, but some other function interfered, and the meeting was postponed till Wednesday (12th). A gathering of over 80 people met in the Jura Hall, Small Isles, on Tuesday evening. Mr. Neil Lindsay, presided. I addressed the meeting in Gaelic, and assisted with Gaelic songs.

Two meetings were arranged for me on Wednesday evening—Ballygrant and Bridgend (Islay)—I appeared at Ballygrant first. The Rev. Angus Duncan accompanied me to the meeting over which Mr. Walter Macfadyen presided. There was a very large gathering, and Gaelic only was used by the speakers.

I arrived at Bridgend shortly after 10 o'clock. The meeting was held in the Hall of Islay House kindly given for choir practice and Branch



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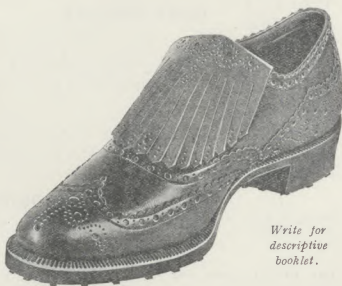
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meetings by Mr. Morrison and Lady Mary Morrison of Islay. Mr. D. Cameron, late Headmaster at Newton presided over a large attendance of members and friends. In addition to my Gaelic address the Rev. Angus Duncan spoke also in Gaelic.

On Thursday (13th) I proceeded to Port Ellen where the local committee had arranged a ceilidh and dance in aid of National Mod funds. Mr. John MacDongall, J.P., President, was in the chair, and an excellent programme was submitted. A particularly pleasing item was the singing of Gaelic songs and Puirt à Beul by the children's choir conducted by Miss Morag MacEachran, secretary of the Branch. There was a large attendance at the Ceilidh.

I proceeded to Portcharlotte on Friday, interviewing Mr. Iain MacTaggart, Islay, Provincial secretary, Mr. Archibald Cameron, treasurer, and Rev. Neil Ross.

The weather broke down in the afternoon, but the attendance in the new Hall, Portcharlotte, was very satisfactory. The Rev. Randal MacDonald presided. After my address Gaelic songs were sung by several of those present. Mr. Donald MacLean the newly appointed Headmaster of Newton School accompanied me. I returned to Bridgend after the meeting and travelled home on Saturday.

I found the Branches in Islay in a strong and healthy condition. Gaelic predominates at all the meetings, and their Ceilidh programmes are thoroughly Gaidhealach. I thank the officials for arranging meetings for me, and for the splendid way they are carrying on the work of An Comunn. The Islay Provincial Mod will be held at Bowmore on 13th June.

NIALL.

THE GAELIC SOCIETY OF LONDON.

This vigorous society has now had a continuous and active existence of over a century and a half. We see by the 152nd Annual Report, which recently appeared, that the Society is in a very flourishing condition, both as regards finance and membership. We feel that the following excerpts from the Report may prove of much interest to our readers:—

"In the spirit of earnestness and enthusiasm, the Gaelic class is being carried on by John MacIver, to whom the Gaels of London are much indebted for his practical service to the cause. The Gaelic services have also maintained the high standard of recent years. In these days when, in many parts of Gaelic Scotland, those who meet to worship in their own language appear to be

diminishing, it is worthy of special notice that the London Gaelic congregation has so increased that it is now larger than most congregations in our own land.

"At the National Mod in Perth, the Society was ably represented by John M. MacPherson, to whom we are indebted for an interesting report. In his careful survey there appears the following observations, which are worthy of special attention: 'I noticed that Gaelic was spoken largely by the older people present, but I could not hear much of it among the younger generation.' Unfortunately, there is no reason to doubt that these serious remarks represent the present position in many parts of Gaeldom. Only at our peril can we ignore the vital importance of this aspect of a great question. In the hands of youth is the future of our land and language, and unless the children and their parents are enabled to realise the supreme importance of upholding our mother tongue, the future of our cause is one of undeniable gravity.

"The past attitude of Church and School, Local and National Authority, towards the Gaelic language, is common knowledge. It is not our desire to enlarge on these grievous chapters in our history. We prefer to hope that the hostility and ignorance of the past are being superseded by enthusiastic and enlightened support of a cause which every religious body, every preacher and teacher, every authority, and every influential man and woman who claims to belong to our race should support with all their heart and soul. That in recent years sympathy and support have somewhat increased we cannot doubt, but we are persuaded that among large numbers of our people there is still a woeful lack of understanding concerning the superimportance of the language movement, and a consequent absence of that keen desire and intense determination so greatly needed to ensure that this priceless heritage shall enter a new era of growing power and influence in our national life.

"Away back in the dim and distant past is the origin of our history. Right down the ages, through the medium of our language, have come down to us the long, long story of countless generations of our own people, the life they lived, their ideals, their principles, their beliefs, their hopes and aspirations. And unless we can preserve a vigorous language and literature, the final chapter of that great and moving history will soon be written."

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MAR A FHUAIR COINNEACH ODHAR FIOSAICHE A' CHLACH.

Tha an sgeulachd a leanas ann an tomhas mòr eadar-dhealachichte ri na sgeulachdan eile a tha againn air an dòigh anns an d'fhuair am fiosaiche an leug iongantach sin a dh'fhàg cho ainmeil e. Is ann air an sgeulachd so, a bha air a h-aithris ann an sgrì Uige an Leodhas, àite-breith an fhiosaiche, a bhonntaich Iain Gobha, bàrd Iarshadair, na rannan ealanta a chuir e r'a chèile mu'n chuspair cheudna. So, mata, mar a tha an seanachas a' dol :—

“Cha do chuireadh umhail air Coinneach Odhar seach gille sam bith eile ann an Uig gus an robh e air fàs gu ìre bhig 'na làn duine. Bhiodh e mar chleachdadh aige a bhi a' falbh nan cladaichean air los fiodh-cladaich a chuireadh rod na mara geamhraidh air tìr. Air cho dorch, dùbhlaidh 's ge'm biodh an oidhche cha bhiodh geilt no fiamh air Coinneach. Cha robh solus no sìthiche, dòcan no bean-nighe, samhlaidh no manadh, a' cur gruaimean air mo charaid. Bha fiodh priseil 's an latha sin, agus is beag nach rachadh neach an cunnairt a bheatha air sgàth dèile a dheanadh cistelaiche no a chuidicheadh gu ceann a chur air an tigh. Coma co dhù, an oidhche a bha'n so agus Coinneach a' spaidsearachd sìos agus suas air Traigh Mhòr Uig, a bhoinead spàirte mu a mhoilean aig cruas na gaoithe, ciod e a chunnaic e an uair a thog e a cheann a mach rathad na mara, far an robh na stuadhan mòra a' briseadh 'nan cobhar ghil ri aghaidh na gainneimh, ach a' bhuailig mhòr soluis sin! Bha e cruinn mar roth na gealaich, agus chomhdaich e mu ròd de'n traigh. Am meadh-on na buaileig bha mar gum biodh tìr soluis, agus bha na h-oirean aice dealrach mar bhogha-frois; bha a' bhuailig fhéin a' plosgaraidh mar na fir-chlis. Calma 's mar a bha Coinneach 'na inntinn, bhriosg a chridhe agus thainig fuar-fhallus air a bhathais, ach, co dhù, cha do thréig a mhiseach e. Stad e, agus mhothaich e gu'n robh an rud a bh'ann a chuid 's a chuid a' tighinn a steach gu beul na mara, agus a' deanamh dìreach air an àite 's an robh esan 'na sheasamh. Cha do ghluais mo liagh. Mu dheireadh stad an solus air a bheulaobh, agus an ath shùil a thug Coinneach 's ann a chunnaic e an tìr am meadhan na buaileig a' caochladh gu cruth maighdein. Cha do leag e a dhà shùil a riamh air maighdean cho eireachdail. Bha a pearsa cuimhir mar eilid nam beann agus a falt cuachanach 'na leadain òr-bhuidhe sìos mu a muineal. Rinn i mar gu'm biodh i air son bruidhina ris, ach cha d'fhainig smid as a ceann. Is e Coinneach fhéin a bhruidhinn

an toiseach. ‘Ciod i do sgeul a tìr nan sgleo? ’ arsa' esan. ‘Thig faisg orm,’ arsa' ise, ‘agus innseam dhuit sgeul ris nach d' éisdeadh riamh le cluas’:—

“Mas do thilg mi an t-slige chrè,
B'e Lochlainn nan treun mo thìr,
'S mise Gràdhag, nighean Shuaran,
'Bha 's an airde tuath 'na rìgh.
'Nuair bha talla fial nan corn
Air thaoid am Morbheinn nam flath,
'Nuair bha Fionnghall, ceann nan seòd,
A' treòrachadh a shluaigh gu cath.”

“Sud an linn 'san robh mi beò,’ arsa' ise, “agus thogadh mi le mùirn an cùirt an rìgh. Is beag a shaoil m' athair aig an àm gu'm b'e grunn a' chuain mo leabaidd-phòsda. Thach-air an deigh cath mòr a chuireadh eadar feachd m' athair agus feachd Strùmoin aig Baile na Bairbh gu'n do ghladadh am measg nam braighdean sagart do'm b' ainm Arna, a bha 'na fhiosaiche geur, oir bha aige clach bhuadh-mhor a tholl cruth Odainn féin le a mheoir.”

“'Nuair a dh'ìarradh neach sealladh ùr,
Chuireadh e a shùil ris an toll,
'S na bliadhnachan, bhiodh fada uainn
Thigeadh iad gu luath a nall.”

“Thugadh Arna liath, mata, fa chomhair an rìgh, agus a dhà laimh gu teann an glais. Chaidh binn a bhàis a thabhairt am mach, agus thug m' athair òrdugh do Mhùdan an t-saighead a leigeadh gu a chridhe. Leis an truas a chuir e orm, leum mi eadar e 's an t-saighead; chaisg Mùdan a làmh agus fhuair Arna a bheatha leis. ‘Gheibh thu as an uair so,’ arsa Suaran, ‘shàbhail mo nighean, Gradhag, do bheatha.’ Thainig Arna bochd a nall far an robh mi, na deoir a' sìleadh bho a shùilean, agus air deanamh umhlachd dha, thairg e dhomh nì sam bith a bha 'na chomas. Dh'ìarr mi a' chlach-fhiosachd agus fhuair mi i, ach mar a thubhairt am fiosaiche rium, dh'ìarr mi mathair-aobhar a' bhròin, a bheireadh thugam am bàs 's mi òg.
'Nuair a chuir mi ri mo shùil i

“Chunnaic mi sealladh mòr-ìoghnaidh,
Chunnaic mi na Fianntan garbh
A' tional gu traigh 'nan ceudan,
'Nuas o shleibhtean nam damh dearg.
B'fhaoin mo mhuinntir féin am shealladh,
'Nuair 'chunnaic mi dreach nan sonn;
Chaidh saighead de'n ghaol gu m'anam,
'Gabhail beachd air Diarmad donn.”

“An deigh sin cha robh air m'aire ach aon nì—faighinn thairis air a' chuan gu ruig Alba—oir bha mo chridhe mar thà air sgiathan a ghabhail a dh'ionnsuidh na dùthcha far an robh armunn nam ban a' comhnuidh. Greis an

deigh so rinn an rìgh Suaran, m' athair, suas intinn an Fheinn a chur 'na smùid, agus dh'ullaich e cabhlach mhór shoithichean."

"Bha a' choill' 'g a gearradh shuas,
Chaidh a' chuail, a chur air saor,
Ghreasadh luchd-liobhainn nan arm,
Chaidh gach teallach dearg 'na chaorr."

"Chaidh Suaran 's a fheachd air bòrd, agus thàmh iad 's a chadaladh rè na h-oidheche le rùn seoladh anns a' mhaduinn an uair a thigeadh solus an latha. Dh'fheuch mi ri cadal ach cha b'urrainn dhomh. Dh' èirich mi 's chuir mi orm deise laoiach, agus ruith mi sloch chun a' chaoil far an d'fhuair mi air bòrd té de na soithichean an riochd òganaich fo làn arm. Sgaoileadh na siùil bhàna ri crannaibh agus sheòl a' chabhlach. A' cheud latha bha an soirbheas fàbharach, ach thug dearsadh griann na maidne rabhadh nach robh a' ghaoth fad as. Cha robh e fada gus an do sheid i. Thainig gruaim air aghaidh nan speur mu fheasgair, agus troimh an oidheche dh'èirich an doinionn agus bheic na tonnan uaibhreach air gach taobh de'm luing. Lùb na crainn agus shrac na siùil, chaidh an long a lionadh, gheill i beagan astair a mach o'n traigh an so, agus fhuair nighean Lochlainn leabaidh fhuair air grund a' chuain. Bha clach nan buadh a'm' bhroilleach gus an do chuir am muir mo chorp air tìr. Cladhaich a nis anns a' ghaineamh air do bheulaobh an so, agus gheibh thu i. Chunnaic Coinneach an sin a coslas a' caochladh a rithis gu lèus soille. Stad an solus rè tamuill, phosg e trì uairean, agus chaidh e as. Chladhaich Coinneach slois anns an àite, agus fhuair e a' chlach, mar a thubhairt i. An uair a chuir e ri a shùil i fhuair e sealladh air na linntean fad as, agus bhuilicheadh gliocas agus tìr air nach robh aig neach eile ach e fhéin. Le neart na cloiche tha iad ag radh gu'n do chaille e fradharc na dara sùla mu'n do thuig e cho cumhachdach 's a bha i, agus gu'n robh e air leth-shuil fad a bheatha an deigh sin."

A.L.M.

BY THE EDITOR.

Air an naodhamh latha de'n Ghearran chaidh seirbheis Ghaidhlig a chumail an Oilthigh Abaraidhean. B'e an searmonaiche an t-Ollamh Niall Ros, Sgrì Lagain. Bha an coimhthional air a dheanamh suas de luchd foghlum Ghaidhealach an Oilthigh, maille ri aireamh de luchd àiteichidh a bhaile aig an robh eòlas air cànan nan beann. B'e Mgr Niall Mac Illeathain a bha an ceann na seinn. Threòraich esan am moladh gu ciatach anns an t-seann nòs. Bha

coisir thaitneach 'g a chuideachadh. Chaidh an t-seirbheis a chraobh sgaoileadh, air chor is gu robh e comasach do mhuintir aig astar, a bhi ag eisdeachd, is ag aoradh mar an ceudna. Tha e air innse gur e Seumas IV. a' rìgh Alban-nach mu dheireadh a bhruidhneadh Ghaidhlig. Is e sin a' cheart rìgh a shuidhich an t-seann eaglais o chionn corr is ceithir cheud bliadhna An Oilthigh Abaraidhean.

* * * * *

Tha àireamh mhaith de phaipearan naidheachd na dùthcha a' clo bhualadh Ghaidhlig o sheachdain gu seachdain. Dhiu sin tha *Teachdaire Seachdainneil Ghlascho*, agus *An t-Albannach Seachdainneil*. Tha iad sin a' tabhairt stadh de thaobh duilleig an comhnuidh do chùisean Ghaidhealach. Tha an stadh anns an *Teachdaire* fo laimh Eachainn Mhic Dhùgh-aill, agus anns an *Albannach* fo laimh Aonghais Mhic Eanraig, deagh Ghaidhil le chéile. Tha fhios aig a' mhòr chuid gu bheil an dà phaipear sin cudthromach an ughdarras, agus a' dol fada is farsuing feadh an t-saoghail. Is iomadh Ghaidheal a tha 'g an leughadh anns gach cearn, gu h-àraidh thall thar chuantan. Tha an dà dhuine uasal a dh' ainmich sinn, a' deanamh iomraidh gu tric agus gu càirdeil air a' mhlosachan so féin, agus air obair A' Chomuinn feadh na dùthcha. Tha sinn a nis a' tabhairt buidheachais daibh airson sin; agus tha sinn aig a' cheart am a' tarruinge air ar luchd leughadh gus an obair luachmhor, a tha an dithis Ghaidheal sin a' deanamh as leth na cànan. Nì sinn luaidh fhathast air sgrìobhaichean agus paiperean eile.

* * * * *

An uine gun bhi fada bith Ughdarras an Fhoghlum a' leirgeadh an cumhachd do Chomhairle na Siorramachd. Fhuair a' Ghaidhlig cothrom òirigh fo laimh nan Ughdarras. Chan eil fhios fhathast ciamar a bhuineas A' Chomhairle Ur ris a' Ghaidhlig. Tha feum air airgead. Tha feum air tuilleadh airgid airson rathaidean móra feadh na Gaidhealtachd, airson togail thighean; airson lamraigan agus acarsaidean. Tha sinn an dòchas nach cumar air ais airson na nithean sin cuid de'n airgid a bha air a thabhairt mar dhuaisean do chloinn an luchd oibreach, a chum an cumail anns an sgoil, agus anns an oilthigh. Bha cuid de'n oigridh sin fogbainteach anns a' Ghaidhlig; agus ma theid an leithid sin a bhacadh anns an foghlum, theid bacadh air teagasg na Gaidhlig. Bha mòran din sin 'gan ullachadh fein a chum creuchd an teagaisg. Bu bhoich an gnothuch nan robh an t-atharrach ùr a' bualadh buille throm air a' Ghaidhlig air an dòigh so.

Aig coinneamh Ughdarrais an Fhoghlaim an Siorramachd Inbhirneis bha e air aithris mu na duaisean a chaidh a thairginn airson deuchainn an Gaidhlig, leis A' Chomunn Rìoghail Cheilteach. Bha dà dhuais dheug air an tabhairt seachad, agus dhù sin bha aon duais air a chosnadh le foghlumaiche òg a Siorramachd Earraghaidheal; a trì a Siorramachd Rois; agus a h-òchd a Siorramachd Inbhirneis. A thaobh na h-àireamh a tha ag ionnsuchadh Greugais is Gaidhlig anns an t-Siorramachd, thugadh fios gu robh air a' bhliadhna seo chaidh, dà fhichead 's a còig deug ri Greugais; agus trì cheud, dà fhichead 's a còig, a' leughadh Gaidhlig an sgoilean na Siorramachd.

GAELIC IN SCHOOLS.

Reports of H.M. Inspectors.

The following references to the teaching of Gaelic are taken from H.M. Inspectors' reports:

In the report on the Western Division it is said: "Mr. A. L. MacDonald notes a slight upward tendency in the number of pupils studying Gaelic in the Advanced Division. The total in schools with three-year course and beyond was 132. All the main centres were well represented at the examination for the Day School Certificate (Higher), and a number of smaller schools, chiefly in the islands and the north-west mainland, included Gaelic among the subjects offered for the Day School Certificate (Lower). Mr. MacDonald says that with the more abundant material now available for the purposes of class teaching and home reading there has been a decided improvement in the range and conception of the teaching and the advanced pupils have taken full advantage of the facilities provided."

In the report on the Northern Division Dr. MacLeod says:—"In the whole of the wide district of Badenoch no school, either elementary or secondary, is able to profess Gaelic: the language, as far as the rising generation in this area is concerned, seems to have retreated beyond recall. In the even more Highland district of Lochaber the subject is found only in 6 schools out of 18. In the three-year Advanced Division Courses in Skye and the Outer Isles quite excellent work is done, and the high educational value of the work is undoubted. But here the study of the language is serious and well maintained by the drive and enthusiasm of the teachers responsible".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Genitive in Gaelic.

Sir,—Dr. Watson has made a great contribution in his article on the above subject. He is, by inference and elucidation, drawing attention to a tendency which is more damaging to the use of Gaelic than any manner of foreign influences, viz., the non-appreciation of the idioms of our language. I hope this article is but the beginning of a series. No one, I daresay, can deal with the genitive with greater relish than Dr. Watson. For I can recall the amused twinkle in his eye when he told me, some years ago in Perth, that they had no genitives in the Gaelic of his native place. Yes, every case was a nominative.

Bàidhte is a weirdly transitional word with us. "Thainig e air duine bàidhte. Bha e làn de dhuilleagan bàidhte" (the sunken leaves of the water lily), are instances of the use of this word in my part of Skye. *Loch reòdhta* means a frozen loch with us, not a loch of freezing.

Thanks, Dr. Watson. I am going to have a few corrective Gaelic somersaults as a result of your exposition of the genitive.—

ANGUS ROBERTSON.

Raibeart Burns.

A Charaid,—I would crave space to deal with certain points in the article on Raibeart Burns in your February issue.

Firstly, as far as I have been able to discover, the story that the poet's ancestors came from Tynnyl has not the semblance of foundation, and as the real truth about Burns was never more needed than to-day, there seems no use in perpetuating the legend. The poet's ancestors came from the district round Montrose, where the family is still numerous under the name of Bunness. That, however, is a comparatively unimportant matter. What is important is that your contributor goes on to say, "Gu'm bheil spiorad anabarrach Gaidhealach ri fhàicinn ann an cuid mhór de dhuais agus òrain a' bhàird." If that arises from the usual idea that the Highlands are more Gaelic than the Lowlands in racial origin, it is an unfortunate remark, in that it implies an entire misconception of the early history and racial origins of our Scottish people, and tends to perpetuate animosities and arbitrary divisions which should have been laughed out of court long ago as having no basis in fact. The people of Angus must be almost purely Celtic in blood. Further,

it is not so long ago that there were Gaelic-speaking parishes in the county, and in Glen Isla to this day you can see public notices headed in Gaelic.

Secondly, your contributor says, "Tha againn anns a' Ghaidhealtachd bàird lion-mhor, Donnachadh Bàn, MacMhaighstir Alasdair, Rob Donn agus mòran eile; ach 'nam measg uile cha chreid mi gu bheil aon co-ionnan ri Burns." The statement seems to me ridiculous. I must confess to a tremendous admiration for Burns the man, as also for his work, but I cannot allow mere sentiment to distort my vision, and there can be no doubt at all that the position of Burns among Scottish poets has been much exaggerated, thanks mostly to a general neglect of the other writers in Scots and a total ignorance of the Gaelic poets. According to any informed, not merely rustic, canon of literary taste, Burns had infinitely less of the real fire of poetic genius than MacMhaighstir Alasdair, as a nature poet he is the inferior of Donnachadh Bàn, while as a master of invective he is not in the same class with Iain Lom. Nor had he more of the spirit of nationalism than that Livingstone of Islay who is so scurvily treated in that puerile book, MacNeill's "Literature of the Highlanders." I am aware that there is some danger in discussing this matter at all, since so many fools have recently rushed into it, and prejudice is stirred to such an extent that a caution considerably less than angelic would counsel heed, but it seems to me typical of a Scotland which in these days has emphatically repudiated the nationalism which Burns preached that a man's patriotism should be measured according to his adherence to inferior and uninformed standards of literary taste arbitrarily established by that last asylum of ambitious mediocrity, the Burns Club.

Thirdly, reference was made to Burns' love of the bottle, a reference singularly inapt, it would seem, in view of the fact now well established that in a day of excess Burns was a man of unusual temperance. Moreover, we should be chary of reference to the so-called immorality of Burns, since standards of morality are subject to change, and this view rests upon a standard of morality at present, it seems, in process of being abandoned.—Is mise, le meas,

NINIAN DOUGLAS.

An t-Oil-Thigh, Glascho.

Dear Dr. Ross—The Hon. R. Erskine of Marr contributed a letter to last issue of An Gaidheal in which, critical of my wireless talk, or rather,

of some historical assumptions therein, he raises some questions of the deepest interest. I say nothing more at the moment than to assure Mr. Erskine, and your other readers, that my allusions to Gaelic history were not made without reference to the best authorities: and I hope in the next issue of An Gaidheal to be able to demonstrate that my reading of the ancient story of our people is justified by sound construction of the original sources.—Yours faithfully,

J. MACMASTER CAMPBELL.

Rosemount, Campbeltown,
15th February, 1930.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

The Inverness County Education Authority have kindly granted the use of rooms in the Inverness High School for this year's Summer School. The session will commence on 1st August, and will continue till the 21st. All last year's teachers have agreed to act this year again.

NEW MEMBERS.

LIFE.

Ex-Bailie Archd. Campbell, J.P., Glasgow.

ORDINARY.

Mrs. A. Smith, York.
M. A. R. Gunn, Esq., Cambridge.
Aistin O'Guagain, B.Com., Corcaigh.
Eilis Uasal Nì Aimeilhe, Eochail.
James A. Campbell, Esq., Dunclane.
Master Iain Gillies, Glasgow.
William D. MacColl, Esq., Glasgow.
William MacKenzie, Esq., Jura.
Duncan MacKechnie, Esq., J.P., Jura.

BRANCH REPORTS.

APPIN.—The large audience that assembled in the Public School at the meeting of the local branch were enraptured with the delightful renderings of Gaelic song, with clarsach and piano accompaniments, as submitted by Miss Heloise Russell-Ferguson. Mrs. Stewart of Achnacone presided, and during the evening Mr Duncan MacPherson, M.A., read a Gaelic paper.

BALVRAID.—The branch held their annual business meeting on 4th February in Balvraid School. After the adoption of the secretary's and treasurer's reports had been moved and seconded, the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. The President (Mr. Wm. Grant), Vice-President (Mr. J. Bain), Secretary (Miss Miller), and Treasurer (Mr W. Mackay) were all re-elected, along with a strong-working committee. After all the business was concluded a ceilidh was held, at which Messrs. Grant and Bain delighted the audience with their rendering of Gaelic songs. At the close of the evening the usual votes of thanks were given.

BRORA.—One of the happiest evenings within recent times in the district was the ceilidh held under the auspices of the local branch. The chair was occupied by the Rev. H. W. MacKay, B.D., who made an excellent host. The programme was a lengthy one and of much variety, and all the artists excelled themselves in giving of their best. A very interesting and rather informative short address was given during the evening by Mr. Hugh A. Ross. A pleasing indication of the real interest of the members of this branch is evidenced by the fact of a Gaelic class having been already formed, although it is but a few months ago since the branch was instituted. Over 50 members have enrolled in the class, and there seems to be great enthusiasm for the revival of Gaelic in the "city." The Rev. H. W. MacKay, parish minister, and other qualified gentlemen are acting as teachers.

BUTE.—One of the most enjoyable features of the concert under the auspices of the Bute branch was the most entertaining and well-acted dialogue submitted by Mr. Alex. N. Nicolson and Mr. William MacKenzie, entitled "Mar a Sheachainn Domhnall Politics," from the pen of the late Archibald MacCulloch. It would be invidious to mention the names of all the other artistes, sufficient it is to say that they all did well, and their contributions to an excellent programme were much appreciated. Mr. Brown presided over the concert, and a dance followed.

CONNEL.—The annual general meeting of the branch was held in the Public Hall. The Rev. John MacInnes, M.A., the President, was in the chair. The various reports submitted revealed the branch to be on a sound basis, financially and otherwise. After all accounts had been met a credit balance of £15 remained. Mr. Alex. MacPhail was appointed as secretary in succession to Miss MacPherson.

FORT AUGUSTUS.—Despite the adverse weather, there was a large attendance at a ceilidh held under the auspices of the branch, and those who ventured forth were entertained to an excellent programme of song and story. The Rev. Angus MacIntyre occupied the chair.

GLENELG.—The local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach are having a series of very successful ceilidhs. On Friday, 10th inst., in the Reading Room, the President, Mr. Angus Macdonald, in the role of "fear an tighe," conducted a characteristic ceilidh. Spontaneity and harmony were the features of this pleasant gathering. This branch has been steadily flourishing since its formation in 1925, and the cultural aspect of the language is always stressed. At the Kyle Provincial Mod, in July of last year, Glenelg secured the majority of the prizes. The pupils of the school carried off all the literary awards.

KILMENY.—A very successful ceilidh was held in the Ballygrant Drill Hall on the evening of Tuesday, the 21st January. Despite unfavourable weather conditions, the hall was filled with an orderly and appreciative audience. The Rev. A. Duncan, B.D., presided, and opened the proceedings with a very interesting account of old ceilidh customs. A long and varied programme, consisting of solo, duet, quartette, and part-song, together with selections on bagpipe, violin, melodeon, and gramophone, was then submitted, and every item was carried through without a hitch, to the delight of an appreciative audience. All the performers acquitted themselves well, and were repeatedly encored. A refreshing cup of tea, served in the course of the proceedings, added materially to the evening's enjoyment.

KILNINVER.—The local branch held an interesting ceilidh. Under the able tuition of Mr. Hugh MacLean, one of the singing teachers, a series of classes for seniors and juniors have been held during the winter, and the evening's programme was sustained by the members. The Rev. D. MacKenzie, minister of the parish, occupied the chair. Both choirs gave delightful renderings of their several pieces. A dance followed.

LOCHGILFHEAD.—Comunn Gaidhealach Cheann Lochgill held a ceilidh in the Masonic Hall on Friday, 14th February. Mr. D. Grant, presiding, introduced the Rev. Wm. MacPhail, Ardrisaidh, who had kindly come to address the members. The Rev. Mr. MacPhail, who took as his subject, "Celtic Wit and Humour," spoke partly in Gaelic and partly in English. In the course of his speech he expressed disagreement with the view that gloom and melancholy were predominant features of the Celtic temperament, his view being that the humour of the Celt was of an intricate and elusive nature, and therefore not so obvious to the Lowland mind. His discussion was illustrated by accounts of incidents, which were greatly enjoyed by the audience. On the call of the President, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. MacPhail and to Miss MacPhail, who accompanied him. Afterwards there were bagpipe selections by Pipe-Sergeant Crawford and songs from Miss M. MacCormick, Mr. D. MacLean, Miss Flora Campbell, Mr. A. MacKenzie, and the Rev. Mr. MacPhail. After tea, dancing, supervised by Provost Greenhields, was carried on for some time to music provided by Pipe-Sergeant Crawford and Mr. Arch. Campbell. In conclusion there were the usual votes of thanks and "Auld Lang Syne."

TAXNULT.—A programme of excellent variety was submitted at the meeting of the branch, in which solo and choral items had a place with instrumental music. Mr. George Marjoribanks, as the "Aoidh," acted the part with several well told and interesting "sgeulachdan." The Gaelic choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Angus Campbell, was in good form, and the instrumental touch was provided by Dr. MacNicol, who presided, and Mr. Bannatyne. Addresses in Gaelic were delivered by the Rev. J. MacPherson and the Rev. Alex. MacDonald, Ardchattan.

TOBERMORY.—Under the auspices of the branch a lecture was delivered by Mr. C. R. Morison, Kengharair, in Tobermory Higher Grade School on Wednesday, 29th January. His subject, "Old Schools and Schoolmasters of Mull," was absorbing and interesting, and showed much painstaking research on the part of the lecturer. A musical programme was afterwards sustained. The lecturer for the next meeting is Mr. MacGregor Whyte.

VALE OF LEVEN.—Two very staunch friends of the Gaelic movement, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Orr, Liberton, took charge of the proceedings at the meeting of the branch. Mr. Orr himself took over the duties of chairman, and conducted the meeting in a manner reminiscent of the real old ceilidh of other days. His personal contributions, including the method of payment used by the Lewis sailor, were very much enjoyed. The singing of Mrs. Orr was in itself most charming. At the following meeting Mr. Hugh MacCorquodale, F.S.A. (Scot.), delivered a song-lecture with particular reference to the works of Evan MacColl, the Lochfyne bard. Appropriate vocal illustrations were rendered by Mr. James C. Macphie (Mod medallist), Miss Betty MacPhedran, Miss Morag Cameron, and Miss MacKinnon. All meetings of this branch are very largely attended.

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Leabhar XXV.]

An Giblein 1930.

[Earrann 7

NA BAIRD.

Mar tha fhios aig an leughadair a cheana is iad na bàird Ghaidhealach a thug ar cànan gu loinn is làn inbhe. Air an turus so chan eil sinn a' dol a dh'ainmeachadh nam bàrd fa leth. Nì mo tha sinn a' dol a sgrùdadh an cuid sgrìobhaidhean. Ach bu mbiann leinn aire a tharruinn gu luach nam bàrd a chum bhi a' cuideachadh leis an obair a tha An Comunn a' gabhail as laimh. Is ceart gun tugamaid fainear gach inneal a bhios a chum stàth. Anns an staid anfhann gus a bheil a' Ghaidhlig air tuiteam an diugh, tha feum aice a nis, nas mo na bha aice riamh roimhe, air sgrìobhaidhean is leabhraichean. Ged tha cuirmean ciùil is còilidhean taitneach, gidheadh chan eil iad ach lag, an coimeas ri comas an chàinain a sgrìobhadh, a leughadh is a labhairt. Agus cha gabh an comas sin fhaotainn gun mheadhon freagarrach. Is e am meadhon freagarrach—leabhraichean. Tha feum air leabhraichean, anns am bi lànachd, is loinn na càinain air an nochdadh. Do'n chloinn anns an sgoil, agus do na foghlumaichean anns an oilthigh, chan eil inneal cho luachmhor ri saothair nam bàrd, air an deasachadh gu cùramach, glic, làn, eòlach.

An uair a thugadh sochair do chloinn na Gaidhealtachd gum biodh Ard Theisteanas na Fàgail, (*Higher Leaving*), fosgailte dhaibh an cainnt am màthar, is ann air cumha àraidh

a thugadh an t-sochair sin seachad. B'e an cumha no an cumhnant, gum biodh litreachas Gaidhlig aréir inbhe an Ard Theisteanais, 'ga chur an làmhnan na h-òigridh ri fhoghlum. Chan aithne dhuinn ach àireamh gle bheag de leabhraichean Gaidhlig a tha air an ullachadh airson luchd-ionnsuchaidh, aréir modh soilleir simplidh, mar bu chòir a bhi air leabhar sgoile, no air leabhar sam bith anns am biodh tlachd aig leughadair. Rud eile dheth, tha na seann leabhraichean air dol a mach a clò mar theirear, agus air fàs seann fhasanta. Tha iad a dh'easbhuidh a' mhinichidh agus nan earrannan soilleir-ichidh, a gheibhear anns na leabhraichean ùra. A thuilleadh air sin tha na seann leabhraichean air fàs cho tearc is gu bheil iad ro dhaor ri 'n ceannach. Tha cuid 'gan ceannach mar annas, chan ann a chum an leughadh, ach a chum an tasgadh fo ghlais an céis ghlaire. Is gann gu faod dùil a bhi againn gun cuirear na seann bhàird a rithist an clo anns an t-seann chruth. Mar sin chì sinn gu bheil reusan no dhà, gum biodh na bàird 'g an clo bhualadh anns an dòigh ùir, agus air an cur a mach, fada is farsuinn, mar dhuaisean do'n òigridh, aig mòid bheaga is mhóra, aig prìs shaor a bhiodh freagarrach air gach sporan.

Ach có tha comasach is toileach air an obair luachmhor so a dheanamh? Tha An Comunn Gaidhealach air a bhacadh aig an am le cion comais, a thaobh gainne an airgid. Tha sinn

de'n bheachd gum biodh luchd riaghlaidh agus stiùiridh A' Chomuinn toileach anns a' chùis, nan tugadh mór-chuid nan Gaidheal feadh an t-saoghail an cothrom agus an comas dhaibh. Tha An Comunn a' deanamh dìchioll air bhi a' coimhlionadh iomadh rùn a ghabh iad as laimh a cheana. Ach is ann tha feum air buidheann-ùr chàirdeil, an taobh a stigh de'n Chomunn fhéin. Dh'fhaodadh a' bhuidheann sin, coltach ri Clann an Fhraoich, a bhi làn aontachail ri obair A' Chomuinn, agus aig an am cheudna meadhonan a chleachdadh a chum saothair nam bàrd a chlo bhuiladh as ùr. Is ann de'n ghnè sin a tha Comunn Sgrìobhaidhean na h-Eireann, (*Irish Texts Society*). Tha a nis mu dheidh bliadhna fichead o thòisich a' bhuidheann ud air leabhar 's a' bhliadhna fhoillseachadh de shaothair nan ùghdar Eireannach. Chan eil aon leisgeul againne, nach faodamaid an cleas ceudna a dheanamh. Tha e comasachadh gu leòr dhuinn "Buidheann nan Sgrìobhaidhean Gaidhlig Albannach" a shuidheachadh; agus mar sin air maithreas mór a dheanamh do aobhar na Gaidhlig ann ar tìr.

An ann a tha an comhradh so gu léir "mar ghuth ag éigheach anns an fhàsach?" Tha sinn a' creidsinn gu bheil na briathran a sgrìobh sinn, stuama tùrail gu leòr. Nam biodh ar deagh Ghaidhil dùrachdach da rìribh, cha bhiodh dàil seachdainn anns a' chùis, gus am biodh a' bhuidheann a' gabhail cruth. Chan eil éis oirnn a thaobh luchd deasachaidh. Tha àireamh de sgoilearan againn fhathast a tha fiosrach foghainteach, agus *toileach*. Tha na sgoilearan sin comasach air na bàird a' sgeadachadh an éideadh nuadh. Nach bu mhór an tlachd agus am feum nam biodh fichead de na bàird a tighinn le teachdaireachd as ùr, air an ullachadh mar so, gu bhi a' labhairt le éifeachd ris a' ghinealach ùr. Biodh na leabhraichean snasail, cuimseach, saor; le romh-ràdh is inntrigeadh a bheir beachd mu bheatha gach bàird, is eachdraidh na h-aimsir anns an robh e beò; dàin is duain thaghta, le mìneachadh glic, eòlach, air seadh is cruth is càinain. Tha sinn dearbhta gu bheil so uile comasach agus da rìribh riatanach.

NAMES FOR THE FINGERS.

Professor WILLIAM J. WATSON,
M.A., D.Litt. Celt., LL.D.

Some time ago an old Oxford friend sent me a list of names for the fingers used by his wife's grandmother, a Dundee lady. The names were spelt phonetically as follows: "oorthac, colocach, mir fat, machanap, rakvervan." The first four were easy of identification as "ordag, colgag, meur fada, mac an aba;" the name for the little finger was strange to me. It looked like "rag-mheirbhein," "stiff little slim one," but in case the name might still be current in some district I made some small investigation. In course of this, though I failed to find what was sought, I found more diversity of naming than I had any idea of previously, and now give the results in so far as my enquiries extended. The terms might, doubtless, be added to both from the Isles and from the Mainland.

LEWIS.

- (a) Ordag, sgealbag, Màiri fhada, nic an tradaidh (nic an t-sradaidh), lùdag dhubb na càtha.
- (b) Ordag, corrag, meur mheomhair, màthair na lùdaig, lùdag.
- (c) An ordag 's a' chorrag 's a' mheur fhada, nic an t-sradaidh, 's lùdag bheag an airgid. A children's rime.
- (d) An ordag, a' cholgag, an gille fada (or according to my informant's grandmother often a' mhiar mheoir), mac an aba, is caoineag.

HARRIS.

Ordag, a' chearbag, an gunna fada, mac an aba, lùdag bheag an airgid. The fore finger is often sgealbag.

NORTH UIST.

- (a) An ordag, a' gheilbeag, an gunna fada, mhiac an aba, lùdag bheag an airgid.
- (b) An ordag, a' chorrag, a' mheoir mheadhon, màthair na lùdaig, a' lùdag.
- (c) Ordag, corrag, mheur mheadhon, màthair na lùdaig, lùdag.
- (d) Ordag, gheilbeag, gunna fada, nic an aba, lùdag bheag an airgid.

SKYE.

- (a) Ordag, lùdag, caoitag, mac an aba, Fionn-lagh fada. Given in this order (thumb, little finger, fore finger, ring finger, middle finger), my informant touching each as he named it. The fore finger is also colgag.
- (b) Ordag, colgag, gille fada, mac an aba, plaosgag.

- (c) Ordag, colgag, bun nam fead, *mac an aba*, caogag bheag, bheag, bheag. My informant was not quite certain of caogag.

BIGG.

- (a) Ordag, corrag, meur meadhoin, màthair na lùdaig, lùdag.
 (b) Ordag, colgag, or colbag, Fionnlagh fada or Fionna fada, mac an aba, caoiteag bheag a ghoid (or a dh'ith) an t-eorna. A children's rime.
 (c) Ordag, colgag, Fionna fada, mac an aba, caoiteag bheag bhrònach. A children's rime.

CANNA.

Ordag, gilbeag, giolla fada, mac an aba, didean beag an airgid. Didean means "shy one."

TIREE.

Ordag, corrag, a' mheur mheadhoin, màthair na lùdaig, lùdaig. In Easdale the fore finger is colgag.

STRATHY.

Ordag, sgealbag, meur fada, mac an ada, meur bheag an airgid.

LOCHCARRON.

- (a) Ordag, tolgag, ceanna fada, mac an aba, plaosgag or lùdan.
 (b) Ordag, colgag, ful-na-fead, mac an ab, plaosgag.

ASSYNT.

- (a) Ordag, corrag, meur meadhoin, mac an ab, lùdan bheag an airgid.
 (b) Ordag, corrag, meur meadhonach, màthair an lùdain, lùdan.
 (c) Ordag, sgealbag, ceann fada, mac an ab, ceannbheag a' bhrìdein.

EASTER ROSS.

Ordag, corrag, meur mheadhoin, mac an ab, lùdag.

THE AIRD.

Ordag, sgealbag, mac-a-fei(gh), ceann an aib, brìdeag.

BADENOCH.

Ordag and seòrdag; sgealb or sgealbag or colgag, also seanntag and almag; meur fada, mac an abair, ciorgag.

IRELAND.

- (a) Aranmore, Galway Bay: an ordóg, an chorr-mheur, an mheur mheadhoin or an mheur láir, mac an droma, an ladhairicín or an laighdicín.
 (b) Donegal: an ordóg, an cholgóg, meur an chinn fhada, mac an abair, an geimide beag or an geillide beag. *Archiv f. Celtische Lexicographie*, I., 553. Dinneen has *geimide bheag*.

We may now collect the various names as given above, adding some notes.

1. Ordag, seòrdag.

2. Corrag; colgag, colbag, colsag, tolgag; gilbeag, geilbeag; sgealb, sgealbag; cearbag; caoiteag; seanntag; almag.

3. A' mheur fhada, meur fada; a' mheur mheadhoin' a' mheoir mheadhoin, meur meadhonach; meur mheomhair, a' mhiar mheadhoin; giolla fada, gille fada, Fionnlagh fada, Fionna fada; Màiri fhada; an gunna fada; ceann fada, ceanna fada; bun nam fead, ful-na-fead; mac-a-fei(gh).

4. Mac an aba, mac an ada, mhic an aba, nic an aba, mac an abair, ceann an aib; mathair na lùdaig, mathair an lùdain; nic an t-sràdaidh.

5. Lùdag, lùdan, lùdag dhubbh na càtha, lùdag bheag an airgid; didean beag an airgid; caoiteag bheag a ghoid (a dh'ith) an t-eorna, caoiteag bheag bhrònach; plaosgag; caoineag, caogag (?), brìdeag, ciargag, ceannbheag a' bhrìdein, meur bheag an airgid.

In most of these examples *meur* is feminine, and many of the individual names follow suit. In Irish it is masculine or feminine, the variation in gender being due to the fact that it was originally neuter—Hogan includes it in his list of neuters.

1. Ordag is diminutive in form; O. Ir. *orddu*, later *orda*; Ir. *ordóg*.

Seòrdag may be a fanciful corruption of òrdag.

2. Corrag, though diminutive in form, is not a true diminutive but a reduced form of *corr-mheur*, taper finger. The practice of dropping the second part of a compound noun and substituting *-ag* or *-an* began early in Gaelic. Good examples are *cluasag*, which means a pillow (not a little ear!), being reduced from *cluas-adhart*, an ear-pillow; *dobhran*, an otter, reduced from *dobhar-chu*, a water-hound. From *dobhar*, water, stream, we have alongside of this the true diminutive *dobhran*, a streamlet, common in our names of places.

Colgag is from *colg*, an awn, a prickly; rapier; the idea is the same as that in *corrag*, and *colgag* may be the reduced form of **colg-mheur*. The next three may be dialectic varieties; though *colsag* (Easdale) is distinctly curious, and *tolgag* might mean "little proud one," from *tolg*, pride.

Gilbeag is the diminutive of *gìlb*, feminine, a chisel; *geilbeag* is merely a variation.

Sgealbag, a little splinter, from the pointed shape.

Cearbag, perhaps from *cearb*, feminine, corner, skirt: "the little corner one," from its position.

Caoiteag is applied also to the little finger. I give the spelling in both cases as I got it; but *caoiteag* is pronounced just like *cuidhteag*, a whitening, from English *white*; similarly a *chaoit!* a *chaoit!* is a call to ducks, corresponding to English *white!* *white!* used in the same way. The phonetics are as in *cuinnsear* from English *whinger*, with *g* soft.

I can make nothing of *almag*, *seanntag*.

3. Giolla fada is of interest as showing the Irish form of our *gille*; but though we use *gille*, our diminutive *giullan* comes from the Irish term.

Meur mheomhair, memory finger. Meur mheoir, used by my informant's grandmother, may be short for meur mheomhair.

Mac-a-fei(gh) is obscure to me.

Bun nam fead is 'stock or stump of the whistles,' evidently from its use, along with its neighbour, the ring-finger, for whistling when inserted in the mouth. Ful-na-fead is plainly a corruption.

The other terms bear their meaning on their faces. Ceann fada corresponds to the Irish "meur an chinn fhada."

4. Why the ring-finger should be called mac an aba, etc., is not clear to me. It is rather significant that the Badenoch *mac an abair* is found in Ireland, while our *mac an aba* is not recorded as occurring there. *Ceann an aib* is also curious. Nor have I light on *nic an t-sradaidh* or *nic an tradaidh* unless, indeed, the latter is a form of *troduidhe*, a quarrelsome person, a fighter, possible as a fancy term in children's rimes.

5. Lùdag is the diminutive of *lùda*, O. Ir. *lùta*; *lùdan*, masculine, corresponds to Ir. *lùidín*, masculine.

The stealing or eating of the barley, ascribed to the little finger, was laid to the charge of the fore-finger in a Scots rime, which, beginning with the thumb or with the big toe, went: "this is the man that broke the barn, this is the man that stole the corn, this is the man that ran awa', this is the man that told a'; and poor little cronie paid for a'." Each finger or toe was held between the fingers during the process of identification, and the extra wiggles given to the little finger or toe at the conclusion of the naming never failed to cause much delighted chuckling. The Gaelic rime more or less corresponding to this, as given me by Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon, Breakish, Skye, is as follows, beginning with the thumb:—

Sud an té a tholl an sabhal,
Sud an té a dh'ol am bàrr,
Sud an té a dh'innis e,
Sud an té a dhìoghail air,
Sud an té a ruith air falbh.

Caoineag is most probably from *caoin*, gentle, tender.

Plaosgag must be from *plaosg*, a husk, shell; perhaps from its position.

Brideag, ? wifie, little woman.

Ceannbheag a' bhrìdein; *ceannbheag* means "small-headed one;" *brìdean* is an oyster-catcher.

Clorgag specially amused the woman who gave it.

It is worth remarking that though the terms for hand are the same in Gaelic and in Welsh (*lambh: lawr*), the terms for finger are quite different (*meur: bys*; the latter may be M. Ir. *bis* in *bis ega*, an icicle).* The individual fingers, beginning with the thumb, are in Welsh: *bawd* or *bodfys*; *bys blaen* (point finger) or *mynnegfys* (index finger); *hirfys* (long finger) or *canolfys* (middle finger); *bys y fodrwy* (finger of the ring); *bys bach* (little finger.)

This little investigation, incomplete as it is, may serve as a specimen of the many branches of interesting research that are open to any one who has some knowledge of Gaelic. There is still in our own day, as I know from experience, an enormous amount of lore (if one may so call it) of various kinds latent among our Gaelic speaking people. To them it is so familiar that they never think of it as worth mentioning or recording; when collected and compared, one district with another and, perhaps, with the similar lore of other Celtic regions, it may yield results that are almost sure to be of interest, and that may be of importance in various directions.

I am much obliged to the friends who kindly supplied the material for this paper.

* I seem to have heard *biseagan deighe* for icicles. Can anyone confirm this?

NATIONAL MOD—DUNOON.

23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th September, 1930.

All prescribed pieces, Oral, Solo, and Choral, are now ready, and may be had direct from An Comunn office or from Messrs. Alex. MacLaren and Son, 360 Argyle Street, Glasgow. "Orain a' Mhoid VII." (1s.), Choral Booklet. (1s.), postage extra.

GAELIC TEACHERS.



MR. JOHN McIVER, J.P., G.T.S.C.

Although Mr. McIver is a native of Govan, yet he comes of Lewis stock, his father, Mr. Roderick McIver, Shipwright, having been a Laxdale man, and his mother a Macleod of Melbost. Mr. McIver received his elementary education in Broomloan Road School, in Govan. When he was about fourteen years of age, the family removed to Seacombe (in Cheshire), near Liverpool. Here he served a four years' apprenticeship as pupil teacher at Seacombe Board School. It speaks volumes for Mr. McIver's patriotism and linguistic ability, that although his boyhood was passed in Govan, and his early youth in England, far removed from general Gaelic influence, yet he contrived to acquire a first class knowledge of the Gaelic language. From examples of this type we learn what can be done in surroundings which are not favourable to the acquisition of Gaelic. But "where there's a will there's a way."

On finishing his term as pupil teacher, Mr. McIver sat the examination for the Queen's Scholarship, and duly gained admission to the Free Church Training College in Glasgow. His training completed he returned to Seacombe, as Second Master. For over thirty years he has been a Headmaster in Lewis, first in Gravir, then in Tong, and for the past ten years in Laxdale. About twenty years ago he became a graduate of the Tonic Sol-fa College, and was

appointed Examiner for the Junior, Elementary, and Intermediate Certificates of that College in Theory and Practice. Mr. McIver is a Justice of Peace for Ross and Cromarty.

During the whole time of his residence in Lewis, Mr. McIver has been teaching the Gaelic language—reading, writing, speaking. On the musical side he has had wonderful success. The Laxdale Children's Choir is now a household word. The songs set for National Mod Competitions have formed part of the School Music syllabus for some years. The Laxdale Junior Choir gained the MacKenzie Shield at the Stornoway Mod in '25 and '26. They were debarred from competing in '27, having won the Shield two years in succession. But they carried it off again in '28 and '29. They competed at the National Mod in Fort William in '27, and at Perth in '29, gaining the *Oban Times* Trophy for Two-part Singing, and 1st in Unison Singing on both occasions. In '29 they gained the Campbell Blair Trophy Silver Cup.

Musical judges of national reputation have spoken of Mr. McIver's skill as conductor in terms of the highest praise. He has given a distinct uplift to junior Gaelic singing.

AIR IOMALL NA H-IMPIREACHD.

Le SEORSA E. MARJORIBANKS.

II.

Is obair ro fheumal aig a mhaor-coille a bhi dèanamh rathaidean ùra troimh na frithean. Mur biodh rathaidean ann, cha ghabhadh am fiodh tabhairt a mach, agus cha b'urrainn neach sam bith fuireach anns na h-àitean aonaranach sin. Leis cho tigh dorch a 's a tha 'n duilleach, cha'n eil e furasda amharc mu 'n cuairt, gun guth air amas air a' chùrs a 's fhearr a fhearras gu rathad a dhèanadh troimh na garbh-chrìochan sin. Rinn maoir-Coille Bhombay a mhàin mu ochd ceud mìle de rathaidean ri ar linn fèin.

Is e gleidheadh nam frithean céist nan céist. Is stròidheil, sgriosal an tuath Inneanach, aig am bheil còireachan de gach seòrsa air na coilltean a tha mu'n cuairt air na h-achaidhean. Bithidh iad a' gearradh, 's a' goid 's a' sgrios, a h-uile còthrom a gheibh iad. Tha daoine bhriseas riaghailtean nam frithean buailteach air peanas cruaidh, ach cha'n eil e idir furasda breith air na daoine beaga, dubha, breaca, a ruitheas mar na féidh gu mullach nam monaidhean agus a ni folach-fead oirnn ann an dubharachd nan doire, cho luath 's a chluin-

neas iad farum coise. Ciod e do bharail air daoine a laidheas 'nan crùban air cùl sreatha de dhreisean agus bealach beag air fhàgail anna, sgonn de bhata 'nan làmhnan, agus fir eile theid air cùlthaobh na beinne 's a chuireas mille acair de choilltean luachmhor ri theine, agus sin uile air sgàth coltais maighich bhochd a ruitheas troi' bhealach 's an dris 's a gheibh, maith dh'fhaoidte, sgaile de bhata air a' dromaig? Bithidh dorlach de dhuilleagan urair d'an dìth a chàradh tubhaidh air bothan beag. 'Saoil, an gearr iad na duilleagan sin bharr nam meangan gu glan, cùramach, le sgithinn ghéir? 'Fheara 's a ghaoil! 'S iad nach gearr. 'S' ann a leagas iad a nuas dùsan no dhà de chraobhan Teak òga, a chum 's gu'n ruig iad na's fhearrair na duilleagan.

Tha a chleachdadh aig an luchd-coille a bhi a' gearradh 's a losgadh bhealach leathann, glana, a chur stad air teine bhriseas a mach anns na coilltean, mar is tric a thachras anns na h-Innsean. A thuilleadh air sin bithidh dìthis no trìuir fhear a' chomhnuidh, a latha 's a dh'oidheche, ann am bothan-faire air mullach cruic, as am faighear sealladh air na coilltean a tha mu thimchioll, anns gach cearn de'n dùthaich. Is iad sin am Freiceadan-teine. Bithidh druma mhór aca anns gach bothan, agus bratach gheal air bàrr craoibhe. Cha luaithe bhriseas teine a mach, na chuirear suas bratach dhubb na h-àite, agus buaillear an druma gu foghainteach. Tha'n sanas so 'na ghairm laghair air an tuath. Tha e mar fhiachaibh orra tionndadh a mach gun dàil a chuideachadh leis an luchd-coille a bhi 'cur as an teine. Agus am maor-coille fhéin? Cha'n abradh duin' air bith nach eil e gu maith cruadalach. Tuitidh dhà air uairean, is e' tighinn dachaidd sgith, tartmhor bho thurus fada, gu'n tabhair fuaim buaireasach na druma earalas gu'm feum e bhi mach a rithist agus falloisg mhòr de theine a chur as air taobh eile a' ghlinne. Sin obair cho pàiteach, cruaidh 'sa dh'fhaireich e riamh. 'S minic a dh'fheumas e bhi mach anns na coilltean oidheche an dèigh oidheche fad seachduinn a' cur as teine, 's cha mhòr a bhios air fhàgail dheth aig na h-amannan sin.

Ged tha e fìor anns na h-Innsean, mar a tha 's ann dùthaich againn féin, gu bheil soirbheachadh a' charbaidh-bhìllich, meudachadh nan rathaidean mòra, agus innleachdan ùr eile, gu sònruichte an rathad-iaruinn aotrom a ruitheas a nis an sud 's an so feadh na dùthcha—ged tha e fìor gu bheil na nithean sin an dèigh na coilltean a dhèanamh na 's fhassa ruigheachd orra, agus le so na 's lugha taitneas, ann an dòighean, na bha iad anns na sean laithean,

mar is maith a thuigeas tu, tha cearnan ann fhathast a tha cho iomallach agus gur gann a tha duine geal ri fhaicinn anna eadar dà cheann na bliadhna ach am maor-coille fhéin. Anns na cearnan suidhichte bithidh mar is trice deich no dusan de oifigich an urra, gach aon diubh air ceann a chuid fhéin de ghnòthuichean an Ard-riaghlaidh. Cha'n ann mar sin idir a tha anns an dùthaich ris an abrar An Dàng, mór-roinn de dh'fhearann borb, garbh, fad air falbh am measg nam monaidhean. Cha'n e fearann Breataniach a tha anns An Dàng, ach aireamh de riochachdan beaga, dùthcha, an ceann a chèile. Faisg air cend bliadhna roimhe so, ghabh Breatann coilltean luachmhor na dùthcha sin thairis air fad, agus uaithe sin tha sinn a' paigheadh màil orra do gach aon de na cinn-fheadhna. Agus do bhrìgh 's nach b'urrainn do na cinn-fheadhna bhorba sin an sluagh fhéin a chumail fo smachd, thòisich sinn uidh air n-uidh air na dùthaich a riaghladh air an son-san. Agus mar bha an t-àite cho iomallach, do-ruigsinn, chuir an Ard-riaghladh maor-coille taghta, a bha air a' chleachdadh ri leithid de gharbh-chriochan, air ceann a' ghnòthuich uile, a' tabhairt seachad dha cumhachdan sònruichte chum sith is réite a chumail. Tha'n maor-coille 's an Dàng le sin 'na mhaor-sithe, 'na shiorram, 'na ghaidsear, 'na fhear acuinn, 'na fhear-stata, 'na ughdarras foghlum, is mar sin slos—is math a dh'fhaodadh iad "Poo-bah" a tabhairt air cuideachd!

Chuireadh rudan a thachras anns an dùthaich neònach sin longhnadh ort; cha ruigear a leas ach aon no dhà ainmeachadh an so. Faodar innseadh mar dhearbhadh air cho sean-aimsireil, borb, 's a tha na cinn-fheadhna sin iad fhéin, mar a thàinig dotair àraidh do'n Dàng a dh'fhaicinn tigh-eridinn ùr. Bha'n rathad fada, an latha teth, is e a' coiseachd. Thug e mhàileid do dhuine beag, ruisgte bha 'na shuidhe air na clachan taobh an ùillt, 's a bha, ar leis, 'na fhear-òibre no *coolie*. "Is cinnteach gu'm bi e ro thoilichte mo mhàileid a ghluil an air son bonn-a-sia" ars' an dotair ris fhéin. Abair thusa gu'n do chuir e clisgeadh air, 'nuair a dh'èirich an 'coolie' ud air a chasan agus a rug e air làimh air ag ràdh, "Is mise Rìgh na dùthcha so!"

Tha'n sluagh sin cho aineolach air nithean an t-saoghail a muigh agus gur gann a dh'ionnsaich iad fhathast breug innseadh. 'Nuair a rachadh duine a thabhairt air beulthaobh an t-siorraim air son meirle no gadachd eile, cha mhòr nach freagradh e "cìontach" do chasaid air bith. Latha bha sud thugar *Bil* mòr oillteil, fiadhaich a stigh air son mort an-

tromaichte bha e air fhàgail air gu'n do sgoilt e ceann duin' eile le tugaibh. Dh'fhàs am maor-coille (b'e fhéin an siorram) amhrusach, theagamh gu'n d'thug am *Polis* aidmheil bhreugach as an duine le foirneart, is thubhairt e ris "Is gann a chreidinn gu'n deanadh tu an rud so." Thug am *Bil* breab do dhùn aodaich fuilteach a bha air an urlar làimh ris. "Gu dearbh, is mise rinn" ars' esan, "Nach eil sibh a' faicinn an aodaich a bh'air an duine a sgoilt mi a' cheann?"

Faodar a radh nach eil muinntir an Dàng ach mar chloinn bhig, agus tha'm maor-coille mar athair dhaibh. Is toil leis iad a bh'ruith 'ga ionnsuidh le 'n cruaidh-chàsan agus le 'n conspaeidh beaga r' an socrachadh, oir tha e mion-eòlach air gach fear agus bean 's an dùthaich. Cha do nochd fear-ceannaire no fear-lagha a shròn anns an Dàng fhathast, 's biodh dòchas nach nochd. Tha sìth is réite, pailteas is toileachas-intinn anns an dùthaich bhòidhich, iomallaich sin, nach fhaighear an ceannan eile air feadh nan Innsean.

Ged is trang, aonaranach am bitheantas beatha a' mhaoir-choille anns na h-Innsean, tha i tlachdmhor gu leoir air iomadh dòigh. Bithidh e air a chumail a stigh 's a' bhaile mhòr fad cheithir mosan, amsir an uisge, a' sgrìobhadh 's a' dèanamh suas chunntas. Fad nan ochd mosan eile bithidh e a' siubhal àite gu àite air feadh a chearna fhein a bhios, maith dh'fhaoidte, cho farsuinn ri siorramachd Inbhirneis, a' cur suas ann bothain bheaga air an cur r' a chéile le duilleach no feur.

Bithidh a ghoireas-turuis, 's na seirbhisich 's an stòras, na cumanan 's na ballanan 's na cuinneagan—air uairean a bhean cuideachd, a' dol mu'n cuairt leis. Tha e 'na fhasan aig a' mhaor-coille a bh'air a chasan mu'm blais an t-eun an t-uisge, suas is a mach o shè uairean gu meadhan-latha a dh'fheuchainn oibrichean de gach seòrsa, a' cur 's a' buain, a' reic 's a' ceannach, a' dìreadh 's a' tearnadh beinne is uchdain fo theas na gréine, gus nach mór nach bi e air tabhairt thairis. An déigh meadhoin-latha bithidh e trang le obair 's an tigh, a' cléireachd 's a' sgrìobhadh, a' tabhairt breith air luchd-brisidh nan riaghailtean, no a' dèanamh garbh-sgrùdadh ann an teachd-gearr 'iochdaran fhéin, a' paigheadh luchd-oibre. Theagamh gu'n teid e a mach 's an fheasgar a dh'amharc air obair eile, no gu'n gabh e sraid-bheag leis fhéin troimh na coilltean le 'ghunna air a ghualainn.

Tha a cruaidh-chàsan féin aig beatha mhaor-coille. Tha na meanbh-chuileagan na 's mìosa na 'n Albainn féin agus a bharr air a sin tha iad cho dona a stigh 's a tha iad a muigh!

Anns na coilltean a bhios na *bison* (bò bhorb), a' tathaich, thana cartain ged a tha iad meanbh—cho lionmhor 's gu'n comhdaich iad corp duine mar stùradh peabraich. Cuiridh iad a leithid de dhragh air 's gum bi e a' sglamhradh a chasan fad na h-oidheche 'na leth-chadal. Anns na coilltean fliucha, sìor-uaine, tha na dealachan tiugh air gach bileag fheòir. Gheibh iad a stigh na d'bhògan agus leanaidh iad ris a' chraicinn gus am bi iad air an at le fuil, air alt 's mar a chuireas tu do stocainnean dhìot 's a theid thu 'gad ghlanadh, gu'm fàg thu aile fuilteach as do dhéigh air an urlar mar bhiodh aig tigeir leonta! A bharrachd air a sin fhabhrus, gearrach, 's a leithid eile—chi thu gu'm feum am maor-coille a bh'fallain, cruadalach.

Tha guth air tigeir a' toirt a'm' chumhne gu bheil mòran de dhaoine am beachd nach eil tigeirean agus liopaird a nis cho lionmhor 's a bha iad roimhe. Cha'n ann mar so idir a tha. O àm a' chogaidh, an uair nach robh na daoin-uaisle ach gann 'gan sealg, chaidh iad an lionmhorachd a rithist, ged tha e fìor cuideachd gu'n d'fhàs sealg nam bèistean mòra ro chogail air son na cuid as mo de dhaoine. Ach cha robh maor-coille riamh a bh'fhaich 'ainm nach rachadh a shealg tigeir no liopaird a thigeadh 'na rathad. Thig Ràma bochd do'n chàmpa 'na dheann, 's a shùilean a sìleadh nan deur—thàinig earchall air aon de na beathaichean aige, an t-aona mhart a bha air a' chroit—co a dhùiltas dhà comhnadh a thabhairt a mach aicheamhail?

Fhad 's a tha duine òg, leis cho togarrach 's a bhios e a dh'fhaotainn tigeir agus liopaird a dh'aindheoin de thig, is gann a thuigeas e an cunnart a tha an lorg dol air an toir leis fhéin air a chois. Faodaidh e iomadh fadhbheathach a leagadh gu làr mun smaoinich e idir air rud sam bith cunnartach m'an deidhinn. Cha'n ann gus am fàic duine mì-thorant no dhà a' tachairt, a dh'fheoraicheas e "An fhiach e an cunnart?"

Air mo shon fhéin dheth theirinn, is fhiach, air a h-uile cor, cunnart ann no as! Cha'n aithne dhomh sealladh fo'n ghréin a dh'fhaodas a chioceas ri sealladh nan uile-bheistean fheòil-itheach, a' casadh am faclan 's an sùilean 'nan caoirith dearga, ag èaladh air còbhartach 'nan ionad-tathaich fhéin!

Tha e coltach nach eil beatha eile a 's fhearr a fheargas do dh'Albannach òg, laidir, na beatha a' mhaoir-choille ann an fhrìthan mòra nan Innsean. Ma gheibh e a leòr a dh'obair throm, ghoirt, tha sòlas agus faochadh aige ann an caochladh seallaidh, muthadh oibre, sealg, agus ann an cothruim bharrachta a dh'fhaicinn àilleachd agus maise na cruith-

eachd. Fhad 's a tha e a mach anns na coilltean tha e 'na mhaighstir air fhéin, cha'n eil e ceangailte ri uairean an uaireadair, faodaidh e obair a dhèanamh agus fois a ghabhail a réir a mhian fèin—nach mòr an t-sochair sin ?

Air an làimh eile is fheudar aideachadh nach eil gnothuichean mar a bha iad anns na h-Innsean. Dh'fhalbh sud is thàinig so. Thàinig caochladh riaghlaidh, 's cha'n ann chun na cuid a 's fhearr. Chaidh ughdarras na Seirbhise a thabhairt thairis do làmhnan mhinist-eirean na dùthcha, nach eil comasach air luach agus iarrtasan nan coilltean a thuigsinn. Cha bhuin meas is urram na 's fhaide do'n duine gheal, 's ann a tha an darna duine cho math ris an duin' eile. Agus an dèigh a h-uile rud a th' ann, ciod e thubhairt an t-Albannach 'nuair a dh'fharraid an Sasunnach deth, ciod e an sealladh bu bhrèagha chunnaic e riamh anns na h-Innsean ? "Tha dìreach," ars' esan, "sealladh Bombay bho cheann-deiridh bàta *P. and O.!*"

BY THE EDITOR.

Tha leabharan beag air ùr thighinn a mach fo laimh A'Chomuinn. Tha trì Comhraidhean air an gabhail a stigh ann. Is iad sin: *Na Fàsain Ura*, le Morag Nic Dhomhnaill, Tiriodh; *Anna Bhàn an Glascho*, le Donnchadh Mac Dhomhail, Leodhas; agus *Na Foirfich Nodha*, le Donnchadh Mac Dhomhnaill, Leodhas. Thug gach aon de na comhraidhean duais a mach aig a' Mhòd Chinnichail. Is e sia sgillinn pris a' leabharain, agus is maith is fhiach e sin. Bithidh an comh-chruinneachadh chomhradh so feumail aig ceilidh is comneamhan Gaidhlig. Tha an leabhar luachmhor air dà dhoigh. Tha e air a sgrìobhadh ann brod na Gaidhlig; agus tha e làn de gnothuichean neònach a bhios feumail airson fearas chuideacha. Tha sin a' ceangal buannachd ri toil intinn; agus is maith an dòigh sin gus an càinain a thogail.

* * *

Mar chithear an cunntas na Comhairle a chruinnich an Strìbleidh an oidhe roimhe, tha comh-fharpuisean ri bhi air an cur air chois airson na h-òigridh. Bidh duaisean àraidh 'g an tairginn airson nan sgrìobhaidhean Gaidhlig is fearr. Tha sinn an dòchas gun dean a' chlann oidheirp air earrann Gaidhlig a chur 'g ar n-ionnsuidh o am gu am. Bhiodh a feumail nan tugadh maighstirean sgoile a h-uile misneach do 'n òigridh anns a' gnothuch so. Is ann le bhi a' cleachdadh sgrìobhadh na càinain a dh'fàsas iad ealanta innte. Is còir gach innleachd a ghluicadh gus a' chlann a

bhrosnuchadh. "Is e an t-ionnsuchadh òg an t-ionnsuchadh bòidheach."

* * *

Ni sinn luaidh air leabhar Beurla do 'n ainm. *The Old Tribute*, a thàinig am follais o chionn ghoidir. Is e an t-ùghdar an t-Onorach Ruaraidh Arascain is Mhàirr. Tha an leabhar gu léir air eadartheangachadh o'n Gaidhlig. Tha seachd earrannan ann air fad, a chaidh a tharruinn o sgrìobhaidhean Gaidhlig le ùghdair mar tha an t-Ollamh Niall Mac an Rothaich, Domhnall Mac Eacharn, Iain Mac Cormaig, Donnchadh Mac Iain, agus Domhnall Mac na Ceàrdaich. Tha seadh nan earrann air a ghiulan do 'n Bheurla gu h-eagnuidh, ealanta. Tha Beurla an Arascainich anns an leabhar so gle choltach ri Beurla an Ollamh Rothaich 'n a speulachdan. Tha iad le chèile a' cleachdadh cuid de ghnàths na Gaidhlig, ach gidheadh tha a' Bheurla aca so-thuigsinneach do Ghoill is do Shasunnach. Chan eil e idir furasda gnàths na Gaidhlig a ghiulan gu litireil, ach gu so-thuigsinneach, gu Beurla. Tha an leabhar so a' nochdadh do choigrich ciod e gnè is inbhe nan ùghdar Gaidhlig ann ar latha. Chì an Gall ciod e cho beothail geurcheiseach is a tha an Gaidheal air eul pinn. Gheibear tuaraisgeul air seann chleachdaidhean ar sinnsir, air an innse an cainnt bhlada. Tha an clo bhualadh is am paipear taitneach do 'n t-sùil is do 'n laimh. Is i a' phris trì tasdain is sia sgillinn. Tha mu ochd fichead taobh duilleig anns an leabhar.

BOOK REVIEW.

A MANX SCRAPBOOK. W. W. Gill. (Arrow-smith. 15/-.)

Mr. Gill has written a book which should be of the greatest interest to all Gae's, Scots and Irish as well as Manxmen. In a careful and critical manner he has collected much of the old folk-lore of the island, which, in his own words, is "sliding swiftly into the cold night of forgettiness." The book is divided into four parts, which deal respectively with well-names and well-lore, the coast names of Rushen (the southernmost parish of the island, where the last echoes of spoken Manx still linger), old roads and road-lore, and place-names and place-lore. The stories are told with a quiet simplicity of manner which has great charm. Mr. Gill is happy in avoiding the sentimentalization, which is too often associated with this kind of work. Two criticisms, however, may be made. The illustrations, which are reproductions of old paintings and etchings, are disappointing and far too scarce; the book would be better illustrated with photographs of the places visited. Secondly, Mr. Gill might well have told us more of the people who still talk the language, and, in the interests of students of Celtic, have given more quotations in the original Manx. Be that as it may, the second volume, which is promised us, is to be eagerly awaited.

J. L. C.



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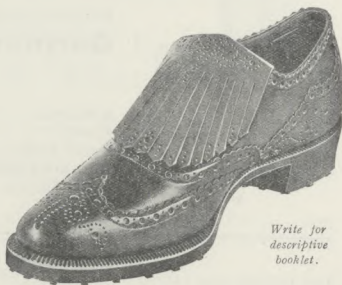
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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Executive Council was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Friday, 14th March. The following members were present:—J. R. Bannerman, Rahane; Wm. D. Barclay, Glasgow; A. K. Beaton, Perth; John Cameron, LL.B., Glasgow; Ex-Bailie Archd. Campbell, Glasgow; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Alex. D. Cumming, Callander; Miss L. E. Farquharson of Invercauld; Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; Kenneth Fraser, Glasgow; Col. Gilbert Gunn, Inverness; Miss Lamont of Knockdow; Angus MacAulay, Greenock; Mrs. MacDonald of Dunach; Donald MacDonald, Inverness; John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow; T. D. MacDonald, Brookfield; Gilbert MacIntyre, Killin; John MacIntyre, Glasgow; Rev. G. W. MacKay, D.D., Killin; William MacKenzie, Greenock; James MacLaren, Glasgow; Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A., Glasgow; Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Norman MacLeod, M.A., Glasgow; John A. Nicolson, M.A., Glasgow; Neil Orr, F.E.I.S., Edinburgh; H. S. Shield, Edinburgh; Colin Sinclair, M.A., Glasgow; George Thomson, M.A., Glasgow, and Miss Millar Weir, Alexandria.

In attendance:—Robert Macfarlane, C.A., Treasurer; Neil Shaw, General Secretary, and Hugh MacPhee, assistant. Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., President, presided.

The minute of previous meeting was read and adopted.

The Secretary read a minute of the Advisory Committee.

The President reported on the progress made since last meeting with the scheme for the institution of scholarships for Gaelic-speaking young people in the Scottish National Academy of Music. He anticipated a conference early next week between Professor Whittaker, Mr. D. Cleghorn Thomson, and himself, at which the outline of the scheme would be settled.

The minute was adopted on the motion of the President.

The Treasurer read a minute of meeting of Finance Committee. It was reported that a supply of membership badges had been ordered, and were now obtainable at 2s. 6d. each.

The Committee had placed on view articles of historical interest which had been gifted to Mrs. MacLeod of Skeabost for sale at the Great Feill by Messrs. A. Fraser and Co., Inverness. The articles are:—(1) Coloured print of Prince Charles Edward Stuart; (2) Piece of the curtain which was used on the bedstead which Prince Charlie slept on before

Culloden; and (3) Cannon Ball found recently, not far from the battlefield, in the making of the Inverness—Perth road. These articles are for sale.

On the motion of the Convener, Mr. Alexander Fraser, the minute was approved.

A minute of the Education Committee was read.

Arrangements for holding the Summer School in Inverness in August are now complete as per syllabus appearing on another page of this number.

It was agreed to hold the Educational Conference on the teaching of Gaelic in Highland Schools at Inverness on 15th August while the Summer School is in session. Representative Inspectors of Schools, Directors of Education and Teachers, will be asked to read papers, and take part in the discussions.

It was brought before the Committee that no provision was at present made by the various Churches for the training of their Gaelic-speaking students in the public reading and speaking of the language in which they are going to preach. It was agreed to draw the attention of the responsible College Committees of the various Churches to this fact, and that it be suggested to them that they take immediate steps to provide such instruction for their Gaelic-speaking students. On the motion of the Convener, Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, the minute was approved.

A minute of the Publication Committee was read.

The Committee had given consideration to suggestions by Mr. T. D. MacDonald with a view to improving the circulation of the magazine. The Committee recommended as follows:—(1) That consideration of the question of increasing the price to 2d. per copy be continued until the close of the financial year. (2) That an advertisement of the magazine, to run for 3 months, be inserted in certain newspapers circulating in the Highlands. (3) That a series of Literary Competitions for Juniors be instituted, and that prizes of 10s. and 5s. be offered each month for the best papers. (4) That a notice commending the magazine appear each month.

On the motion of Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Convener, the minute was approved.

A minute of the Propaganda Committee was read. The Committee had adopted reports of Northern and Southern sub-committees, but the Executive Council, on the motion of Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, remitted back for further consideration the recommendation regarding the

preparation of a petition to County Councils with reference to the teaching of Gaelic in Schools.

The Committee propose to send a memorial to the Secretary of State for Scotland and H.M.'s Lord Advocate asking them to issue such regulations as will secure that in Gaelic speaking areas of Scotland it will be a condition in the appointment of judicial and quasi-judicial officers that they should be persons who can speak the Gaelic language. Except for the portion referred to the minute was approved on the motion of Mr. Charles Campbell, Convener.

A minute of the Art and Industry Committee was read. Mrs. Burnley Campbell, acting Secretary, had reported fully on the rug-making industry, and the Committee recommended that the work be continued for another year.

On the motion of Col. Gilbert Gunn, member of Committee, the minute was approved.

A minute of the Mod and Music Committee was read. Mr. H. Plunkett Greene and Mr. A. M. Henderson have been appointed as music adjudicators for the National Mod at Dunoon. A letter was read from the Convener intimating that as his term of office on the Executive Council would be completed in September, he wished it to be noted now that he would not stand for re-election. The Committee regretted exceedingly to learn of the Convener's decision. It was remitted to the Convener and Secretary to interview the Secretary of the Dunoon Merchants' Association with reference to their offer of a Gold Medal to be awarded at the Dunoon Mod.

On the motion of Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Convener, the minute was approved.

The following report by the Special Committee was submitted:—

"The Special Committee on Organiser for the Northern area met this afternoon (14th March, 1930) at 5 o'clock. Present:—Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Mr. Charles Campbell, Mr. Alexander Fraser, and Mr. Donald MacDonald. It was reported that three of the five candidates on the short list had withdrawn their applications. The Committee interviewed the two remaining candidates—Mr. Murdo MacDonald, and Mr. Alex. N. Nicolson.

After careful consideration the Committee unanimously resolved to recommend that in view of the withdrawals from the short list, and the fact that the season for effective work was now past, the appointment of an organiser be meantime postponed, and that an opportunity be given to other candidates to apply

for the post, it being understood that an effort would be made to have an appointment made which would take effect early in the autumn."

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod moved the approval of the report, and Mr. Donald MacDonald seconded. Mr. J. A. Nicolson moved, "That the Special Committee be discharged, and a remit made to the Northern sub-committee of the Propaganda Committee to recommend one of the two remaining candidates for appointment." Mr. William MacKenzie seconded. On a vote being taken 19 voted for the motion, and 4 for the amendment.

Notice was given of the following motions:—

By Miss Farquharson of Invercauld:—"That in future the Syllabus for the next year's National Mod, and all necessary Music, be in the hands of Branch Secretaries and An Comunn's Music Teachers, by 1st October, to enable these Classes which have to take the teacher's services in the Autumn to be in a position to prepare the Test pieces under that teacher's direction."

By Mr. William MacKenzie, Greenock:—"That in future An Comunn discontinue money prizes of Ten Shillings and under in Junior Competitions at the National Mod and substitute Gaelic books."

On the motion of Mr. Norman MacLeod the chairman was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

SECRETARY'S TOURS.

I left Glasgow with the 5-10 a.m. train for Mallaig on Tuesday, 25th February, and arrived in Broadford in the early afternoon. I walked out to Breakish where Mr. John MacPherson, M.A., had arranged a meeting for me. Mr. MacPherson presided, and had arranged a splendid programme, the items of the Juniors being particularly pleasing. The sum of £3 4s. 9d. was collected at the door, and is put to the credit of the Music Class fund.

I did not wish to have a vacant evening, and I returned per steamer to Mallaig the following morning. Mr. Boyd, Secretary of the Morar Branch, arranged a Ceilidh for me in the Mallaig hall, and I had the pleasure of addressing over 40 members of the local Branch. Mr. Boyd presided, and the other speakers were Canon MacNeill and Mr. John MacDonald. Gaelic was used throughout.

On Thursday (27th) I ferried to Armadale, per steamer *Plover*, and held a meeting in the

local hall at Ardvassar in the evening. Mr. Malcolm MacInnes, LL.B., presided over a large attendance. A collection was taken, and resulted in adding 26s. to the funds.

I left per mail bus early in the morning, and waited about Kyleakin and Kyle till the afternoon when I took the bus to Portree. I could not arrange a meeting at Portree, and so I accepted the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod of Skeabost to attend a concert in aid of the local Piping Association's funds. Mr. MacLeod gave me ample opportunity of pressing the claims of An Comunn. Most of my hearers were connected with the Bernisdale Branch, and I considered my time well occupied, for in addition to assisting Mr. MacLeod with the programme I was serving An Comunn by emphasising the claims of the language as well.

I walked out to Bernisdale on Saturday and interviewed Mr. John Munro, late Secretary of the Branch, which I was sorry to ascertain had lapsed. I was most interested in Mr. Munro's minute book. These were kept in Gaelic, and reflected favourably on Mr. Munro's knowledge of the language, and the educational value of the meetings held. I decided to interview the Headmaster on the subject of re-forming the Branch before leaving the Island.

Mr. Angus Grant, M.A., arranged a meeting for me in Uig school on Monday (3rd March). I travelled by mail bus and was hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Neil MacNeill. The school was comfortably filled, and here, also, the juniors contributed pleasingly to the programme. A branch was formed with Mr. Grant as President, and Miss M. MacDougall, Earlish, as Secretary. The sum collected at the door was £5. Our thanks are due to Mr. Grant, and his splendid Committee for the excellence of their arrangements, and for the handsome addition to the Music Class funds.

I returned to Portree the following morning, arriving there about 7.45. Later I travelled with Mr. MacLeod of Skeabost, and Mr. George M. Fraser of Armadale, where we attended the funeral of Col. Martin Martin, who was for many years President of the Ardvassar Branch.

I attended a meeting of the Portree Branch in the evening. This was held in the Supper Room of the Skye Gathering Hall. Mr. Angus Nicolson presided over a large attendance of members and friends. A programme of instrumental and vocal music was gone through, and the Rev. John MacKay gave a stirring address in Gaelic and English. A collection was taken which amounted to 28s. It is only fair to add that many were unaware of this

arrangement. The Committee of the branch met afterwards and we discussed various items, particularly winter meetings and the Provincial Mod. The members of the Committee were anxious that the Mod should continue. The branch added a donation of £5 to the collection which also goes to the Music Class funds.

Wednesday was perforce a free day, but I am indebted to Mr. MacLeod who invited me to accompany him to Husabost. On the return we called at Dunvegan. I had asked for a meeting here, but having up to that time received no reply to my letter I concentrated on Kilmuir, where they experienced difficulty in fixing on a suitable date. I was disappointed to learn that Dunvegan still expected me on the original date given, but it was too late then to alter my plans.

On Thursday (6th) I walked from Skeabost to Bernisdale School and interviewed Mr. Steele, Headmaster, during the school interval. He agreed with the help of his assistant, Miss MacDonald, to revive the branch, provided the meetings were not held on Friday evenings, and it was arranged to hold a meeting before Mr. MacLeod of Skeabost departed for the South. I left copies of Branch rules for their guidance.

I travelled to Kilmuir and addressed a large gathering in the factory kindly lent for the occasion by Miss Hannans. Mr. John Nicholson presided, and after a programme of Gaelic songs and pipe music the branch was re-constituted. Mr. Malcolm MacLean was appointed President, and Miss Cathie MacNab, Peinora, Secretary and Treasurer. No arrangement was made for a collection here, but an effort is to be made later to collect funds.

I returned with the bus in the early hours of the morning, and passed the day in Portree calling on members. I lunched with Mr. and Mrs. Angus Nicolson in Portree House, and in the evening motored to Edinbane. Miss Helen MacDonald arranged a concert in aid of our funds, and had the school decorated with plants and Gaelic mottoes. Mr. Duncan MacLeod of Skeabost presided over a large attendance. Mr. Hector Kelly, Braes, was a great attraction with his repertoire of Skye folk songs. A dance was to follow in Major Hilleary's garage, and Miss MacDonald anticipated a surplus of at least £10. Over £5 was drawn at the concert. I returned to Skeabost after the concert, and left for home early on Saturday morning.

I thank all those who helped to make these meetings so successful, and I left "Eilean a' Cheo" feeling that the language has a very warm place in their hearts, and that the efforts

of An Comunn are thoroughly appreciated. During most of my time in Skye I operated from Skeabost House, where I received unbounded hospitality. I thank Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod for their many acts of kindness, and for helping so much to make my journeyings so pleasant.

The branches are all desirous that the Skye Mod should be held this year, and that it should become an annual event in the life of the people of the island. I sincerely hope their wish may be gratified.

NIALL.

THE BATTLEFIELD OF SCOTLAND.

Stirling has been aptly termed "the Key to the Highlands." The town is situated within half-a-dozen miles of what is computed to be the Centre of Scotland. From the ramparts of its historic castle there is to be had a panoramic view of more battlefields of historic importance than is possible from any other vantage point in any other part of the country.

Farthest away in point of distance, and still more so in point of time—so far indeed in the dim and distant vista that the exact location can only be conjectured—sometime in the Ninth Century, and somewhere on the southern slopes of the Ochil Hills, was fought a battle between the Picts and the Scots, in the course of the struggle by which Kenneth MacAlpine was carving out our present-day Scotland.

In chronological order, and nearest to our view lies before us the place where was the grim struggle for the passage over the Old Bridge of Stirling, on the 13th of September, 1297, when the Scottish Champion, Sir William Wallace, gained his signal victory over the English.

Less than a year afterwards, on the 22nd July, 1298, was fought the first Battle of Falkirk. The rapidity with which Wallace followed up his success at Stirling Bridge, and which culminated in his having driven the invaders over the border, so alarmed the English King, the notorious "Hammer of Scotland," that he hurried home from Flanders, and immediately summoned the whole strength of England and Wales, together with numerous Irish mercenaries, and marched into Scotland with an army comparable in might only with his army at Bannockburn sixteen years afterwards. But the Scottish noblemen, largely of Norman or Saxon descent, deserted Wallace in the hour of need. The result was the overwhelming

defeat of the Scots, and Wallace became a fugitive and an outlaw in his native land for seven long years, until his betrayal into the hands of the English.

Bruce had the advantage of being one of the nobility, with Norman blood in his veins, which counted for so much then with his own class. At anyrate it enabled him to rally round him the Scottish nobility, with their indispensable troopers for opposing the destructive bowmen of England. The havoc played upon the English bowmen at Bannockburn was a deciding factor in the great victory gained by Bruce's army. The story is too well known for further particulars to be given here.

The scene of the Battle of Sauchieburn, fought on the 9th of January, 1488, was only one mile distant from Bannockburn, and therefore, easily discernible from the ramparts of Stirling Castle. From the same vantage point may be seen the sites of three of the battles in which the Highland Clansmen fought and died under Prince Charlie in the second battle of Falkirk, at Kilsyth under Montrose, and at Sheriffmuir in the Campaign of the Fifteen.

It is certain that the panorama to be viewed from the ramparts of Stirling Castle comprises the sites of many minor conflicts, but only those of national importance are here enumerated, and it is to us Gaels of importance to know that Stirling, the scene of so many conflicts, is to-day our battleground. Here it is that our Gaelic Parliament, the meetings of An Comunn Gaidhealach Executive, deliberate upon their plans of campaign for the preservation of Scotland's native language, music, and literature, with which is enshrined the spirit of our race and nationality. But the pen, not the sword is our weapon. Ink is being spilt, not blood, but the struggle is none the less severe.

T. D. MacDonald.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC, 1930.

The Summer School will be held this year at Inverness from Friday, 1st August, to Thursday, 21st August, inclusive. By kind permission of the Inverness County Education Authority the classes will be held in the High School, Inverness.

THE CLASSES.

MORNINGS.

Junior Gaelic Class—Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow.

Junior Gaelic Class—Miss Anne Johnstone, Barra.

AFTERNOONS.

Celtic Art Class—Miss Anne MacBride, D.A., Glasgow.

Gaelic Singing Class—Mr. Neil Orr, F.E.I.S., Liberton.

FEES.

Full course, including morning, afternoon, and evening classes, 30s. Celtic Art Class only, 15s. Singing Class only, 5s.

ENROLMENT.

Intending students are advised to enroll early, and to send their names and addresses to Mr. Neil Shaw, 212 West George Street, Glasgow, C.2. Fees are preferably sent to him in advance, but may alternatively be paid to the teachers at the opening of the school.

LODGINGS.

Students must obtain their own lodgings in advance. They may obtain assistance in so doing by writing to the local Secretary.

TEXT BOOKS.

SENIOR CLASS.

Reid and MacLeod's Elementary Course, 2s. 6d.

Blackie's Gaelic Reader Leabhar IV., 2s.

An Dileab, 1s. 6d.

A Gaelic Dictionary,

JUNIOR CLASS.

Reid and MacLeod's Elementary Course, 2s. 6d.

An Ceud Cheum (Blackie and Son), 6d.

Leabhar na Cloinne Bige, 7d.

SINGING CLASS.

A' Choiris Chìùil, 3s.

Orain a' mhoid VII., 1s.

Obtainable from Messrs. MacLaren, 360 Argyle Street, Glasgow.

Recommended for theoretical study—

"The School Teachers' Music Guide," by

L. C. Venerables, 6s.

"School Teachers' Music Certificates Studies" by L. C. Venerables, 2s.

"Fifty Steps in Sight Singing," by Arthur Somervell, 9d.

Published by Curwen, 24 Berners Street, London, W.1.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BALVRAID.—The Balvraid Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, held a ceilidh in Balvraid School on Friday, March 14th. Dr. MacIaichlan, Dornoch, presided over a large and appreciative audience. The proceedings opened with the rallying song of An Comunn. The chairman then gave a short and interesting address which was followed by a varied and greatly appreciated programme. All the performers acquitted themselves well, and were repeatedly encored. In the course of the evening, Mr. John N. Macleod, Kirkhill, gave a rousing address both in Gaelic and English, and urged parents to press upon Education Authorities the necessity of having Gaelic taught in the schools. Mr. Macleod interspersed his remarks with several amusing stories which greatly delighted the audience. Mr. Campbell, banker, Lairg, also addressed the meeting and conveyed to them the good wishes of Mr. MacNeill, Lairg, who was unable to be present owing to indisposition. Mr. H. F. Campbell, Dornoch, was also unable to be present. After the usual votes of thanks, a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

BUTE.—Mr. Hugh MacCorquodale F.S.A. (Scot.), "Fingal," delivered a most entertaining and informative lecture to the members of the branch on "Evan MacColl" the Lochfyne Bard. Captain James Kennedy president occupied the chair. To a large audience in Tower Street Hall the Rev. Alexander MacKenzie, M.A., of North Bute, delivered a highly interesting lecture at the following meeting on "Tales from the Campbell Country," to members and friends of Comunn Gaidhealach Bhoìd. In the absence of Capt. James Kennedy, the chair was occupied by Hon. Sheriff-Substitute William Lyle, J.P., vice-president. Speaking first in Gaelic, the lecturer dealt at some length with the Campbell country situated in Mid-Argyll. The lecturer, was given a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Mr. J. C. Maclean. A short musical programme followed. To a large audience at the fortnightly meeting of the Branch, in Tower Street Hall, Rothesay, Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow, delivered an interesting lecture on the above subject. Capt. James Kennedy occupied the chair, and in introducing the lecturer referred to his enthusiasm as a Gaelic propagandist, and welcomed him on his first appearance before Rothesay Gaels. Referring to the Gaelic Proverbs, Mr. MacDonald said that all nations possessed similar "sayings," and that the greatest philosophers of their day made an extensive study of them. Gaelic Proverbs were of great antiquity, their authors being entirely unknown. Mr. MacDonald quoted many of the proverbs and explained their meaning. "Cha naon an Boid uile tha n' t'òile the beagan dheth sa Chumbrà" (It is not in Bute that all evil is found, there is a little in Cumbrae), referred to the Brandans who were known to the Northern Highlanders as Gaidheal Dhubh Broid (Black Highlanders of Bute), who carried out notorious raids on the mainland.

DUNOON.—The Rev. Gillespie Campbell, Paisley, was the lecturer at the monthly meeting of the Dunoon branch. The Rev. Mr. Campbell delivered a very scholarly address on Celtic culture to a large and appreciative audience. In closing, Mr. Campbell made a very strong appeal to the younger members of the audience, not only to help to carry on the great traditions of the race, but to make every endeavour to add to the store of Celtic literature, music, or art.

Mr. J. MacCallum, Innellan, in proposing a vote of thanks intimated his desire to offer four book prizes for the best essays written on the subject of Mr. Campbell's address. A nicely varied musical programme was afterwards sustained.

FORT WILLIAM.—The Very Rev. Canon MacMaster presided over a large gathering of the Communn Abrach, when the Rev. Cyril Dieckhoff gave a Gaelic lecture on sketches of life in Russia and in the Highlands among the country people 60 years ago. The lecture was much appreciated, and a very hearty vote of thanks was given to the lecturer. Pipe and violin music followed with many songs, grave and gay. A record audience dispersed after singing the National Anthem.

GLENORCHY.—A Gaelic reading class has been inaugurated by the branch. Over thirty members have already enrolled, and good progress is being made under the able tuition of Rev. J. MacPherson and Mr. A. Murray.

LEWIS.—The members of the Lewis Branch were entertained to an evening of literary fare at their last meeting. Well prepared papers of a varied nature were submitted, and these, along with appropriate songs, were very much enjoyed and appreciated.

LOCHABER.—Under the auspices of the local branch the Rev. R. B. Crawford, Kilmalie, read a very pleasing and humorous lecture on Witchcraft in the Highlands. His remarks were followed with close attention, and thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience present. A musical programme followed.

LOCHDONHEAD.—Mrs. J. B. Dunlop (Miss Cathie M. Clark) completed a very successful term of tuition in the district, and as a result of her services much enthusiasm has been created. The end of class concert happily reflected the interest being taken in Gaelic affairs, and the quality of the fare submitted indicated the progress made under Mrs. Dunlop's guidance. Mr. Charles Campbell, Glasgow, Convener of the Propaganda Committee presided, and Mr. John MacPhee, Glasgow, along with Mrs. Dunlop contributed to the evening's enjoyment with several well rendered solos.

LOCHGILFHEAD.—Comunn Gàidhealach Cheann Lochgill held a well-attended Ceilidh in support of the "Evan MacColl" Memorial Fund in the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, 19th March. Mr. D. Grant presided, and introduced the Rev. J. Cameron, B.D., Glassary. After Mr. Cameron had made fitting reference to the proposed memorial, he spoke of his own experiences in the Highlands and Islands, and related tales of the kind which used to be told at Ceilidhs. On the motion of the Chairman, Mr. Cameron was thanked for his entertaining address. A very pleasing and nicely varied programme of Gaelic and English songs, together with instrumental music was then proceeded with. As a result of the Ceilidh, the Committee will be able to send a good contribution to the "Evan MacColl" Memorial Fund.

NAIRN.—The second ceilidh held under the auspices of the recently formed Nairn branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach proved a highly enjoyable and successful function. Mr. J. Urquhart, Rawcliffe, presided over a gathering of about 200, and a truly Highland feeling prevailed, the pleasing accent of the Gael being audible in every corner of the room. Mr. Urquhart was in his happiest mood and made an excellent Chairman. Descendant though he be of Highland stock, he regretted his inability to speak Gaelic fluently, but he made good

use of the words and phrases which he does possess in that language, and kept the audience in high good humour throughout the evening. A musical programme was pleasingly contributed, most of the songs rendered being in Gaelic, a most gratifying feature being that all the soloists were young folks, who proved themselves well versed in the ancient language. Their efforts were much appreciated, and they had all to respond to demands for an encore. A bagpipe selection by Piper James Forsyth gave the ceilidh a rousing beginning, and the following helped greatly towards keeping the Celtic spirit aglow—Misses Eila Ness, Jessa Dallas, Kate Macdonald, Phemie Maclean, Jessie Watson, Effie Mackenzie, Master Ian Macdonald, and Mr. Murdo Macgregor. Mrs. Mackenzie, Lodgehill, wife of the President, contributed two pianoforte selections in delightful manner, while the President gave a Gaelic reading. Mr. T. W. Hoare told a number of humorous stories in his own inimitable manner, and Mr. Aeneas Mackintosh briefly addressed the gathering in Gaelic. The accompaniments to the singers were sympathetically played by Miss E. Munro and Mr. H. G. Hill. At an interval tea, with oat cakes, floury scones, and other homely fare, was handed round by Mrs. Mackenzie, Mrs. Greig, Miss Baillie, Miss M'Hardie, Miss Macdonald, and a number of assistants, and the ladies were heartily complimented on the excellence of their purveying. Splendid arrangements for the ceilidh were made by the Secretary, Mr. A. Stewart, who, along with Mr. A. Macdonald, accorded a warm welcome to all as they entered the room. Votes of thanks, proposed by Mr. George Wilson Auldearn, Mr. J. Dallas, and Mr. A. Rose, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a very enjoyable function to a close. The Gaelic Reading Class has an attendance of over seventy.

VALE OF LEVEN.—A crowded attendance welcomed the members of the Paisley Oakshaw Gaelic Club at the fortnightly meeting of the Vale of Leven Branch. Mr. John R. Bannerman, president, occupied the chair, and a lengthy programme of songs and instrumental music was sustained by the members of the club.

WICK.—The concluding public ceilidh for the current session, under the auspices of Wick branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach, was held in the North Parish Church Hall on Wednesday evening, 26th February. Owing to various counter attractions, the attendance was not quite so large as on previous occasions; still there was a fair and very appreciative audience. Rev. Donald Morrison, M.A., presided, and in his opening remarks, said that when he first came to Wick he was surprised and very pleased to find that a flourishing branch of An Comunn existed in the town. An excellent musical programme was submitted and much enjoyed. Solos, many of them of Highland sentiment, were sung by Miss M. Donaldson, Miss Dulcie Alexander, and Miss K. McKenzie; also by Mr. Tom Mathieson (humorous); and delightfully humorous readings were given by Mr. George Miller, J.P., Refaithy. Miss M. S. Henderson played violin selections with her usual excellence, and Piper W. Coghill gave stirring bagpipe music. Mrs. Gilbertson was the accompanist. In the second part of the programme all the artistes were heartily encored and kindly responded. Tea was served during an interval by the ladies and gentlemen of the Committee. The usual votes of thanks were cordially given, and the ceilidh closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

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Leabhar XXV.]

An Cèitein 1930.

[Earrann 8

FOGHLUM ANNS A' GHAIDHEALTACHD.

Tha crìoch àraidh anns an amharc aig luchd foghlum anns a' Ghaidhealtachd dìreach mar tha aca an àiteachan eile. Is e sin, an òigridh a theagasg anns an dòigh is fearr gus am buadhan eideachadh, agus gus an ullachadh a chum obair is dleasdanas an uair a thig iad gu inbhe. Tha caochladh ùr a' dol a thighinn air riaghladh an fhoghlum. A' chionn gu bheil a' chùis so glé chudthromach, is ceart gum biodh muinntir a' gabhail beachd air na tha a' tachairt. Chan eil fathast ach beagan is leth cheud bliadhna o ghabh an Stàit gnothuch ri foghlum ann ar dùthaich. Roimhe sin, mar tha fhios againn, cha robh ann ach sgoil na sgìre, sgoil nan eaglaisean. Bha na sgoilean sin gun teagamh a' deanamh gu h-iongantach, an uair a bheir sinn faineas gach leth-sgod is uireas-bhuidh a bha orra.

Thàinig an sin Bòrd na Sgoile, agus sheas e fad ginealaich. Rinneadh caochladh eile o chionn dà bhliadhna dheug air ais. Agus am bliadhna tha atharrachadh ùr a' tachairt. Chan ann idir a' chionn is nach robh iad a' deanamh an oibreach gu maith, a tha Ughdarras an Fhoghlum a' tighinn gu crìch. Is ann a tha iad a' crìochnachadh a' chionn gu bheil iad air an gabhail a stigh ann a' lagh ùr a tha a' cur rian ùr air nìthibh coitcheinn na dùthcha, mar tha cisean, rathaidean móra, lagh nam bochd, léighean is luchdgleidhidh na sìthe, agus gach deireas a bhuineas do na meanglain sin gu léir. Tha cuid a' cur air a' mhana nach eil e ceart cùis an fhoghlum a chur fo'n aon cheann ri rathaidean móra no ris na

meanglain eile. Ach an ùine ghoirid chì sinn cia mar bhitheas. Is gann gu bheil sinn idir cinnteach gur e so an caochladh deireannach.

Faodar clann na Gaidhealtachd a roinn 'n an dà bhuidheann. Tha againn air tìs an fheadhainn aig nach eil Gaidhlig. Buinidh iad sin do theaglaichean Gallda, no do phàrantan a chail an cuid Gaidhlig, no nach do theagaisg i do'n cloinn. Co dhù tha dà bhuidheann ann — an fheadhainn aig nach eil eòlas air Gaidhlig, agus an fheadhainn aig a bheil i mar chainnt mhàtharail. Faodar a' cheud bhuidheann a theagasg air an aon ruith ri clann nan Gall. Agus cha leig sinn a leas eagal a bhi oirnn nach dean iadsan cho maith ri òigridh na Galldachd. Ma ghabhar Teisteanais na Fàgail mar dheuchainn tha uiread dhiu sin a' tighinn do'n Ghaidhealtachd 's a tha 'dol gu sgoilean an taoibh deas. Tha uiread a' tighinn gu Academy Inbhirneis is a tha gu Ard Sgoil Ghlascho. Agus anns na h-oilthighean tha na foghlumaichean o'n Ghaidhealtachd aig nach eil Gaidhlig, a' seasamh an scas fhéin a cheart cho greimeil ri òigridh na Galldachd.

Ach is i a' cheist an diugh anns a' Ghaidhealtachd cia mar is fhearr is urrainear an leanabh Gaidhealach a chuideachadh thairis air a' chnap starra a thachras ris a' cheud latha a theid e do'n sgoil. Is e an cnapstarra sin, gu bheil eòlas ga thabhairt am Beurla, an uair nach eil aig an leanabh ach Gaidhlig. Tha inntinn an leinibh so ann an ceò fad bliadhna no dhà, gus an tòisich e ri beagan de Bheurla a thuigsinn. Is maith a tha cuimhne againn air so. Agus tha a' chùis fhathast a cheart cho fada air ais, ach a mhàin anns na sgoilean sin an Siorramachd Inbhirneis agus an àitean tearc eile, far a bheil an t-òide comasach air

labhairt an Gaidhlig ris an leanabh. Ged nach biodh ùidh sam bith air a' Ghaidhlig a chumail beò mar chànan, gídhheadh bu chòir ceartas a chumail ris a' chloinn aig nach eil cainnt ach i, an uair a theid iad air tùs do'n sgoil. Air sgàth na cloinne féin, agus a chum cothrom a thabhairt dhaibh aig toiseach an chursa foghlaim, bu chòir gu faigheadh iad a' cheud cheum de'n eideachadh troimh chànan a thuigear aid. Tha sinn dearbhta gu bheil toinnisg anns a' bheachd so; agus gu bheil mi-cheartas agus aineolas anns an dòigh a bha coigriche a' sparradh air clann na Gaidhealtachd o chionn corr is leth cheud bliadhna.

Agus tha caochladh eil a' dol a thachairt, mar tha glé choltach. Is e sin gu bheil aois na sgoile gu bhi air a togail gu còig bliadhna deug. An uair a tha a leithid sin a' tachairt, is dualach gun cuireadh An Comunn ceist air luchd stùiridh an fhoghlaim. Is dualach gum biodh An Comunn eudmhor, feuch ciod e a' bhuaidh a bhiodh aig ardachadh na h-aois air teagasg na Gaidhlig anns na h-ard sgoilean. Mas e is gu bheil oigridh Gaidhealach gan cumail anns a' sgoil gus am bi iad còig bliadhna deug, is bochd a' chùis mur bi an cainnt mhàtharail air aon de na cuspairean a bhios iad a' foghlum. Gheibheadh iad tuilleadh buannachd do'n inntinn o bhi a' leughadh litreachas an sluaigh féin, na gheibheadh iad o iomadh cuspair a tha an diugh air clar-iomairt nan sgoilean. Tha sinn an dòchas gum bi An Comunn furachail gus an cothrom so a ghlacadh, agus còir na canain a thagairt an dcaigh am.

tations of the available records; and regarding Mr. Erskine—as I have always regarded him—as an earnest student of the Scottish Past, I take cognisance of his deductions with the utmost respect. But I am nevertheless persuaded that the weight of authority justifies, rather than otherwise, those assumptions of mine from which Mr. Erskine seeks to dissent.

Mr. Erskine's first counter-proposition is that the consolidation of the Scottish Kingdom was not effected under Kenneth Macalpine, "but nearly four hundred years after in the reign of Alexander II., when Northern resistance to the South was finally broken down." The consolidation to which my reference applied "did not affect" Mr. Erskine claims "more than Southern Pictland." Mr. Erskine, I feel sure, does not desire to introduce into the discussion the element of the Norse occupation of the Western and Orkney Islands and the mainland seaboard of the North and West: for this occupation was not really effective until long after the death of Kenneth Macalpine. The first Scoto-Pictish King died A.D. 859 and, earlier seizures by freebooting Vikings notwithstanding, the dominion of the Northmen did not actually commence, according to the chronology of Dr. George Henderson, a conspicuously exact scholar, until "somewhere between 870 and 888." Then there is the other factor that in the war of the Picts and Scots which preluded consolidation the Northmen were allies of the Scots. I quote from the Chronicle of Huntingdon, and I make the observation that not only does the Chronicle bear witness to the alliance of Northman and Scot, but it testifies besides to the completeness of the victory of King Kenneth over his Pictish antagonists. "In the seventh year of his (King Kenneth's) reign the Danish sea rovers," so runs the Chronicle, "occupied the Pictish territories and routed the Pictish defenders with immense slaughter. Thereupon, King Kenneth crossing over into the remaining territories of the Picts, turned his arms against them, slew many of them, and put the rest to flight. And thus he was the first King of the Scots who acquired the monarchy of the whole of Alban, which is now called Scotia, and therein at first he ruled over the Picts." Now, Fordun recognises the authority of the Chronicle of Huntingdon, and I might well depend upon the Chronicle and the ancient annalist for authentication of the passage in the Talk that "in the ninth century Gadhelic and Pictish Scotland were included into one Kingdom under Kenneth Macalpine." But I find that Robertson, an author for whom, when his con-

EARLY SCOTTISH HISTORY.

Picts, Scots and Gaelic.

Dear Sir,—Permit me now shortly to examine the objections in the February issue of *An Gaidheal*, by the Hon. Ruairidh Erskine to certain historical assumptions in the Wireless Talk by me in December last. As I acknowledged in the March number, Mr. Erskine has raised issues of a profoundly interesting sort, and I am under obligation to Mr. Erskine, in that he has constrained me to a re-examination of the authorities which I had in my mind when I prepared the Talk.

Viewing our ancient annals, in the light of modern research, it would be presumption to dispute the possibility of varying interpre-

clusions are not oppugned by more recent research, I have the like respect that Mr. Erskine discloses, gives, in his "Early Kings," testimony to the conquests of Kenneth Macalpine, which give them wider scope than does the Chronicle itself. The "Scottish King," Robertson tells, "proved equal to the occasion, and six times leading his followers across the 'Scots Water' he repulsed the Britons, harried the Lothians, burnt Dunbar, and seized upon Melrose stifling any doubts about his claim to the throne in the plunder of the fertile Lowlands of Saxony" (the ancient name of the Lothians).

It is proper, in citing Robertson, to recall, that I did not, and could not suggest that Kenneth, while uniting Pict and Scot in one kingdom, embraced in his new dominion the Britons of Strathclyde and the Angles of the Lothians: nor be it said, was I unconscious of the probability that there were portions of the consolidated Kingdom itself where, in modern phrase, the King's writ did not immediately run. That there was sporadic revolt in different portions of King Kenneth's new dominion it is not difficult to conceive. But the circumstance, acknowledging its presence, does not attenuate in the smallest degree the persistent affirmations of annalist and historian that Kenneth Macalpine, to quote a recent authority of high repute, Professor Hume Brown, "became ruler of the united Picts and Scots who were never again to exist as separate nations." It cannot, of course, be questioned that Alexander II. (to whom Mr. Erskine ascribes the consolidation of Scotland) performed much towards the unification of the Scottish people just as his son Alexander III. accomplished the termination of Norse rule except in the Orkney islands. But it is a fair statement of the beneficent results of the reign of Alexander II. that he confirmed rather than expanded the sovereignty which Kenneth Macalpine had established over Pict and Scot and which, in 1018, was, by the strong arm of Malcolm II., extended to the territory of the Angles of Lothian and, in 1034, was further extended to include Strathclyde by Duncan, the grandson of Malcolm, who thus, 170 years before Alexander commenced his reign "became," to quote Principal Rait, "King of the whole of modern Scotland."

Mr. Erskine's next position is that "historically speaking there was no such thing as a separate Pictish language," and he demurs in consequence to my statement that Gaelic contains, to its enrichment, certain words,

which derive from the old language of the Picts. "The language spoken within Pictland in historic times was," according to Mr. Erskine, "Gaelic," and, collating this declaration with the anterior sentence which denies a separate Pictish language, the only possible interpretation of Mr. Erskine's argument is that Gaelic was the mother tongue of Pict and Scot alike. I remark, of course, the elasticity of Mr. Erskine's phrase, "historic times," but I think I fairly translate his contention to be that there is no evidence that, prior to the Dalriadic migration, there was any language spoken in Pictish Scotland but that same Gaelic which was the speech of those Dalriads who, in the event, supplied the dynasty which ruled the two peoples. Did Mr. Erskine's position be that Gaelic and Pictish were two sub-divisions of a common Celtic root there would be no substantial difference between us: but even then it would need to be remembered that sub-divisions—call them dialects if one will—of a root language may develop into forms of speech which in the mouth of one division of a race may become as unintelligible to another division of the same race as if each dialect belonged to a separate group of languages. A Swede consequently finds it impossible to make his Swedish understood by a Norwegian or a Dane, and that in spite of the common origin of the three northern tongues. Similarly, we have it on the authority of Adamnan (Vol. I Cap. 33, and Vol. III., Cap. 32) that St. Columba whose language, of course, was Gaelic, found it necessary in Skye, and in another province of Pictland, to employ an interpreter through whom to communicate the Evangel. And, as Dr. Scott points out, "Adamnan, writing, as he did, a hundred years after the time of St. Columba gives his readers to understand that there was a difference between the speech of Pictland and the speech of the Gaidheals, because he explains how a certain place was named in the dialect of the natives, and how another place was named in Gaidhealic." (Adamnan I., Caps 33, 46). Dr. M'Bain and Dr. William MacKay, distinguished Celtic scholars both, are, like Dr. Scott, in full agreement with the conclusion so well justified by Dr. Watson in his "Celtic Place Names" (p. 126), "that whatever language the Picts spoke it was different from Gaelic," which is, as nearly as may be, the assertion in my Broadcast Talk.

Then with respect to the survival, to which I made allusion, of certain Pictish words in Gaelic speech, Dr. Watson and Dr. M'Bain both give several of these and there is a con-

siderable number in Rev. Dr. Scott's notable work on the Pictish Nation. I make excerpt of certain words from Dr. Scott's list which are to-day in habitual use by Scottish Gaelic speakers. The terms I select are, some of them, bound up with an ecclesiastical significance now obsolete but all are embodied in modern Gaelic. Thus Annat, a central church where the relics of the founder were enshrined; Darach, meaning oak; Comraich, a sanctuary; Lios, an enclosure with a rampart; Dabhach, a measure of land; Pit, a share of land; and Preas, a bush. And I close this portion of the discussion with the suggestion that it would prove a cultural exercise of the highest value to our younger students of Celtic to search out and specify those words (I judge there are still many to detect) incorporated in Gaelic whose origin is unmistakably Pictish.

I trust that on reflection Mr. Erskine will have regretted his vehemence in disputing my affirmation that Queen Margaret introduced English as the language of the Scottish Court. For the authorities are capable of no other interpretation. It is not in dispute that Queen Margaret was determined to supersede the Celtic by the Roman Rite, and her biographer tells us (*Vita Margaretae*, Cap. IV.) that "at the principal council thus held she, and with a few of her own ecclesiastics contended for three days with the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, against the supporters of these strange customs; while her royal husband, who was equally well acquainted with the Anglic language and with his native Gaelic, acted as interpreter." When this passage is related to certain passages in Principal Rait's "Making of the Scottish Nations," the characterisation by Mr. Erskine of my assertion as "Myth" will be recognised as unwarranted. Principal Rait writes: "When the Queen held ecclesiastical councils to convince the Scottish clergy of the error of their ways, Malcolm himself had to interpret the arguments of his Consort and her English clerks. The Gaelic tongue was thus associated with the Celtic Church and the Queen waged a merciless and gradually successful war against both." I do not happen to have Professor M'Ewan's "Scottish Church History" at my hand, but I recall that the learned Professor, in a work which is scrupulously fair to all interests, describes the process commencing in Queen Margaret's time whereby, throughout large tracts of Scotland, Gaelic was superseded by Northern English. I am sorry I cannot follow Mr. Erskine when he asseverates that Gaelic was still in favour in royal "circles"

down to the time of the later Alexanders. I prefer Principal Rait's reading of the ancient story. He concludes his reference to Queen Margaret's war against Gaelic with the sentence, "The task (i.e., the complete supersession of Gaelic as the official language) was not accomplished in Margaret's life time, but the irrevocable step had been taken, and she left children to carry on the work." That English became the language spoken at Court in Queen Margaret's time is amply demonstrated from the two simple facts already elicited: (first), that the Queen and her entourage were ignorant of Gaelic; and (second), that King Malcolm was acquainted with the English tongue.

Yours faithfully,

J. MACMASTER CAMPBELL.

CAMPBELTOWN, 15th April, 1930.

CEIST NAN CEIST.

LE DONNCHADH MAC IAIN, ILE.

(A' cheud duais, Mod 1929.)

MAIRI MHOR—(*Ag obair feadh an tighe 's i a' bruidhinn ri the fhéin*)—Tha mi cho sean 's a tha mi, 's chan eil mi latha na 's sine, ach air mo bhoineid gu'n do rinn mi obair latha 'n diugh nach do rinn mi a leithid an dà latha so. Easan 's a cheistean! Nach robh mi cho searbh dheth 's a bha mi riamh de mo sheana bhrògan. 'G am ruith do Choinne-nan-Ceist ceart mar a ruagas an cibeir ruadh 's a chuid chon truaghan caora a steach do'n fhang. Ach mo ghille math! "Rinn mi an gnothach ort an diugh, mar thubhairt an sionnach ris a' choileach dhubh."

Och, a chlann bheaga 's a dhaoine móra, nach ann agamsa tha an taobhar air bhi taingeil! Gu sìorruidh tuille cha bhi mise 'n am chulaidh-mhagaidh agaibh a' gaireachdaich air a h-uile facal a thuiteadh o'm bhilean, uibhir agus gu robh móran feala-dha is làn-aighear r'a fhaotainn ann an ceistean beannaichte na *caraisde*. Thachair an Ceistear, Alasdair sgìobalta fhéin, orm an diugh 's a' mhaduinn air cùl a' chnuic bhig is mi tighinn as a' bhlàr mhòna, agus o'n a bha an t-àm 's an t-àite cho freagarach 's gun chù no duine 's an éisdeachd, thairg mi dha cearc-nan-eun air bhann gu leigeadh e leam cead mo chois, saor o choinne-nan-ceist. Bha iomadh och' is ach aige ach air an deireadh thall strìochd e agus, a nis, a phaisdean, gheibh an Ceistear cearc-nan-eun le fùchdan fàilte 's gheibh Màiri Mhór fois!

(*Suidhidh Màiri gu socair 's i pasgadh a lèmhann. Thig buille chruaidh do'n doras. Màiri ag èirigh 's i bruidhinn rithe fhéin*)—Och, Och, fois! An dubhairt mise fois 's nach b'aithne dhomh riamh aona-chuid fois no clos! (*Fosglaidh an doras*).

AN CEISTEAR—A bheil thu stigh, a Mhàiri, a ghalad?

MAIRI—Tha mi, Alasdair. Thig a nuas is dean suidhe.

AN CEISTEAR—Agus dé mar tha thu a' cumail, a Mhàiri?

MAIRI—Tha dùil agam nach d' éirich driad-fhortan 's am bith dhomh o' mhaduinn, is bhiodh e dàna dhomh bhì a' gearan (tapadh leatsa) cho fada 's a cheadaicheas an Cruith-fhear dhomh bhì gluasad. Tha mi an dòchas nach eil car cearr ort fhéin, Alasdair, ged is beag a shaoil mi nach bitheadh tu air tòir na cìrce brice cho èasgaidh.

AN CEISTEAR—Tha mise, taing do'n Fhreasdail, an còir a' chothroim, gu robh math agadas, a Mhàiri.

MAIRI—Nach mi tha toilichte gu'n d' thainig thu, Alasdair. Cuidichidh tu leam greim fhaotainn air a' chirc bhrìc. Tha i cho euthaich an dràsda 's gu saoilleadh tu gu robh an dashealladh aice, mar a bha aig MacAoidh na Ranna, 's gu robh fhios aice gu robh mi an dùil dealachadh rithe.

AN CEISTEAR—Cearc bhreac na dunach! Chan e aona-chuid cearc dhubbh no dhonn a thug mise 'n rathad so an diugh ach mo chogais is mo dhleasdanas.

MAIRI—Ha, ha! Nach dubhairtheadh riut! "Co shaoileadh gu robh laogh 's a ghamhainn."

AN CEISTEAR—Chan 'eil baotherachd a chum éifeachd, agus tha e mar fhiachaibh ormsa m'fhacal saor a bhì agam nach do rinneadh dearmad ortsa seach aon de'n fheadhainn eile.

MAIRI—O shiorruidh!

AN CEISTEAR—Ciod e tha an t-Seachdamh Aithne a toirmeasg dhuinn, a Mhàiri?

MAIRI—O rìgh! Fhearaihb 's a dhaoine! Nach e sin an gnothach a' cheist sin fhaigh-neachd dhiomsa an deidh na thachair eadar thu fhéin is mise air cùl a' chnuic bhig air moch eiridh mhaduinn an diugh!

AN CEISTEAR—Ged bha mise cho socharach 's gu'n do cheadaich mi dhuit fuireach a Coinnean-ceist, gidheadh, chan eil mi a' tighinn an cois m'fhacail air dhoigh 's am bith le tighinn agus na ceistean a chur ort air clach-an-teintean agad fhéin.

MAIRI—Obh, Obh! A chiall O! "B'e sin mo losgadh 's gun mo chur air teine." Chan eil ann dhomhsa ach "O'n droighinn gus na dreasan." Direach "bata fada, cam, agus bata cam, fada."

AN CEISTEAR—So agad ma ta, ceist bheag fhurasda—Ciod e crìoch àraid an duine?

MAIRI—(*Gu frìonasach*)—Tri chàird anairt is da dhéile giubhais.

AN CEISTEAR—Ud, Ud! Nach e sin a' chainnt, a Mhàiri!

MAIRI—Cainnt ann no as 's e sgailc-mhullaich na firinn a th'ann co dhiubh, mar is math tha fhios agad is a liuthad faireiridh aig an robh thu.

AN CEISTEAR—Saoil thusa ma tà, a Mhàiri, a bheil fhios agad ciod e tha an Ceathramh Aithne ag iarraidh?

MAIRI—Muire tha, a ghaolach; barrachd 'sa gheibh i! Tha, mo chreach, sin seachad oirre tuille. Chan eil ann an diugh ach bàtan, carbadan, cleasan, iomairt, cluiche 's peasanachd de gach seorsa, mar gu'm biodh gach duine air bàinidh airson a' bhuille-bhàis a thabhairt do'n t-Sàbaid mu chlàr-an-dealain agus cur as di air fad. Mo thruaigh! Mo thruaigh! C'aite bheil sàmhear is suaimheas an Domhnaich a nis? Is cuimhne leamsa an uair a bha mi am chaile bheag nach robh a chridhe againn dol do'n tobair airson cuinneag uisge air latha na Sàbaid ged a robh muinntir an tighe air tràsgadh le pathadh. "As a so suas" theireadh m'athair gu stòlda, "cha dean sibh dearmad air gach goireas is deireas de'n t-seorsa sin a sholar gach Sathurna." Ach an diugh nach ann a chi sinn am foirbheach caol a' tarruing uisge na crannaige as an fhuaran air Dia-domhnaich! An tuathanach gailda le charbad-each a' gleadhraich 'sa straihlich a sìos an rathad mór. Cibeirean a mach ri leitr nam beann a feadaich 'sa rànaich mar nach robh latha eile ri tighinn. Uaislean an Tighe-mhóir le'n carbad theinidh a' falbh do'n t-searmoin; "tethfuar" 'na shuidhe 's an. . .

AN CEISTEAR—Chauffeur, a Mhàiri! Chauffeur!

MAIRI—Seadh, seadh, 'tethfuar'; nach e sin a thubhairt mi! Na abair thusa, Alasdair, big ris an eun gus an tig e as an ubh! Agus mar bha mi ag radh; 'tethfuar' 'na shuidhe 's an toiseach, làmh aige 's an stiuir agus an làimh eile a slor phlùchadh bolg na dùdaiche uamhasaich tha an sud, o'n a dh'fhalbhas e gus an till e mar gu'm biodh e air bàinidh fios a leigeil do'n t-saoghal uile cho furasda 'sa tha e dhasan an Dòmhnach a bhriseadh,

AN CEISTEAR—Tha mi ag aideachadh, a Mhàiri, nach 'eil agad ach cnaimh droma na firinne anns a h-uile facal a thubhairt thu, ach chan e sin freagairt na ceiste.

MAIRI—Ciod e's fheairde dhuitsa na dhomhsa bhi luaidh air na nithean tha an Ceathramh Aithne ag iarraidh agus fhios againn 'n ar cridheachan gu bheil na ceart nithean sin air an diùltadh agus air an toirmeasg dhi le cleachdaidhean na dùthcha.

AN CEISTEAR—Droch cleachdaidhean gun teagamh; ach is e na daoine òga, amaideach is coireach.

MAIRI—“Chan ann am Bód uile tha'n t-olc,” agus is e mo mhór bharail-sa gu bheil iomadh spalpanach feusagach 'nam measg a thainig gu aois is inbhe. Daoine crìochnaichte bu chòir bhi aig tuigse 's aig ciall agus càch a theagasg gu stuamachd is measarrachd; ach, mo chreach, an aite sin nach ann a chithear iad a' geadais ris na gòragan truagha sin á Glaschu, na “Flabbaran” mar a theirear riutha.

AN CEISTEAR—Flappers!

MAIRI—(*Gu crosda*)—Nach e sin a thubhairt mi! Na bi thusa ag aithris-bhenlain ormsa, Alasdair. “Cha deachaidh ceann riamh air Tigh-a-mhagaidh.”

AN CEISTEAR—Och, gabh mo leisgeul, a Mhàiri. Cha robh slon agam foidhe; ach nach treun leatsa nach 'eil am ministear a' cur gun-odhar na h-eaglaise air a' ghràisg ud!

MAIRI—Am Ministear! An duine laghach. Gu dearbh chan eil farmad agam ris. Nach 'eil e gun tàmh gun fhois a' breabadh 's a smhìdeadh na crannaige ag innseadh an call 's an cunnart dhoibh; ach bhiodh e cho math dha “bhi tumadh a chorràig 's an luathre.” Daoine gheibh blas air sòlasan saoghalta chan ann “gun fhuaim greinge” a ghabhas iad aonachaid tilleadh na iompachadh.

AN CEISTEAR—Glé cheart, a Mhàiri.

MAIRI—Cho ceart 'sa ghabhas e bhithe! Nach fhaic thu (chan ann a choimeas duine ri beathach) gach spréidh agus treud a gheibh blas aon uair air gart is gann gu'n gabh iad cumail as tuille, ged is iomadh uair a ni iad coire orra fhein le bhi sàsachadh an clocrais tuille 'sa chòir. Tha dùil agam fhéin nach 'eil daoine air an talamh cho sàraichte ri na buachaillan.

AN CEISTEAR—(*A' seinn*)—

“'Sì obair na dunach a' bhuachailleachd,
Seach obair a chunna na chuala mi;
Gur mór a ghabh mi de fhuath oirre
'S mi fuar am fàsghadh cruaidh mhòna.”

MAIRI—B'fhìor dha sin, theid mise 'n urras! Nach fhaic thu, gu ruige na cearcann agam, cha ghabh iad cumail á cron. Cha luaithe bheir an tàilleir bochd cùl a chinn ris a' ghàradh na tha iad a stigh 'g an criadair is 'g an cluaid-eachadh fhéin mar gu'm biodh iad a' gabha tlachd mòr ann a bhi deanamh gach milleadh air na geadan is urrainn dhoibh.

AN CEISTEAR—Tha toil-inntinn aca ann an deanamh an uile, mar gu'm b'eadh.

MAIRI—Direach! Tha iad air am bruideadh leis a cheart bhruideig a tha bioradh 'sa buair-eadh na gràisg ud eile gu bhi truaillleadh gach reachd is riaghailt air ghaol bhi sàsachadh an càil 's an clocrais mi-nadurra air sòlasan faoine anns nach 'eil math 's am bith ach mòran coire 's croin. Chan 'eil fhios agam de tha an saoghal so tighinn g'a ionnsuidh idir. Tha daoine an déidh am “maidean a leigeil le sruth.”

AN CEISTEAR—Thaining iomadh caochladh^o air an t-saoghal o'n bha thu fhein is mise òg, a Mhàiri.

MAIRI—(*A' toirt godadh air a ceann*)—“Chan eil carraig air nach caochail sruth” is chan eil sinn cho sean 's nach deanamaid maorach fhathast.

AN CEISTEAR—Dheanadh ri reothairt, ach cha dean ri conn-traigh.

MAIRI—(*A' tabhairt osann aise*)—Och, Och, Alasdair! Saoilidh mi gun ann an dé bha thu fhéin is mise a' dol do'n sgoil combhla.

AN CEISTEAR—(*A' tarruing a chathrach rudan beag na's dlùithe do Mhàiri*)—Och, a Mhàiri! Nach minig mi cuimhneachadh air na laithean sona sin. A bheil beachd agad air an latha phòg mi thu an uair a thuit am bad shobhrachan ort anns an linne dhuibh?

MAIRI—(*A' suathadh a sìrlean le neapaicin*)—Gu sìorruidh cha téid an latha sin air di-chuimhn Nach 'eil na sobhraichean agam fhathast gu gleidhteach, eadar duilleagan a' Bhiobuill; ach tha thusa is mise, Alasdair, 'n ar n-aonarain bhochd air seachran air a cheile, dìreach mar a thuit am facal—“An cù suas 's am fiadh sìos.”

AN CEISTEAR—(*A' tarruing oriomann beag eile na's dlùithe*)—“Is fearr treabhadh anmoch na gun treabhadh idir.”

MAIRI—“Is fhasa càl fuar a theòdhadh na càl ùr a dheanadh.”

AN CEISTEAR—(*A' tighinn na's dlùithe*)—Tha tighinn fodham ceist eile chur ort, a Mhàiri.

MAIRI—(*A' teannadh air falbh gu grad*)—Ceist fhad' ort! Nach 'eil mi seachd searbh dhiubh.

AN CEISTEAR—Ach is i so Ceist nan Ceist !

MAIRI—“Cluinneam thu,” mar thuit Calum bodhar ris a' chuthaig.

AN CEISTEAR—Tha druim an tighe agamsa air fàilneachadh. Tha am maide-droma ag aomadh. Feumaidh e lànain ùr airson a neartachadh. Tha spàrr agam fhéin agus tha mi a' faicinn gu bheil an leth-spàrr eile agadsa. An cuir thusa do spàrr-sa ri mo spàrr-sa chum is gu'n dean sinn lànain ùr do'n tigh ?

MAIRI—Ma ta, Alasdair a ghràidh, is mise chuireas, le fùchdan fàilte, agus fuaighidh am ministear beannaichte dhuinn iad ri a cheile, le tàirngnean nach meig !

AN CEISTEAR—Mar thuit mo laochan, Donnchadh Bàn—

“Le cùmhnantan teann 's le banntaibh daingean
Le snaim a dh'fhanas 's nach tréig.”

(Beiridh iad air làmhnan a chéile.)

SECRETARY'S TOURS.

The Singing Class, conducted by Mr. Hugh MacLean in Appin, closed with a concert on Friday, 21st March. There was a crowded attendance in the Hall, over which Mr. Duncan MacPherson, M.A., President of the local Branch, presided. I assisted with the programme and gave a short address. The Senior Choir members gave a splendid account of themselves in the rendering of several part songs.

On Monday (24th) I travelled to Craignure, Mull, and presided at a well attended ceilidh of the Torosay Branch in Lochdonhead School. The Gaelic Choir contributed Gaelic songs in a very pleasing manner. This combination has been kept in practice by Mr. Ferguson since Mrs. Dunlop's departure. I addressed the meeting, principally in Gaelic, urging them to keep together and hold their own with other Branches in the Island. Tea was served by the lady members.

I was due at Iona on the following evening (25th), and was fortunate enough to be allowed to join a party who were hiring from Craignure to Buessan, thus arriving at Fionphort at a much earlier hour and under much more comfortable conditions than by taking the mail car from Salen. I ferried to Iona and attended the meeting. There was a very good attendance, over which Mr.

Donald Black, local Secretary, presided. General regret was expressed at the absence of the President, Mr. Angus MacPhail, J.P., who was attending a meeting of the Education Authority in Glasgow. Miss Kirsty MacLennan, L.R.A.M., was present with some of her pupils, and assisted with the musical part of the programme.

I returned to Fionphort the following day (26th), and acceded to the request of local members of the Singing Class there to return and address a meeting on the following evening. I travelled per mail car to Salen, and there joined members of the local Branch who were travelling to attend the Annual Concert of the Tobermory Branch. Bailie Dugald MacQuarrie presided over a crowded attendance of members and friends of the Branch in the Aros Hall. Miss Margrat Duncan, Mr. Kenneth MacRae, and members of the Branch sustained the programme. The Gaelic sketch, “Réiteach Moraig,” was splendidly performed and enthusiastically received by the audience. I gave a short address in Gaelic and English, and later sang two songs. The gathering was in every way highly successful.

I returned to Salen with the same party and reached Fionphort by mail car on the evening of Thursday (27th). The journey back was a cold and unpleasant one, the transference of passengers and mails in the Bealach Mor, where a landslide had taken place, adding to the discomforts of the journey.

Over 70 people attended in Creich School, a truly excellent response to a short notice. Mr. Archibald MacDonald presided. I spoke at some length in Gaelic and read Kenneth MacLeod's “Earail do bhuill a' Chomuinn,” which was much enjoyed. Several solos were contributed by members of Miss MacLennan's Class. At the request of those present, I formed a Branch of An Comunn to be known as the Creich Branch. Mr. Archibald MacDonald is President and Miss Janet MacLean, “Mo Dhachaidh,” Fionphort, is Secretary and Treasurer. I am indebted to Miss MacLean for arranging the meeting and for her work in connection with the Singing Class conducted by Miss MacLennan, and which was very successful. I was informed that the pupils made splendid progress.

I attended the closing ceilidh of the Buessan Branch on Friday, 28th March. The play, “Am fear a chail a Ghaidhlig,”

was performed by the members and much enjoyed by the large company present. The meetings of this Branch are always well attended, and much of its success is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. John MacKechnie, headmaster, who has acted as Secretary for many years. Gaelic has been taught in Bunnessan School for a long period of years.

I returned home on Saturday, travelling *via* Craignure and Oban.

At the request of Mr. John MacBride, Brodick, I visited the Island of Arran on 3rd April. I was met on Brodick pier by Mr. MacBride, and after lunch in his house we motored to Shiskine, where we interviewed Mr. Angus Smith, headmaster. He agreed to help with a Branch and with a Singing Class. Our next call was at Pirmill, where we were assured by Mr. and Mrs. Anderson that they would help to the best of their ability when the time came to form a Singing Class. We continued our journey to Lochranza, calling on the Misses Kerr at the Anchorage. They were greatly pleased at the prospect of reviving the Gaelic Singing Class, and assured us of their whole-hearted support. We were refreshed by a cup of tea in the Hotel and completed our journey *via* Glen Sannox and Corrie, arriving in Brodick in ample time for the return journey by the steamer. We are much indebted to Mr. MacBride for his keen and practical interest in the Gaelic cause in Arran. It is confidently expected that a teacher of music will be sent to the Island of Arran early in October, and that, in addition to the places named, classes may be held in the larger villages of Brodick, Lamlash, and Whiting Bay, also at Kildonan or some near centre.

On the evening of 5th April, I journeyed to Stirling, accompanied by Miss Helen I. MacMillan. I had previously advertised in the local papers that a meeting would be held in the Y.M.C.A. Hut, Dumbarton Road, for the purpose of forming a Branch. There was a gathering of fully 70 people in the Hall, and Mr. J. J. Munro, publisher, was called to the chair. I spoke at considerable length on the objects of An Comunn and what it has already achieved for the preservation of Gaelic and, naturally, emphasised the importance of Branches and the great work they could do. On asking for a show of hands from those who favoured the establishment of a Branch the response was most emphatic. We proceeded to appoint office-bearers, and the Chairman, Mr. Munro, was appointed President; Mr.

John Stewart, Solicitor, Dunblane, Vice-President, and a Committee of eight. On the motion of Mr. Stewart, it was agreed to defer the appointment of Secretary and Treasurer to a later meeting, the reason being that the people present were strangers to one another, and they desired to have the best possible persons for these offices. Gaelic songs were sung by Miss MacMillan, Mrs. MacKintosh, and myself. In distributing leaflets on "Practical Reasons why Children should be taught Gaelic," I was agreeably surprised to observe that a large percentage of those present were native Gaelic speakers. A book was passed round for the names of prospective members, and when scrutinised on its return it contained 50 names and addresses. People were present from Dunblane, Bridge of Allan, Causewayhead, Cambusbarrow, Bannockburn, and, of course, a number from the town of Stirling. I am much indebted to Miss C. Richardson, Stirling, for carrying out all the local arrangements so splendidly, to Miss Edith L. O. Taylor, Dunblane, and to Mr. Munro for his help as Chairman of the meeting.

It was not possible for me in the time at my disposal on my previous journey to visit all the Branches in Mull, and I returned to preside at the closing concert of the Salen Branch on 10th April. The attendance was not up to the usual owing to many other counter attractions, but the fare provided by the members as soloists, instrumentalists, and in the performance of "Am fear a chail a Ghaidhlig," was of the usual high standard. Mr. Alex. MacFarlane, Vice-President, Mr. John Cameron, headmaster, and Miss Annie MacDougall, Secretary, with a Committee of willing workers, are deserving of great credit for their work in maintaining a high standard at all the meetings.

On Friday evening I proceeded to Ulva Ferry and attended the closing ceilidh of the local Branch. Mr. Clark, of Ulva, presided, and there was a splendid turnout, considering the small population of the district. The meeting was on the usual ceilidh lines, and the singing and Gaelic recitations were very fine. I addressed the meeting in Gaelic. This Branch has been meeting regularly each Friday evening during the winter session, and its meetings are very popular. This was my first visit since Dr. MacKay and I formed the Branch in January, 1922.

NIALL.



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OBITUARY.

It is with much regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Kenneth Macdonald, Contin, Strathpeffer. For many years Mr. Macdonald took part in the National Mod literary competitions, and only two years ago had the distinction of being awarded the gold pendant. Mr. Macdonald contracted a chill a few weeks ago with fatal consequences. Only a day or two before his death he completed the first draft of a poem with which he hoped to take part in this year's competitions. We express our sympathy with the brothers and sisters in the loss they have sustained.

BY THE EDITOR.

Air a' cheathramh latha de mhìos a' Ghiblein chumadh an dinneir bhliadhnail aig Comunn Gaidhlig Inbhirneis. Bha an ceann feadhna anns a' chathair, eadhon Macleòid, K.C.B., ceann cinnidh nan Leòdach. Labhair 'e gu fieleanta mu iomadh caochladh a chunnaic e fad cheithir fichead bliadhna. Thug e faineir guothuch a dh'aobhraich smuain do'n luchd èisdeachd mu dheidhinn fàsachadh na tìre, mar tha an sluagh a' fàgail na dùthaich. Thubhairt e gu robh cuimhne aige an uair a bhi sia mìle fichead de luchd-àitichidh anns an Eilean Sgitheanach. Chan eil ann an diugh ach trì mìle deug, gann is leth na h-àireamh. Tha an lughdachadh so a' sìor dhol air aghaidh. An ùine gun bhi fada bithidh an luchd-àitichidh tearc is gann. Tha so muladach ri beachdachadh air.

* * * * *

Thug an ceann cinnidh iomradh air an atharrachadh a thainig air gnàthan an t-sluaigh ri a linn féin. Labhair e mu'n chéilidh timchioll a' ghealbhaoin anns na tighean tughaidh, no na taighean "dubha," mar theirte riu. An uair a chruinnicheadh càirdean comhla, bhiodh iad sona ag innse nan sgeulachd, agus a' seinn nan òran. Ach dh'fhalbh na làithean sin buileach, ged a bha Comunn Gaidhlig Inbhirneis a' gleidheadh na h-eachdraidh air cuimhne. Leis na tighean ùra thainig dòighean ùra. O'n sguir an sluagh a bhi a' taghail air a chéile is gann gu bheil iad cho tlòrail ri chéile 's a bha iad. An àite sgeulachd aig céilidh is ann a thionndas iad gu s' bhrath chlis a dh'èisdeachd ri òraid o Lloyd George.

Aig a' chuirn cheudna thug an t-Urramach Ruairidh Mac Comhain òraid bhlasda seachad an Gaidhlig. Chuir e a bheachd an céill gum bu chòir Gaidhlig a bhi air a teagasg anns na sgoilean iosal mar ullachadh airson nan sgoilean arda. Thubhairt e gu bheil mòran de shaothair agus de dh'ùine 'gan caitheamh gu dlomhain le cloinn a tha a' togail Fraingeis, nach dean maith dhaibh air dhòigh sam bith. Bhiodh e fada na b'fhearr dhaibh eòlas a chur air an litreachas a tha ri fhaotainn 'nan cànanan féin—thuigeadh iad e, agus leanadh e riu mar oilean. Chuir àireamh mhòr de na bha làthair an làn aonta ri beachd an urramaich; oir ma tha sinn a' dol a chumail na cànan, is còir oidheirp dhìleas a dheanamh, agus rian glic a leantuinn.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Cabar Feidh,—An bhfuil an t-amhrán san in 'iomláine le fáil in aon leabhar dánta? No bhfuil leagan eile dhe ann? Measaim gur mar seo a bhiodh líne a 3 agus a 4 den 4ú rann ag Ruairidh an Bhinnis nuair a bhíodh sé ag amhránuocht do Chlanna Gaedhal ar an dtaobh so de Shruith na Maoile:

... "An t-Iarla Catach ruith e dhachaidh
Mun do las a dhàgachán..."

Ach is dócha go ghuifil cúpla leagan den amhrán ann, mar ata de gach amhrán eile a mhair i mbéalaibh daoine?

Ait-ainm. Bheinn fé chomaoín ag aon léighthóir a chuirfadh i gceill dom an ainm ata ag na seandaoine ar *Mingulay*? (Chan eil an ainm ann an sarleabhar úd, "C.P.N.S.," a rinn an t-Ollamh Uilleam féin.)

S.T.

i gCorcaigh, in Eirinn, 8/4/30.

Practical Reasons Why Children Should Be Taught Gaelic In Schools of the Highlands.

A special circular has been prepared by the Education Committee in Gaelic and English, giving practical reasons why Gaelic-speaking children should be taught Gaelic in the schools, and pointing out the material advantages derived from a literary knowledge of the language. This circular is available now. We will be glad to forward copies to any of our readers who may be interested.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF GAELIC LITERATURE.

Professor William J. Watson,
M.A., D. Litt. Celt., LL.D.

The leading article in last month's issue of *An Gaidheal* deserves the attention of all who take a practical interest in maintaining the Gaelic language. In that article it was pointed out with perfect truth that our Gaelic literature, on which we are accustomed to pride ourselves, is for the most part now out of print and inaccessible to the ordinary reader; it is becoming, if it has not already become, a matter of antiquarian interest, instead of being, as it ought to be, an active living force.

This applies both to Gaelic poetry and Gaelic prose. For the former we used to rely to a large extent on John Mackenzie's *Beauties of Gaelic Poetry*, which, notwithstanding many blemishes, was a work conceived on excellent lines, and very useful. It is now almost or quite unprocurable. In regard to prose, to take only one example, how many of the younger people have ever seen John F. Campbell's *Tales of the West Highlands*? Much of John F. Campbell's four volumes might be discarded or curtailed without loss; but if the Tales themselves were properly edited, what could be more suitable for giving, to our young folk especially, an introduction to the wonderful wealth of imaginative literature that has come down from their Gaelic ancestors?

The position is serious. When the Education Act of 1918 made the teaching of Gaelic compulsory within the Gaelic-speaking area, the scarcity of suitable textbooks was such that, on my own initiative, An Comunn Gaidhealach agreed to lend its assistance to securing a series of books graded from the infant classes upwards. A detailed syllabus of subjects was drafted by me for each of the books; the series was produced by Messrs. Blackie and Son, and has been in general use. But it was never intended, by me at least, that the schools should be practically confined to this series. Further books are needed as supplementary readers.

Again, when the question of including Gaelic as a subject for the Higher Grade Leaving Certificate was being discussed, the Education Department raised the objection of the lack of books suitably edited for the purpose, and Gaelic was recognised on the express understanding that such books would be forthcoming. The first paper in H.G. Gaelic was set in 1916, and the textbooks, *Rosg Gaidhlig* (1915), and *Bàrdachd*

Ghaidhlig (1918), published under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach, implemented to some extent the pledge given to the Department. These books, however, are meant for intensive study. An adequate equipment demands further literature, prose and poetry.

In University work the deficiency of texts is lamentable. In my own case, while there is no difficulty with regard to suitable material in Irish Gaelic, for Scottish Gaelic I have often had to type certain poems for use in class.

There is the further case of books for reading in connection with Branches of An Comunn Gaidhealach and other circles for the study of Gaelic, nor must the needs of private readers be forgotten.

Bricks are not made without straw, and Gaelic can not flourish without a literature. Prizes, bursaries, scholarships, and other encouragements are excellent as incentives, and as aids to studying the language; all praise to the generous donors! But without an adequate supply of the material to work upon, the result intended by such cannot be attained. A language without a literature is bound to wither.

There is still another aspect of the question, namely, the importance of encouraging our younger scholars to produce work worthy of their pains and their abilities. The study of the language at our Universities has given us not a few who, as I believe, are able and willing to edit Gaelic texts, given suitable encouragement. Scholarship is attained only by working at the subject; our young men need only a beginning at serious work: thig an itheadh air an imlich. The truth of this has been proved in Ireland. We in Scotland too may, if we go rightly about it, raise up a school of Scottish Gaelic not inferior to that of our brethren in Ireland.

As to the means to be used I make no suggestion at present, having already drawn the attention of An Comunn Gaidhealach to the importance and the urgency of the matter

SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

We regret that the time-table of above was erroneously given in our last number. There will be Senior and Junior Language Classes, and the Music Class will be conducted in the evenings as formerly.

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TIGHINN AN T-SAMHRAIDH.

Na h-uillt tha a' broidhinn mu'n t-Samhradh tha
'tighinn,

Le torman cho milis a' sìleadh o'n bheinn;
Le ouairteag is casag, troimh eagán 's mu chlachan,
Is sìrd orr' le cabhaig a' ruith troimh na glinn.

Tha sobhrach mu chraobhan, is neònan nan raontan,
Cur dreach air gach brauich is air cluaintean an fheadir;

Na h-còin 's iad ri cèileir, is drannan nan seillean,
Cur fonn air gach eile, 's an t-sealladh 'n ar còir.

Tha duilleach a' bharrach a' dlùthachadh thairis,
Air cnocan tha maiso is beothachadh mór,
Ar cridhe ri mire troimh aoibhneas nam fircach,
Le aonachd tha sìradh gu saoghal na glòir.

Tha dàdlachd a' Gheamhraidh air siubhal na deann-
roith,

'S an t-Earrach mar bhanrigh 'cur fiamh air
gach nì;

Mar theich gach droch fhoann, is gach teagamh bha
trom lonn,

A' mùigheadh dubh-lionn duinn, 's a milleadh ar
sith.

Le fuasgladh nan dùilean, 's na lusan a' dùsgadh,
Tha cadhòn mór chùiscean a' coimheadh nas fhearr;
Maith dh' fhaoidte 's an fuasgladh th' aig Nàdur
'na tuasaid,

Gu'n tig oirn co-fhreagairt gu feabhas o'n chearr.

T. D. MACDHOMHNUILL.

GAELIC SOCIETY OF PERTH.

Jubilee Celebrations.

Recently the Gaelic Society of Perth held a "jubilee celebration" of fifty years continued existence of the present Society in the city, in York House Restaurant, when over one hundred members and friends did honour to the occasion, which was one of the most enthusiastic and enjoyable ever held in connection with the Society.

Chief A. K. Beaton occupied the chair, and was supported left and right by Chieftain Duncan Macpherson and Chieftain Robert Bain, and other officials and members of the Society. After an excellent repast, the Chief bade welcome to the large company present, and invited those with Highland blood in their veins not already members to be so; then calling on Secretary ex-Bailie Baxter to read the interesting "congratulations" and "regrets" in connection with the event.

A telegram from Lady Helen Tod, Tirinie, Blair Atholl, Chieftainess of the Society, read: "Please convey my regrets at not being present to-night. Wish continued prosperity to the Gaelic Society of Perth."

Sir Donald MacAlister, of Tarbert, Bart., K.C.B. (who is a native of Perth), wrote from Glasgow University: "Please convey to the Gaelic Society of Perth my sincere congratulations on attaining its jubilee, and on its good and patriotic work for the preservation as a living tongue of our ancient and expressive language—'Cuimhnich air na daoine bho 'n tàinig thu' (Remember the name and fame of your ancestors)."

Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, Argyllshire, President of An Comunn Gaidhealach of Scotland, wrote as follows: "On behalf of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and on my own account, I send cordial greetings to the Gaelic Society of Perth on the occasion of its jubilee. During the fifty years the Society has been in existence it has performed much service to the cause of Gaelic, and to other causes as well, relating to the Highlanders. The Executive of An Comunn Gaidhealach has always been conscious of the zeal and enthusiasm which has throughout these years characterised your Society. I recall with gratification the fact that on no fewer than four occasions the National Mod has been held in Perth, and that your Society gave of its best towards the success of each of these gatherings. The National Mod of last year will long be remembered, alike for its cultural and financial success, and being personally present at the Mod, I observed how much our Executive Council was indebted to your Committee for their very active co-operation. Writing as I do for An Comunn Gaidhealach as well as for myself, I would express the hope—and the confidence—that your Society in its future career will continue that excellent patriotic work which has been your privilege to effect during the fifty years bygone."

Mr. Alex. McIntyre, one of the original members, wrote from Auchterarder: "Many thanks for your kind invitation to the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Gaelic Society, and I am very sorry I am unable to be present."

The Secretary also prepared a few figures as to the membership of the Society, showing that in 1923 the figures were 381; 1924 (Mod year), 457; 1929-30 (Mod year), 525, one of the highest ever recorded in the history of the Society.

Chief Beaton, giving the "Jubilee Address," said that in looking over the books of the Gaelic Society of Perth for 1880, he found that the Society came into existence through a desire of many in Perth, and a number of young men who had come from the Highland districts of Perthshire, to have a Gaelic Society in the city. After some preliminaries it was resolved to call a meeting in the Guild Hall, and this meeting took place on 18th March, 1880—so that to-morrow would actually be the fiftieth anniversary—and so the Gaelic Society of Perth came into existence.

Chief Beaton said at such a time and in presence of such a splendid gathering as they had that night, it was appropriate to look backward and see the success which had been achieved. There was also the future—what had to be done with a united effort for the good of the Gaelic cause in Perth for the Gaelic Society. The membership was the large one of 525, one of the largest ever recorded in the history of their Society. Their watchword ought to be: "Bithibh dleas, agus cuimhnichibh na daoine o 'n tàinig sibh" (Be faithful and remember the race to which you belong).

RUG-MAKING.

A further supply of rugs has been made by the class in Ness, Lewis, held under the auspices of the Art and Industry Committee. While a number have already been sold to a large firm in London, there are a few in the office which can be seen by prospective buyers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Raibeart Burns.

Sir,—The interesting eulogy of Burns in your February number, and the letter criticising it in your March number call for remark.

The latter strongly disputes statements in the former as to a "spiorad anabarrach Gaidhealach ri fhàicinn" in Burns' poems, and as to none of the well-known Gaelic poets being "co-ionnan ri Burns." These are at best matters of opinion, and no doubt fitting subjects of debate as such. But statements of fact are on a different footing, and the critic, Mr. Douglas, rather invites correction in this regard. He places the ancestral home of the Burns family in Angus. "The poet's ancestors," he says, "came from the district round Montrose

where the family is still numerous under the name of Burness." If Mr. Douglas investigates the literature on the subject he will find that his statement is considerably out. Burns' ancestors belonged to Glenbervie in the Mearns; and if a visit is paid to that district it will be found that the surname, "Burness," while, undoubtedly identified with the locality, is by no means so common as to justify the adjective, "numerous."

In rejecting the absurd equation, Taynuilt-Burnhouse-Burns, Mr. Douglas has common sense as well as historic fact on his side. One wonders how that fantasy ever got currency. We might as well link Columba with Columbus. He is also on safe enough ground in holding that at some period, the date of which cannot now be determined, the ancestors of Burns were Gaelic speakers. As with so many Lowland districts, a glance at the place-names on the ordnance map is sufficient to show that the people of Glenbervie once spoke Gaelic.

A side-issue that might be interesting to investigate from the linguistic point of view is the change of the name from Burness to Burns. It was not merely a change of spelling, but a change from two syllables to one. Was the name assimilated to a surname Burns already existing in the south? In any case, a rather noticeable parallel seems to be afforded by the Aberdeenshire surname, Forbes, which in its own district is pronounced with two syllables, but as soon as it goes south tends to become "Forbs." I am, etc.,

W. M. ALEXANDER.

BANCHORY, KINCARDINESHIRE.

BADENOCH PROVINCIAL MOD.

The second Provincial Mod held in the Badenoch district under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach proved an unqualified success. This important event was held in the Hall, Newtonmore, on Wednesday, and was attended by a large number of people drawn from all parts of Badenoch. Complete arrangements for the Mod, which now appears to have firmly established its hold on the people of the district, were made by a local committee, of which Miss Catanach, Braehead, was the indefatigable secretary. The prime mover in promoting this annual Mod has been Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, who since taking

up residence at Newtonmore, has done a great deal to arouse interest in the language and music of the Gael in the Badenoch district.

This year's Provincial Mod showed a marked improvement in connection with the various competitions. Under the expert tuition of Mrs. Gall, the Gaelic teacher sent by An Comunn, excellent progress had been made with the training of the choirs—four senior and four junior—which were entered. Senior choirs were forward from Newtonmore, Kincaig, Laggan, and Dalwhinnie, and junior choirs from Newtonmore, Dalwhinnie, Insh, and Kincaig. The Dalwhinnie choirs, who entered for the first time, gave an excellent account of themselves, and doubtless an even better effort will be made next year. Handsome prizes were offered for the various competitions, and included a silver quach gifted by Miss Farquharson of Invercauld for unison singing in the junior section, while Mr. Macpherson of Balavil's silver quach formed the principal competition prize for senior choirs. The hall, which is admirably adapted for musical competition was beautifully decorated for the occasion with Gaelic mottoes, tartan plaids, and flowers, while the Lorn Shield, won by the Badenoch Choir at the national Mod at Perth last October, was prominently displayed on the platform. It was fitting that Mrs. Ian Campbell of Airds, who, with her husband, Colonel Campbell, are the donors of the much coveted shield, should be present on Wednesday to take part in the proceedings. Mrs. Campbell presided at the forenoon session, and also made the presentation of the prizes at the concert in the evening. Colonel Grant of Rothiemurchus occupied the chair during the afternoon session.

The adjudicators were:—Gaelic—Rev. Dr. Alex. Mackinnon, Kilmonivaig, and Mr. John N. Macleod, Kirkhill. Music—Mr. Lewis J. Owen, F.T.S.C., L.R.A.M., Inverness. Mr. Donald Macdonald, president of the Northern Propaganda Committee, was in attendance, and supervised the proceedings generally. The adjudicators—both Gaelic and English—spoke in very high terms of the performances of the competitors, and expressed themselves as satisfied with the standard attained.

The following were their awards:—

JUNIOR SECTION.

Recitation—Nannie Munro, Lagganlia.

Solo Singing (girls under 11)—1, Eleanor Macdonald, Newtonmore; 2, Margaret Mackintosh, Drumguish; 3, Maggie MacBean, Dalwhinnie.

Solo Singing (girls 11 to 14)—1, Isobel Leslie, Newtonmore; 2, Mary Cameron, Insh; 3, Hamie Cattanaich, Newtonmore.

Solo Singing (girls over 14)—1, Nannie Munro, Lagganlia; 2, Chrissie Kennedy, Newtonmore; 3, Etta Fraser, Newtonmore.

Solo Singing (boys under 12)—1, David Hynd, Dalwhinnie; 2 (equal), Arthur Sims, Lagganlia, and James McLagan, Dalwhinnie; 3, John Mackintosh, Dalwhinnie.

Solo Singing (boys over 12)—1, Murdo Mackenzie, Insh; 2, Lachlan Macqueen, Newtonmore; 3, Herbert Thomson, Newtonmore.

Junior Choirs—1, Newtonmore; 2, Dalwhinnie; 3 (equal), Insh and Kincaig.

SENIOR SECTION.

Reading—1, Angus Maclean, Newtonmore; 2, Miss Isobel Graham, Laggan; 3, Mrs. Gibson, Laggan.

Recitation—1, Malcolm Macdonald, Newtonmore; 2, Miss Isobel Graham, Laggan; 3 (equal), Mrs. Gibson, Laggan, and Mrs. Lilius Mackintosh, Drumguish.

Sgeulachd—1, Malcolm Macdonald, Newtonmore; 2, Miss Annie Macdonald, Newtonmore.

Solo Singing (female voices)—1 (equal), Miss Margot Campbell, Kincaig, and Mrs. Stewart, Newtonmore; 2, Miss Lizzie Macdonald, Newtonmore; 3, Miss M. Macdonald, Aviemore.

Solo Singing (male voices)—1, Hume D. Robertson, Kincaig; 2, Alistair Macdonald, Newtonmore; 3, Malcolm Macdonald, Newtonmore.

Solo Singing of Song by Local Bard (male and female voices)—1, Hume D. Robertson, Kincaig; 2, Mrs. Lilius Mackintosh, Drumguish; 3, Miss Jessie S. Munro, Kingussie.

Duets—1, Mrs. Stewart, Newtonmore, and Miss L. Macdonald, Newtonmore; 2, Miss C. J. Grant, Newtonmore, and Miss N. Grant, Newtonmore.

Choral Singing—1, Newtonmore; 2, Kincaig; 3, Laggan; 4, Dalwhinnie.

Unison Singing—1, Newtonmore 2, Kincaig; 3, Laggan.

Violin Playing—1, D. Cameron, Laggan; 2, A. Curley, Newtonmore; 3, A. Macpherson, Laggan.

NEW MEMBERS.

LIFE.

Robert K. MacCallum, Esq., A.R.C.O., Glasgow.
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Ewen Lamont, Esq., M.A., Milngavie.

BRANCH REPORTS.

ABERFELDY.—A very enjoyable ceilidh was held under the auspices of the Branch on a recent evening. Mr. A. Stewart presided, and a lengthy and nicely varied programme of songs, sgeulachdan,

and instrumental music was submitted to a large and highly appreciative audience. Not the least interesting item of the proceedings was the account given by the Rev. Iain MacLellan, Weem, of the conditions and customs prevailing in the parish a century and a half ago, as noted in the works of Rev. James MacDiarmid.

BRODR.—At a recent meeting of the local Branch, Dr. Galbraith, Dingwall, gave a most interesting, enjoyable, and informative lecture on Highland music. There was an exhibition of lantern slides during the evening.

HARRIS.—Much useful information regarding local place names, their derivations and meanings, was given by Mr. Angus MacDonald, J.P., President, to a large audience of members of the Harris Branch. The lecture aroused much local interest, and Mr. MacDonald was heartily thanked for his address.

KILMENY.—The Branch held a successful Ceilidh at Keills. Mr. A. C. Macintyre, J.P., Balulvie, who presided, was in good vein, and from the outset, infused a tone of good-humour and good fellowship into the meeting. A varied programme of song, recitation, and instrumental music, and sustained by members of the Keills Choir and several friends, was then submitted. Every item was well rendered, and all the artistes heartily applauded. The part-singing of the choir under the leadership of their popular conductor, Mr. Alasdair M'Eachern, was very much enjoyed. An able and instructive Gaelic essay in praise of the man who guides the plough, effectively recited by the author, Mr. Neil Macphail, Glasgow, formed a feature of the entertainment, and was greatly admired. A refreshing cup of tea enlivened the proceedings, and materially added to the evening's enjoyment.

KINLOCHEIL.—In addition to the musical fare submitted at the meeting of the Kinlochell Branch the members were entertained to a cleverly acted presentation of the Gaelic sketch, "Peigi Bheag," with all its humorous passages. Mr. Hugh Stewart, Oakbank, presided.

NAIRN.—There is a keen appreciation for Gaelic matters in the Nairn district, a fact directly attributable to the well-directed activities of the newly formed local Branch. There was a large and enthusiastic audience at the concert given by the Inverness Gaelic Choir, and the programme submitted by Mr. Owen and his singers, consisting of solo and concerted items, found ready appreciation from those present. Mr. Ian MacKenzie, President, occupied the chair. Speaking towards the close, Miss Farquharson, of Invercauld, said that Nairn, standing on the doorstep of the Highlands, had set an example in the Gaelic movement which she trusted would be followed by every Highland district.

ROGART.—Excellent progress has been made with the work of the Singing Classes conducted by Miss Jean MacNab. An additional attraction to the Class concert was the production of a dramatic sketch by local artistes. Much general and sincere regret was expressed when the death of Mr William Campbell, headmaster, was announced. Since its inception, Mr. Campbell took a very active interest in the work of the Branch, and never hesitated to give of his time and ability to the furtherance of its purposes. He had a thorough knowledge of the

old language, which he imparted to his pupils to enable them to qualify for the various bursary competitions. His passing is a great loss to the community.

VALE OF LEVEN.—The last ceilidh of the session of this Branch was presided over by Mr. John R. Bannerman, President, and during the evening Rev. J. W. MacPhail delivered a very interesting lecture, entitled "A Scamper through Mull," which was illustrated with lantern slides. Thereafter a musical programme was submitted. Among those present were Mr. Charles Campbell, Convener of the Propaganda Committee, and Mr. Angus MacMillan, Glasgow. Mr. Campbell spoke very encouragingly on the work of An Comunn.

WICK.—The Branch closed the 1929-30 session with a Ceilidh in the Academy, after which the annual meeting was held. Mr. Millar, president, presided over a good attendance of members and friends. Reviewing briefly the past session, he said it had been fairly successful, and the devotion of the office-bearers and committee continued unabated. Mr. Millar paid tribute to the good work done by Miss K. M'Kenzie as teacher of the juvenile singing class, to Mrs. Gilbertson as accompanist, and to all the others who had so loyally assisted in carrying on the work. The financial statement submitted by Mr. F. R. Cochran, the treasurer, showed a small credit balance in hand after covering all outlays. Both he and Mr. D. G. Henderson, the secretary, were thanked for their efficient honorary services. Solos were rendered by Miss M'Kenzie, Miss Isobel Bremner, Mrs. Sutherland, and Miss M. S. Henderson. Miss Henderson also played delightful Highland music on the violin. Mrs. Gilbertson was accompanist. Ceilidh stories were related by the chairman and Rev. George Sutherland, after which the company enjoyed an excellent tea prepared by the ladies. After votes of thanks the proceedings concluded with the National Anthem.

WINNIPEG. The Lewis Society of Winnipeg, Canada, presented the Gaelic Play, "An Gaol a thug Buaidh," in the M'Gee Hall, on the 22nd March, 1930. A large audience, bubbling with excitement and curiosity, had gathered by 8 o'clock. The play opened on a wordy battle between the scheming mother, Peigidh bean Dhonnachadh and Anna Bhan, a notorious gossip, who would insist on warning Peigidh against the dire consequences of the attraction which Mairi, Peigidh's daughter had for Seumas an Sasunnach, visiting the Island, especially as Mairi was as good as betrothed to Domhnall, a young sailor.

Author, Donald Macleod, M.A. (Domhnall Dhomhnuill Dhonnachaidh Oig, Bragair); Donnachadh, Angus MacKay, Aignish (An Strinnsear); Bean Dhonnachadh, Margaret Paterson, Brue (Mairead Iain Thormoid Baidean); Mairi, Elsie Macdonald (Nighean Mhurchaidh Alaisdir Chailein); Domhnall, Norman MacLennan Valtos (Tormod Dhomhnuill Alaisdir); Mòr, Mrs. J. MacKay (Nighean Iain Uilleam Ruaidh, Straid an Loch, Barabhas); Ruaraidh, Murdo Campbell (Murchadh Loudon, Lionel, Ness); Anna Bhan, Mrs. D. Macphail (Dollag Bididh, Bragair); Calum, Donald Macaulay, Keose (Domhnall Alaisdir Mhurchaidh); Lachie, Captain Norman Macleod, Arnol (Tormod Dhomhnuill Choinnich Mac'Ann 'ic Dhonnachaidh Iain 'ic Gille-Chriosd); Seumas, Cailean Dhomhnuill Neill, Dailbeg.

Author and Cast, all from the far Hebrides, Eilean an Fhraoich.

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TELEPHONE—Douglas 1433.

Leabhar XXV.]

An t-Og-mhòs, 1930.

[Earrann 9

NA TIONAIL CHEILTEACH.

Is minic a chl sinn coinneamh 'g a cumail gus a bhi a' comhradh mu nithibh cudthromach eadar rìoghachd is rìoghachd. Tha muinntir anns gach àite a' taghadh luchd labhairt, a bhruidhneas aig a' chruinneachadh, air taobh an aobhair airson a bheil iad a' seasamh. Mar is trice tha na tionail mhòra sin air an gairm a chum comh labhairt a chumail mu cheistean sonruichte, mar tha sìth an t-saoghail, no malart eadar dùthaich is dùthaich. Leugh is chuala sinn uile mu'n Tional Cheilteach a bha cruinn an Glascho air an fhoghar so chaidh. Chunnacas an sin teachdairean o threan Ceilteach, mar tha Eirinn, A' Chuimreach, Manainn, Cornwall, agus Breatunn Bheag na Frainge. Thug sinn iomradh an uiridh air na thachair aig a' choinneamh chiataich sin. Agus mar tha air innse an ionad eile de'n àireamh so, tha an Tional Cheilteach an bliadhna ri bhi air a chumail an baile Lunnainn. A réir a h-uile coltais, agus eadar gach ullachadh a thatar a' deanamh, tha dùil gum bi soirbheachadh maith leis an Tional. Is e deagh Ghaidheal is Ceann Suidhe an bliadhna, eadhon an t-Ollamh Urramach Lachuinn MacIlleathain MacBhàtair.

Tha cuid am beachd nach eil na Tional Cheilteach a chum feum air bith; nach eil anna ach caitheamh oidheip is uine. Tha dà bheachd mu'n chùis so, mar tha mu iomadh chùis eile. Tha sinn an dùil gu bheil buannachd shonruichte anns na cruinnichidhean Ceilteach; agus bu mhaith leinn aobhar no dhà ainmeachadh airson na barail so. Air tùs mata, is mór an t-brachadh misnich do Ghaidheil, dearbhadh fhaotainn nach eil iad 'n an sonar anns a' strì a tha Ceiltich a' deanamh air sgàth an

cànain fhéin, agus an oilean fhéin, gach meanglan is cinneadh fa leth. Ann an glusad de'n t-seòrsa so, far nach eil airgid ri chosnadh, no saibhreas saoghalta ri fhaotainn, is luachmhor an nì misneach is deagh eisimpleir. An uair a sheallas sinn air cor na Gaidhealtachd, an dùthaich a' dol fàs, an sluagh a' sìor dhol an gainnead, is dualach gun caill muinntir am misneach. Ach aig Tional nan Ceilteach gheibh neach sealladh eile, sealladh farsuinn, gu bhi a' leantuinn ar sluagh anns gach cearn do'n téid iad. Gheibh neach dearbhadh nach leig an Gaidheal a leas a spiorad dùthèhàsail a chall ged dh'fhagadh e an dachaidh 's an d'fhuair e àrach.

Agus tha feum eile anns na coinneamhan ud, gu bheil iad a' meudachadh eòlais air na nithibh a tha a' tachairt anns na dùthchanan Ceilteach. An uair a dh'éisdeas sinn ri fear labhairt a tha ag innse dhuinn le dùrachd, mu chor na cànain anns an dùthaich d'am buin e féin, gheibh sinn tuigse air an ghnathach, fada nas soilleire na gheibh sinn o leughadh mu'n chùis a leabhar no a paiper naidheachd. An sin tha guth is dùrachd an fhir labhairt a' dùsgadh comhfhairachadh ann ar n-inntinn féin. Tha sin annabarrach iomchuidh 'n a leithid so de dh'obair. Tha an glusad Ceilteach, mar theirir anns a' Bheurla, an crochadh gu mór air na faireachaidhean dùthchasail, mar tha gràdh do'n chaint mhàtharail, gaol air ceòl ar n-aithrichean, eud air sgàth nan nithean is ionmholta an eachdraidh is an intinn ar sluagh. Ma chailleas neach meas air na nithean sin, caillidh e a chuid is fearr de bhuidhean a chridhe. An ùine ghoirid fàsaidh e sanntach saoghalta gu leòr. Tha na Tional Cheilteach, uime sin, a' cumail an luchd frithealaidh an dlùth dhaimh ri rùn is aigne an deagh Ghaidheil.

Tha na Tionail Cheilteach a' deanamh cuideachaidh a thaobh comh-chomhairle. Gu tric gheibh neach beachd as ùr mu mhodh stiùiridh. Is maith an cuideachadh deagh earail. Ma tha na h-Eireannaich agus na Cuimrich a' togail fianuis gu bheil iad a' faotainn sochair mhór le bhi a' craobh sgaoileadh leabhraichean agus litreachas an cinnich fa leth, nach bu ghlic an earail dhuinne gu leanam anns a' cheart cheum a thaobh litreachas na Gaidhlig, a tha a' dol gu luath air dhuinnhe? Nach bu ghasda a' chrìoch sin a bhi againn anns an t-sealladh, gum biodh comhstri chàirdeil eadarainn. Bu chiatnach a' chomh-fharpuis nam biodh Gaidheil Alba a' deanamh suas an inntinn nach biodh Cuimreach no Eireannach, (buaidh is piseach leo gu léir), air thoiseach oirne a thaobh eud airson litreachas ar canain. Tha na Tionail Cheilteach ag ardachadh na smuain os cionn spiorad na malairt, an spiorad leibideach sin a reiceas còir-bhreith airson buannachd; ag ardachadh na smuain gu cuspairean usal na h-inntinn, leis am faigh ar tuisge farsuinneachd, agus leis an cum sinn greim air na nithean is fearr ann ar n-oilean dùthchail.

GAELIC LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1930.

Lower Grade.

Tuesday, 1st April—10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The value attached to each question is shown in brackets after the question.

N.B.—Begin each question on a fresh page.

Write legibly and neatly, and leave a reasonable space between the lines. Marks will be deducted for bad writing and spelling.

1. Translate into English:—

Bha mòran seirbhis an lorg na h-àirighe. Bha an toiseach na bothain ri'n togail agus na cròithean ri'n deanamh air son a' bhainne, nan laogh, agus nam meann. Rachadh prasan dhaoine ri monadh le tuagan is spaidean, agus bhiodh gathan biorach eile aca gu stobadh anns a' bhlàr mhòintich gus an amaiseadh iad air na craobhan giuthais a bha bho linn nan linntean am falach ann sin.

Bha na bothain tughte le sgrath, is sguabach fhradich no bbarraich anns an dorus. Bha na

leapaichean dèanta de fhraoch agus de luachair, agus na cluasagan de an chanaich. Tha iomradh againn cuid de na caileagan a bhi a' snìomh na canaich air a' chuigeil.

Bha an crodh ri bhleoghann agus ri shaothachadh agus ri bhuachaillachd. A h-uile nì ghabhadh dòirteadh, bha e air a chur ann am meadar le iomaidil air, ceangailte le sreing ghaoisid. Bheireadh caileag so dhachaidh air a druim ann an gualleachan, is bu mhatht an t-annlan a bha an cois an callaich aig a' bhaile. (20)

2. Translate into English:—

An uair chiaradh air an fheasgar,
Gum bu bheadarach do fhleasgaichean;
Bhiodh ploban mòr 'g an spreigeadh ann,
Is feadan an 'g an gleusadh.

Sgiobair ri là gaillinn thu,
A sheòladh cuan nam marannan,
A bheireadh long gu calachan
Le spionnadh ghilac do threunfhear.

Sgeul beag eile dhearbhadh leat,
Gur sealgair sìthne an garbblaich thu,
Le do chuillbheir caol nach dearmadach,
Air dearg-ghreigh nan ceann eutrom.

B'e sud an leómhann aigeannach,
An uair nochdadh tu do bhaidealan,
Làmh dhearg is long is bradanan,
An uair lasadh meanma t'èudainn. (20)

3. Translate into Gaelic:—

Dunvegan is a quaint mingling of the architecture of many ages; each proprietor from the ninth to the nineteenth century has left his mark on the old castle. The oldest portion is a square tower, with walls of immense thickness (from nine to twelve feet), supposed by some to be the work of Norwegians.

The position is very fine, with surroundings of wood, Skye's rarest treasure, and standing on a mass of grey rock, which juts out into the sea. The bay is landlocked, and on this morning, calm as a mirror, reflected each line of the old building. When the tide ebbs, there is revealed a broad belt of the richest brown and gold tangle and yellow sand. (20)

4. Write in Gaelic a continuous story, based on the following summary, and complete it in your own way. The story should be about one and a half times the length of your answer to Question 3, and should on no account exceed twice that length. Failure to comply with this instruction may lead to a loss of marks.

An old Highland farmer was said to have the best temper in the world. His old shepherd, who had served him for thirty years, had never

seen him angry. A friend, anxious to test him, promised the shepherd a reward if he succeeded in making his master lose patience. The shepherd, knowing his master's great regard for his garden, left the gate open for the sheep to enter—these made havoc among crops, bushes, flowers, and vegetables. The farmer complained to the shepherd in a mild way—the latter seemed annoyed at the remonstrance.

Next day the gate was again left open, with similar results. (20)

(Complete the story in your own way.)

* * * * *

Higher Grade (First Paper).

Tuesday, 1st April—10 a.m. to 12 noon.

1. Translate into idiomatic English :—

Is math a thuig an sean duine-usal coir, MacDhomhnaill nan Eilean, gun robhas a' dèanamh allaidh air, agus bu bhuidhe le a nàdur dian-thogarrach an dùbhlannachadh gu am feusaig. Cha robh e an geall cuing no cumha a ghabhail air 's an ionad tharruing lann bha an sud. Thagair e a dhlighe fhéin, ged b'éiginn da a cheann thoirt fodha ri linn "roinn Mhurchaidh is Fhearchair" a dhèanamh air an oighreachd. Ach bha sin do na morairean mar am fùdarcluaise do'n urchair. Bha a h-uile fear a' toirt sgairbh a creig dha fhéin, mar bu dual.

Bha chail snuadh Mhic Ghille-Sheathain, gille-mór MhicDhomhnaill, an uair a chuala e na cumhachan troma air an toirt air lom. Bha esan le a thuagh-chatha 'n a ghlaic is pragan leach air an corraibh cnàmh a' rùnachadh cothrom a' bhruthaich a ghabhail is agapadh nan cearc breaca a dhèanamh air na cladhairan buaireasach a dh'aobhairich a' cheannairc is an ar-a-mach. Bha MacDhomhnaill le a chuid mhaicraidh is a chuid dhaignichean 'n a chulaidh-fharmaid mhóir; is iomadh car mu chnoc is falach cuain a bhathas ag cur air, is b'e rùn fhéin na buinn a thoirt as gu n-iar, gun eang a lasachadh gus an cluinneadh e tabhann nan gadhar-luing an Cill Chomain. (25)

2. Translate into English :—

Ach nam faiceadh tu na fir ud
Ri uchd teine is iad an òrdugh,
Coslas fiadhaich a' dol sìos orr',
Falbh gu dian air bheagan stòldach;
Claidheamh rùisgte an làimh gach aon fhir,
Fearg 'n an aodann is faobhar gleois orr',
Iad cho nimheil ris an iolair,
Is iad cho frioghail ris an leómhann.

Cha mhór a thionnal nan daoine ud
Bha r'a fhaotainn 'san Roinn Eòrpa;
Bha iad fearail an am caonnaig,
Gu fuilteach faobharach stròiceach;
Nam faigheadh tu iad an gliocas
Mar bha am misneachd 's am mórchuis,
C'áite am facas riamh ri'n àireamh
Aon fhine b'fhearr na Clann Domhnaill

Bha iad treubhach fearail foinnidh,
Gu neo-lomarra mu'n stòras;
Bha iad cumbhalach 'n an gealladh,
Gun fheall gun charachd gun ròidean;
Ged a dh'iartra nuas an sinnis
O mhullach an cinn gu am brògan,
An donas cron a bha ri inns' orr',
Ach an rìoghalachd mar sheòrsa. (30)

3. Translate into English, or turn carefully into Scottish Gaelic :—

The Feast of Tara.

Ionann iomorro Feis Teamhrach is rìogh-dháil choitcheann, amhail pharlaimeint, mar a dtigeadh coimthionól usal is ollamhan Eireann go Teamhair gacha treas bliadhain um Shamhain, mar a gcleachtaoi leo reachta d'òrdughadh is d'athnuadhaidh, is fromhadh do dhèanamh ar annálaibh is ar seanchus Eireann. Is ann fós do h-òrduighthí ionadh suidhe do gach aon d'uaislibh na hEireann do réir a chéime is a gharma féin, agus fós is ann do h-òrduighthí ionadh suidhe do gach ceann-feadhna da mbiodh ós cionn na laochraidhe do bhiodh ar buannacht ag rìoghaibh is ag tighearnaibh Eireann. Do bhiodh fós do nós i bh-Feis Teamhrach cibé do dhèanadh éigean nó goid, do bhuailleadh neach nó d'imreadh arm air, bás do thabhairt dó, agus gan neart ag an rìgh féin nó ag aon eile maithmheachas do thabhairt dó san ghníomh soin. Do cleachtaoi leo fós bheith ar feadh trí lá roimh Shamhain ag comból, sul do shuidheadh an rìogh-dháil. (20)

* * * * *

Higher Grade (Second Paper).

Tuesday, 1st April—2.15 p.m. to 4.15 p.m.

SECTION I.

All the questions in this Section should be attempted.

1. Write an essay, in Gaelic, on one of the following subjects :—

- (a) Na goireasan as feumaile do'n Ghàidhealtachd.
- (b) An duine usal—ciamar a dh'aitheanichear e. (30)

2. Turn into idiomatic Gaelic:—

- (1) I do not wish to trouble you, but tell me what ails you.
- (2) The hawk swooped down on the chickens and carried off one in each claw.
- (3) The hunter fired at the stag, but missed him.
- (4) The lamb whose mother's fleece the wolf was wearing ran after him. (10)

3. Translate into English:—

- (1) Dh'éigh iad port, 's gun d'fhuair iad coit,
'S bu bheag an toirt mar thachair dhaibh.
- (2) Na bhios an dà cheaird air a làmhnan,
Nar a lug'haid ort uair i.
- (3) An uair théid thu gu builleann,
Is do nàimhdean a dh'fhuireach,
Gu cinnteach bidh fuil air am bian.
- (4) Och, tha bhuil ann!
Is uireasbhach gann fo dhith
Ghloir gach teanga
A labhras cainnt seach i. (10)

SECTION II.

THREE questions should be attempted from this Section.

The answers may be either in Gaelic or in English.

4. Write a short note on each of the following:—comhdhaltas, luathadh, comraich, Tìr na h-Oige. (5)

5. What territories, mainland or insular, do you associate with the following names:—Mac Mhic Ailein, Mac Mhic Alasdair, Mac Dhomhnaill Duibh, MacCailein, Somhairle Mór Mac Ghille-Brìghde? (5)

6. Suggest Gaelic equivalents for:—telegram, aeroplane, motor-cycle, semi-colon, writing desk. (5)

7. Locate the following:—An Carbh (or am Parbh), An Caol Arcach, An Linne Sheileach, Baile Bhóid, Cill Chuimein. (5)

8. Quote a verse from any Gaelic poem upon the sea; mention the author, and give shortly in Gaelic or in English the substance of the poem. (5)

Gaelic Dictation.

HIGHER GRADE—SECOND PAPER.

Tuesday, 1st April—1.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

This paper must not be seen by any Candidate. To be read out by the Teacher at 1.30 p.m. in the presence of the Supervising Officer.

To be written by the Candidates on the separate sheets provided, which must be collected before the Second Gaelic Paper is distributed.

Directions for Teachers.

1. Read the passage aloud distinctly and deliberately, but not slowly, the object being to bring out the meaning of the whole as clearly as possible.
2. Inform the candidates that they may not ask for the repetition of any word or phrase.
3. Dictate the passage slowly, repeating each group of words (as indicated by vertical lines) twice over, and pronouncing every word very distinctly. The punctuation should be indicated.
4. After an interval of five minutes read the text over again in the same manner as on the first occasion, but do not on any account repeat separate words at the request of individual candidates.

DICTATION.

Bha amannan àraid | is dòighean àraid | ri'n coimhead | am buain nan luibhean, | is bha rannan àraid | ri'n aithris | an am an cur gu feum. | Bha an duine | anns gach linn de'n t-saoghal, | cho fada 's as fios duinn, | a' strì ri cungaigh-leighis | a thoirt as na luibhean. | Cha chuir e iongantas oirnn | mar sin | gu robh a h-uibhir de mheas | aig ar n-aithrichean | air cuid de luibhean na machrach, | is cho fada is a dh'fhan iad | air a bhi 'g an gnàthachadh | mar chungaigh-leighis, | bha an gnòthach ceart gu leoir; | ach an uair a tha iad a' buileachadh | buadhan freasdaill orra, | tha amharus againn | gu bheil iad a' dol | na's fhaide na tha barantas aca | air a shon. (10)

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THE MACCRIMMONS.

Proposed Memorial to Celebrated Piping Family.

It will interest Gaels at home and abroad to know that a movement set on foot some years ago, but which had to be postponed in consequence of the War, with the object of erecting a suitable memorial to the MacCrimmons—the world's greatest and most renowned pipers—is now being actively proceeded with. We have no hesitation whatever in recommending the movement as a specially deserving one. Gaels all the world over are under lasting obligations to the MacCrimmons for their services to pipe music. Of them it can truly be said that they left with their countrymen of the Scottish Highlands a heritage uniquely and characteristically their own, and a feature of Celtic nationality of which Gaels cannot feel too proud. It was altogether a wonderful institution that school of pipers in Skye, where the MacCrimmons taught their art—an art pre-eminently a thing of beauty. The movement, is indeed, not only a recognition of eminent musicians, but also of a class of music which deserves to be encouraged and perpetuated. Several well-known Highlanders have agreed to become members of the reconstituted committee, including MacLeod of MacLeod, with whose family the MacCrimmons of Boraig were associated as hereditary pipers for many generations, and a sum of about £135 has already been subscribed. The Committee hope that the response to the Appeal about to be issued will enable them to carry out the following purposes:—

- (a) To erect a suitable memorial cairn and bronze tablet at Boraig, a few miles from Dunvegan Castle, on the site of the ancient College of Piping of the MacCrimmons.
- (b) To place a similar tablet on one of the walls of the old church at Kilmuir, Dunvegan, near the spot where several members of the family are buried; and, if the amount available permits
- (c) To collect and publish MacCrimmon Piobaireachd.

The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Fund is Mr. Fred. T. MacLeod, Solicitor, 10a George Street, Edinburgh, who will be glad to hear from all interested in the matter.

A LEARNER'S IMPRESSIONS OF KINTYRE AND SUTHERLAND GAELIC.

By A. J. BROCK, M.D., (MAC A' BHROCAIR).

Although I am but a Lowlander—a mere Dubh-Ghall—I have been a student of Gaelic for some thirty years off and on. After learning the elements of the language from an Irish grammar (O'Growney) I got my first lessons in speaking during a summer spent in Kintyre in the year 1902. Since then I have read, and even tried to speak a little Gaelic from time to time, but it was only during the past winter that I had again an opportunity of serious daily practice in the language—this time with a speaker from the West of Sutherland.

I had never forgotten the Kintyre pronunciation, and the considerable difference between this and the Sutherland Gaelic at once struck me. Then the thought occurred to me that Highland readers of *An Gaidheal* might be interested to know a few of the main differences that a Lowland ear notes between those two dialects. I give my impressions for what they are worth; the phonetic system that I use here will be only of the crudest, but will, I hope, suffice for my purpose.

Not only are words in the two dialects often differently pronounced, but often quite different words are used for the same thing. I shall begin with the former class.

To begin with, I did not detect in the Sutherland dialect the attenuated Kintyre sound of *a*—as heard characteristically in maith, pronounced something like *mei* or *me* (*meyenach mei*..“middling good”).

Sutherland shows a marked tendency to drop final vowels: *e.g.*, *el* for *eile*, *don* for *dona*, *ca-ilth* for *caillte*, *fallich* for *falaichte*, *mulltich* for *mallaichte*, *sheetch* for *sithichte* (content, pleased), *drotch* for *droichead*, *tyeen* for *teine*.

In Sutherland *r* for *n* is very common. Of course in Kintyre the *n* in *cnoc* and *gnothach*, etc., is sounded *r*, but this practice seems much commoner in Sutherland. Thus we have *arram* for *ainm*, *arramuch* for *anmoch*, *groozh* for *gnuis*, *ireen* for *inghean*. Terminal *bh* or *mh* becomes *v* in Kintyre; *oo* in Sutherland, *e.g.*, *agaiv* and *agoo*, *deanav* and *deanoo*; *reamhar*, *fat*, is in Kintyre *revver*, and in Sutherland *rower* (rhyming with *tower*); *feitheamh* is in Kintyre *fehev*, in Sutherland, *fayoo*; *pathadh* is in Kintyre, *pahag*, in Sutherland, *pahoo*. *Ui* becomes *ee* in Sutherland, thus *bruidhinn* is Kintyre *bruin*, *s. bree* in; *duilleag* is Kintyre *doolack*, Sutherland

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deelack; tuill (holes) is Kintyre tool, Sutherland teel; tuile is Kintyre tooly, Sutherland tilly; ruith is Kintyre rooi, Sutherland ree.

	<i>Kintyre</i>	<i>Sutherland</i>
Beul	bale	byahl (almost byowl)
Aghart	eyart	uggert
Faic	fek	fak
Cuala	cuala	co-al
Bainne	bann'ye	boyn
Cnoc	croc	cronk (almost)
Dol	dole	dool
Aghaidh	eyee	uggi
Suibhse	shivshe	shooish
O chionn	o-hyoon	Wuchin (?)
Seachad	shechat	sha-at

I found Kintyre people peculiar a generation ago in addressing every one, even their parents, in the second person singular (thu for sibh). In Sutherland, as apparently almost everywhere else in the Highlands, this would be considered great presumption. Why is Kintyre so "democratic" in this matter? We now come to the use of quite different words for the same thing.

	<i>Kintyre</i>	<i>Sutherland</i>
Water	uisge	bùrn
Haste	deifir	cabhag
Up	suas	'n 'aird
Boy	ballach	giullan
Pleased	toilichte	sithichte ("sheetch")
Curlew	crotach	guilbhearnach
Frightful	fuasach or uamhasach	cianail
Down	sios	bhàn
Crab	cruban	rùthag
Waiting	feitheamh	fuireach

"That will do," is in Kintyre, Ni sin feum, and in Sutherland, Ni sin tùrn.

"It's like rain," is in Kintyre, Tha cosair ris an uisge, and in Sutherland, Tha cósach ri bùrn (ris a' bhùirn?).

I am struck by the few inflexions, apart from the plural in -an, used in spoken Gaelic, when compared with the abundance one finds in the dictionary. Thus am I to take it that it is "permissible" to say na grian (gen.) instead of na gréine? An old speaker in Kintyre used to point me out what he called the "casan na grian" (shafts of sunlight falling from behind the clouds), and I find the same neglect of dictionary inflexions quite as common, if not more so, in the Sutherland speech.

Let me conclude with a couple of Sutherland sayings or "rhymes"—of which, no doubt, variants will be known to my readers.

(1) Giomach, rionnach, agus ròn,
Tri seòid na cuain.

(My informant was not certain of the meaning of seòid (pronounced shode) in the above, but thought it meant "quickest swimmers.")

(2) Here is a delightful little serenade—or rather, aubade—with which an old native of Scourie used to waken his little daughter in the morning:—

Shineag, a Shineag, tha feadachan aig eubhachd;
Shineag, a Shineag, bi muigh.

(pronounced:—Heenag, feddachan, ayvacht, mwee).

Thus apparently on the north-west seaboard it is not "up with the lark," but "up with the plover." Will some one tell me exactly what kind of "plover" is meant by feadach (or feadag)? The dictionaries are provokingly vague on the question.

AN EALDHAIN UR.

Le COINNEACH MACDHOMHNAILL (Nach Maireann), Cunndain.

(An dara duais aig Mòd, 1929.)

IAIN OG—Beannaich romham. A' bheil duine a stigh?

ROB MOR—Tha, agus tha mi glé thoilichte gu'n d'fhainig thu oir tha mise an so leam fhein.

IAIN OG—Tha thu ann ad bhantraich an nochd, a' bheil?

ROB MOR—Tha: dh'fhalbh a' bhean agus Seonaid NicCoinnich gu Communn nam Ban.

IAIN OG—Dh'fhaoidte nach misde na mnathan an comhairle a chur cuideachd an dràsda agus a rithist.

ROB MOR—Chan urrainn dhomh dad a ràdh mu dheidhinn sin. Is math leam gu'n do thogair thu tighinn, oir bhithinn glé aonaranach an so leam fhein.

IAIN OG—Pif! Cha dean sin dolaidh oirbh. Coimhead ormsa a tha fuireach leam fhéin a ghnàth, agus cha do ghearrain mi riamh air cianalas.

ROB MOR—Ged tha, tha mise a' cantainn riut nach 'eil e ceart do dhuine 'sam bith a bhi fuireach ann an tigh leis fhéin, gu h-àraidh neach aig a' bheil fearann agus a dh'fheumas obair a muigh agus a stigh a dheanamh. Ge b'oil le 'dhùrachd theid an dara h-aon diubh air ais agus bithidh a' bhuil air fhéin aig a' cheann thall.

IAIN OG—Thug mise greis mhath air deanamh air mo shon fhéin ma ta, agus chan 'eil umhail agam gu bheil mi fhéin a' dol air ais, no mo chuid a' dol a dholaidd ann an dòigh 'sam bith.

ROB MOR—Cha ruig thu leas sin innseadh dhomhsa. Na'n robh thusa air bean fhaighinn an deidh bàis do mhàthar bhiodh loinn ort fhéin an diugh nach 'eil ort, agus maoin ann ad stòr nach 'eil ann.

IAIN OG—Tha sin dìreach a reir na té a bhiodh innte. Dh'fhaoidte gur ann a chuireadh i as dhomh an ùine ghoirid le ana-caitheadh agus cion na céille.

ROB MOR—Is ann glé thearc a gheibh thu té mar sin an t-ir do dhùthchais, agus ma theid thusa gu Galldachd a shireadh mnatha chan fhearr na sin a thoilleas tu.

IAIN OG—Cumadh sibhse oirbh agus chlà sibh bean-tighe agamsa a dh'aithghearr; té nach iarr a breugadh agus nach fheum a brosnachadh.

ROB MOR—Is cinnteach gu robh ise air a dealbhadh ann an glamus duit fhéin; oir thatar a' gearan air searbhantan an latha diugh nach 'eil iad idir cho umhail, no cho càsgaidh, agus a bu chòir dhoibh a bhith.

IAIN OG—Cha bhi an té a tha mise an dùil fhaighinn an eisimeil có a chi a dealbh no a cleachdaidhean, agus chan 'eil ni ris nach cuir i a lèmb.

ROB MOR—Dh'fhaoidte gu'n éirich thu maduinn air choir-eiginn agus nach bi agad ach an gad air an robh an t-iasg. Bidh ise an déidh imrich a dheanamh gu ceann eile na dùthcha agus thusa air do mhealladh cho mór agus a bha thu an dùil a bhi sona.

IAIN OG—Theid mise an urras dhuibh nach tachair sin. Searbhanta earbsach, sgiobalta a bhios innte, agus cha bhiagam ri dheanamh ach mo mheur a thogail agus theid ise gu obair gun dàil.

ROB MOR—Is ann duit a rug an cat an cuilean.

IAIN OG—Cha do rug, ach rug mór-innleachd an latha diugh dhomh e.

ROB MOR—Chan 'eil easbhaidh innleachd ann an diugh; ach cha dean sin obair tigheadais, no tigh a rèiteachadh.

IAIN OG—Ni, a cheart cho math agus a dheanamh do chomh-chreutair e, leis na h-innealan goireasach a tha aca.

ROB MOR—Gun teagamh tha na h-innealan pailt gu leòr, agus cha bheag am breitheanas iad do chuid. Cha ghabh iad fois na Sàbaid fhéin leo.

IAIN OG—Chan iad na h-innealan is coireach ri sin, ach an fheadhainn a tha 'g an cur gu droch fheum.

ROB MOR—Bha an saoghal mórán na b'fhearr agus na bu shona an uair nach robh na h-innealan ùra ann idir.

IAIN OG—Cha chanadh sibh sin na'm faicheadh sibh an sealladh-inneal a chunnaic mise an

Inbhirpheotharain bho chionn ghoirid, agus a h-uile h-aon diubh air a ghleusadh leis an dealanach.

ROB MOR—Tha mise faisg gu leoir orra ma ta. Bu docha leam obair an tìghe a dheanamh leam fhéin, lapanach agus mar tha mi, na dhòl an eisimeil an dealanaich.

IAIN OG—Pif! Tha e aca a nis fo cheannsal agus chan 'eil ni de chunnart ann; agus tha mi fhéin dhl a thoirt an dealanaich a steach gu mo chobhair le obair na fàrdaich.

ROB MOR—O, a bhalaich! Feuch nach gabh thu aithreachas. Cia mar a tha thu an dùil a dheanadh an dealanach do chobhair?

IAIN OG—Ni, ann an iomadh rathad. Ni e teine agus ni e solus, ni e am muidhe a chur mu'n cuairt agus cha bhi e fada toirt leis an ime. Ni e an tigh a sguabadh agus na soitichean a nigheadh. Buailidh e an t-arbhar, gearraidh e na sneupan, bleòghnaidh e an crodh; agus chan 'eil an sin ach beagan de na ghabhas deanamh leis.

ROB MOR—B'e an t-iongantais e da-rìreadh!

IAIN OG—An uair a gheibh mise e air a shoerachadh ceart anns an tigh thig sibhse a nall a choimhead orm agus chi sibh an t-sochar mhór a bhios ann—esan gu bitheanta ag oibreachadh agus sinne 'nar suidhe ag amharc air.

ROB MOR—Faodaidh mi sin; ach cha mhór ciataiche a ghabhas mise dhe do thigh mur cluinn mi ann ach farum inneil. Bu docha leam gu mór srann na cuibhle shniomha a chluinntinn ann agus crònan mnatha ris an t-sniòmh.

IAIN OG—Cha ruig a leas easbhuidh ciuil no seanachais a bhi oirbh. Bidh am bocsa-cagar air sgeilp ri bhur taobh agus cluinnidh sibh bhuaith a h-uile naidheachd agus ceòl as annasais na chéile eadar so agus baile mór Lunnainn.

ROB MOR—B'e sin an ceòl gun bhlas a thig á sgòrnan tùchanach bocsa. Chan 'eil an t-inneal sin ann a chuireas fonn air ceòl coltaiche ri guth mhic an duine.

IAIN OG—Tha sibh ceart an sin. Chan 'eil ni ann as taitniche leam fhein na bhi ag éisdeachd ris na h-òighean a bhios a' seinn aig na Mòid gach bliadhna.

ROB MOR—Thachair e dhomh. Cluinnidh tu an sin an guth beò air a ghleusadh aig airde, agus cha toir organ no *piano* bàrr air gu bràth.

IAIN OG—Chan e an guth a mhaìan a shaoileas neach a bhios ri seinn ach a' chollun gu léir, an aghaidh a' lasadh le aoibh agus na sùilean a' dealradh leis an t-sund a tha anns a' chridhe.

ROB MOR—Thubhairt thu na bh'air. Bha pròis orm fhein gu'n d'fhuair Seonaid

NicCoinnich duais airson seinn aig a' Mhòd mu dheireadh.

IAIN OG—Thoil i e cuideachd. Is math a thigh e dhith dol a sheinn le a giulan modhail. Ach an cuala sibh mu'n inneal neònach eile a thainig a mach bho chionn ghoidh? Inneal a bhruidhneas leis fhéin.

ROB MOR—Cha chuala, agus is gann gu'n urrainn dhomh sin a chreidsinn bhuat.

IAIN OG—Ged tha is i an fhìrinn ghlan a tha ann, agus cuiridh e am biadh air bhur beulaibh air a' bhòrd.

ROB MOR—Sèadh Iain, cha robh thu riamh gun do bhraich 's a mhuileann. C' ainm a tha aca air an inneal annasach sin?

IAIN OG—Thair iad "Robot" ris.

ROB MOR—"Robot!" Tha mi gle dhuilich gu'm biodh ainm cho coltach ri m' ainm fhéin air ni de a leithid.

IAIN OG—Inneal feumail a tha ann, a dhuine. Tha e ag obair aca anns na tighean-aigheachd an Lunnainn agus an uair a phàidheas sibh e an déidh bhur bidh fhaighinn bhuaith bheir e taing dhuibh cho oileanach ri aon ghille coise a chunnaic sibh riamh.

ROB MOR—Cha b'fhuilear leam e. Innealan mi-chneasda a tha anna.

IAIN OG—Tha mi fhéin a' togairt a h-aon diubh fhaighinn. Bhiodh e feumail dhomh mu'n tigh, agus am bòrd agam a fhrithéaladh 's na soitichean a thogail air falbh deth.

ROB MOR—Obh, obh, Iain, cha mhór nach 'eil thu a' toirt gàire ormsa leis cho gòrach agus a tha thu. Nach bitheadh e mòran na bu ghlice dhuit bean fhaighinn a dheasaicheadh do bhiadh, agus a fhrithéaladh do bhòrd?

IAIN OG—Tha e glé fhrasda dhuibhse sin a chantainn, ach theagamh nach tig an còta-gearr cho math do na h-uile fear agus a thàinig e dhuibhse.

ROB MOR—Thig an còta-gearr math gu leoir dhuit-sa cuideachd ma chuireas tu ort ceart e. Gille làidir, sgairteil coltach riut nach 'eil mòran seachad air dà fhichead bliadhna, carson a bhiodh tu an imcheist mu dheidhinn, agus iomadh caileag bhòidheach anns an nàbaidheachd a dheanamh bean mhat dhuit na'm biodh meas agad air té diubh.

IAIN OG—Cìod e am math a ni sin dhomh mur a bi meas aice-sa ormsa? Agus eadar mi fhéin agus sibh fhéin is e tha an sin rud a tha a' fairtleachadh orm a dheanamh a mach.

ROB MOR—Thig ort sin fhoighneachd mu'n dean thu a mach ceart e. Tha mi a' samhlachadh gur i Seonaid a tha 'n ad aire 'n dràsd oir is tric leis a' bhean agus leam fhéin a bhi 'ga chur suas rithe.

IAIN OG—Agus a' bheil i 'ga ghabhail gu dona?

ROB MOR—Is fhada bhuaidh a ghabh i. Chan 'eil ainm a chluinneas i as motha a chuireas de ghean oirre.

IAIN OG—A thaobh is nach 'eil an so ach mi fhéin is sibh fhéin, ma ta, is ceart cho math dhomh tighinn a mach leis. Tha an tigh agam an ìre mhath an òrdugh agus an uair a bhios e ullamh bidh a h-uile goireas a tha a' dol an diugh agam ann; agus tha mi nis airson bean laghach, shnasail fhaighinn a rachadh 'na cheann. Mu'n d'fhàg mi an tigh chuir mi romham Seonaid a choinneachadh air an rathad dhachaidh bho Chomunn nam Ban agus gu'm biodh e air no deth an nochd, na'm faighinn an còthrom.

ROB MOR—Sin mar a bhruidhneadh tu gu duineil! Agus an uair a dhealaicheas i fhéin agus a' bhean bidh deadh chothrom agad air a' chùis a chur ceart air an rathad dhachaidh leatha.

IAIN OG—Cha b'urrainn a bhi na b'fhearr! Agus ma theid an gnothuch leam cha bhi farmad agam ris an righ air a chathair.

ROB MOR—Chi thu gu'n téid e leat cho math 'sa dh'fhoghnas oir bidh mise 'cluinninn aig uairean roinn de'n t-seanachas a bhios aig Seonaid 's aig a' bhean mu do dheidhinn.

IAIN OG—Mo bheannachd agaibh, a Roib. Is fheairde mi gu'n d'thainig mi a choimhead oirbh; agus bidh mi nis a' falbh.

ROB MOR—Cìod eile dheanadh tu, agus biodh deadh mhiseach agad.

IAIN OG—Tha sin agam a nis, agus dh'fhaoidte gur miosa 'n t-eagal na'n cogadh.

ROB MOR—Is tric a thachair e, agus chlì thu gur ann mar sin a bhios e an nochd.

IAIN OG—Tha mi ag earbsa gur ann, agus nach fhada gas an cluinn sibh crònan mnatha anns an tigh agam cho math ri farum inneile. Oidhche mhath leibh, a Roib.

ROB MOR—A h-uile h-oidhche dhuit, a bhròinein; mar sin leat fhéin.

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Miss Jessie E. MacKenzie, 79 Lochalsh Road, Inverness, has been appointed local Secretary, and intending students who wish to obtain lodgings should write immediately to Miss MacKenzie stating their requirements.

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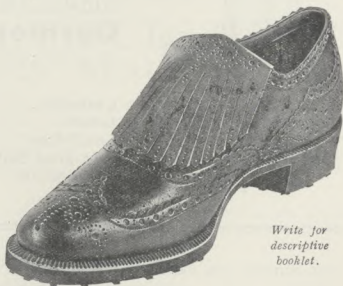
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'S tù mo ghràdh thar na dh'fhan ann	

'S math thu 'meas nan crannag shuas
'S na croinn fhuar air bheag fasgaidh;
Feadh nan seòl 's iad reòite cruaidh
Thu le duanaig 'gam pasgadh.

Their iad rium gun robh mi faoin
Nach do thaobh mi fear-fearainn;
Ach a dh'aindeoin earras maoin,
B' e mo ghaolsa gun cheannach.

Tha mo chàirdean rium an diomb
'Chionn mo rùn thoirt do'n mharaich.
"Bidh e tric 's na tighean ciùil
'S leannan ùr anns gach cal' aig."

'S òg a thug mi dhuit mo rùn;
'S e 'bhi dlùth dhuit bu mhath leam,
'S ged a thug thu nis rium cùl
Chan fhear ùr bhios air m'aire.

Dh'fhag thu mi mar ian air crann
'S a nead lom air a creachadh;
Bhuair thu mi le brìodal feall,
'S boidean teann 'rinn mo mhealladh.

'Nis tha Challuinn tighinn oirnn dlùth,
Thig bliadhn' ùr oirnn 's thig Earrach,
Ach bi mise so gun sunnd
'S trom an drìùchd th'air mo shealladh.

SCOTTISH LITERARY SOCIETY,
TORONTO.

Two addresses by well-known Celtic scholars in Toronto, Professor A. T. De Lury, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Toronto University, and Dr. W. J. Edmondston Scott, M.A., D. Litt., marked the celebration of St. Patrick's Day by the Scottish Literary Society which met in the University Buildings.

Dean De Lury's address was entitled: "*The Ireland of St. Patrick and the Ireland of to-day*," and he gave a vivid picture of the Ireland that its patron saint came to visit in the fifth century. Far from being an "island of wild, running savages" as outsiders loved to depict the land of the Gael, it was a country with a good system of government and high culture, treasuring

learning and literature, and honouring its bards, historians, scholars, and all others who contributed to Irish culture. It was this background which welcomed the newer view of life that St. Patrick introduced to the people, the more so because Gaelic psychology which so strongly manifests itself in the tendency to repel the yoke of the external world, discovered in Christian idealism a spirit that was of its own kind.

As an imperial people the Gaels had proved themselves a failure. "They went to the war but they always fell." But in every sphere conducive to the betterment of the human race they led the way as pioneers, and St. Patrick and all his successors had in this respect thrown a glamour over the Dark Ages of Western Europe. The cultural difference between the Gael of his time and Irishmen of

to-day was not so great as imagined and was, in his opinion, not so strikingly to our advantage.

The Dean concluded by saying that "the Ireland of to-day is turning back to the Ireland of St. Patrick and of before St. Patrick, and it now has a literary expression which will count for one of the remarkable events of our time."

The president's address dealt with *St. Patrick and the Peoples of the Clyde*, and showed by plentiful recourse to ancient records that the saint was British to the core, and that his "ain folk" were Britons of the Clyde whose posterity in later days were numbered among the *Clan a'Bheatanuich*, or Galbraiths, and the "Wallaces" as they were generally called by Gael and Saxon. In Argyllshire were clans of Pictish origin, among them the Epidii of Kintyre, ancestors of the M'Kecherns; the Lochlanners or MacLachlans, who gave name to Loch Long; and in Strathclyde and Dumbartonshire were other tribes and clans speaking a tongue more akin to Welsh than either Gaelic or Pictish, as shown by the evidence of topography.

St. Patrick claimed that his family were a "small sept" (*aicme becc*), the Catrige, Cotraige, or Cothraige in Clui, Dumbartonshire, but analysis and comparison of various accounts of his origin seemed to discredit the view that this family name was *Patricius* Gaelicized. It was linked in Irish history with the aboriginal Fir Bolg clans of Connaught, and the Aithech Tuatha of Leinster whom scholars connected with the Attacotti of the Clyde.

The addresses of the president and Dean De Lury were illustrated by lantern views of places on the Clyde and in Ireland associated with St. Patrick's travels. Selections of Scottish and Irish pipe music were rendered by Mr. Hugh MacDonald and Sergeant Burns of the Forty-eighth Highland Regiment.

MGR. CALUM MACLEOID.

Is gann gu bheil ainm sam bith an comhcheangal ri obair A' Chomuinn air a bheil Gaidheil nas eòlaiche an diugh na tha iad air an ainm aig Mgr. Calum Macleoid. O chionn ùine ghoidid air ais chuir an duine uasal so crìoch air a shaothair chruaidh is chunbhalach mar fhear drenchd an cùis an fhoghlum am baile Ghlascho. Ged a tha e fathast gu h-ògail foghainteach, an intinn is am pearsa, gidheadh is iomadh bliadhna a chuir e seachad aig seirbheis-stiùiridh an fhoghlum anns a' bhaile mhór. Aig a leithid sin de dh'am is còir

dhuinn cuimhreachadh air a' chomain fo bheil sinn do neach a bha cho dìleas do'n Chomunn. Chan ann idir a chionn gu bheil e a' dealachadh ruinn, oir gu fortanach tha sinn an dùil gu mair e fad iomadh bliadhna gu bhi a' cuid-eachadh leis A' Chomunn mar bu ghnàth. Ach an uair a tha e a' gabhail cead leis an fheadhainn a bha comhla ris 'n a dhreuchd làitheil, is cubhaidh gun tugamaid faineair le buidheachas na rinn e air taobh na Gaidhlig.

Tha a nis mu shia bliadhna fichead o thàinig Mgr. Macleoid gu àireamh na Comhairle aig A' Chomunn. Fad sheachd bliadhna dhù sin bha e 'n a Cheann Suidhe. Ré na h-ùine a bha e 'n a Cheann Suidhe, stiùir e gnothuichean A' Chomuinn le gliocas is caomhnas. Is e Fear gairm na buidhneach a tha a' foillseachadh leabhraichean fo ainm A' Chomuinn. Tha e làn thuigseach air cho iomchuidh 's a tha leabhraichean, agus làn eud gum biodh an deagh obair a' soirbheachadh. Am baile Ghlascho is ann mar Fhear Cathrach air Cèilidh nan Gaidheal a tha Mgr. Macleoid aithnichte do shean is òg. Is prìseil an obair a rinn e air ceann na Cèilidh; a' misneachadh na h-òigridh Ghaidhealach gu bhi a' crinneachadh comhla, gach seachduinn, gu ciallach, eireachdail an cuideachd a chéile. Aig a' Chèilidh cha chluinn iad ach Gaidhlig, eadar urnuigh is òraid; agus chan fhaic iad ach nì tha uasal is ionmholta.

O am gu am chuir Gaidheil an céill am meas air neach a bha cho dùrachdach airson maith na h-òigridh agus na cànan. An uiridh nochd iad an deagh ghean le tabhartas, eadhon a dhealb, làmh-dhèanta leis an fhear ealdhain sgileil an t-usal Macgriogair Mac Ille Bhàin. Agus air a' bhliadhna so chaidh cuirm chàirdeal a chumail, aig an robh conaltradh is ceòl, agus aig an tugadh dearbhadh is fianuis leis na bha làthair, air seirbheis is buadhan an Leodaich. Tha a chuid oibreach airson na Gaidhlig 'n a h-eisimpleir do Ghaidheil eile. Agus tha sinn an dòchas an am dha fuasgladh o'n chuid sin a bu chruaidhe de shaothair an latha, gum bi feasgar fada a' feitheamh air, agus neart is fallaineachd 'g am buileachadh gu pailt.

N.R.

NEW BRANCH.

A Branch of An Comunn was formed at Dalwhinnie with the following office-bearers:— President, Mr. R. J. Findlay; Vice-President, Mr. David MacBean; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Ross, the Schoolhouse, Dalwhinnie.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,—In your latest issue there appeared some comments by Mr. John Campbell upon certain articles in the new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. May we ask that you will be so good as to give equal publicity to this letter which will, we believe, correct any erroneous impressions your readers may have formed as to the editorial policy pursued in the allocation of space to Celtic subjects.

While we concur that Mr. Quiggin's article (his name is spelt as here given, and he was not a professor) on Celt was long, and merits the description given of it, it should be remembered that since 1910 (about which time that article was written) much has been discovered concerning linguistics in other areas. The linguistic survey of India has been published, the affinities of the Austric family have been ascertained, Australian languages have been classified, Papuan speech has begun to be scientifically investigated, and African philology has been put on a wider basis. In organising the allotment of space—the total number of volumes is less by four than in the last complete edition of 1910, and considerable history has been made, mention of which needed to be accommodated—the Editors were obliged to omit certain details which are fully dealt with in specialised works.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. FRANKS, Manager,
The Encyclopædia Britannica Co., Ltd.

Sir,—The recent articles of yourself and of Dr. Watson have both emphasised the necessity of publishing more literature in Gaelic, and the present lack of interest in Gaelic literature amongst Gaelic speakers is a matter of grave concern. No matter how Gaelic in thought and mind the native speaker may be, if he depends upon the English language for his intellectual pabulum he is bound to obtain an English outlook on life, and in many ways a purely English vocabulary for anything outside the ordinary necessities of life.

The only way to improve matters is by the issue of cheap books in Gaelic. We have plenty of good Gaelic publishers who would be prepared to assist in this work, and plenty of young Gaels who would be only too eager to assist in the work of translation of good modern literature and works of science. We have a sympathetic press in Scotland, virile branches of An Comunn who could assist in the sale of the same, and also the pulpit.

The Irish Free State Government are greatly assisting the development of Gaelic by publishing a number of translations from English, French, and German into Gaelic, such as Mason's *'Sa Villa Rosa*, Merimée's *Colomba*, etc. It seems to me that this excellent example is worth imitating and that a committee should be formed by An Comunn, and funds obtained for this purpose. Gaelic translations of plays such as *Journey's End* would also be invaluable.

The renaissance of the Czech nation is due entirely to the enthusiasm which they have shown for their national theatres and literature, and herein lies our future hopes or ultimate extinction as a race of long and glorious tradition. The day is long past when isolation could preserve our tongue, and only when Gaelic books are to be found in every Highland home, and read by every member of the same can we hope to survive the fate of the Cornish and Manx.

Is mise le meas mór,

ALEXANDER MACKECHNIE.

The Celtic Brotherhood.

Mr. Editor, and dear Confrere,—I am particularly glad to inform you that our Interceltic Annual Festival will be held at Saint-Nicolas-du-Pellem, Côtes-du-Nord District, Lower Brittany, from 23rd to 26th August next. The Gorsedd, or Public Ceremonies of the Druids and Bards, will be proceeded to on the top of the hill of Knech-Laeron, 500 yards from the town.

The Committee, Local and National, would be proud to have the honour of the visit of many Gentlemen and Ladies of the Highlands on that occasion. We are nowadays assured of the presence of the great friend of Brittany, and patriotic supporter of the Celtic movement, Mr. Moffat-Pender, of Lewis and London.

Besides, our Association has bought from R. G. Lawrie, manufacturer, Glasgow, a great Highland War Bagpipe, which will be played henceforth in our Breton Festivities, in accordance with our own little Pipes, called Binious. That will be a new link of brotherhood between our two countries.

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 Kinross Cottage, Edward Street (Mrs Holburn), 6/-.
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 Glen-Fruin, Alexander Street (M. Nichol),
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 Dimerock, Mary Street (Misses Swan),

was very high. Lady Elspeth Campbell presided over a large audience in the Victoria Hall on Friday evening. The prize-winners sustained the programme, assisted by Miss Margaret M. Duncan, Glasgow; and Mrs. Allan MacLean, Greenock. Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, President of An Comunn, was present on both days, and moved votes of thanks to the ladies who presided at the closing concerts.

The Mod was, in every department, highly satisfactory, and was the most successful yet held in Campbeltown. Thanks are due Miss Hall of Tangy, Mr. Peter J. Campbell, local Secretary and Treasurer, and their band of willing workers for the excellent manner in which the arrangements were carried through. The Rev. T. S. Macpherson, and Rev. Angus MacMillan acted as chairmen of proceedings. Miss Jean Brown, L.R.A.M., and Mr. Wallace did splendid work in preparing the town competitors and choirs.

The adjudicators were:—Gaelic:—Rev. William Macphail, Ardrishaig, assisted by Mr. Neil Shaw in the oral classes. Music—Mr. D. T. Yacimini, Perth. The following is the prize-list:—

NIALL.

JUNIOR SECTION.

Gaelic literature (letter on any subject)—Margaret Mitchell, Rhunaharine, and Isa Macdonald, Culruar (equal).

Writing from dictation—1, Alex. Percival, Whitehouse, and Euphemia Beaton, Whitehouse (equal); 2, Mary M'Kinlay, Whitehouse, and Margaret Mitchell, Rhunaharine (equal); 3, Mary Galbraith, Whitehouse.

Translation from Gaelic into English—1, Alex. Percival, Donald M'Diarmid, Whitehouse, Isa Macdonald, and Mary Mitchell (all equal); 2, Mary M'Kinlay; 3, Chrissie Galbraith, Whitehouse.

Gaelic oral delivery (reading poetry)—1, Betty Currie, Balure; 2, Isa Macdonald; 3, Margaret Mitchell.

Reading Prose—1, Isa Macdonald; 2, Margaret Mitchell; 3, Cathie M'Arthur, Peninver.

Reciting poetry from memory—1, Jessie Campbell, Peninver; 2, Margaret Mitchell; 3, Mary Smith, Tayinloan, and Isa Macdonald (equal); 4, Crichton Vettors, Peninver.

Acted dialogue (two performers)—1, Margaret Mitchell and Betty Currie.

Solo singing (Celtic songs in English)—(Girls)—1, Ray M'Sporran, Campbeltown; 2, Effie Fisher, Carradale; 3, Rose M'Connachie, Blathill. Boys—1, John M'Whirter, Campbeltown; 2, Alex. Gilchrist, Campbeltown; 3, Neil M'Eachran, Campbeltown.

Choral Singing in unison (Celtic songs in English)—1, Campbeltown Choir; 2, Auchencorvie Choir; 3, Carradale Choir.

Solo (competitor's choice) (Girls)—1, Rose M'Connachie; 2, Betty Thomson, Campbeltown; 3, Euphemia Beaton, Whitehouse. Boys—1, Joseph M'Kinnon, Whitehouse; 2, Ian Macdonald, Tayinloan.

KINTYRE PROVINCIAL MOD.

The seventh Kintyre Provincial Mod was held in Campbeltown, under the auspices of the local Branch of An Comunn, on 8th and 9th May. The competitions were held in the Burgh Hall and Kirk Street Church Hall, and there was a large attendance of the general public at each session. The entries numbered 300, and an encouraging feature was the large number of children who took part in the oral competitions. In this section particularly a marked improvement was noticeable, thanks to the enthusiasm and untiring efforts of a number of lady teachers in the peninsula. Miss Hall of Tangy, President of the Branch, presided over a crowded audience at the Junior Concert in the Burgh Hall on Thursday evening. The programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners assisted by Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary.

The senior sections were adjudicated upon on Friday in the same halls, and the attendance of the public was even larger. The quality of the performances, both oral and vocal,

Duet singing—1, Euphemia Beaton and Annie Young, Whitehouse; 2, Effie Fisher and Mary Macdougall, Carradale; 3, Sarah MacKinnon and Mary Galbraith, Carradale.

Gaelic solo (Girls and Boys)—1, Rose M'Connachie; 2, Annie Young; 3, Cathie M'Arthur and Rona Mac-Vicar, Southend (equal).

Choral singing in unison (children not over 11)—1, Campbeltown; 2, Carradale; 3, Auchencorvie.

Choral singing in unison (prescribed songs)—1, Carradale; 2, Whitehouse; 3, Auchencorvie.

Choral two-part harmony—1, Carradale; 2, Whitehouse.

SENIOR SECTION.

Gaelic oral delivery, reading at sight—1, Colin Paterson Campbeltown; 2, Alasdair Macdonald, Corrylach; 3, Marion Falconer, Campbeltown.

Reciting poetry from memory—1, Chrissie M'Intyre, Carradale; 2, Colin Paterson; 3, Marion Falconer.

Original Gaelic speech—1, Donald Galbraith, Campbeltown; 2, Marion Falconer; 3, Alasdair Macdonald.

Sgeulachd, narrating old Gaelic tale—1, Marion Falconer; 2, Susan Macdonald, Killocraw.

Acted dialogue—1, Donald Galbraith and Marion Falconer; 2, Susan Macdonald and Alasdair Macdonald.

Vocal Music—Gaelic Solo singing—1, Rose Livingstone, Killean; 2, Cissie Fisher, Carradale; 3, Mattie M'Intyre, Feochraig.

Solos (Men)—1, William Buchanan, Carradale; 2, William Cuninghame, Islay; 3, John M'Coll, Campbeltown.

Solo singing (Mixed)—1, Cissie Fisher; 2, Rose Livingstone; 3, Willie Buchanan.

Solo singing (Male or Female, former first prize winners)—1, Cathie Thomson, Campbeltown; 2, Neil Muir, Rhunaharine; 3, John M'Coll.

Duets—1, Mary Macdougall and Willie Buchanan, Carradale; 2, Morag Black and Cissie M'Innes, Campbeltown; 3, Rose Livingstone and Neil Muir, Tayinloan.

Quartettes—1, Inverness Mod Quartette, Campbeltown; 2, Fort-William Mod Quartette.

Ladies' choirs—1, Tayinloan Ladies Choir.

Celtic songs in English (solos) (Female voices)—1, Cissie Fisher; 2, Morag Black, Campbeltown; 3, Rose Livingstone, Killean.

Solos (Men)—1, David Black, Campbeltown; 2, William Galbraith, Carradale; 3, Joseph M'Ichere, Campbeltown. Choral singing—Campbeltown "A" Choir.

Puirt a' Beul—1, William Galbraith, Carradale; 2, Cathie Thomson, Campbeltown.

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LIFE.

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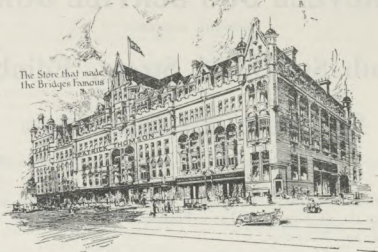
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Leabhar XXV.]

An t-Iuchar, 1930.

[Earrann 10

CLANN MHIC CRUIMEIN.

Annas na làithean so fhéin tha muinntir a' deanamh oidheirp gu carragh cuimhne a chur suas do Chloinn Mhic Cruimein. Is iomadh neach a bhios toilichte sin a chluinntin. Ged tha na bliadhnaichean a sior dhol seachad, gidheadh is ann a tha iomradh is cliù an teaghlach so a sior dhol am meud. Car son a tha Clann Mhic Cruimein cho ainmeil? Car son a tha muinntir ag iarraidh an cumail air chumhe ged tha corr is sia fichead bliadhna o'n dh'eug am fear mu dheidreadh de'n luchd chiùil ud? Tha dìreach airson gur airidh iad air meas, air sgàth na saothair a rinn iad airson ceòl nan Gaidheal. Is e aon de chrìochan a' Chomuinn a bhi ag ath-bheothachadh ceòl ar sinnsear. Agus ged tha ceòl na pìoba a' faotainn aire o bhuidheann no dhà eile, gidheadh is maith dhuinn suim a chur anns a' ghluasad so, agus fianuis a thogail, gu bheil sinn glé thoilichte airson gluasad cho frcagarach. Feumaidh sinn reusan a thabhairt airson a' bheachd so.

An uair a sheallas sinn air ais ri gliocas ar sinnsear, chì sinn nach eil sinn féin dad nas gleusda na iadsan. Ma tha innleachdan ùra air tighinn an digh, is ann o choigrich a fhuair sinn iad. Tha eagal oirnn nach buin mòran de chliù nan innleachd ùra dhuinne. Agus ged tha cuid againn a fhuair cothrom air a' bheag no mhór de fhoghlum a chothachadh, feumar aideachadh gur e a th'ann foghlum a thugadh dhuinn le coigrich mar an ceudna. Ach is airidh air iomradh buan an fheadhainn sin a bha mòr anns an oilean shinnsear—gliocas na sean fhacal, loinn na luinneag, saibheas na sgeulachd, buaidh nam bàrd, agus maise a' chiùil mhóir! Sud iuchair na

cùise is brìgh a' ghnòthuich air fad; agus an Gaidheal nach cuir meas air na nithibh so, chan eil e ach meagh bhlàth, biodh e cho teoma 's a thoilicheas e an gnìomh 's an gliocas nan Sasunnach.

Annas an earrann ghoirid so chan eil cothrom air a' bheag de eachdraidh Clann Mhic Cruimein a sgrìobhadh. Mar tha fhios aig mòran a cheana bha an treubh ainmeil sin nam pìobairean aig Macleoid Dhunbheagain fad iomadh ginealach. Tha cuid an dùil gun tàinig an teaghlach a *Cremona*, anns an Eadailt. Chan eil sinn a' creidsinn sin. Eadhon ged bhiodh e fìor, rud nach eil, gur ann a' *Cremona* a thàinig iad, cha b' e *Mac Cruimein* an cruth a ghabhadh an t-ainm. Bha an t-ainm Crìomthan cumanta gu leòr an meas nan Gaidheal o shean. Tha e air aithris annas an t-sean iomradh gum buineadh ceann a deas na h-Earradh do'n teaghlach so aon uair. Bha iad riamh measail aig Lcodaich Dhunbheagain. Thug an ceann cinnidh baile Bhoirreig saor a grunn do Chloinn Mhic Cruimein air chumhant gum biodh sgoil-chiùil air a cur suas an sin. Is e an ceann cinnidh Alasdair Crotach (1480 A.D.) a chuir suas an sgoil chiùil. Bha ean 'n a sgoilear e fhéin. Dh'eadartheangaich e àireamh de shailm Dhaibhidh o Eabhra gu Gaidhlig. Bha e air aon de na flathan aig Scumas IV., Rìgh Albainn. Thaghail Rìgh Scumas air an Caisteal Dhunbheagain. Is ann fo laimh Alasdair Chrotaich a fhuair alt a' chiùil mhóir a' cheud thogail is chothrom. Agus is còir meas a bhi air an usal oileanta sin a bha fada air thoiseach air a' ghinealach fhéin le bhi a' suidheachadh sgoil chiùil am Boirreig, mus robh oilthigh an Abaraidhean no an Duneidean.

Is e gu sonruichte an ceòl mòr a rinn aghart fo theagas Mhic Cruimein. Buinidh an ghnè

ciùil so do Ghaidheil Albainn a mhàin. Chan eil ceòl de'n t-seòrsa sin aig na h-Eireannaich, no idir aig na Cuimrich. Feumaidh gu robh saothair mhòr agus ùine fhada air an cur air a' cheòl mhòr mus tugadh e gu cruth cho coimhionta ris na sean phuir, na puirt a thàinig a nuas troimh na ginealaich. Tha ceòl mór air a roinn na trì meanglain—an cumha, an cruinneachadh, agus an fhàilte. Tha an toiseach an t-urair, mar stéidh do'n phort; an sin a' cheud siubhal; a rithist tha am port a' fàs agus a' sgaoileadh, le taorluath is crunluath. Ann ar latha fein tha deasbuireachd theann 'g a cumail suas mu'n dòigh anns a' robh an crunluath air a chluich le Mac Cruimein. Is gann gu bheil dearbhadh sgrìobhte ri fhaotainn gus an gnothuch so a chur an darna taobh. Ach is e an dearbhadh is fhearr a tha againn, eisimpleir nan sean phlòbairean a bha air an teagasg leis a' ghinealach mu dheireadh, agus mar sin o ghluin gu glùn. Tha sinn an dòchas gu soirbheach gu maith leis an oidheirp a chum cuimhneachan a chur suas do Chloinn Mhic Cruimein. A thuilleadh air carn-cuimhe, bu cheart gum biodh àireamh de na puirt mhóra air an cur am mach gu h-eagnuidh. Bhiodh so na mheadhon air an ainm a thabhairt am follais as ùr, agus na cheum cuidichidh do'n oigridh a tha an diugh ag ionnsuchadh na plòbaireachd.

MACLEAN OF ARDGOUR.

*"Mown down like a flower is the Chief of Ardgor,
And the hearts of the Clansmen are weary
with woe."*

The death of Colonel MacLean of Ardgor has made a deep impression, an impression of sorrow, and a sense of great loss, throughout all Gaeldom, and among Gaels abroad; for his name was widely known and honoured. While it is true that expression has been given with spontaneous feeling in the public press, yet an obligation rests on us also to place a stone on the cairn of this friend of Gaels, whose passing has touched such a deep chord. Those who had the privilege of Ardgor's acquaintance need not be reminded of his wonderful personal charm. He was endowed with a very rich measure of those qualities which attract. In him the graces were blended in a subtle way. If we were to attempt a brief analysis we should describe his charm as a combination of strength and gentleness. His presence was both inspiring and comforting.

This was true of Ardgor in a special way; and we feel that not a few will agree with our estimate.

Like many heads of old Highland families Ardgor followed the profession of arms. He was a highly efficient and popular officer. His life as a soldier was influenced by the ancestral code of chivalry. It takes a long ancestry and a lofty code to produce just such a type as Ardgor.

When the Great War broke out Ardgor was a major in the Argylls. He was taken prisoner very early in the war. He came in contact with a German officer of high rank. "This officer recalled to Ardgor's memory their meeting in Mull at the functions in connection with the opening of Duart Castle, following its restoration by Sir Fitzroy D. Maclean of Duart. The German officer referred to the courtesy and kindness Ardgor had extended to him and his party on that occasion."

After the war Ardgor severed his connection with the army, and settled down on his estate. He was a Justice of the Peace, and a Deputy-Lieutenant of Argyllshire. He was chairman of a number of public bodies. But there was probably none of these into which he entered with more enthusiasm than into the work of An Comunn in his area. He was the moving spirit in the Ardnamurchan Mod ever since its inception. It was our privilege to take part in that Mod on three successive occasions, and to realise the thoroughness of every aspect, and they were many, to which Ardgor gave his attention. He was married to the Hon. Muriel Annette Burns, daughter of the third Baron Inverclyde. He leaves a family of five daughters. There being no son, a break occurs in the succession, which has continued for four hundred years. Nowhere outside his own family circle, will the passing of Ardgor be more keenly felt, than in the ranks of An Comunn, whose welfare he had so genuinely at heart.

"A chuid de Phàras da."

A' GHÀIDHLIG AGUS SMUAIN AN LA AN DIUGH.

Le IAMHAR MACAOIDH.

Is fada an èigh bho Lunnainn gu ruig Loch Odha. Dhuinne atà a' tighinn beò a réir nòs na cathrach, is ionallach coimheach a' bheatha ud as i saoghal nan Gàidheal agus na Gàidhlig. Air uairean, agus sinn am measg ràn is gleadh-

raich nan rathad-iaruinn fo-thalamh, no a' toirt car-mu-chnoc 'san arabhaig làitheil le othail nan sràid, thig dealbh cabhagach do'n inntinn a dhruideas a mach re tiota eatorras earrann-saoghail a' bhaile-mhóir. A chiall, nach prisleil, àluinn, an dealbh sin! Sealladh, is dòcha, air bagh iadhte le stùcan gorma is am mullaichean bho'm faicear na stuadhan beaga uaine 'nam filleadh gu dosrach thun cladaich is dòcha Camas-fhionnairidh, no air leth-chearcall fada de thràigh agus bailteachas sgapte m'a oir a theagamh gur e an t-Ath-leathan—foghnaidh sin ri ar brosnachadh mu carson agus cuime thatar a' roghnadh beatha a' bhaile-mhóir seach beatha an adhair shaoir measg sìth agus buan-àillead na talmhuinn siorruidh, màthair dhuinn uile.

Fad finn foinneach là mar sin cuibhlidh an smuain 's a' cheist sin anns a' cheann, le cion caidrich an so anns am faodar de earbsa chur gu a leithid de riuinte a chur an cèill ris. Cha robh Iain Pìobaire, an deagh Ghàidheal ud, cho fada cearr 'na bharail nuair a labhair e cho reasgach mu'n t-Sasunnach bhochd, anns "An Ogha Mhór," na chaidh sin as bhuir cuimhne. Ach bha Iain a' beathachadh ri linn nam fuath. Aidichidh mise mu'n Dubh-ghall nach eil e 'na iomlan olc ach "mar bhuntàta nan coimhearsnach," agus gur e an coire as mó air a chuid ainfhios. Chan eil mi 'ga ghairm aineolach a mhàin a dh'aobhar gu bheil ar saoghal Ceilteach, gun lide a ràdh mu ar cànan ro-ionmhuinn, air taobh a muigh a eòlais, ach gu bheil 'san dorchach cheudna ach gann a h-uile ni agus cuspair atà dealaichte bhuaithe le reibein mara. Na feuch ri a shoilleireachadh mu leud aonathach nam pampa Perùanach, mu àirde anabarraich nan Andes, mu'n tuineachas Chuimreach ann an Argentina, no mu'n ùr-bhreith a thachair an Ruise, oir mur a leugh eas uampa 'sna paipearan naidheachd bithidh do shaothair faoin. Fanaidh e ann an amharus. Gidheadh, na leughas e 'sna paipearan no na chi e air na dealbhanan gabhaidh e ris mar fhrìnn ghlan. Agus mo thruaighe, nach fada o'n a stad an dà ni sin eadhon o ionnsaidh a thoirt air athshoilse na frinn. Anns an dara cùis tha againn athshoilse air leanabantas agus béileanach Hollywood agus 'sa chùis eile na h-ionmraidhean mìcheart agus am fiaradh goireasach do dhream beartach agus gun chùram m'an còirean féin.

Sin agad a' chuid as miosa de'n "bhuntàta." Is i a' chuid eile an luchd foghlaim agus ionnsaichte mu nach gabh eiradh gu bheil iad fada air thoiseach oirnn an chùisann litreachais agus na h-aighe. Is mór m'amharus gur i gnàtha mòran Ghàidheal tuigseach a' Bheurla a chleachdadh nuair tha iad a' meòrachadh

nithean inntinneil. Auns an t-seadh so chan eil iad air deireadh an cùisean an tùir, ach 'san t-seadh Ghàidhlig is ann a tha.

Am measg m'èolach tha duine—theirteadh Niall ris, mac no ogha Gàidheil, ach fear nach creideadh tu gu'm b' Albannach idir a bh'ann le cho Sasunnach 's a tha a dhòighean agus cho Beurla a chainnt. Is e cuspair mòran chomhraidhean a bhios eadarainn, is sinn aig ar cofal maduinneil an aon de lòn-thighean Lyons, iomchuidheachd na Gàidhlig do bheatha iom-fhilltich nam baile mór. Tha e a' cur suas gu'n robh i cubhaidh gu leòir do linn nan triath fèodail, na seilge agus nan tàin, agus is e mo mhian a dhearbhadh gu bheil i cho sùbailte ris a' Bheurla no ri gach uile chainnt ann an cur an cèill rùn-aighe an là an diugh. Tha mo charaid nas rag-nhuinealaiche, agus b'fhearr leam gu tric gum b'ann le laoch amhail Aonghas MacDhonnachaidh no Seumas MacLeòid, Scalpaich, a bhiodh e a' reusnachadh. Is e an ni a tha dh'èasbhuidh orm teistean chlobhuailte amhail briathrachan math anns am faightear tionndadh gu deagh Ghàidhlig airson facail san bith, agus sin ann an dòigh ghoirid phungail. Eiridh a nis a' chéist, "Dén ni deagh Ghàidhlig?" 'Nam bheachd-sa tha faclan mar a tha "telefon," "telegraf," "car," "politais," "Soisealair," "omnibus," agus ceudan d'an leithid, cho Gàidhealach ri "brath-clis," "feallsanachd-riaghlaidh," etc., do bhrìgh gur ann 'san fhasan sin a tha Gàidheal a' smaointinn nuair a choinnicheas e na nithean riochdail airson am bheil iad so a' seasamh. Buinidh na buillshampull so do sheòrsa de *lingua franca* a thatar a nis a' cleachdadh air feadh an t-saoghail. Cha tig rughadh do ghruaidh an Fhràngaich nuair a their e "téléphone" no an Spàinnich is e ag innse gura toigh leis éisdeachd ri ceòl "gramófono" re uair na siesta. Cha mhó a dh'iteas Gearmailteach a fhear-dùthcha airson easbhuidh duthechasachd ma chuireas e an gnàths faclan mar "automobil" "kultur," "elektrodynamik," "magnetische," etc.

Anns gach cànan tha na briathran ceart-cheudna. Is dosheachnail so a chionn tha na h-inneil agus na h-àbhaistean coitcheann anns a h-uile tìr. Gidheadh, tha bunait gach teanga air leth. A mhàin, tha daoine a' litreachadh 's a' fuaimneachadh nam facal 'nan dòigh nadurra féin. Ma's urrainn do chànan na briathran ùra uchd-mhacachadh cha chomharra sin air laighe aig air neart. Tha an t-am air tighinn gus am briathrachan cumanta so a ghabhail mar ri Gàidhlig mbaith agus am modh-sgrìobhaidh a chur romhainn. Thoireamaid dhaibh fìor bhlas an fhraoich, oir is Gàidhlig iad cheana.

Bu chaomh leam sanas a thoirt gu'n stéidhichteadh buidheann a bhiodh cuideachail do'n Chomunn Ghàidhealach le rùn an obair ro àraidh so a choilionadh. Tha e cinnreach gu'n faighteadh deòin agus comas am measg nam ball. Le cuideachadh ughdarrais aidichte mar a tha 'san Ollamh Watson, 'san Ollamh Chaladair, an Aonghas MacDhonnachaidh, an Eachann MacDhùghail agus a liuthadh eile, faodar a chur air bonn sgoil-àrd airson leudachadh briathrachan na Gàidhlig a bhiodh 'na coimeas do'n Academie Francaise no do'n Academia Espanola.

Tha sinn a' leughadh gu minig anns a' mhiosachan so mu shuidheachadh na Gàidhlig, ach air a' cheann as eudmhora tha mòran de'm bheil a' seasamh 'na ghrabhadh do bheò-mhairsinn na caint mar bhall-acuinn co-chomuinn. Nach fada tha iad o bhith aithneach air so! Ach is ni ro-chinnteach e, ma dh'obas luchd foghlaim na faclan agus na rùintean ùra a leigil a stigh, gu'n tréigear a' chàin leis an t-sluagh a chionn bítear a' dol a dh'faotainn am mach gu'm beil an còrr de shaorsa is de rùn gus an nàdur buan-mheudach a thaisbeanadh anns a' Bheurla. Chan eil mi a' dol thar firinn, ar leam, nuair their mi gur e ni ro-fheumail gu léir do fhàs is seasmhachd na càinain Ghàidhealach gu'n cuirteadh as a Rathad gach cnapstarra, agus mar chnapstarra tha mi a' rùnachadh an "conservatism" as e alladh coitcheann cuid mhòr de dheagh Ghàidheil chunntasail.

Tha an saoghal ag atharrachadh o là gu là : is còir dhuinn fàs is meudachadh comhla ris cho fad agus is miann leinn a chophàirteachadh gu fìor 'na achdaidheas.

Tha e coltach gu'm beil a' mhorchuid de na Gàidheil a tha 'nam buill do'n Chomunn glé fheitheach airson cnuasachd gu domhain cùramach mu fhearas-tighe a' chinnich Gharbh-chrochail. An so, cuideachd, is còir dhuinn ar beachdan a sgaolteadh ris a' ghaoith, air neo cha ruig sinn gu bràth fuasgladh na céiste. Is e céist ar luchd oibre aon stéidh càinain luthmhoir—céist nan sluagh aiteachail anns gach àite. Uime sin feumar am meòrachadh ann an soilleir an eòlais a tha againn air staid nan oibrichean air feadh an t-saoghail. An so chan eil e comasach dhomh deasbuid a thionnsnadh mu phoiliteas, ach aon ni their mi, gura feumail duinn a h-uile gnè bheachdan a thoirt fainear.

Biodh againn, air an aobhar so, mar bhriathar-faire :—" Dh'ionnsuidh fàs, feobhas, agus ath-nuadhachadh ar càinain tre shaorsa agus eòlas ionraic na h-inntinn. SUAS LEIS A' GHÀIDHLIG.

PERTHSHIRE PROVINCIAL MOD.

The eighth Perthshire Provincial Mod, under the auspices of An Comunn Gàidhealach, was held in the Town Hall, Aberfeldy, on 20th June. There were large audiences in every section, but the number of entrants showed a slight decrease from last year.

The adjudicators were :—Gaelic—Oral Delivery—Mr. John N. Macleod, Kirkhill. Vocal—Mr. J. Bannerman, Clynder, Miss Nan M'Innes, Luing; Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A., F.S.A., Glasgow. Music—Mr. Hugh S. Robertson, Glasgow; Mr. Hugh Hunter, Mus. Bac., Inellan; Mr. Ian C. Menzies, Edinburgh; Miss Black, Inellan; Mr. Robert Irvine, Ballinluig (bagpipes). Literary Section—Mr. Arch. M'Lean, M.A., Logierait.

The Mod was considered to be the most successful yet held, the standard, both oral and vocal, showing a marked improvement on any heard before. Mr. Hugh Robertson remarked that it must be a proud thing for the Gaels to know that they possessed the most characteristic thing in music—that was mouth music. *He knew of no children anywhere who were being fed so vitally as Gaelic children were, through mouth music.* Mr. Menzies praised the instrumental section, remarking that the quality of the work had improved immensely.

The arrangements were carried out with great ability by Miss C. MacDonald, High School, Pitlochry, who was assisted by Mr. Neil Shaw, general secretary of "An Comunn.

The prize-winners were :—

JUNIOR SECTION.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading Prose chosen by Competitors (learners)—Native Speakers—1, Jeanie Robertson, Strathtummel School. Non-Gaelic Speakers—1, Cathie Shaw, Killin; 2, Marion M'Lean, Killin; 3, Annabella M'Lean, Killin.

Reading, chosen by Judge, from "Leabhraichean Sgoile Gàidhlig" (under 16 years)—Native Speakers—Jeanie Robertson.

Reciting from Memory (under 16)—Native Speakers—1, Jeanie Robertson. Non-Gaelic Speakers—1, Isobel Stewart, Grandtully; 2, Annabella M'Lean and Marion M'Lean (equal); 4, Betty Balmer, Struan School.

Narrative followed by Conversation (under 18)—1, Helen MacGregor, Killin; 2, Jeanie S. Robertson, Strathtummel.

Gaelic Conversation (under 18)—1, Jessie M. MacDougall, Aberfeldy; 2, Jeanie S. Robertson, Strathtummel.

Gaelic Conversation (under 16)—1, Cathie Shaw; 2, Margaret C. Johnstone, Strathtummel; 3, Jeanie S. Robertson, Katie Dow (Struan School), Marion M'Lean (equal).

Reading (16 to 18 years)—1, Helen MacGregor; 2, Jessie M. MacDougall.

Reciting from Memory (open, 16 to 18)—1, Helen M'Gregor, Killin.

Acting Dialogue (open, under 18)—Jeanie M. M'Naughton, Strathummel, and Jeanie S. Robertson, Strathummel.

LITERARY.

Place Names (open, under 18)—1, Hamish Seaton, Blair Atholl; 2, Wm. Blair, Blair Atholl; 3 (equal), Margaret C. Johnstone, Strathummel, and Jeanie Robertson, Strathummel.

Essay or Story—Jeanie Robertson; 2, Helen MacGregor, Killin.

Best collection of pressed flowers (Lady Helen Tod's Prizes)—1, Bertie Fergusson, Blair Atholl; 2, Hetty Broadhead, Blair Atholl; 3, Alex. Jamieson, Blair Atholl.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing (Competitor's Choice)—1, Isobel Stewart; 2, Jean E. MacDougall, Aberfeldy; 3, Reenie Fraser, Kenmore.

Solo (Competitor's Choice)—Boys—1, Harold Gillies, Acharn; 2, Hamish M'Rae, Kenmore; 3, John Beaton, Acharn.

Solo—Boys or Girls—1, Katie MacGregor, Killin; 2, Robert Clark, Grandtully; 3 (equal), John Beaton, Acharn, and Isobel Stewart, Grandtully.

Duet Singing (own choice)—1, Agnes MacNab and Isobel Stewart, Grandtully; 2, Robert Clark and John M'Farlane, Grandtully; 3, Amelia Campbell and Isobel Robertson, Aberfeldy.

Solos (16 to 18)—Girls or Boys—1, Cathie Beaton, Acharn; 2, May Barron, Kenmore.

Choral Union Singing—1, Grandtully Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Aberfeldy Junior Gaelic Choir; 3, Kenmore Junior Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing—1, Kenmore Junior Gaelic Choir (only entrant).

SENIOR SECTION.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing (competitor's choice)—Female—1, Isabella Menzies, Blair Atholl; 2, Mrs. K. Panton, Pitlochry; 3, Mrs. C. Carmichael, Fortingall.

Solo Singing (competitor's choice)—Male—1, John MacArthur, Ballinluig; 2, David Thomson, Kinloch Rannoch; 3 (equal), Peter Brydone, Kinloch Rannoch, and George Coull, Acharn.

Solo Singing—Male or Female—1, Christie Macdonald Acharn; 2, John MacArthur; 3, Miss C. Coull and George Coull, Acharn (equal).

Solo Singing (unpublished Perthshire Song)—Male or Female—Miss Isabella Menzies.

Solo Singing (open to former first prize-winners, own choice)—1, Isabella Menzies; 2, John MacPherson, Blair Atholl; 3, Christie Macdonald.

Duet (competitor's choice)—1, Miss C. Coull and Mr. George M. Coull; 2 (equal), Jean Macdonald and Maisie Macdonald, Kinloch Rannoch, and John MacMartin and James G. Scott, Kinloch Rannoch.

Choral Singing—1, Kenmore and Fearnan Senior Gaelic Choir; 2, Kinloch Rannoch Gaelic Choir; 3, Aberfeldy Senior Gaelic Choir.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading (open)—Duncan M'Nicol, Achianaich.

Reading (confined to learners)—1, Mrs. MacRae, Kenmore; 2, Miss Betty MacKinnon, Pitlochry.

Reading—Native Speakers—1 (equal), Mrs. Jessie MacDougall, Aberfeldy, and Duncan M'Nicol, Achianaich.

Recitation (confined to learners)—1, Betty MacKinnon; 2, George M. Coull.

Recitation—1, Mrs. Jessie MacDougall, Aberfeldy; 2, Mr. John Ford, Glenlyon; 3, Mr. Christie MacDonald, Acharn.

Sgeulachd—(equal) John Ford, Glenlyon, and Miss S. Small, Dinnanean, Aberfeldy.

Acted Dialogue—Miss J. MacDonald, Aberfeldy, and Miss Alexandra M. Stewart, Aberfeldy.

INSTRUMENTAL SECTION.

Violin—1, Alex. R. Cook, Bankfoot; 2, George M. Coull, Acharn; 3, Mary Cameron, Aberfeldy.

Pianoforte—1, Jean E. MacDougall, Aberfeldy; 2, Anna Cameron, Aberfeldy; 3, Jean Fairweather, Dunning.

Bagpipes—1, Magnus Grieve, Gleneagles; 2, James Menzies, Kinloch Rannoch; 3, Angus M'Donald, Glengarry.

In the evening a concert was held under the chairmanship of Mr. John Macnaughton, Lady Helen Tod presenting the prizes. The programme was provided by prize-winners at the Mod, and Miss Nan MacInnes, Luining, and Mr. Donald MacIsaac, Glasgow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,—With further reference to our letter to you of April 23 regarding your review of the new Edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, we feel we should draw your attention to the fact that your reviewer has misrepresented the *Encyclopædia Britannica* in his statement about the derivations of the names "Bute" and "Glasgow."

In the first place there is no suggestion in either of these two articles that the derivations given can be regarded as anything more than conjectural. In the article BUTE an alternative suggestion is given for the one named by your contributor, namely, that the word is derived from the Erse, *both* in allusion to St. Brendan's foundation in the 6th century. As regards GLASGOW, your reviewer entirely misquotes the article which actually states that some historians hold "that the name of Glasgow comes from Gaelic words meaning 'dark glen,' while the more generally accepted version is the Celtic Cleschu, afterwards written Glesco or Glasghu, meaning 'dear green spot' (glas, green; cu or ghu, dear)."

Yours faithfully,

W. A. FRANKS, Manager,
The Encyclopædia Britannica Co., Ltd.

COMMUN BADGES.

Members can now be supplied with Badges direct from Head Office; price 2/7½, post free.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Mingulay.—Fuaireas indiu ó oifigeach loinge, Leódach a thigean uair sa' bhliain nó sa' dha bhliain go Corcaigh, an ainm athá ag muinntir Uige ar an oileán úd. *Eilean* "Veudae" a dubhairt sé, ach chan fhaca sé an ainm scríbhthe riamh. An eol d' aon léighthóir an nós is ceart an ainm a scríobha? Tha mé le breis agus bliain ag rannsachadh "dóigh agus an-dóigh" ar lorg na h-ainme sin!

A Jacobite Fragment.—References in Irish Gaelic poetry to Rí Seumas (and to Seurlas Og, "an Loan Dubh,") are numerous. The following from "Donn Fírinne's Prophecy" (dated 1715?) may be of interest to Scottish Gaels:

"Beidh Eire go sùgach
Is a dùnta go h-aerach
Is Gaedhilg 'a scrúda
Na múraibh ag éigsibh;
Beurla na mbúr ndubh
Go cúthail fó néaltaibh,
Is Seumas 'na chúirt ghil
A' tabhairt chonganta do Ghaedhlaibh."

Gluisin.—Beidh=bithidh. A scrúda=a' rannsachadh. Eigse=lucht léighinn is foghluma; daoine ionnsaichte. Go cúthail=gu h-ailleannach eagalach. Tabhairt chonganta ("chúnta")=thoirt comhnaidh.
i gCorcaigh, in Eirinn,
26 ú lá de Bhealtaine, 1930.

S.T.

CUMHA AN T-SEANA GHAIÐHEIL.

LE CALUM MACRATH.

An diugh 'sa gheann 'nam aonaran
'S mi smaointeachadh gu dian,
Air eachdraidhean an t-saoghail so
'S air caochlaidhean gach bliadhn';
Tha 'n aois a nis air teannadh orm
'Sa gearradh uam mo cheum,
Ri dol troimh'n gheann fo chianalas
Mar uan air slabh leis féin.

Tha lusan maoth an t-samhraidh
'S an am so tighinn fo bhláth,
Ged rinn fuachd a' gheamhraidh
Is teanntachd uile 'n cnámh;
Tha beatha nuadh air tilleadh riu
'S gach aon diubh nis a' fàs;
'Nuair dh'fhágas mise 'n gleann so
Cha till mi ann gu bráth,

Tha gleannan m'óige fásaichte
Gun duine 'támh 'na chóir,
Na gaisgeich threun chaidh àrach ann
An diugh a' cnámh fo'n fhòid—
An oigridh 'dhion 'sa shabhail sinn
'Nuair bha námh a' bagradh cruaidh,
'Sa sheas gu duineil dileas sinn
Air tìr 's air aird a' chnain.

Cha chluinn mi guth a' mhanrain ann,
No gair na caileig òig;
Tha chagailte gun bhlaiths innte,
Gun fhardach de 'm bheil ceò;
Tha imirean an eorna
Uile comhdaichte fo fhraoch,
Is slìochd nan laoch a dh'aitich iad
Gu h-anrach feadh an t-saoghail.

An sluagh bha càirdeil ceanalta
Is fearachail 'nan dòigh,
Bhiodh caoimhneil ris an allaban
'Nuair theannadh e 'nan còir;
Iad onorach is fírinneach
'S do'n Bhiobull bheireadh spéis,
Bu churamach mu'n t-Sàbaid iad
'S gu cumail aitheantan Dhè.

Am bothan tughaidh ràinig mi
Far 'n chaith mi laithean m'òig,
'Sam faca mi an toiseach ann
Gath soluis glan an t-saoghail;
Far na thaladh le mo mhàthair mi
Ri broilleach làn de ghaol,
'Sa thug a' chànan Ghaidhlig dhomh
Bho bilean gràdhach, caomh.

Gu'n tug mi sùil fo dheòir mu'n cuairt
Air gleannan uain' mo ghaoil,
Is air a bheanntan arda
Bha àluinn air gach taobh;
Bha'n ceò a nuas gu'n guallean
A' falach uams' am barr,
Is obair Nàduir oirdhearc
'Gan cuir fo chròic gu 'n sàil.

Dh'éisd mi greis air m'uilinn
Air an tulaich ris na h-eòin,
Dh'aotromaich iad mo mhulad dhomh
Oir bu shubhachail an ceòl;
Is iad a' seinn cho glòrmhor
Air bharr nan ògan ur',
Ag urachadh dhomh 'n ealamhachd
Na laithean sonsa dh'aom.

CLARSACH.—Lady (Edinburgh), experienced, gives sound tuition. Twelve lessons, 3 gns. (£3 3s).—"Clarsach," this office.

DALRIADA PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Annual Dalriada Provincial Mod at Lochgilphead on Tuesday and Wednesday, 17th and 18th June, was a most gratifying success. The excellent arrangements of the local committee, and the large number of competitors, together with the glorious weather that prevailed were factors that greatly helped to make the proceedings most enjoyable. At the close of each day's proceedings a concert was held. Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow, presided over the Junior concert on Tuesday evening, and Lady Elspeth Campbell similarly honoured the company at the Senior concert on Wednesday evening. At the concerts the prize-winners were assisted by Miss Bessie Campbell and Mr. James C. MacPhee, Mod Gold Medalists.

The adjudicators were:—Gaelic—Rev. T. S. Macpherson, Mr. J. R. Bannerman and Mr. N. MacLeod. Vocal Music—Mr. Gilbert Esplin. Piping and Dancing—Pipe-Major Francis F. Ross and Mrs. Stewart (Fasnacloich). Celtic Art—Mr. Colin Sinclair.

During the day Captain George I. Campbell yr., of Succoth; Mrs. Graham Campbell, yr., of Shirvan; Rev. J. Cameron, Kirkmichael, and Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow, presided.

The prize-winners were:—

JUNIOR SECTION.

LITERATURE.

Letter writing—1, Isa MacDonald, Lochgilphead; 2, Neil MacPhail, Tayvallich.

Diction—1, Isa MacDonald; 2, Margt. MacMillan, Minard.

Translation—1, Margt. MacMillan; 2, Isa MacDonald.

Translation—English into Gaelic—1, Neil MacPhail; 2, Margt. MacMillan.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading Poetry—1, Isa MacDonald; 2, Mary Lindsay, Tayvallich.

Reading Prose—1, Mary Lindsay; 2 (equal), Jessie MacLachlan and Mary MacLachlan, Tayvallich.

Reading unfamiliar Prose—1 (equal), Isa MacDonald and Henry MacGuinness, Tayvallich.

Reciting—1, Isa MacDonald; 2, Mary Lindsay.

Reciting selected Poetry—1, Mary Lindsay; 2, Neil MacPhail.

Sgeulachd—1 (equal), Mary MacLachlan and Neil MacPhail.

Acted Dialogue—1, Willie Stewart and Hugh C. Stewart, Inveraray; 2, Margt. MacMillan, Minard, and Henry MacGuinness, Tayvallich.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing—Girls—1, Margaret MacCallum, Lochgilphead; 2, Phemie Cameron, Kilmichael.

Solo Singing—Boys—1, Willie Stewart; 2, Neil MacPhail.

Solo Singing—Girls and Boys—1, Neil MacPhail; 2, Willie Stewart.

Solo Singing—Girls and Boys under 12—1, Hugh C. Stewart; 2, Alister MacLachlan, Tayvallich.

Puirt-a-beul—1, Mary MacLachlan, Tayvallich; 2, Jessie Cameron, Kilmichael.

Duet—1, Willie Stewart, and Hugh C. Stewart Inveraray; 2 (equal), Mary MacLachlan and Alister MacLachlan, Tayvallich, and Flora Campbell and Elsie Gillies, Kilmartin.

Choral Singing (harmony)—1, Tayvallich Junior Choir; 2, Lochgilphead Junior Choir.

Unison—1, Tayvallich Junior Choir; 2 and 3, Lochgilphead Junior Choirs "A" and "B."

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Bagpipe Playing (march)—1, Henry MacGuinness; 2, Hamish Ross, Lochgilphead.

Strathspey and Reel—1, Henry MacGuinness; 2, John Revie, Lochgilphead.

March (under 14)—1, Robert MacIntyre, Lochgilphead; 2, Angus Greenshields, Lochgilphead.

March on Chanter—1, Alex. Mackenzie, Minard; 2, Ian N. Ferguson, Leckuary.

March, Strathspey and Reel on Pianoforte—1, Connie Campbell, Furnace; 2, Billie Greenshields, Lochgilphead.

Strathspey and Reel on Violin—1, Jack Shaw, Kilmartin; 2, Buntie Leckie, Lochgilphead.

DANCING.

Highland Fling—1, Anne Kenneth, Oakfield; 2, Robert MacIntyre, Lochgilphead.

Sword Dance—1, Billic Greenshields; 2, Crae MacIntyre, Lochgilphead.

SENIOR SECTION.

LITERATURE.

Letter Writing—1, Mr. Dugald Campbell, Ormsary; 2, Mr. C. R. S. Malcolm, Lochgilphead.

List of place names—Mr. C. R. S. Malcolm.

Translation—Mr. C. R. S. Malcolm.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading unfamiliar Prose—1, Miss C. M'Lulloch, Kilmartin; 2, Mr. D. Martin, Asylum Cottages.

Reciting Poetry—1, Mr. Dugald Campbell; 2, Miss C. M'Lulloch.

Sgeulachd—1, Miss C. M'Lulloch; 2, Mrs. Stewart, Inveraray.

Dialogue—Mrs. Stewart and Nurse MacLean, Inveraray.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing—Female Voices—1, Mrs. Stewart; 2, Miss Macallister, Lochgilphead; 3, Miss M. B. Ferguson, Ardrishaig.

Solo Singing—Males—1, Mr. D. Martin; 2, Mr. A. Grinlaw, Ardrishaig; 3, Mr. A. Macarthur, Kilmartin.

Solo Singing—Male and Female—1, Mr. A. Grinlaw; 2, Miss M. Macallister; 3, Miss M. M. Ferguson, Inveraray.

Puirt-a-beul—Mr. M. Clark, Kilmartin.

Oran Mór—Miss M. B. Ferguson.

Presenting in Traditional style—Mr. A. Macarthur.

Duets—Misses S. and M. Macallister, Lochgilphead.

Trios—Miss S. Macallister, Miss Winnie Smith, and Mr. William MacGregor, Lochgilphead.

Quartettes—Kilmartin Quartette.

Choral Singing (harmony)—1 and Cup, Kilmartin.

Choir; 2, Tarbert Choir; 3, Lochgilphead.

Choral (unison)—1, Lochgilphead; 2, Kilmartin; 3, Tarbert.

DANCING.

Reel of Four—1, Robert M'Intyre, Lochgilphead; 2, Miss M. Macallister, Lochgilphead; 3, Crae M'Intyre, Lochgilphead.

Country Dances—1, Lochgilphead S.W.R.I. team;

2, Crae M'Intyre's (Lochgilphead) team.

ART.

Celtic Art Design—Mr. C. R. S. Malcolm.

Pochette—Miss M. Rose, Lochgilphead.

PROVINCIAL MOD AT OBAN.

An enthusiasm which exceeded that seen for many years marked the proceedings at the Lorn, Mull, and Morven Provincial Mod, which was held at Oban on Friday, 20th June, and which was attended by over 300 competitors who came from all parts of a far-flung district by train and steamer and motor bus. The competitions went on simultaneously in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, the St. Columba Church Hall, and Dunollie Road Church Hall, and concluded with a grand concert, at which a large and entranced audience was presided over by Mr. M. M'Leod, Glasgow.

The adjudicators were:—For Literature—Mr. D. M'Pherson, M.A., Appin, and Mr. Archibald MacLean, M.A., Logierait. Oral Delivery—Mr. Archibald Munn, Oban, Rev. D. W. MacKenzie, Kilmelford, Rev. H. Cameron, Oban, and Rev. W. MacPhail, Ardrishaig. Vocal Music—Mr. R. M'Callum, Glasgow, Mr. Neil Orr, Edinburgh. Gaelic—Mr. A. MacNeill, Connel, and Mr. M. MacLeod, Glasgow. Oral Delivery (junior section)—Rev. Hector Cameron, Oban, and Mr. Hugh MacCorquodale, Glasgow.

The merit shown in all the competitions was exceptionally high, and the adjudicators had a difficult task to decide upon their awards. The contest for the trophy presented by Mr. D. Macdougall, Dungorm, was followed with much interest, and was finally won by the Luìng Gaelic Choir, whose conductor, Mr. W. Taylor, received a great ovation.

The awards were as follows:—

Literature.—Letter Describing a Trip to Iona—1, Peggy Lowe, Tobermory; 2 (equal), Jessie Livingstone, Sadie Kennedy, and Christina M'Dougall, Tobermory. Gaelic Translation—1 (equal), Sadie Kennedy and Christina Macdougall; 2 (equal), Peggy Lowe and Margaret Black, Oban.

Oral Delivery.—Poetry Reading—1, Peggy Lowe; 2 and 3 (equal), Jeanie Campbell, Tobermory H.G. School, and Duncan MacDonald, Tobermory H.G. School. Prose Reading—1, 2, and 3 (equal), Margaret Black, Oban High School; Margaret Brown, Luìng; and Jeanie Campbell.

Reading at Sight—1, Sadie Kennedy; 2, Margaret Black; 3, Peggy Lowe.

Short Sgeulachd—1, Margaret Black; 2, Jeanie Campbell; 3, Sadie Kennedy.

Reciting from Memory—1, William Robertson, Tobermory H.G. School; 2, Christina MacLean, Tobermory H.G. School.

Vocal Music.—Solo Singing—Girls—1, Isobel Stewart, Oban High School; 2, Jessie MacArthur, Luìng; 3 (equal), Margaret M. MacQueen, Easdale, and Annie M. Frew, Glencoe. Boys—1, Alex. MacLellan, Luìng; 2, Duncan J. MacQueen, Easdale; 3, Iain Cumming, St. Columba's R.C. School. Boys and Girls (12 years and under)—1, Isobel Stewart, Oban High School; 2, Morag MacEachan, Connel; 3, Nan Brown, Luìng.

Solo Singing of a Gaelic Song—Margaret MacLennan, Luìng.

Solo Singing (Boys and Girls)—1, Jessie MacArthur, 2, Alex. MacLellan; 3, Annie M. Frew.

Duet Singing—1 (equal), Margaret MacQueen and Duncan MacQueen, Easdale, and Flora MacKinnon and Alex. MacLellan, Luìng; 2, Nan Brown and Peter Mackay, Luìng.

Junior Section.—Oral Delivery—Reciting from Memory—1, Margaret Black; 2, Christina MacLean; 3, George Galbraith, Luìng.

Senior Section.—Oral Delivery—Reading at Sight—1, John Campbell, Easdale; 2, Jeanie MacLachlan, Oban High School; 3, Angus F. MacKinnon, Oban High School.

Recitation—1, Duncan MacNeill, Oban High School; 2, Colin Palmer, Oban High School.

Sgeulachd—1, Donald Campbell, Easdale; 2, John Campbell; 3, Colin Palmer.

Solo Singing.—Female Voices—1, Mrs. Noble, Connel; 2, Lily B. MacLeod, Kilniver; 3, Margaret Campbell, Easdale. Male Voices—1, Dugald MacQuarrie, Luìng; 2, Dugald MacLaurin, Benderloch; 3, Hugh Lamont, Pennyngael. Male or Female Voices—1, Duncan A. MacPherson, Tiorran; 2, (equal) Hugh Lamont, Pennyngael, and Arch. MacDonald, Benderloch.

Duet Singing—Janet F. MacPhail and Lily MacPhail, Luìng.

Junior Section.—Choral Singing of a Song in Two-Part Harmony—Luìng Junior Choir.

Unison Singing of a Song—Luìng Junior Choir.

Senior Section.—Choral Singing of a Song in Harmony 1, Luìng Gaelic Choir; 2, Benderloch Gaelic Choir; 3, Glenorchy Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing in Harmony—First Prize and the Lorn, Mull, and Morven Provincial Mod Trophy—Winners—Luìng Gaelic Choir.

MANCHESTER.

We hope to start a Ceilidh in Manchester in the Autumn. Will those who are interested please communicate with Mrs. Rhodes, 131 Barlow Moor Road, West Didsbury, Manchester.

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SECRETARY'S NOTES.

On Thursday, 29th June, I attended a meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Dumfries, and addressed a company of 20 Gaelic speakers. It was unanimously agreed to form a Branch of An Comunn, and office-bearers were appointed. Mr. Donald Urquhart is President, and Mr. Duncan Campbell, "Cardean," Eastfield Road, Dumfries, Secretary and Treasurer.

On the following evening I attended the first regular meeting of the Stirling Branch in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling. Mr. Munro, President, presided over a large gathering of members and friends. The membership now exceeds 100, and a successful first session is anticipated. I attended a meeting of the S.W. Ross Mod Committee on Saturday, 31st May.

The South Uist and Benbecula Provincial Mod was held in Daliburgh on Tuesday, 10th June. This was the first Provincial Mod held in the Outer Hebrides (Lewis excepted) under the auspices of An Comunn. Mr. J. R. Bannerman and Mr. Neil Orr, accompanied me on this occasion and, along with Miss Annie Johnston, Castlebay, were engaged in adjudicating from ten o'clock in the morning until near eleven o'clock at night. In addition to many individual competitors in Oral and Solo sections, there were eleven Junior Choirs and eight Senior Choirs. The schoolrooms were packed with interested audiences throughout the long sessions. Much credit is due Miss Margaret MacDonald, An Comunn teacher, for the splendid way in which competitors and choirs were prepared. The Rev. Father Duncan MacLean, Convener, Mr. Neil MacLennan, Treasurer, Mr. Alexander Fraser, M.A., Secretary, and the members of Committee deserve heartiest thanks for the excellent manner in which the first Mod was carried through.

On the return journey I called at Tiree, and interviewed a number of people known to be specially interested in the work of An Comunn. Two meetings were held, at Scarinish and Balemartin, but the attendance was small. The ground, however, is well prepared for meetings in October and Branches will, ultimately, be formed.

The local committee in Dunoon is making arrangements to ensure the success of the

Fancy Fair which they are promoting in conjunction with the British Legion and District Nursing Association. Members of An Comunn and all interested in the Mod should make a point of attending the Fair at Dunoon on 10th, 11th, or 12th July. The Fair will be opened by a representative of An Comunn on Friday, 11th July.

The dates of the National Mod are 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th September. The closing date for entries is Saturday, 26th July. Will intending competitors please note the date and, if possible, forward their entries prior to the closing day, and help to relieve the work in the office.

It is expected that a large number of students will attend the Summer School of Gaelic at Inverness on 1st and 28th August. In addition to the usual classes Mr. Neil Orr is conducting a Music Teachers' class. The Tonic Solfa College Committee (London) will arrange for an examination on the closing day of the School, and those gaining sufficient marks will be awarded a Teacher's Certificate. For accommodation in Inverness intending students should apply early to Miss Jessie E. MacKenzie, 79 Lochalsh Road, Inverness, local secretary.

The Education Committee has arranged for an Educational Conference to be held in Inverness on 15th August to discuss the present state of Gaelic teaching in Highland Schools. Directors of Education, Inspectors of Schools, representative teachers and others have been invited to take part in the discussions. There will be a forenoon and afternoon session, and possibly an evening session as well.

The fourth biennial visit of the Order of Scottish Clans of America takes place this year, and elaborate arrangements are being made to ensure the success of the visit. The two luxurious Anchor Line steamers, "Caledonia" and "Transylvania" have been specially chartered to convey the clansmen across, and Mr. Duncan MacInnes, Royal Chief, will lead the party. The clansmen are due to disembark at Yorkhill, Glasgow, on Friday, 1st August. As on former occasions the Anchor Line Company have invited members of An Comunn to meet the parties and welcome them to the homeland.

NIALL.

MOD AT STORNOWAY.

Comunn Gaidhealach Leodhais held their seventh provincial mod at Stornoway, when there was a fair entrance in all competitions, and interest was taken particularly in the choral events and solo singing. These competitions, as well as those for piping and dancing, were conducted before an audience that comfortably filled the Town Hall.

The culminating event in a most successful festival was the concert, at which Mr. Compton Mackenzie, of the Shiant Isles, presided over a large and enthusiastic audience. In the course of his remarks Mr. Mackenzie said he had decided at the national mod to give a challenge shield for waulking songs. He was inspired to do this by the fine appearance made at the last mod by the Laxdale School Choir. He wanted particularly to encourage the children, because with them more than with any others lay the future of the Gaelic language. He did not need to preach the Gaelic cause in Lewis, but he did not want them to think about Gaelic too sentimentally. It was because of its importance intellectually and the advantage it gave young children to be bi-lingual that he wanted to see it maintained.

Mrs. Compton Mackenzie distributed the various trophies and special prizes to the successful competitors.

The following is the complete prize-list:—

Literature.—Gaelic Essay—Nicolson Institute Pupils—1, Malcolm M. Morrison; 2, Marion Smith; 3, Donald Macleod; 4, Catherine Macleod (b); 5, Marion Morrison. Landward Pupils—1, Chrissie A. Stewart, Bayble; 2, Kennina Campbell, Bayble; 3, Mary Macleod, Knock; 4 (equal), William Morrison, Lionel and Annabella Macleod, Bayble; 6, Henrietta Macrae, Laxdale.

Writing in Gaelic from Dictation.—Nicolson Institute Pupils—1, Dolina R. Morrison; 2, John M. Mackay; 3, Dolina MacLennan; 4, John K. Maciver; 5, Cath. Macleod (b); 6, Marion Morrison. Landward Pupils—1, Chrissie A. Stewart, Bayble; 2, Henrietta Macrae, Laxdale; 3, Mary Macleod, Knock; 4, Jane A. Macrae, Laxdale; 5 (equal), John M. Macmillan, Aird, and Kennina Campbell, Bayble.

Reproduction in Gaelic of Unseen English Prose Passage.—Nicolson Institute Pupils—1, M. M. Morrison; 2, J. K. Maciver; 3, Isabella Matheson; 4, Jamesina Morrison; 5, Mary Morrison; 6, John M. Mackay. Landward Pupils—1, Chrissie A. Stewart, Bayble; 2, Mary Macleod, Knock; 3, William Morrison, Lionel; 4, John Macmillan, Aird; 5 (equal), John Macdonald, Bayble, and Kennina Campbell, Bayble.

Translation of Gaelic Prose into English.—Nicolson Institute Pupils—1, M. M. Morrison; 2 (equal), Cath. Macleod (b), and Donald Macleod; 4, Marion Smith; 5, Isabella Matheson. Landward Pupils—1, Peggy Murray, Lionel; 2, Chrissie A. Stewart, Bayble; 3, Dolina Macleod, Bayble; 4 (equal) Ina Campbell,

Lionel, and Agnes Macdonald, Lionel; 5, (equal) Margaret Macgregor, Laxdale, and Chrissie M. Matheson, Sandwick.

Translation of Gaelic Idioms into English Equivalents.—Nicolson Institute Pupils—1, M. M. Morrison; 2, Marion Smith; 3, Cath. Macleod (b); 4, John M. Mackay; 5 (equal), Maggie Smith and Isabella Matheson. Landward Pupils—1, Murdo Macdonald, Aird; 2, Dolina Mackenzie, Sandwick; 3, Margaret Stewart, Laxdale; 4 (equal), Chrissie A. Stewart, Bayble; Henrietta Macrae, Laxdale, Agnes Macdonald, Lionel and Norah Chapman, Sandwick.

Translation of a Short Prose Passage into English.—Nicolson Institute—Sheila Macdonald. Landward Pupils—1, John Macmillan, Aird; 2, Jessie A. Macrae, Sandwick; 3 (equal), Henrietta Macrae, Laxdale, and Chrissie M. Reid, Laxdale; 5 (equal), Margaret Macgregor, Laxdale, and James Thomson, Bayble.

Oral Delivery.—Reading with Expression Pieces of Gaelic Prose.—Nicolson Institute Pupils—1, Dolina MacLennan; 2, Jane Mitchell; 3 (equal), Mary Martin and Jessie Macphail; 5 (equal), Mary Morrison and Catherine Maciver. Landward Schools Pupils—(equal), Murdina Maclean, Knock, and Mary Macleod, Knock; 3, J. M. Macmillan, Aird; 4 (equal), James Thomson, Bayble, and Murdo Macdonald, Aird; 6 (equal) Dolina Macleod, Bayble, and Alexander Maciver, Knock.

Reading with Expression Pieces of Gaelic Prose.—Nicolson Institute Pupils—1, Dolina MacLennan; 2 (equal), Jane Mitchell, Mary Morrison, and Catherine Maciver; 5 (equal), Jessie Macphail and Mary Smith. Landward Pupils—1, J. M. Macmillan, Aird; 2 (equal) Chrissie A. Stewart, Bayble, Murdina Macleod, Knock, and Mary Macleod, Knock; 5 (equal), Kennina Campbell, Bayble, Donald Macleod, Bayble, James Thomson, Bayble, and Mary Mackenzie, Aird.

Reading with Expression Pieces of Gaelic Prose or Poetry by Learners—1, Ciona Macleod, Knock; 2, Margaret Kempe, Sandwick.

Reading with Expression Pieces of Gaelic Prose or Poetry by Learners—Landward Schools Pupils—1, Ciona Macleod, Knock; 2, Margaret Kempe, Sandwick.

Reciting from Memory.—Nicolson Institute Pupils—1, Sheila Macdonald; 2, Maggie Smith; 3, (equal) Mary Martin, Dolina MacLennan, and Jane Mitchell. Landward Schools Pupils—1, James Thomson, Bayble; 2 (equal), Alexander Maciver, Knock; John Morrison, Knock; Murdina Maclean, Knock; Kennina Campbell, Bayble, and Dolina Macleod, Bayble.

Telling with Expression a Traditional Story in Gaelic.—Nicolson Institute Pupils—Maggie Smith. Landward Schools Pupils—1, Murdo Macdonald, Aird; 2 (equal), Mary Matheson, Sandwick, and Jessie A. Macrae, Sandwick; 4, Norah Chapman, Sandwick.

Acted Dialogue in Gaelic by Two Performers.—Landward Schools Pupils—1, J. M. Macmillan, Aird, and Johanna Macleod, Aird; 2, Christina Mackinnon, Sandwick, and Georgina Allan, Sandwick.

Telling in Gaelic of a Hitherto Unpublished Historical or Traditional Story Belonging to the Island of Lewis—1, Murdo Macdonald, Aird; 2 (equal), Annabella Macleod, Bayble, and Chrissie A. Stewart, Bayble; 3, Mary Matheson, Sandwick.

Vocal Music (Junior).—Choral Singing Consisting of Two-Part Song—Nicolson Institute Choir.

Choral Singing in Unison—1, Bayble School Choir; 2, Laxdale School Choir; 3, Nicolson Institute School Choir.

Waulking Songs—Knock School Choir.

Solo Singing of a Song.—Boys—Alex. J. Maciver, Laxdale, and W. R. Matheson, Laxdale.

Solo Singing of a Song.—Girls—1, Jessie M. Maclean, Knock; 2, Mary Macleod, Knock; 3, Margaret J. Maciver, Knock; 4, Mary A. Smith, Knock.

Solo Singing of a Song.—Boys (own choice of a song)—1, W. R. Matheson, Laxdale; 2, Alex. J. Maciver, Laxdale.

Solo Singing of a Song.—Girls (own choice of song)—1, Cath. I. Maclean, Nicolson Institute; 2, Margaret J. Maciver, Knock; 3, Catherine Macleod, Nicolson Institute; 4 (equal), Mary A. Smith, Knock, and Kennina Campbell, Bayble; 5 (equal), Cath. Smith, Laxdale, and Ciona Macleod, Knock.

Solo for Girls.—Best Rendering of Local Traditional Song—1, Margaret J. Maciver, Knock; Jessie M. Maclean, Knock; 3, Catherine Macleod, Nicolson Institute; 4, Joey Macleod, Laxdale.

Duet Singing—1, Margaret Macgregor and Chris. Macgregor; 2 (equal), Chrissie Reid and Mary B. MacLennan, and Joey Macleod and Annie Macleod, Laxdale.

Instrumental Music and Dancing.—Bagpipe Playing of March, Strathspey, and Reel (competitors over 18)—1, D. Macdonald; 2, H. Graham; 3, C. Hunter. Aird-a-Bhaigh Cup—Donald Macleod.

Bagpipe Playing of March (Juniors)—1, W. C. Ross; 2, Cyril MacLennan; 3, D. Cullum.

Chanter Playing—1, James Macleod; 2, Angus Macdonald; 3, Ian MacLennan.

Sword Dance—1, Dina Macleod; 2, Jessie Afrin; 3, M. Macleod.

Playing of March, Strathspey, and Reel on Piano—1, George S. Macleod; 2, Sheila MacLennan; 3, Isabella Macdonald.

Vocal Music (Seniors).—Solo Singing (Female Voices)—1, Cath. I. Maclean; 2, Mrs. D. W. Macdonald.

Solo Singing (Male Voices)—1, Angus Macleod; 2, A. L. Urquhart; 3, Angus Macdonald.

Solo Singing of Oran-Mor—Cath. I. Maclean.

Gaelic Folk Songs—Mrs. D. W. Macdonald.

SOUTH UIST AND BENBECULA.

The first local Mod for South Uist and Benbecula was held in Daliburgh on Tuesday, 10th June. There was a large entry in every class, and a high standard was attained. Commenting on the purity of the Gaelic, the adjudicators stated that it was in advance of anything they had listened to. On the musical side also, the singers, though inexperienced and attending their first Mod, did remarkably well.

The adjudicators for Gaelic were Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow, and Miss Annie Johnston, Barra, and for music, Mr. Neil Orr, Edinburgh, and Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Rahane.

The competitions, which were held in the School, Daliburgh, were presided over by Rev. Fr. MacLean, Bornish, and Rev. Mr. MacLeod, Daliburgh. The prizes were presented to the successful competitors by Mrs. MacKenzie, Lochboisdale Hotel.

The following is the prize-list:—

JUNIOR SECTION.

Oral Delivery (under 12)—Reading a familiar piece of Gaelic prose or poetry—1, Alasdair MacPherson; 2, Angus MacInnes; 3, Agnes MacDonald.

Reciting from Memory, "Ri Taobh na Traghadh" or "Am Bothan Beag"—1, Valerie MacKinnon; 2, Annie MacPherson; 3 (equal), Agnes MacDonald and Donald Smith.

Reading an unfamiliar piece of Gaelic Prose—1, Alfred Morrison; 2, Mary Ann MacKinnon; 3 (equal), Angus J. MacAlister and Jessie MacLean.

Reciting from Memory—1, Myles MacInnes; 2, Donald J. MacMillan, Mary Belford.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1, Joan MacSween; 2, Cathie Brodie; 3, Harriet Macaulay.

Solo Singing (Boys)—1, Ronald Morrison; 2, Bernard Flynn; 3, Roderick A. Macdonald.

Choral Singing in Unison—1, Daliburgh School; 2, Gerinish School; 3, Lochboisdale School.

SENIOR SECTION.

Solo Singing (competitors' own choice)—Female Voices—1, Miss Katie Nicolson; 2, Mrs. K. S. MacEachen; 3, Miss Mary MacMillan.

Solo Singing (competitors' own choice)—Male Voices—1, Mr. Neil MacLennan; 2, Mr. Louis MacEachen; 3, Mr. Kenneth MacLeod.

Solo Singing of an Unpublished Song—1, Mr. D. A. MacDonald; 2, Mr. John Campbell; 3, Mr. Donald MacKay.

Solo Singing of Prescribed Song (Female Voices)—1, Silver Medal, Miss Mary Macaulay; 2, Miss Kate Martin; 3, Miss Mary A. MacDonald.

Solo Singing of Prescribed Song (Male Voices)—1, Silver medal, Mr. Neil MacLennan; 2, Mr. Kenneth MacLeod; 3, Mr. Angus MacKinnon.

Solo Singing of Song (Learners)—1, Miss Sutherland; 2, Miss Muir; 3, Miss MacTavish.

Solo Singing of Puirt-a-Beul—1, Mr. Donald MacKay; 2, Miss Sutherland; 3, Miss Macaulay.

Choral Singing in Unison of Prescribed Song—1, Daliburgh; 2, Lochboisdale; 3, Iochdar.

LITERATURE.

Poem or Song composed by Competitor—1 (equal), Donald Allan MacDonald and Donald MacDonald.

MAIRI BHAN GHLINN FRAOIN.

1st Prize 1929 Mod by

GEORGE E. MARJORIBANKS, SONACHAN.

I.

Is bochd ansgeul r'a innseadh 'nuaira thaisich-eas buadhan inntinn an duine làidir aig ceann a laithean, ach is miosa fhathast e ma tha'n duine sin 'na cheann-feadhna cumhachdach, agus soirbheachadh a' chinnidh uile an crochadh air a mhàin, mar a bha air Alasdair Mòr Ghlinn Stràigh, ceann feadhna nan Griogarach. Tha fhios againn o eachdraidh na dùthcha mar a bha làmh Chlann Ghriogair an aghaidh gach duine 's lamh gach duine 'nan aghaidh-san, o'n latha chaidh am Brusach a dhaingneachadh

air cathair Alba gus an deigh do'n dà rioghachd a bhì air an aonadh. Cha robh iad a' gléidheadh seilbh air an cuid fearainn ach le neart an cuid chlaidheamh, agus cha robh duine a b' fhoghaichte còraichean a sheasadh na Alasdair Ghlinn Stràigh fhéin. Ach air dhà bhì fàs leth-aosda thòisich eadhon a chrìche foghainteach fhéin air claonadh a dh'ionnsuidh umhlachd do lagh na tìre fo gheur-leannmuinn na Parlamaid 's fo ghamhlas nan cinneadh eile nach deachaidh sguir no sgios orra fad tìri cheud bliadhna, gus an robh e fadheòidh an iomachomhairle nach biodh e cho math dhà strìochdadh gu tur.

Ach cha d'ràinig e an ceum sin fhathast, oir cha b'urranin dà na mìolchoin ionach sin—a luchd leanmuinn fhéin—a chumail air éill, agus gu seachd sònrrichte Alasdair òg, a mhac, fleasgach cho foinnidh, calma, eireachdail 's a sheas riamh air bonn bròige. Agus thachair mu'n àm so gu'n tàinig aimhreith a bh'ann o chionn fada eadar Gleann Stràigh agus Tigh Mhic a Chombaich, triath Luis, gu aona-cheann, agus chànn fhoghnadh le Alasdair òg ach gu'n rachadh Athair air ceann a chuid dhaoine, a chur as do na nathraichean nimhe sin, a bha cairdeach do na Caimbeulaich, ard-naimhdean Chlann Ghriogair. Chuir Alasdair mòr gu falbh, gé b'oil leis.

Tha fhios aig gach balach-sgoile mar a mharbh Alasdair Mòr Ghlinn Stràigh, Ceann-feadhna nan Griogarach, 'sa 'bhiadhna 1603, le trì cheud de 'luchd-leannmuinn, a' mhorehuid de thuath cheathairn mhic a' Chomhaich, triath Luis, ann am blàr fuilteach Ghlinn Fraoin. Ach innisidh mi nis dhuibh an fhìrion mar a thachair do Alasdair òg aig a' bhàr ud agus fad na h-aimsir chruaidh a bha'n dàn do Chloinn Ghriogair as a dhéigh.

Bha latha na coinne garbh-bhuillich sin, bàs-gheachd cheatharnach Luis, a' tarruing fa dhéidh gu crìch air iochdar a' ghlinne, agus li dhearg air an abhainn nach tàinig oirre riamh à uisge na mòintich, nuair a fhuair Alasdair òg e fhéin mu choinneamh duine aosda, sean chlaidheamh aige 'na dha laimh, is e a' toirt dùbhlain do gach Griogarach a thàinig fhathast mar astar buille dhà. Leum Alasdair 'na bhad, agus cha b'fhada gus an do chuir e elaidheamh meirgeach an t-seann laoiich 'na sgealban n'a chluasan. Thog e a chruaidhlann fhéin a chur as da, tra thuislich e air duilleagan fuilteach sleamhuinn a' bhàir, ghrad-sparr am fear eile aon spleadh tron eadar a dhà chois, Chaidh Alasdair air a tharsuinn, agus mu'n robh e 'na mhothachadh bha 'namhaid a' sìneadh às mar earbaig troimh dhubharachd na coille.

Cha luaithe fhuair Alasdair a chasan a rithist na leum e as a dhéidh. Bha 'n ceatharnach treis mthair air thoiseach air, ach is beag a bheir anail an uchd seann duine, agus mu'n gann a ràinig e bothan beag a bha air oir na coille, bha e deas. Thionndaidh e, chaidh e air a lethghlùn, is ghuidh e trócair. Ach trócair cha robh air a shon am broilleach Alasdair òig. "Bheir mise ort" ars esan "nach cuir thusa cas bhacaig air Griogarach gu bràth tuilleadh" is thog e a' chlaidheamh a rithist a sgathadh a 'chinn dheth; ach air a cheart mhionaid sin ghrad-spion làmh eile a mhuilchinn cli, thionndaidh e mu'n cuairt agus cha mhór nach do thuit e as a sheasamh an uair a chunnaic e roimhe nighean thana, ard, le falt sleamhuinn, bànn, sùilean mar an àirneag, is iad a deàrrsadh a nis mar reultan na h-aon oidheche le dian-chas a h-iarrais. "Fuirich air d'ais" ars ise le guth domhain, dùrachdach. "An e gu'n cuireadh tu as do dhuine liath, gun armachd?"

Ach cha d'fhuaraich mir-chath an òganaich fhathast. "Carson nach cuirinn as da? Nach d' fhuair e fhein cothrom na Fèinne orm 's a bhàr ud?" Agus sheas e far an robh e, gu gruamach, neo-shocrach.

"Carson?" ars ise, agus fiamh a' ghàire a' sgaoileadh air a gnùis bhoidhich, fhaoidh. "Carson, ach gur duine fathail a th'annad? 'Se so m'athair 'fhéin a th'ann. O, mo nàire ort, Alasdair Mhic-Griogair a Gleann Stràigh!" "Ciamar a tha fhios agad gur ann a Gleann Stràigh a tha mi, gun ghuth air m'ainm?" dh'fheòraich Alasdair, agus e an cona-roghainn eadar fìor bhoidhchead na màldaig agus déine a ghnòthuich. "Gleann Stràigh le do bhreacan," fhreagair ise "agus tha fhios agam gur tu Mac Alasdair mhóir, oir tha rud-eigin 'ga innseadh dhomh," agus gheur-amhairc i air bho 'cheann gu' shàil. Agus thug esan a' bhoineid agus thionndaidh e gun fhacal a ràdh, 's dh'fhalbh e; ràinig e campa nan Griogarach am braigh a' Ghlinne. Ach lean dealbh mhaiseach na h-inghin e mar bhrudard àillidh, agus chuir a dà shùil dhonn fo gheasaibh e, a latha 's a dh'oidheche uaidhe sin.

Bha ceannach aig a' chinneadh air an turus ud, blàr Ghlinn Fraoin. Chaidh còrr agus dà cheud banntach nan daoine a thuit 's a chath, gach té dhuibh air muin eich bhàin, a dh'ionnsuidh Rìgh Seumais an Struidhle, a dh'iarraidh tòrachd a thoirt a mach air na Griogaraich, a' giùlan leintean fol' an cuid fear leò mar dhearbhadh faicsinneach air gach uirsgeul a b'urrainn iad aithris le 'm bìlibh. Thug an rìgh an sin mu'n aire Reachd a dheanamh as ùr, bu ro-fhuiltiche na aon a rinneadh riamh

'nan aghaidh. Nuair a thuig Alasdair mór na creachan a bha gu tighinn air féin 's air a' chinnadh, rùnach se e féin is prìomh dhaoine na treibh a thoirt suas do Iar! Earraghaidheal air chumhnant gu'n cuirteadh gu sabhailt a mach a Alba iad. Ghabh an t-Iarla ris a' chunnradh sin. Agus bho'n am rinn an Ceann-feadhna suas 'inntinn, cha robh cead do'n lomhainn threun a bha fo 'uachdaranachd. B'ann le dìomb a thàinig iad gu sàil, ach thàinig iad.

An oidhche mu'n robh aig na Griogaraich ri falbh gu Caisteal Ionaraora, Chaidh Alasdair mór Ghlinn Stràigh a laidhe, a chridhe goirt is 'aighe trom, fo ghruaim. Is iomadh cath cruaidh a rinn e air ceann nam daoine curanta a bha daonnan dileas fo a' bhrataich, an treun 'na braise 's 'na làn-neart. Sheas e còraichean a' chinnidh an aghaidh geur-leamhuinn an naimhdean air iomadh blàr fuilteach, is bha leig air a nis an cur air chùil. Ach bha e' fàs sean, 's bha a' ghliocas a fàs le aois. Chunn-aic e nach robh e 'na chomas na h-ionnsaidhean ùra a bha' teannachadh orra air gach làimh, a sheasamh na b'fhaidhe, agus bha e 'n dòchas gu faigheadh e fhéin 's a dhaoine air a' cheann thall an t-sìth 's an suaimhneas a bha dhith orra. Chum na smaointean troma sin 'na dhùisg e fad uairean, ach thug mu dheireadh an cadal thairis e.

Cha robh e fada 'na shuain 'nuair a chunnaic e tannasg 'na sheasamh aig ceann na leapa a thuig e air 'aogasg 's air 'earradh a b'e aon de shìnnis, an curaidh sin a bha' ruagadh a' Bhruaich fhéin troimh na monaidhean Lathurnach mu thri cheud bliadhna roimhe sin. Labhair an tannasg le guth domhain, aognaidh. "Alasdair mhóir Ghlinn Stràigh," deir esan, "tha fhios agam nach gealtair 'a th'annad. Bithidh ceannach agad is aig do chloinn air a' cheum a tha thu dol a ghabhail. Seachainn e."

Fhuair Alasdair a ghuth fhéin air eigin. "Chan urrainn mi thoirt air ais," ars esan. "Tha gach cùis suidhichte." Dh'atharraich an tannasg an sin a chainnt. "Marbhaig ort a laprachain gun tuigse!" ghlaoidh esan, le bagairt coimheach. "Is mise nach d'ìslich iamh an fhine uaibhreach so gu tìodal sgrìobhail iarraidh no' ghabhail o'n rìgh air son an cuid fearainn, a' cumail a mach gu'm bu leòir leosan a' choir a bheireadh an claidheamh dhoibh, agus is tusa leigeadh sìos iad air a' cheann mu dheireadh. Ach cha'n fhada beò thu!"

Las gnùis an t-sean duine le feirg. "Agus nach tusa" deir esan, 's e a' magadh air, "a dh'ìslich gu sìorruidh an fhine sin le bhi cuideachadh le morair Lathairn 'na obair thruaillidh fhéin?

Shaoilinn nach deanadh Griogarach gnothuch ri Caimbeulach 's na laithean sin," agus rinn e gàire sgaitheach.

"Cha chum mi seanachas riut na's fhaide" fhreagair an tannasg, gu trom, tiamhaidh, "ach so dhuit mo rabhadh mu dheireadh. Ma nochdas tu do shròn 'san t-saobhaidh sin, Caisteal mhic Caillein, bidh thusa 's do chlann a' luasgadh air Torr a' Chaltuinn an Duneideann mu'n tig crìoch air a mhìos so," agus chaidh e as an t-sealladh. Dhùisg Alasdair 'sa mhaduinn fo bhuaireas mòr, ach cha robh dol as aige a nis.

Ach 's fheudar a nis tilleadh air ais gu Màiri Bhàn Ghlinn Fraoin, no mar theireadh Alasdair òg rithe 'na bhruadair, "Feada-coille" (oir cha b'aithne dhà h-ainm). An deigh na casgairt a dhi-làraich an dùthaich fad cheithir chuairt air Loch Lomuinn, dh'fhàg i h-athair aig a' chlachan ris an abrar an diugh Baile Eilidh, agus chaidh i air fasdadh gu Ionaraora, 'san robh i nis a freasdal do'n Bhan-iarla 'sa chaisteal mhór. Cha do dhichuimhuich Màiri riamh an t-òigear fathail a chomhainn a h-athair; bha a dhealbh eireachdail mar gu'm biodh e fa chomhair a sùilean a latha 'sa dh'oidhche. Anns an dreuchd 'san robh i, bu tric a rachadh i steach do sheomar a bain tighearna gun chuireadh gun iarraidh. Latha bha sud thuith dhì dol ann nuair a bha an t-Iarla fhéin a stigh 'se an sean-achas ris a' Bhan-iarla. Ghrad-atharraich esan an cuspair a bh'aca, ach cha b'ann gun ise na facail a chluinntinn gu beachdaidh, soilleir, "Is chan fhada beò iad, cha'n eil mac màthar dhuibh nach liubhair mi do'n Rìgh an Duneideann." Cha mhór nach deachaidh Màiri bhoed seachad air ionad nam bonn. B'aithne dhi ro mhath ciod a bu chiall do na facail a chuala i. Bha fhios aig a h-uile duine gu'n robh na Griogaraich an dèigh falbh gu Sasunn fo choimheadachd nan Caimbeulach dà latha roimhe sin, is bha Strìochdadh Fear Ghlinn Stràigh 'na chùis-bhruidhne do'n dùthaich. 'Nuair a fhuair Màiri uaigneas a seomair féin, thilg si i fhéin air a leabaidh 'sa cridhe gu sgáineadh. "O Luaidh, a Luaidh" deir ise eadar osnaidhean troma, "b'fhearr leam nach faca mi riamh thu, b'fhearr gu'n do thuith thu air blàr Ghlinn Fraoin mu'n deachaidh do bhrathadh an lion nan Caimbeulach. O ciod e, ciod e nì mi?"

Ach cha b'fhada mhair sin. 'Se cridhe mòr misneachail a bha an com cuimhir Màiri Ghlinn Fraoin, agus cò aig a b'fhearr fios na i fhéin nach robh ach an aon rud a dheanadh i? Agus is e sin a rinn i.

Is aithne dhuit na caileagan a bha dà thaobh Loch Lomann 's na laithean ud. Ard, luth-

mhor, cleachdte ri obair na h-àiridh, 's iad a' siubhal monaidh is mòintiche le ceuman aotrom gun sgios gun tuisleadh; fallain slàn 'nan corp 'suan inntinn, féin-earbsach, dileas gun bàs. B'ann dhiubhsan Màiri Bhàn. B'aithne dhi a h-uile cunnart a bha'n lorg an turuis a bha i a' gabhail oirre, ach thubhairt i rithe fhéin:—

"Tha fhios agam nach cuir na Caimbeulaich mòran dàlach 'nan gnothuch ris na h-aoidhean draghail a th'aca, 's mar sin bidh iad fada cheana air an turus mu dheas. Thigeadh mar thoilicheas, 's fheadar dhomh breith orra mu'n ruig iad fearann Sasunnach. Fhad is a tha na Griogaraich 'nan daoine saor, is suarach an rud rabhadh a thoir do m' lea—do dh' Alasdair òg, agus bidh e furasda dhà lethsgheul fhaotainn gu tionndadh air ais. Ma dh' fhaoidhte gu'm biodh e am chomas air an Ceann-cinnidh fhéin a' chur 'na umhail, ach an éisd e rium? Tha aon rud is aithne dhomh—aon uair 's gu'm bi iad an Casteal Charlile cha'n fhaic mise esan beò tuille. Greas ort, a Mhàiri!"

Chuir i r'a cheile an beagan airgid is rudan beaga 'bh'aice, agus chuir i fàinne mòr seudach a dh' fhàgadh dhi le mathair, na broilleach; agus aig beul na h-oidheche, is na dorsan fhathast fosgailte, shnàg i a stigh do'n phreasarnaich a bha air cùl a' Chaisteil, bhuidhinn i an drochaid mhòr gun fhaireachadh do neach air bith, is thug i Ceann Loch Fin oirre.

(*Ri Leantainn.*)

ISLAY PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Islay Mod was held at Bowmore, Islay, on 13th June, 1930. Enthusiasm and interest in the event showed no sign of diminution. The judges for Gaelic were Miss Annie I. Macmillan and Dr. Lamont. The Musical judge was the Rev. B. B. Blackwood, Campbeltown. Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, president of An Comunn, presided over a largely attended concert in the evening. The following is the prize-list:—

JUNIOR SECTION.

Reading (Medal presented by Mr. J. T. Christie)—1, Neil M'Gill, Gartloist; 2, Mary Woodrow, Bowmore; 3, Lena M'Eachern, Keils.

Reciting—1, Angus Ferguson, Portnahaven; 2, Neil M'Calman, Gartloist; 3, Christina M'Lean, Keils.

Solo Singing (Girls) (Glasgow Islay Association Medal)—1, Joan Shaw, Otmoroe; 2, Flora M'Kechnie, Portnahaven; 3, Rena M'Farlane, Bowmore; 4, Lena M'Eachern, Keils; 5, Mary M'Cormack, Portnahaven.

Solo Singing (Boys) (Glasgow Islay Association Medal)—1, Sandy M'Kechnie, Bowmore; 2, Neil M'Calman, Gartloist; 3, Duncan M'Gillivray, Portnahaven; 4, Malcolm M'Neill, Portnahaven.

Canntaireachd—Willie Fraser, Keils.
Choral Singing (Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cup)—1, Bowmore Junior Choir; 2, Keils Junior Choir; 3, Portnahaven Junior Choir.

Unison Singing—1, Portnahaven Junior Choir; 2, Bowmore Junior Choir; 3, Keils Junior Choir.
Pianoforte Playing—Margaret Carmichael, Port Ellen.

SENIOR SECTION.

Reading at Sight—Peter Gillies, Bowmore.
Recitation—1, Duncan M'Niven, Rockside; 2, Robert Shaw, Jura; 3, Alex. M'Arthur, Lagavulin.

Recitation (Original)—Duncan M'Niven, Rockside.
Solo Singing (Female Voices) (Glasgow Islay Association Medal)—1, Maisie Harris, Portcharlotte; 2, Anne B. MacCorquodale, Portcharlotte; 3, Kitty M'Eachern Port Ellen; 4, Flora M'Indoor, Bowmore.

Solo Singing (Male Voices) (Glasgow Islay Association Medal)—1, Robert Shaw, Jura; 2, Donald Smith, Keils; 3, Hugh M'Lean, Laphroaig; 4, Duncan M'Niven, Rockside.

Solo Singing (Former Medalists) (Female Voices)—1, Agnes M'Farlane, Bowmore; 2, Mary Gillies, Portcharlotte.

Solo Singing (Former Medalists) (Male Voices)—1, Duncan M'Gillivray, Bowmore; 2, Gilbert M'Phail, Ballygrant.

Canntaireachd—1, Wm. MacKenzie, Jura; 2, Robert Shaw, Jura; 3, Barbara M'Intyre, Colonsay.

Duet Singing—1, Katie Orr and Morag M'Eachern, Port Ellen; 2, Sadie M'Geachy and Chris. M'Calman, Bridgend; 3, Mary Blair and Alastair M'Eachern, Keils.

Quartette—1, M'Neil Quartette, Bowmore; 2, Orr Quartette, Port Ellen; 3, M'Gibbon Quartette, Bridgend.

Trio—1, Cruach Trio; 2, M'Millan Trio, Bowmore.

Choral Singing (4 Part Harmony) (Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cup)—1, Port Ellen Gaelic Choir; 2, Bowmore Gaelic Choir; 3, (equal), Bridgend Gaelic Choir and Keils Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing (3 Part Harmony)—1, Keils Ladies' Choir; Bowmore Ladies' Choir; 3, Bridgend Ladies' Choir.

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A. H. MacDougall, Esq., Ardbeg	0	2	6
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Hugh Paterson, Esq., Coupar Angus	0	5	0
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Leabhar XXV.]

An Lùnasdal, 1930.

[Earrann 11

FACAIL IOSAID.

Is minic a chluinneas tu feadhainn ag ràdh nach còir do'n Ghaidhlig iosad a ghabhail o chainnt sam bith eile. Tha iad an dùil gum biodh a leithid sud 'n a chomharradh air bochdain cainnte. An uair a thig innleachd ùr a mach feumar ainm ùr fhaotainn air a shon. Cha bhi dàil air a' Bheurla gun facal ùr a dheanamh o Laidiunn no Greugais. Ach is neònach gu bheil cuid de Ghaidhlig de'n bheachd gur còir facal Gaidhlig a chur air gach innleachd is inneal ùr. Tha iad a' smuaineachadh, maith dh'fhaoidte, gu robh a' Ghailig riamh a' seasamh gu deas air a casan féin, gun dhol an eisimeil canain eile. Bu mhiann leinn anns an duilleig so dearbhadh a thairgsinn gur fhada o bha cainnt nan Gaidheal eòlach gu leòir air bhi a' gabhail iosaid; agus ma tha i a' dol a dh'fhàs anns an am ri teachd tha sinn a' creidsinn gu feum i bhi cho teoma gu cuid-eachadh fhaotainn, mar fhuair i iomadh uair o chànain eile anns na linntean a chaidh seachad.

An uair their sinn dà chànan air Alba, smuainichidh sinn gun dàil air Ghaidhlig is Beurla. Is iad sin an dà chainnt a tha air an labhairt an diugh le muinntir na dùthcha. Ach bha uair ann agus is e Gaidhlig is Laidiunn a bhàtar a' cleachdadh. Gun amhras bha an dà chainnt sin aig na manach. Feumaidh gu robh an sluagh coitcheinn a' cluinntinn agus a' tuigsinn earrann mhaith de'n Laidiunn. Mur bitheadh cha bhiodh na facail cho lionmhor a tha air an tarraing o'n chainnt sin agus air an gabhail a stigh do'n Ghaidhlig. Faodar cuid de na facail ainmeachadh, or tha iad fathast an cleachdadh: *adhradh, aingeal, abstal*; *baisteadh, bathais, beannachd*; *caillleach, coinneal, carghas*; *càisg, cathair, ceist*; *cis, clèireach, cochull*; *comunn, corp, croich*; *deamhain, deisichobul, diabhul*; *dile, dòmhnach, eaglais*; *easbuig, fion*; *iodhal, ifrinn, laoch*; *leabhar,*

leughadh, litir; *ministear, mallachd, manach*; *meamhair, mìos, mìorbhuil*; *muinntir, Nollaig, onair*; *pòg, peacadh, pian*; *prìomh, riaghailt, sagart*; *saoghal sgoil, sgrìobhadh*; *seachdain, seanair, srian*; *sirist, teampul, tearmunn.*

O chionn còrr is mìle bliadhna air ais thàinig na Lochlunnaich do ar dùthaich, agus bha iad a' comhnaidh air taobh an iar Alba fad ceithir cheud bliadhna. Ged thàinig na fir chogaidh agus reubairean a' chuain gu tìr an so, gidheadh cha tàinig iad riamh ann le an cuid theaghlach-eanean. Tha e coltach gu robh pòsadh cumanta gu leòir eadar fleasgaich Lochlunnach agus maighdeanan Gaidhealach. Is e sin an t-aobhair nach dh'fhuair cainnt nan coigreach làmh an uachdar riamh air a' Ghaidhlig. Is i a' Ghaidhlig a labhradh màthair na cloinne, agus is i cainnt na màthar a bhruidheadh a' chlànn. Tha fios aig cuid gu bheil mòran de na h-ainmean air taobh an iar na Gaidhealtachd a' tighinn o'n chànan Lochlunnach. Is ni neònach mar chaidh uirad de na seann ainmean air dichuimhne. Ach a thuilleadh air na facail sin tha cuid de fhacail eile anns a' Ghaidhlig an diugh a thàinig thugainn o chainnt nan Lochlunnach. Ged nach eil a bheag de thlachd ann an sreth de fhacail thioram, gidheadh ma bha cuid againn eòlach air na facail sin fada ar beatha, tha annas againn dhiu; agus mar sin cuiridh sinn sìos àireamh de na facail chumanta a dh'fhag na seann Lochlunnaich againn mar dhileab: *clobha, uinneag, marag*; *fuine, spòin, sgoladh*; *tobhta, driog, àirinn*; *raobag, cnapach, (gille), gearraidh*; *sioman, sgolag, siola*; *bac (mòine), toirsgian, rùghan*; *geinn, (wedge), locair, lunn*; *saoidhean, tùbh, ugsa*; *trog, ròicais, sgarbh*; *tìd, farspach, fulmair*; *stearnal, slùaire, tràill*; *bodha, foadhail, birlinn.*

A nis tha ni no dhà ri fhoghlum o na h-iosadan a bha ar sinnsir a' gabhail o chainnt na feadhach ris an robh iad an comhchomunn.

Tha na h-eisimpleirean a thug sinn fainear an so, a' nochdadh dhuinn gu soilleir, gu robh na seann Ghaidhil ullamh is deònach a' chanain a dheanamh na bu bheartaiche le iosa d' chainntean eile. Ciod am feum is còir dhuinne a tharruing o leithid sin? Tha nach leig sinn a leas tilleadh a bhi oirnn ann a bhi a' gabhail facail ùra mar iosa d' chanain sam bith. Is e facal Greugais a tha an *telephone*. Tha a cheart cho còra do'n Ghaidhlig greim a dheanamh air an fhacal sin ris a' Bheurla. Is e facal Laidiunn a tha am *motor*. Ged a ghabhadh ar cànan-ne còir air gun dàil, cha bhiodh sin a' dearbhadh gainne bhriathran; oir tha an t-inleachd nodha, agus feumaidh e ainm nodha mar an ceudna. Ged their sinn brath clis air uairean ri *wireless*, faodaidh gu bheil *wireless* fhéin a cheart cho furasda thuigsinn. Gabhaidh ar cainnt gu nàdurra ri facail ùra o Laidiunn no Greugais; agus is e ar beachd gu bheil e freagarrach gun dean-amaid feum gun mhaille de na facail ùra mar dh'èireas iad ann ar latha.

SADDELL ABBEY—ITS ORIGINS AND PAGES FROM ITS HISTORY.

By SHERIFF MACMASTER CAMPBELL, C.B.E.

To a greater extent, it is believed, than that of any other European country the History of Scotland is punctuated by periods of ecclesiastical reconstruction, periods which vary considerably in the degree in which the new order differed from the old, but indicative, all of them, of a national tendency, inquiry into the inwardness of which is outside the limitations which our Society must recognise.

In pursuance of the particular subject of the present paper, it devolves upon me to take cognisance of one only of those transformations which contribute so much to the annals of Scottish Christianity.

The Story of Saddell Abbey begins while there was still in process that transition from the Celtic to the Latin obedience, so striking a feature of the Scotland of the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries. The process began when, in 1068, Princess Margaret of England, a fugitive from the conquering Normans, became the Consort of the Scottish King, Malcolm Canmore, and there was, so to speak, "the end of an auld sang" when, in December, 1203, there issued from the Vatican the momentous deed which con-

firmed Abbot Celestinus and his brethren of the Benedictine Order in the seat of St. Columba, that fane so sacred to Scotsmen of every kith and of every creed. Traces of the Celtic Church continued to linger in other parts of Scotland, but the supercession by the Benedictines of the old Columbans may well be regarded as the chronological boundary between the two systems. Not to say that the Transition was accomplished without some display of that acrimony which seems so constant an accompaniment of ecclesiastical change: the Culdees, we know, opposed with some energy their supercession in Iona by the Benedictines, and it is certain that there was corresponding hostility in other sections of the country where the New Orders displaced the Old. But there was nothing in the nature of a Religious War, and Church Historians are in agreement that many of the clerics of the Columban Church were content to substitute the Latin for the Celtic tonsure, and to become Monks of the new Monasteries. I refrain, of course, from entry into the controversy which, on occasion, still persists respecting the relationship, or absence of relationship, between the Celtic and Latin Church, but I do not apprehend there is invasion of forbidden territory in the observation that, apart from ceremonial variations—the concern of the ecclesiologist—the one essential difference between the two systems was that, contrariwise to the territorial method of the Latin Church that of Celtic Scotland adapted itself to the tribal economy of the Scots and Picts, with the striking consequence, with which I dealt more fully in my Paper to the Society on the Island and House of Sanda, that the Muinntir or Members of a Monastery were essentially a Clan bound together by ties of blood, the Abbot possessing, in relation to the Monks, the character of a Clan Chief. And I take the liberty of the further observation that in the measure that tribal or clan organisation was, some centuries further on, discovered to inhere disabilities which hindered true social, and especially civic, development, so it may well be recognised that the plan which closed the gate of a Monastery to all outside the kin of the Abbot imposed a restriction in its nature dissonant with the Christian canon of ethnic and religious equality and calculated therefore to generate, as in historical fact it did generate, a tendency to that ecclesiastical disintegration which was the ultimate event.

Saddell, the personage who filled the most conspicuous place in the Western Highlands and Islands was none other than the mighty Somerled. And I take cognisance here of certain passages in the career of Somerled because of the unanimity among the authorities that the resolution was his which materialised in the foundation of the Abbey. Captain White feels assured that Somerled lived to consummate the foundation, but since Captain White made his invaluable contribution to the Archaeology of Kintyre monastic and other archives have yielded material which fixes the institution of Saddell Abbey at a date over fifty years subsequent to the death of Somerled. And this of itself is a circumstance which goes far to support the authorities who ascribe the foundation to Reginald rather than to his father, Reginald himself, as it eventuated, not surviving to see the actual completion and occupation of the Abbey.

Captain White places the foundation of Saddell around the year 1160, about four years anterior to the death of Somerled, whereas the year which the most recent authorities mention as that of the affiliation of the Abbey with its Mother House, and therefore its foundation, is A.D. 1220.

I have been fortunate enough to receive communications in course of my researches from the Very Rev. Celsus O'Connell, Superior of the Cistercian Abbey of Mount St. Bernard's, Coalville, Leicester, and it is to Father O'Connell I am indebted for the details, hereafter to be more particularly observed upon, which enable me propound A.D. 1220 as the year in which the Abbey of Saddell commenced to function as a Religious House. There is unanimity among recent historians that Somerled was buried at Saddell, and the circumstance is very naturally put forward in support of the assertion that Somerled was the actual founder of the Abbey—the choice of burial place presumably being actuated by the presence of the Abbey. But Donald Gregory, the distinguished historian of the Western Highlands, notwithstanding (p. 16) his conviction that Saddell, and not Iona, is the last resting place of Somerled, is equally definite that "Reginald his son afterwards founded a Monastery."

I regret that in discovering cause for agreement with Gregory I should find my conclusion in some discord, not only with Captain White, but with the learned authors beside of the History of Clan Donald whose ascription of the foundation of Saddell is,

like that of White, to Somerled rather than to Reginald his son. The authors of the Clan Donald are assured that the structure was begun while Somerled was yet alive, but I cannot elude the presumption arising from the lapse of time between the death of Somerled in 1164 and the ascertained date of the entry of the Monks into Saddell Abbey, viz., 1220, which presumption, opposed as it is to the belief in the commencement of the Work by Somerled, is fortified by the passage in the Charter of James IV. hereafter to be more closely remarked upon where Reginald is specifically described as founder of the said Monastery of Sagadull (White, p. 163). Cosmo Innes, acknowledged one of the soundest of Scottish Historiographers, is among those who ascribe the foundation to Reginald, and there is negative evidence of a striking sort in the circumstance that in the catalogue of Scottish Religious Houses compiled by Gervase of Canterbury in 1207 there is no mention of the Abbey of Saddell. Respecting the association of the Abbey with the place of interment there is, I surmise, no room for dubiety, the only difference being that the supporters of one view place the foundation of the Abbey at a date anterior to the burial, while those who accept Reginald as the founder allow that Somerled designed Saddell as the situation of the Abbey but maintain that he was cut off before he was able to realise his pious resolution.

A more intriguing line of investigation than that which concerns the actual founder of the Abbey is the exploration of the impulse which animated Somerled to introduce into his territory of Kintyre a community of those foreign orders who were gradually but relentlessly superseding the ecclesiasts of that Celtic Church, the religious organisation to which both his Gaelic and Scandinavian forbears owed their conversion from paganism.

(To be continued)

MAIRI BHAN GHLINN FREOIN.

By GEORGE E. MARJORIBANKS, Sonachan.
First Prize 1929 Mod.

II.

Cha ruigear a leas innseadh a h-uile driad-
fhort is caol-thearnadh as an tàinig a'
bhanlaach neo-ghealtach so air a turus mu dheas

air tòir nam fògarach 's an cuid freacadan, agus gach uireasbhuidh agus cruadal a dh' fhuillig i ri fuachd agus gaillionna 'gheamhraidh. Ach ri linn dhi bhi 'siubhal monaidhean Earraghaidheal bha i colach air an dùthaich, 's cha d'fhuair i ach caomhneas aig lùmhan na tuath 'nam fardaichean beaga an cois nam fuar bheann. Bha na bu mhiosa a' feitheamh oirre an dèigh dhi Glaschu fhàgail air a cùlaobh. Cha bhiodh Màiri a' faotainn ach fìor bheagan Beurla ann an Caisteal an Iarla, agus bha i nis a' toirt deagh oidhirp air i fèin a liubhairt anns a' chainnt bhrìste a bh' aice. Ach cha d' fhuair i gabhail aice aig muinntir na Gall-dachd. Cha robh suim aca de luchd fuadain Gaidhealach gun bhathar gun mhalairt, gun ghnòthuch a b'urrainn na h-Albannaich dheanadach, a thuigsinn idir. "Biadh is cuid na h-oidhche? Gheibh thu 's an ath bhaile iad. Caimbeulach is Griogaraich? Creachadairean is spùinneadairean is mortairean. Cùl mo làimhe riutha, chan eil atharrachadh orra, s' ann a tha an dara '-ach' nas miosa na'n '-ach' eile. S'fhearr dhuit tilleadh an rathad a thàinig thu, mus faigh na saighdearan greim ort." Sin na fhuair i am bitheantas, agus bu tric a laigheadh i ann am pollag bhuntàta aig taobh an rathaìd, seach a bhi 'g éisdeachd gleadhach is drabasdachd nan tighean-òsda. Ach bhiodh i' faotainn forfhais air na Gaidhìl an dràs' na rithist agus bhiodh iad daonnan, a reir coltais, treis mhath air thoiseach oirre fhathast.

Oidhche bha sud an deigh latha goirt fadalach am measg monaidhean farsuing an Uillt-Luaidhe, sheas Màiri air oir coille aig bun an t-sleibh fhada a tha 'ruith sìos eadar Biodag agus Drochaid-Charrain. Bha i sgith, fliuch acrach, bha tolladh air a brògan 's a h-aodach 'na stiallan, ach bha dòchas 'na cridhe 's leus ùr 'na stùilean, oir bha i an deigh naidheachd fhaotainn aig drobhair na dùthcha gu'n robh na h-Earraghaidhealaich ann an tigh-òsda faisg air Eaglais-Phadruig, deich mìle mu dheas, air an latha sin fhéin. Cha d'fhéith Màiri ri tuilleadh fhaotainn, bha i 'greasadh oirre gu' ceann uidhe, 's a fuil a sìor-bhualadh 'na cuislean. "Alasdair, Alasdair, am faic mi fhathast thu?" dh'fheoraich i dhi fhéin an dràs' 's a rithist 's'i gabhail roimpe. Ach bha 'n oidhche a' tuiteam gu luath, dorch, cha robh fhios aice c'ait an tionndaidheadh i, 's bha i ach gann aig ceann a neirt. Stad i aig oir na coille ann an ioma-chomhairle agus d'reach an sin ciod a chuala i ach fuaim binn na Gaidhlig a' tighinn d'a h-ionnsaidh troimhe na craobhan giuthais.

Thionndaidh i an rathad a thàinig na guthan, agus cha b' fhada gus am fàci i losgadh teinè ri taobh an uillt agus breidheann bheag cheard 'nan camp am fasgadh na preasanaich.

Bha'n ceard féin ann an imcheist mhóir, bha 'bhean air a laighe-siubhla. "Taing do'n Fhreasdail air do shon" deir Calum Mór (oir b'e sin ainm). "Tha e' dol gu math cruaidh leatha gun aon té 'ga cuideachadh." "O cha'n urrainn mise fuireach" ghlaoidh Màiri. "Tha gnothach agam nach faodar dàil a chur ann." "Ma-ta" arsa Calum "ma dh'fhalbhas tu, bàsaichidh Ciorstan 's na tha air a siubhal. Cha'n fhaod e bhi nach fan thu tacan." Cha robh comas air. Le cridhe trom iomaguineach, chaidh Màiri steach do'n phàillunn.

Dà uair an dèidh sin bha bean a' cheaird 'na suain chadail, agus cìocharan slàn fallainn aice air a broilleach. "Nis" deir Calum, an dèigh do Mhàiri biadh is deoch a ghabhail "ciod a tha dhith ort? Rud sam bith a tha 'm chomas, ni mi e." "Chan eil, ach mo shèoladh gu camp nan Earraghaidhealach" fhreagair ise, "'s eigin dhomb beirsinn orra mu'n ruig iad Sasunn. "Mata" arsa Calum 'se 'crathadh a chinn "Chan fhiach e do shaothair, 's ann a tha thu fad air dheireadh. Chaidh iad seachad air a' Bhalla Albannach Di-luain so chaidh, agus cho luath 's a chuir iad cas air fearann Sasunnach, bha na h-uile mac màthar de na Griogaraich air an ceangal gu teann an lamhan nan Caimbeulach 's iad a' gabhail an rathaid gu Dun-eideann cho luath 's a b'urrainn daibh. 'S mi bha thall 's a chunnaic."

Cha chuala Màiri bho chd na facail dheireannach. Bha i 'na neul marbhadh air gorm-bhrat na coille.

Bha na Caimbeulach le'm buidheann de phrìosanaich a' tarruing dlùth do Dhun-eideann. Cha ruigear 'a leas innsadh a liughad bròn is an-dochas a bha'n cridhe Ceannard nan Griogarach, Alasdair Mór Ghlinn Sreithe. 'S ann air a thàinig an tonn buileach. 'S ann aige bha fhios ciod a bu chiall do'n turus mhuiladach air an robh iad, a bha 'laighe air an cùlaobh mar throm-lighe seachd oidhcheannan. Agus cha bu lugha fhios nach robh ach an aon ceann-uidhe a' fèitheamh orra. Ach bu shuarach leis smaoin a bhàis fhéin. "Nach mise 's coireach" smaoinich esan "gu'n deachaidh na gillean treuna a bhrath, a choisinn iomadh cliù do'n chinneadh ri àm na h-éigin? O, na'n creidinn-sa an rabhadh a fhuair mi an oidhche' ud!"

(Ri Leantainn.)

GAOL AGUS DUTHCHAS.

Le IAIN R. MACGILLE NA BRATAICH.

(Choisinn an Comhradh so a' cheud duais do'n luchd-cluiche aig Mòd Ghrianaig, 1925.)

FLORAIDH—Thus' an so, a Mhairi?

MAIRI—Tha mis' an so 's tha 'chòir sin agam—chionn tha am Mòd is na tha e a' ciallachadh a' tighinn air mo rèir.

FLORAIDH—Tha mi 'ga do thuigsinn. Mata tha mi 's an so cuideachd—biodh a' chòir mar a thogras i—ged nach b'fhearr i na 'chòir a bhiodh aig an duine bhochd a bhiodh ri chrochadh an uair a bhiodh Mòd aig Mac an Toisich. Is ciamar a tha gnothuichean?

MAIRI—Math gu leor ann an doigh; ach a' bheil fhios agad tha mi dìreach, dìreach air rud a chluinntinn a tha 'cur dragha nach beag orm—ach 's e rud e nach cuir dad de dhragh ortsa.

FLORAIDH—Mur a cuir 's e nach 'eil àite agam dha—cha chum an soitheach ach a làn—is tha mo làn leòr de dhraghannan air mo shiubhalsa mar tha. Ach ciod e th'ann, a Mhairi, eudail?

MAIRI—Nach 'eil gu bheil Anna bheag Thearlaich—cia'r bith ciamar air an t-saoghal a thainig e mu'n cuairt, té nach d'fhag bun Airdh-bheagaig—a' dol a phòsadh seorsa de thuathanach a tha taobh ann muigh a bhaile so fhéin.

FLORAIDH—Tuathanach!

MAIRI—Seadh, 'ach ciod e is urrainn a bhi 'na leithid sin de dh'fhear. Fear Gallda air choir-eigin, gun tuigse chruthaicheadh air Gaidhlig, gun mheas air gnothuichean Gaidhealach sam bith. Nach cianail, cianail a leithid sin—is Anna bheag seach té sam bith.

FLORAIDH—Hud! Anna bheag, ghlic. Carson a bhiodh a leithid sin a' cur iomagain sam bith ortsa. Ma tha an gaol ann—agus is cinnteach leamsa gu bheil—nach e sin an t-aon ni a tha feumail. Creid thusa nach dean té de seorsa dad sam bith a bhios fad as an rathad.

MAIRI—Is e sin do bheachd sa tha fios agam, ach chan 'eil thusa ag gabhail uiread suim de'n cheart ni sin 's a tha mise. Is dh'fhaoidte nach e do bheachd idir e ach gur maith leat, mar a bu mhaith leat riagh, a bhi a' connachadh riumsa, no ri cuid-eigin.

FLORAIDH—Tha leithid sin de chonas 'nam ghnè-sa ceart gu leor, a Mhairi. Dé am feum dhomh dol as aicheadh air rud a dh'aithnichear gu furasda air faobhar m'aodainn, ach tha mise riarichte gu leor 'nam inntinn gur a h-e gaol

is riaghlair anns na gnothuichean sin—agus 's e.

MAIRI—O! dìreach. Ma their mise gur dubh am fitheach their thusa gu bheil lainnir air choir-eigin eile dheth. Chan e an gaol is riaghlair. Buidheachas do'n Fhreasdail tha beagan air fhagail aig ciall té ged a bhitheadh an gaol 'ga buaireadh.

FLORAIDH—Far a' bheil an gaol—chan e dìreach dèidh, a Mhairi—ach an gaol, seadh is éifeachd—an t-aon chumhachd a tha gun choimeas air an t-saoghal so bhos—no thall.

MAIRI—Seadh! seadh! Neo'r thainig nach e rud namhasach a tha 's a' ghaol sin. Ach c'ait a' bheil an seorsa gaoil sin r'a fhaotainn? Ma tha e ann an àit idir chan ann 's na cearnaibh so. Chan 'eil agadsa fhathast, a FLORAIDH, ach beachdan breagha, boillsgeach na seachd bliadhn' deug a dh'aois.

FLORAIDH—Seachd bliadhn' deug, a Mhairi! O nach b'e cuimhneachan gradhach dhuinn le cheile an t-am sin, ged is cian bhuaidhe 's roimh sin cuideachd an uair a bhitheadh a' dol do sgoil bheag Phlocaig comhla. Bha thusa daonnann math seach mise, a Mhairi. Cha robh annamsa ach an spealg bheag, dubh.

MAIRI—Bhiodh tu ri gu leor de chuilbheartan beaga, is tu bhiodh sin.

FLORAIDH—Cha robh iognadh ann, is b'fheudar dhomh. Bha an saoghal anns an robh sinne 'n uair ud tuilleadh 's a chòir samhach air son mo leithid-sa, ach gu firinneach glan, a Mhairi, chan 'eil mise 'cur umhail air mo chridhe gu bheil e aon dad ach mar a bha e an uair nach robh mi ach seachd bliadhna deug.

MAIRI—Chan ann mar sin a thigeadh dhuit a bhith mata. Tha gu leor, leor dhe'n t-saoghal air dol seachad oirnn le chéile nis agus bu chòir gu'm biodh mothachadh againn da réir.

FLORAIDH—Is far nach 'eil sin dé an cothrom a th'air, is ciod e am feum a bhith 'comhair-leachadh. Cha tig fiacaill dhomh fhéin ach na thainig, ach ciod e dheanadh tu fhein a nis, a Mhairi, na'm biodh tu an àite Anna?

MAIRI—Mise! Dheanadh nach pòsainn an duin' ud ged a bhiodh a chruachan feoir 'nan cruachan òir.

FLORAIDH—Chan e dhomh.

MAIRI—O sin thusa rithis! C'ait a' bheil an gaol mór a nis a bha thu a' moladh?

FLORAIDH—Tha e dìreach ann an so—deas. Ma's duine ceart a th'ann idir bhiodh gaol agamsa air ann am mionaid—na'm biodh e cho pailte sin de dh'òr.

MAIRI—Chan e gaol flor no ceart a bhiodh ann an sin idir.

FLORAIDH—Bhiodh e dhe'n t-seorsa tha dol

co-dhiubh. Is tu fhéin a bha ag radh nach robh seorsa eile ann—ach 's ann a bhiodh e fuathasach fìor—chionn cha bhi'n gaol a' tighinn uair sam bith gun aobhar air choir-eiginn air a shon; is nach bu mhat dà rìreadh an t-aobhar e uiread sin de dh'òr?

MAIRI—Cha bu mhat, cha bu mhat. An àite sin 's e freumh gach uile. An gaol a bhios ann bu chòir dha bhi pearsanta.

FLORAIDH—Chan 'eil mi cho cinnteach idir mu'n ghaol bheag phearsanta sin—gaol air aodann—sin na th'ann mar is bitheanta. Is cìod e tha dol a thachairt an uair a dh'fhalbhas an t-aodann, is cìamar a tha chùis ri bhi an uair nach 'eil, 's nach robh riamh, mòran aodann sam bith ann. Nach b'fhearr gaol air chridhe is inntinn na eadhon air airgid—chionn is math an caraìd an t-airgid ged nach biodh an còrr ann. Tha e math gu leor dh'ad leithid-sa, Mhairi, bhi bruidheann mar sin air gaol pearsanta, ach coid e tha mo leithid-sa ri dheanadh?

MAIRI—Tha dìreach so—'s tha thusa cur romhad mo thogail cearr an uair a thogras tu fhéin—an ni bhiodh ceart ged a chailte an saoghal gu léir air. Tha mi ag innseadh dhuit nach pòsainn idir, idir am fear sin. B'fhearr leam mìle uair fuireach mar a tha mi cia'r bith mar a bhitheann, chionn is fhearr an t-olc eòlach latha sam bith na'n t-olc àinealach.

FLORAIDH—Cha phòsadh, cha phòsadh; ubh, ubh, cha phòsadh, 's tusa nach pòsadh. Ach chuala mise o chionn fada 'n sud mu thé eile bha toirt a mionnann nach rachadh ise gu bràth le deòin le mac òg an Iarla Ruaidh—pailte 's gu'n robh a chuid—gus an cuireadh a' bheinn a bha shìos oir eile oirre ris a' bheinn a bha shuas. Ach mu dheireadh thall, 's gu'n an ùine bhi na b'fhaide na bliadhna, chaidh i ann. O creid gur h-ise chaidh—'s ma's fìor an sgeul cha robh cion gaoil oirre.

MAIRI—Cha robh an sin ach bàrdachd. Is ann tha mise a' tighinn air rùintean reusanta mar a tha iad sin ri'm faotainn 's an t-saoghal an dà-rìreadh.

FLORAIDH—Creid thusa mise, Mhairi, tha an saoghal mar a tha e an ceart dà-rìreadh cho loma làn de'n t-seorsa bàrdachd ud 's a tha an t-ugh de'n bhìadh. Ach cìod e th'agad an aghaidh an tuathanaich?

MAIRI—Chan aithne dhomhsa uiread is ainm an duine, a Fhloraìdh. Chan ann an aghaidh an duine e fhéin—mar dhùine—a tha mi idir, tuig sin. Ach tha mi air mòran de m'inntinn a thoirt do'n cheart cheist do'm buin an fhreagairt so a tha thusa 'g iarraidh.

FLORAIDH—O chiall, an e gnothuch cho fuathasach sin a th'ann?

MAIRI—'S e. Tha mi air tighinn a dh'ionn-suidh a cho-dhunaidh gu bheil mòran de ar seorsa-ne caoin-shuarach agus anabarrach dearmadach mu dhéidhinn ar deasnas do' dhùthchas.

FLORAIDH—So a nis—'s cìod e tha sinn a' dearmad dhe na tha ceart 's a deanamh dhe na tha cearr?

MAIRI—Tha so. Ged a tha sinn gu soilleir a' faicinn ar cinnidh a' dol sìos, 's a' crìonadh as uidh air n-uidh, a' call inbhe an measg nan slògh 's a' tuiteam an dlobhail misnich, tha mòran dhinne a' pòsadh an measg nan Gall 's a' treigsinn ar dùthchasachd fhéin.

FLORAIDH—Is ma tha coire 'n sin chan ann oirne tha i air fad. Tha na daoine na's mìosa na sinne—is bha riamh.

MAIRI—Chan ionann do na daoine. Is e còir an duine a bhean a thoirt dhachaidh leis da dhùthchasachd fhéin, is ni e sin ma's duine idir e. Ach co dhiubh theid ise ann no nach teid faodaidh esan e fhéin fuireach ann. Is mar sin mur a bi buannachd 's a chùis cha leig e leas call a bhi ann co dhiubh. Ach is ann is miorbhuilteach gu bheil dùthchas idir air fhàgail againn gus Mòd a dheanamh mu dhéidhinn.

FLORAIDH—Agus a bheil thu fhéin, a Mhairi, ag ràdh riumsa na'n gabhadh gille gasda, Gallda gailmsa—aig an Fhreasdal fhéin a bhiodh fìos carson a dheanamh e sin—ach abair na'n gabhadh, an robh agamsa ri mo chridhe a chràdh, ma dh'fhaoidte, 's a dhùiltadh?

MAIRI—“Lean gu dlùth ri clùd do shìnsir” is chì thu fhéin gur ann as toilichte bhitheas tu uile laithean do shaoighail.

FLORAIDH—Tha sin ceart gu leor 's tha mi leat cho fada sin. Is toigh leinn gu cinnteach ar cainnt 's ar cleachdainnean fhéin dìreach mar is gràdhach leinn ar pàrantan, ach, a Mhairi, chan 'eil annainne ach boirionnach 's tha e air a radh nach eòir dùthchas a bhi aig bean no aig sagart; is co-dhiubh, dhiubh chan 'eil sinne 'faotainn mar is trice ach roghainn de'n chuid as mìosa. Ma tha daoine Gaidhealach an ti air mnathan Gaidhealach tha gu leor dhinne ann—agus droch coinneamh orra mur a tig iad 'g ar n-iarraidh cìod e is urrainn sinne dheanamh fo na riaghailtean leth-taobhach a th'ann. Fuireach an e? O seadh dìreach, “fuirich thusa 'n sin gus an tig feum ort” mar a thuirf am fear a thiodhlaic a bhean. O gu dearbh, 's tha sinne ri bhi chòrr, fhad's a chì mise, co dhiubh dh'fhanas sinn na dh'fhalbhas sinn.

MAIRI—Chan 'eil thusa, Fhloraìdh, a' breithneachadh na cùise gu ceart. Seall fhéin mu'n ceart ort is gabh beachd orra-san a rinn pòsaidhean faontrach. Nach e so a tha foll-

aiseach gur sona gu mór ise a chaomhain a dùthchas fhein, eadhon 'na h-aonar, 's a choth-aich i fhein 's an t-saoghal gu toilichte mar sin, na ise dh'lobair a còir-bhreith Ghaidhealach.

FLORAIDH—Mata, mata, Mhairi. Fhad's a thug mise nàdur chlann daoinne gus a so chan 'eil an gaol uile gu léir 'na shùgradh, ach ma bheir thusa chreidsinn ormsa nach bu chòir do nighean Ghaidhealach sam bith—sin té aig a' bheil Gaidhlig—gaol a ghabhail air fear Gallda, 's nach bu chòir do dhuin' uasal coigreach sam bith gaol a ghabhail air té dhinne, aidichidh mise 'n uair sin gu toilichte gu bheil stà 's an argumaid agad 's gu'm bu chòir dhuinn uile ar beatha riaghladh a réir ar dùthchais.

MAIRI—Thubhairt thu e—a' cheart rud—'s cha lugha na e a shaoras an aiteam beag de'n dream do'm buin sinne, 's a chaomhnas gach saobhbheas cridhe 's inntinn a thugadh dhuinn r'a ghleidheadh 'n ar càinain agus creid thusa so bhuamsa, a Fhloraigh, theid dùthchas an aghaidh nan creag agus gabhaidh an gaol stiùireadh.

FLORAIDH—Gabhaidh, a Mhairi, gus an cuir sin mise agus tusa le chéile, ma dh'fhaoidte, air a' chladach leis. Ach och 's e seorsa de thòimhseachan-tarsuinn a th'anns a' cheist air fad. Am facal a their sinn air an rathad so chan e their sinn air an rathad eile. Is math dhuit fhein, co-dhiubh, aig a' bheil inntinn cho suidhichte air na puingeann a th'ann—ach stad ort, o'n a tha e tighinn gu mo chuimhne. Nach bu ghasda fhéin an gille bha an Ailean òg a bhiodh a' tighinn comhla r'a athair a dh'iasgach na h-aibhne againne? Na bi tionndadh t'aodainn air falbh buamsa, a Mhairi. Nach math a tha fhios agad nach do cheil mise dad dhe mo chridhe ort riamh—na thusa orm—'s tha e ceart gu leor a nis co-dhiubh.

MAIRI—Is e rud gle dhuilich a bha sin.

FLORAIDH—Chan e. An rud nach 'eil 's an dàn cha tachair e. Ach gu h-onorach ma bha meas agam air duine riamh bha meas agam air Ailean 's bha leithid eile aig orm, gus an d'fhuair e sealladh ortsa 's an do chail e a shealladh air a h-uile té eile; agus dé a b'urrainn dhomhsa dheanamh air uairean ach an rud a rinn a' chailleach—a chead a thoirt do'n laogh nuair nach b'urrainn dhi a chumail—ach cha do lughdaich sin ar càirdeas mar chàirdeas. An e nach pòsadh tu esan, Gaidhlig aige no bhuaidh.

MAIRI—Cha mhise thug bhuait e. Thainig e le a shaor thoil fhein.

FLORAIDH—Tha fhios agam fhein gu maith air a chuid sin. Innis thusa dhomh an rud a dh'fhaighneachd mi?

MAIRI—Chan innis a chionn cha d'iarr e mi cho cinnteach sin. Ach innsidh mi so dhuit, is dh'innis mar tha, gu'm bu docha leam e na duine thachair orm riamh 's chan 'eil fhios agam air an t-saoghal c'ait an deachaidh e o chionn fada.

FLORAIDH—Is ciod e mata mu dhéidhinn Alasdair Eachainn? Bha de Ghaidhlig aigesan na dh'fhoghnadh do dhithis 's b'e an gille glan e a bharrachd air a sin.

MAIRI—Is e sin fhein a bh'ann, ach cha robh e fuathasach soirbheachail 's an ait an robh e sud, is thug e thairis air—'s bha an dealachadh buileach.

FLORAIDH—Is ann dìreach mar sin a bha. Bha h-uile sion a bh'ann ceart gu leor ach an t-airgid. B'fhearr leamsa gur h-e mi fhuair do chothrom. Ach tha thu a' tighinn thugam, a Mhairi. Air m'fhacal is ann a bha mi ag gabhail seorsa de dh'eagal gu'n robh thu air tionndadh 'n ad bhan-fheallsanach ro-ghlic uile gu leir airson an t-saoghail so th'ann. Ach tha thusa cho tais 's a bha thu riamh, a Mhairi, eudail nan nighean.

MAIRI—Ach is ann a tha thus' ag ùrachadh rudan dhomh a tha 'g am ghortachadh.

FLORAIDH—Tha mi duilich, duilich; fuathasach duilich, a Mhairi. Chan 'eil fhios agam fhein a bheil alt sam bith agamsa air do chridhe beag, gaolach a leigheas; so a nis, mur a dean sin e (*a's neadh dhi lùreach*) tha mise fada cearr am bharail.

MAIRI—Co bhuaidhe so.

FLORAIDH—Leugh fhein i. Thug e dhomhsa i ri toirt dhuit. Dh'innis mise dha gu'n robh thu so. Cha b'aithne dhomh c'ait e 'n robh thu a' fuireach.

MAIRI—A Fhloraigh! Is ann bho Ailean a tha i.

FLORAIDH—Is ann, thubhairt mi ris na'n sgrìobhadh esan i gu'n toirinn fhéin dhuit i.

MAIRI—Is tha e a' fuireach shios an rathad so fhein.

FLORAIDH—Tha dìreach—'s esan an tuath-anach. Baile mór chruidh is chaorach aige.

MAIRI—A Fhloraigh! Na bi tarruing asam mar sin. Tha h-uile dad dhe so air dol gu mo cheann. Ach co, mata, a thog an naidheachd ud mu dhéidhinn Anna bhig 's e fhein?

FLORAIDH—O, co ach te nan cuilbheartan; mi fhéin a dh'iarr air Niall sud a radh riut.

MAIRI—A Fhloraigh! Gu fìor glan chan 'eil thu fhathast latha bharrachd air na seachd bliadhna deug!

FLORAIDH—Mo léir chràidh! Chan e latha th'ann gu dearbh ach dà latha bho bha mise 'n aois sin.

MAIRI—Chan 'eil mìthlachd ort rium, a Fhloraigh?

FLORAIDH—O, gu dearbh fhéin chan 'eil—'s an uair a thig an t-am gu ma math a mhealas tu do naidheachd, a h-uile latha ri do bheò.

MAIRI—An tig thu g'am fhaicinn?

FLORAIDH—Bi glé chinnteach gu'n tig.

MAIRI—Is an uair a thig thu tha mi'n dòchas nach bi thu leat fhéin!

FLORAIDH—Bheir mi m'fhacal dhuit nach bi—is tomhais co bhios combhla rium?

MAIRI—Chan 'eil fhios agam air an t-saoghal!

FLORAIDH—Mata bithidh Alasdair Eachainn. Tha e air tilleadh á America Deas is cheannaich e tigh Shuardail. Is ciod e nis do bheachd fhéin air gnothuichean?

MAIRI—Alasdair! O chiall beannaich mi! Tha a bharail nach do thachair a leithid eile so riamh—ach O nach e Ailean a dh'fhan dileas—

FLORAIDH—Is e. Cha robh air an duine bhochd ach an ni bhios air daoine matha 'm bitheantas—cion misnich—gus an d'fhuair mi fhéin 'na charaibh. Is nach math a nis an gaol a bhith cho cinnteach sin an toiseach. Chan 'eil aon eagal idir orm nach cuir thu fhéin an dòthchas air doigh ceart gu leor—ach a chiall coisich a mach as a so. Tha daoine 'toirt an aire dhuinn. Agus a nis, a Mhairi, eudail, gu'm b'í sin a' Ghaidhlig mhaith a theagaisgeas tusa do dh'Ailean.

MAIRI—Bheir mi mo ghealladh dhuit cho cinnteach 's a tha mi'n so—stad thus' ort gus an tig an ath Mhòd.

CORRECTION.

We regret that in last month's issue there was a mistake in the report of the prize-list, Oban Mod. Under Senior Sec'ion, Choral Singing, it should have been stated that the second place was obtained by the Taynuilt Gaelic Choir.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Friday, 11th July. The following members were present:—

James J. Angus, Edinburgh; John R. Banner-man, Rahane; Wm. D. Barclay, Glasgow; Ronald C. Cameron, Glasgow; John Cameron, LL.B., Glasgow; Mrs. Burnley Campbell, of Ormidale; Miss Campbell of Inverneill; Neil S. Campbell, Glasgow; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Mrs. J. B. Dunlop, Glasgow; Miss Farquharson, of Invercauld; Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; Kenneth Fraser, Glasgow; Colonel Greenhill Gardyne, of Glenforsa; Col. Gilbert Gunn, Inverness; Miss

Lamont, of Knockdow; Miss C. MacDonald, Pitlochry; Donald MacDonald, Inverness; T. D. MacDonald, Brookfield; William MacKenzie, Greenock; A. C. MacLaren, Dalmally; James MacLaren, Glasgow; The Hon. Mrs. Iona MacLean, Edinburgh; Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Dr. R. R. MacNicol, Taynuilt; George E. Marjoribanks, Dalmally; Colin Sinclair, M.A., Glasgow; Miss Millar Weir, Alexandria. Attending—Robert Macfarlane, C.A., Treasurer; Neil Shaw, General Secretary; and Hugh MacPhee, Assistant to the Secretary.

The President, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, occupied the chair.

The President made sympathetic reference to the great loss which the Gaelic movement had sustained by the sudden death of MacLean of Ardgour, who had been closely associated with An Comunn for years. The Council adopted the following motion, which the Secretary was instructed to send to the Hon. Mrs MacLean of Ardgour:—

“That the Executive Council do place on record an expression of its profound sorrow on the death of MacLean of Ardgour. Called hence with tragic suddenness, Ardgour is lamented throughout every department of his busy and useful life, and he will be long remembered for his high qualities as a soldier, a landowner, and as a citizen. A loyal supporter of the Gaelic movement, Ardgour cheerfully accepted every related duty with which he was commissioned, and during the Celtic Congress of 1929 he gave service which laid the movement under deep obligation. The Gaelic movement in his own district was very near his heart, and it was his and his family's support of the Ardnamurchan Provincial Mod which gave the annual event an honourable position among these gatherings. An Comunn Gaidhealach has lost one of its most valued adherents, and recording thus their sense of the loss which the movement has sustained by his death, the Executive Council extends its deepest sympathy to the Honourable Mrs. MacLean of Ardgour and her young daughters in the dispensation which has bereft them of a loving and devoted husband and father. It is resolved to place this Minute on the Records of the Executive Council, and to send an excerpt to the Honourable Mrs. MacLean of Ardgour.”

It was agreed to send a message of sympathy to the Rev. Dr. G. W. Mackay of Killin, who was lying ill in a nursing home in Bridge of Allan, and an expression of the wishes of the members that he may soon be restored to health and strength.

The President welcomed Mrs Christison to the meeting, and voiced the pleasure of the members and himself on her recovery from her recent illness.

The minute of previous meeting was read and approved.

Arising out of the minute was a motion by Mr George E. Marjoribanks, held over from last meeting, asking that branches might have the privilege of appointing two of their

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members to become members of Clann an Fhraoich. Mr Marjoribanks explained the object of his motion, Mr Alasdair C. MacLaren seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

The Treasurer read a minute of the Finance Committee, and submitted the annual accounts which were in print and in the hands of the members. On the motion of Mr Alexander Fraser, Convener, the minute and accounts were adopted.

The reports of Committees for year ended May, 1930, which were in print, and in the hands of members, were gone over and approved.

Mr John Cameron, LL.B., reported that the Court of Session had granted An Comunn's petition for an alteration in the terms of the Quintin MacLennan Bequest. The conditions were now such that, failing candidates from the restricted area, the competition would be open to candidates from the whole of Inverness-shire, excluding burghs of 2000 or more inhabitants, and it would be permissible to spend surplus revenue on the teaching of Gaelic singing in the county.

A minute of the Advisory Committee was read shewing that correspondence and papers relating to the projected scholarships in the Scottish National Academy of Music had been submitted, and that the Committee had conferred on the subject with Mr Robert K. MacCallum, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.O. Mr MacCallum had agreed to formulate a scheme for the scholarships, and the matter was continued for further consideration. The minute was approved on the motion of the president.

A minute of the Education Committee was read. Arrangements are well forward for the Educational Conference at Inverness on 15th August, at which the present state of the teaching of Gaelic will be dealt with by Inspectors of Schools, Directors of Education, representative teachers, and others. The minute was adopted on the motion of Mr Malcolm MacLeod.

Two minutes of the Publication Committee were read. The Committee propose to publish a Gaelic reader for schools and general use, under the direction of Professor Watson. It is not intended that this book should contain any original contributions, but should consist of selections from material already in existence but not readily accessible.

The Committee also recommended the publication of a collection of Gaelic idioms

with English translations, kindly offered to An Comunn by Mr Duncan MacDonald, Sandwickhill, Stornoway. On the motion of the Convener, Mr Malcolm MacLeod, the minutes were approved.

A minute of the Propaganda Committee was read, showing that minutes from the Northern Sub-Committee and Southern Sub-Committee had been submitted, and that Provincial Mods at eleven centres had been reported upon. It had been remitted to the Convener and Secretary to devise ways and means for securing an increase in the membership of An Comunn.

It was reported that the Secretary of State for Scotland had replied to the Memorial on the appointment of Judicial and Quasi-Judicial Officers in the Highlands. It was decided to keep the matter open meantime, and to frame a reply and re-inforce the information contained in the Memorial by a reference to the position in Wales.

It was pointed out that the Committee's request for a grant of £1000 for propaganda work should first have been before the Finance Committee, and the Convener expressed his willingness to take back this paragraph. With this exception the minute was approved. A discussion initiated by Mr Alexander Fraser took place on the travelling expenses of teachers of singing. The Convener assured the Council that no unnecessary outlays were incurred.

A minute of the Art and Industry Committee was read. Mrs Burnley Campbell reported on the rug-making classes during the present session. Already 14 rugs had been sold to a London firm. Messrs Lambert & Co., 202 Bath Street, Glasgow, had kindly agreed to make a show of rugs, and they had been supplied with 17 rugs and 10 door mats for this purpose.

The Committee recommended that a reproduction of the prize poster, designed by Miss Lamont of Knockdow, advertising the National Mod, should be given in the magazine in an issue before the Dunoon Mod takes place. On the motion of the convener, Miss Campbell of Inverneill, the minute was approved.

Two minutes of the Mod and Music Committee were read. The Committee recommended that the extra choral competitions be taken on Friday, and, if any of the rural choirs should enter for these their items would be taken on Thursday. It was also recommended to continue the crowning of the Bard at the Mod, and it was remitted to the Convener and Mr Malcolm MacLeod

to compose a short Gaelic formula for use when crowning the Bard. It was agreed to allow the Convener of Clann an Fhraoich a few minutes during one of the Mod meetings to put the claims of Clann an Fhraoich before the members of An Comunn. On the motion of Mr John R. Bannerman, convener, the minutes were approved.

Miss Farquharson of Invercauld moved the following motion, of which notice had been given:—

“That in future the Syllabus for the next year's National Mod, and all necessary Music, be in the hands of Branch Secretaries and An Comunn's Music Teachers, by 1st October, to enable these Classes which have to take the teacher's services in the Autumn to be in a position to prepare the Test pieces under that teacher's direction.”

After discussion, the motion was remitted to the Mod and Music Committee for consideration and report, Miss Farquharson to be co-opted for this purpose.

Mr William MacKenzie, Greenock, moved the following motion, of which notice had been given:—

“That in future An Comunn discontinue money prizes of Ten Shillings and under in Junior Competitions at the National Mod and substitute Gaelic books.”

Mr Donald MacDonald seconded. Mr Malcolm MacLeod moved as an amendment that money prizes be continued, and certificates added. Mr T. D. MacDonald seconded the amendment. The voting resulted: For the motion, 14; for the amendment, 11. This motion will take effect in 1931.

Nominations were received for the offices of President, Vice-President, and ten members of Executive Council.

Mr Norman MacLeod, Glasgow, gave notice of the following motion for the annual general meeting:—

“(a) That all the business of the Executive Council Meetings be conducted in Gaelic, and (b) that all Rules (and Bye-laws) bearing on the Constitution of the Executive Council be amended to give effect to Resolution (a).”

Mr Malcolm MacLeod reported on behalf of the Special Committee dealing with the subject that the appointment of Organiser for the Northern area had been again advertised, and that 26 applications had been received. The Committee from these had selected three, whom they had interviewed that afternoon, viz.:—Alexander Cameron, Strathcarron; A. M. Carmichael, Ballachulish, and Donald MacAskill, Scourie.

The Committee, by a majority, had resolved to recommend the appointment of

Mr A. M. Carmichael, Ballachulish. Mr MacLeod moved the appointment of Mr Carmichael, and Mr Donald MacDonald seconded. Mr Alexander Fraser moved the appointment of Mr Donald MacAskill, and Miss Lamont of Knockdow seconded. On a vote being taken, 14 voted for Mr Carmichael and 4 for Mr MacAskill, and Mr Carmichael was thereupon declared appointed. It was remitted to the Propaganda Committee to arrange for his beginning work as early in the autumn as possible.

Mr Malcolm MacLeod referred to the fact that this would be the last occasion on which Sheriff MacMaster Campbell would preside at an Executive meeting as president, and paid tribute to the efficiency and success with which he had discharged the duties of his office during the last three years. He moved that the Executive place on record their high appreciation of the very valuable service which the Sheriff had rendered as president, and their sense of the obligation under which he had placed An Comunn by his wise and tactful conduct of their meetings, the dignity and distinction with which he had represented them on public occasions, and the whole-hearted fashion in which his wide knowledge and ripe wisdom had been placed at the service of An Comunn and its committees. Mr Wm. D. Barclay seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, acknowledging the vote, expressed the pleasure which he had derived from his work as president, and from his association with members of Council.

BY THE EDITOR.

Bithidh coinneamh mhór an Eirinn an ath bhliadhna ris an canair Aonach Tailteann. Chaidh an cruinneachadh mu dheireadh a chumail o chionn trì bliadhna. Tha na h-Eireannaich ag ùrachadh nan Tional a' b'abhaist a bhi aig an sinnsear o shean anns a' cheart àite, Tailteann (Teltown). Aig na coinneamhean sin bhiodh muinntir na rìoghachd a' tighinn an ceann a chèile. Bhiodh comh-fharpais an iomadh nì, am bàrdachd, an sgoileireachd, agus eadhon an spionnadh is neart nan daoine calma. An duigh tha a leithid sin de thional feumail. Is Ìonmhor dòigh anns am faigh Gaidhil Eireann misneach is comhairle o chèile, gu bhi a' cumail suas

an càin agus an dùthcha. Tha e coltach gu bheil Aonach Tailteann iomraideach; agus tha duaisean ri bhi air an tairginn airson rosg is bardachd is feallsanachd.

* * *

Bu mhaith leinn aire an luchd leughaidh a thionndadh gus an Nochdadh a bhitheas air a dheanamh an Inbhirneis air a mhìos so fhéin. Is e an Nochdadh sin comh—chruinneachadh de nithibh luachmhor is annasach a bhuinneas do na Gaidhil, nithean a bhuineas do eachdraidh na dùthcha, agus a tha a' foillseachadh dòigh bheatha ar sinnsear. Bha innleachdan is ealaidhean aig na Gaidhil a tha a nis a' dol air dichuimhne. Is tric a chunnaic muinntir Nochdadh air a' Ghalldachd, gu bhi a' sealltainn do'n t-sluagh iomadh gnè innleachd, a chum is gum beachdaicheadh iad gu tùrail. Sin mar tha anns an amharc an Inbhirneis. Bithidh seann alt an fhigheadar ga nochdadh le breacan is nithean eile: eòlas na gaibhnean le seann dagaichean is airm chogaidh; agus chithear an sud eadhon an sgiath aig Prionnsa Tearlach a chaidh a reic an uiridh airson ceithir mìle punnd.

* * *

Is tric a thig gliocas o chomhairle. Bithidh coinneamh an Inbhirneis air a' choigeamh latha deug de'n mhìos so, a chum comhairle agus comhradh mu dheidhinn teagasg na Gaidhlig do'n chloinn. Is maith gu bheil An Comunn a' gabhail suim de'n cheist so. Is ann air cuireadh A'Chomuinn a thig a' choinneamh comhladh. Bithidh iad ann, luchd teagaisg, luchd stiùiridh, agus luchd dreuchd aig a bheil làmhartas a thaobh riaghladh an fhoghlaim anns a' Ghaidhealtachd. Chan eil fhios cuin a dh'fhaodadh seòl 'nò beachd 'nò feumail éiridh suas ri am do'n luchd gnothuich a bhi cruinn. Tha so gu léir a chum leas na Gaidhlig; gu h-àraidh ma bhitheas éifeachd aig a' choinneamh so gu teagasg na càin a mhisneachadh far nach eil i air a teagasg fathast.

"LOCHABER NO MORE!"

By NEIL MUNRO.

(Eadartheangachadh.)

Soiridh bhuan do Lochabar, ciad soiridh do'n ghleann,

Far a' minig a shiubhal cha togair leis ceann.
Lochabar mo ghuidhe! Lochabar mo chridhe!
An sàr cha dean tilleadh do Lochabar a' rithis!

Thigam bradan air ais bho ghrunnad nan tonn,
Is eoinean bho'n fhasach do'n doire le fonn,
Fùrlan do'n ard-bheinn 's muir-làn do an chòs,
Ach esan cha till do Lochabar ni's mo!

Cuime mhaireas an sliabh bha riann gun bhi ég,
Na reultan 'san adhar bhi bith-bhuan air seòl;

Neo-chlaointe na ràidhean, gun chaochladh an t-allt,

Is esan a b'aille mar aisling a chall?

Bidh òrain 'gan seinn feadh nan eilean Siar,
Ach esan a b'fhearr orr' tha tosd air a chliabh;
Bidh 'n dannsa a' feitheamh is céileadh pòbhmhóir,

Ach esan cha till do Lochabar ni's mo!

Og-mhac nan coilltean! trom tha do chlos,
Nuair a dhùisgeas an clachan 's ann a ghul air do los.

Nuair a dh'fhadair an teine mu bheul a'mhocht-tràth,

Thig oiran ùrachadh mulaid, 's bhuain ùrnaigh gun stàth;

Tùrlidh oidheche le bròn-chuis, cha stòl bhios 'na cois,

Bidh ar n-ainid gun dòchas, do ar' leòn cha bhi fois;

Bidh sùil-eridh' air an doras, ach is diamhain ah nòs,

Oir esan cha till do Lochabar ni's mo!

AONGHAS MACDHONNACHAIDH.

PROVINCIAL MOD AT PORTREE.

The Prize-List.

Skye Provincial Mod held their annual gathering in the Territorial Hall, Portree, on 1st and 2nd July. A two-days' programme was involved, and a very high standard of Gaelic and music was touched by the competitors. Prominent amongst those present were:—Mr. Compton Mackenzie, the famous author and proprietor of Shiant Isles; Colonel Kenneth MacDonald, Tote, Skye; Mr Seton Gordon, Duntulm, Skye; and Mrs. MacLeod, of Skeabost. The judges were Mr. Owen, conductor of Inverness Gaelic Choir; Mr. J. A. Nicolson, M.A., Mr. Donald Grant, M.A., and Miss Phemie Stewart, Portree. The following are the results of the first day's programme:—

Reproduction of Short Story—1, Donald Mackinnon, Dunan School, Broadford; 2, Helen Finlayson, Dunan, Broadford; 3, Rhoda Macaskill, Edinbane, Portree.

Essay on Prionnsa Tearlach San Eilean Sgiathanach—1, Ann Ferguson, Dunvegan; 2, Morag Campbell, Dunvegan; 3, Catherine Ferguson, Portree; 4, John Campbell, Dunvegan.

Translation of English Message into Gaelic—1, Janet Robertson, Portree; 2, Donald Bain, Portree; 3, Helen Robertson, Broadford; 4, Harry Mackinnon, Portree.

Translation of Gaelic Prose Message into English—1, Donald Bain, Portree; 2, John Macdonald, Portree; 3, Chrissie P. Fletcher, Broadford; 4, Robert Sutherland, Broadford.

Writing from Dictation Gaelic Prose Message—1, Alexander Campbell, Dunvegan; 2, Donald Bain, Portree; 3, Mary Macdonald, Portree; 4, John Stewart Macleod, Portree.

Reading with Expression a Piece of Poetry—1, Catherine Ferguson; 2, Annie Macdonald; 3, Annie Macleod; 4, Janet Robertson.

Reading at Sight Unfamiliar Prose Piece—1, Catherine Ferguson, Portree; 2, Annie Macdonald, Portree; 3, Annie Macleod, Portree; 4, Janet Robertson, Portree.

Reciting from Memory Gur Moch Rinn mi Dhsagadh—1, Chrissie Macdonald, Dunvegan; 2, John Robertson, Broadford; 3, Donald MacLeod, Broadford.

Reciting a Sgeulachd—1, Flora Ann Mackinnon, Heaste, Broadford; 2, Barbara Robertson, Broadford; 3, Donald Macleod; 4, Lachlan Mackinnon, Broadford.

Solo Singing of Song (under 14 years)—1, Margaret Watt, Uig, Skye; 2, Lena Nicolson, Portree; 3, Kate Robertson, Broadford; 4, Alexina Campbell, Uig, Skye.

Solo Singing (boys under 14)—1, Charles Mackinnon, Dunan, Broadford; 2, Martin Finlayson, Broadford.

Solo Singing (girls)—1, Bessie Steel, Dunvegan; 2, Margaret Steel, Dunvegan; 3 (equal), Alexina Campbell, Uig, and Betty Steel, Dunvegan.

Duet Singing (boys)—Robert Campbell, Uig, Skye. Duet Singing—1, Margaret Steel and Eileen King; 2, Wilhelmina Campbell and Alexina Campbell; 3, Betty and Bessie Steel, Dunvegan.

Choral Singing of Song in Two Part Harmony—1, Portree; 2, Dunvegan; 3, Uig

Unison Singing—1, Uig; 2, Dunvegan; 3, Portree.

Mod Concert.

A successful concert was held in the Territorial Hall on Wednesday night, following the Senior competition. The choir was occupied by Colonel K. Macdonald, D.S.O., of Tote, who, as usual, proved himself to be an ideal Chairman, and who always receives an enthusiastic reception. The hall was filled to overflowing, and a delightful programme was gone through. Songs were sung by the prize-winners, and the following artists contributed to the programme and greatly delighted the audience:—Miss K. MacLennan, London; Miss C. Nicolson, Glasgow; Miss A. J. Macmillan, Glasgow; Miss M. Graham, Mr. Hector Kelly, and Mr. Neil Shaw, Secretary of An Comunn. During the interval Mrs. Macleod, of Skeabost, gracefully presented the prizes to the prize-winners, and on the motion of Rev. J. Mackay was accorded a hearty vote

of thanks. Mr. Mackay also thanked the Chairman for presiding. Mr. Owen and Mr. Shaw addressed the audience, as also did Mr. Angus Grant, Mod Secretary. Much credit is due Mr. Grant and his Joint Secretary, Mr. Walter Ross, for the capable way in which they carried out their many duties; also all those who assisted. The concert was a huge success, and was brought to a close by the singing of "Soraidh Leibh" and the National Anthem.

GLENMORE PROVINCIAL MOD.

Hundreds of people from all parts of the Great Glen attended the first Provincial Mod held at Fort Augustus on Saturday, 28th June, when the Public Hall was besieged with enthusiastic supporters of the Gaelic movement. Rev. Angus MacIntyre, Inveroch Manse (President of the Fort Augustus Branch of An Comunn) called on Mr. Don. Macdonald, Convener of the Propaganda Sub-Committee (Northern Area) of An Comunn Gaidhealach, Inverness, to preside.

The following were the adjudicators:—

Solos, Duets, and Choir Singing—Mr. Lewis J. Owen, Director of Music, Inverness, assisted by Mr. Murray, Musical Director, Badenoch.

Gaelic—Mr. John N. MacLeod, Knockbain, Kirkhill, Inverness, assisted by Mr. D. Graham, Inverness.

Violin Music—Mr. Thomas King, Vale View Villa, Fort Augustus. Bagpipe Music—Mr. W. Chisholm, Inverness.

The accompaniments were played by Mr. Mallinson, A.R.C.O., A.T.C.L., Inverness, and Mrs. A. C. Scott, Gaelic music teacher, Plockton, Ross-shire.

Miss Farquharson, of Invercauld, presented the winners with their prizes (which were in the form of certificates) at the conclusion, and on the motion of Mr. John MacGillivray, the veteran President of Invergarry Branch of An Comunn, Miss Farquharson was accorded a cordial vote of thanks.

THE PRIZE-LIST.

JUNIOR SECTION.

Oral Delivery—Reciting from Memory "A Chuthag"—1, Mary Fraser, Invergarry, and Cathie MacEachan, Fort Augustus (equal); 2, Archie MacLean, Inchlaggan, Glengarry; 3, Peter MacRae and Alistair MacDonald, Glengarry.

Reading Prose—Peter MacRae.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1, Lottie Evans, Inchlaggan, Glengarry; 2, Chrissie Fraser, Glenurquhart, and

Chrissie MacLean, Inchlaggan (equal) ; 3, Iris Noble, Aberchaldar, Bridge, Invergarry.

Solo Singing (Boys)—1, Archie MacLean and Angus Sinclair, Inchlaggan (equal); 2, Ewen Fraser, Glenurquhart; 3, Peter MacRae, Inchlaggan

Unison Singing—1, Inchlaggan Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Fort Augustus Junior Gaelic Choir; 3, Newton (Aberchaldar) Junior Gaelic Choir.

SENIOR SECTION.

Oral Delivery—1, John MacKillop, Glengarry; 2, Alan MacInnes, Invergarry.

Reciting from Memory 16 Lines of "Is toigh leam a' Ghaidhealtachd"—1, Ewen Fraser, Glenurquhart; 2, Alan MacInnes and John MacKillop (equal); 3, Miss Jessie MacDonald, Glenurquhart.

"Sgeulachd" of Local or Historical Interest—Alan MacInnes.

Solos (Female Voices)—1, Miss Jessie MacDonald, Glenurquhart; 2, Miss Peggy MacAskill, Mandally, Invergarry; 3, Miss Joyce Grant, Invergarry, and Miss MacDonald, Glenurquhart (equal).

Solos (Male Voices)—1, Mr. J. MacDonald, Glenurquhart; 2, Mr. Alan MacInnes; 3, Mr. George Martin, Fort Augustus.

Solo Singing of a Song composed by a Local Bard of the District—1, Alan MacInnes; 2, Mrs. MacIntosh, Glenurquhart; 3, John MacKillop.

Duets—1, Mrs. MacIntosh and Mrs. Ewen Fraser, Glenurquhart; 2, Mrs. MacNally and Mr. William MacIntosh, Fort Augustus.

Choral Singing of the Songs, "Na sean orain" and "Taobh Abhainn Aora," or own choice—1, Glenurquhart Gaelic Choir (conducted by Miss J. E. MacKenzie, Inverness); 2, Fort Augustus Gaelic Choir (conducted by Mrs. A. C. Scott, Plockton); 3, Inchlaggan Gaelic Choir (Mrs. A. C. Scott).

Unison Singing of a Song and "Puir-a-beul"—1, Fort Augustus Gaelic Choir; 2, Glenurquhart Gaelic Choir; 3, Invergarry Gaelic Choir.

Violin Music (March, Strathspey, and Reel)—John MacLean, Inchlaggan.

Bagpipe Music—1, Mr. R. Gollan, Glenurquhart; 2, Mr. A. Morrison, Glenurquhart; 3, Mr. Don. MacAskill, Invergarry.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

National Mod at Dunoon on the 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th September, 1930.

* * *

At the time of writing, it is not possible to give any indication of the number of entries for this year's National Mod, but I am hopeful that the numbers will be at least equal to those of former years. The influence of Provincial Mods is having its effect. Portree for the first time is sending forward a Rural Choir, and with them several individual competitors. Carradale is sending a Junior Choir with a large

number of individual entries. In our next number I will be able to give the figures and names of Choirs which are entered.

* * *

The result of the Fancy Fair held at Dunoon under the joint auspices of the British Legion, District Nursing Association, and Mod Local Committee, has been highly satisfactory. I understand that each Association will receive about £65 as a result of the efforts of the combined Committees. Mrs. Burnley Campbell opened the Fair on behalf of An Comunn on the closing day of the Fair, and in doing so appealed for support of the Mod and of the work of An Comunn generally. Mr. Malcolm MacLeod proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Burnley Campbell for opening the Fair, and it will be of interest to members to know that the drawings on the closing day were greater than those of any of the preceding days.

* * *

The Conference on the present state of Gaelic in Highland Schools, which is to be held at Inverness on 15th August, is evoking widespread interest. We are indebted to the Magistrates of Inverness for the use of the Burgh Court Room for this occasion. Mr. Malcolm Macleod will open the proceedings with a paper on "Progress since 1918 and hopes for the future." Dr. Philip, the Director of Education of the Ross-shire Education Committee, will speak on "Problems, Progress, and Prospects from the administrative side of the teaching of Gaelic in Gaelic speaking areas." It is hoped that one of the Inspectors of Schools will be present to speak on the value of Gaelic as an educational factor and the extent to which it has enhanced the education of children in the Gaelic speaking areas since the passing of the 1918 Act. Representative Teachers will speak from their experience on the practical problems arising out of school work on the teaching of Gaelic. The Conference will open at 10 a.m. A cordial invitation to attend is extended to all interested.

* * *

The Summer School of Gaelic opens in the High School, Inverness, on Friday, 1st August. A number of students have already enrolled, but no doubt, as in former years, the majority of students will enrol on the opening day. It is expected that the Music Classes will be largely attended.

NIALL.

THE CELTIC CONGRESS.

The Celtic Congress, which was held in London from 22nd to 30th July, was opened by a characteristically eloquent address from the President, Rev. Dr. MacLean Watt. The address was universally admired for its poetic diction, its wide and intimate knowledge of the place and the achievements of the Celt in history, its insight and its practical suggestiveness.

We hope to be able to give in next issue a brief description of the Congress, and of the various contributions made from the different Celtic countries.

AONACH TAILTEANN

Literary Awards and Competitions, 1931.

B

THE LITERARY COMPETITIONS.

The competitions open, in Irish* or any other language, for the third Aonach Tailteann to be held in August, 1931, are:

- (1) Poetry.
- (2) Drama.
- (3) Novel.
- (4) Short Story.
- (5) Other Prose Literature.
- (6) Special Medal: A Work on the Patrician Period.

The Tailteann Medal is offered for the best entry in each of the foregoing classes. A second or third medal may be awarded in any class at the discretion of the Board of Adjudication.

All persons qualified under Rule 2 of the General Conditions of Aonach Tailteann are eligible to compete.

Rule 2 is as follows: The International Sections shall be open to all persons of Irish descent.

The results of the Literary Competitions will be announced at Aonach Tailteann. Successful competitors may be obliged to satisfy the Committee that they are eligible under Rule 2 for the competition.

All Entries must reach the Literary Committee on or before April 1st, 1931, and no entry will be accepted after that date.

Entries may be made in all the classes, but only one entry can be made in any one class. Competitors must supply one printed copy of published work. In all other cases typescript must be submitted.

* For Entries in Irish apply for separate Entry Form. All communications to be directed to C. Gifford Wilson, B.A., 1a Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin.

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Leabhar XXV.]

An t-Sultuin, 1930.

[Earrann 12

FRAOCH IS GAIDHLIG.

Fàsaidh am peann maol le bhi tric san aon chaitheamh. Fàsaidh an leughadair sgìth de na seann chuspairean. An uair a shuidheas neach sìos gu bhì 'sgrìobhadh prìomh dhuilleig a' mhìosachain, agus a rannsuicheas e a chiall 's a chuimhne airson nì eigin ùr, chan eil fhios cìod is fearr—argumaid airson na tuisge, no tagradh airson nan aignidhean. Tha gach aon diù feumail 'n a ùite féin. Agus an uair a cheanglas sinn fraoch is Gaidhlig anns an aon bhadan, is cinnteach gur ann ri mac-meanma tha sinn a' tagradh. Tha fraoch is Gaidhlig càirdeach da chèile, a chionn gun d'fhàs iad anns an aon tìr; agus tha fios gu maith gur iad Clann an Fhraoich clann na Gaidhlig. Is grinn an t-ainm sin 'g a chleachdadh an dòigh nam bàrd. Ach an ath fhacal a their sinn is e bhios ann ach facal cumanta gun togail bàrdachd mu thimchioll. Is e sin gu bheil an Gaidheal nas furasda a ghluasad troimh na h-aignidhean na tha e troimh a chiall is a reusan. Is nì ro iongantach so, ach tha e fìor gu leòir. Faodadh tu dhearbhadh do'n Ghaidheal gu bheil buannachd anns a' Ghaidhlig gus airgid a chosnadh. Ach cha bhì sud am faisg cho deas gus a ghluasad 's a bhiodh aon bhuille-cridhe de mheas air cainnt a mhàthar.

Thoir faireach gu bheil am fraoch badanach gorm 'n a shuaicheantas air maise do dhùthcha. Agus chan fhaod a bhì nach eil gràdh do d' dhùthaich gu domhain ann ad chridhe. Is e so an t-aobhar mu bheil sinn dearbh chinnteach, far a bheil gaol do thìr nam beann, gu bheil spéis do'n fhraoch dlùth air laimh. Agus tha sinn an dùil nach bu chòir gaol do'n chàinain a bhì fada uapa sin—an tìr, am fraoch, 's a'

Ghaidhlig—cò do'n dàna coire fhaotainn dhuinn ged chuireamaid an triùir sin comhla? Cò chuireas casaid oirn ged dh'fheuchamaid ri gach innleachd idir a tha an comas ar pinn, gus gaol na Gaidhlig ath-dhùsgadh anns gach cridhe, le cuimhneachadh air an fhraoch agus air gràdh-dùthcha? Tha so cho daingean ann ar nàdur ri dreuchd no dleasdanas ar beatha làitheil. Chan eil ann ach an fhìrinn ghlan an uair a their sinn gun gluais do chuisle nas luaithe an am tarraunn dlùth ri tìr nam beann. Tha so fìor a thaobh nan Gaidheal a tha anns na bailtean mòra anns a' rìoghachd so fhéin. Agus tha e gu h-àraidh fìor mu na Gaidheil thall thar chuantan. Cia tric a shìobhlas an smuain gu dachaidh an òige; cia tric a chì iad am fraoch ann am brudhar na h-oidhche? Aig an am so de'n bhliadhna tha na ceudan coigreach ag òl fallaineachd ann ar dùthaich; am fraoch gucagach gorm mar bhrat fo'n chois; caoran dearga am bruch nan allt; agus an ceò air a' bheinn, far an tàmh am fiadh is an iolair.

A nis tha a leithid so blasda gu leòir ri sgrìobhadh air duilleig a' mhìosachan. Ach ciamar idir air an talamh is urrainn duinn an leughadair a ghluasad gu gnìomh? Tha iomadh rabhadh is dearbhadh ann ar latha, gu bheil beatha na càinain an cunnart. Tha na rabhadhean 'g an tabhairt gu bhì 'g ar brosnuchadh, agus chan ann gu bhì a' tilgeadh ar mìsnich sìos. Tha daoine glìce ag innse nach eil dòigh is fhearr gu cridhe an duine a chruadhachadh, na bhì a' gluasad nam faireachaidhean gu tric agus gun *ghnìomh* a' leantuinn da réir. Nach bochd sin mata—gum biodh gràdh do thìr nam beann air ar sìubhal gu dian dùrachdach—agus nach biodh an teas-gràdh sin a' giùlan toraidh, agus 'g a chur

féin an ceill ann an gnìomh. Ach ciod an gnìomh? Is e so an gnìomh, tha e soilleir gu leòir—Labhair a' Ghaidhlig, leugh i, sgriobh i, cleachd i. Sin an gnìomh anns a faigh do ghràdh do d' dhùthaich cothrom air e féin a nochdadh. Bhiodh so uile na b'fhearr do'n chàinain, agus duit féin mar dhuine agus mar Ghaidheal.

Their cuid gu bheil an ceòl a' faotainn tuilleadh aire agus ùine, na tha labhairt is leughadh na càinain a' faotainn. Tha sin fìor. Bu chòir cùram ionann a nochdadh do'n cheòl is do'n chàinnt. Ach ciod a theireadh tu nam biodh e fìor, gu bheil mòran ciùil, gun ghnìomh 'g a leantuinn, a' cruadhachadh a' chridhe? Tha sinn cinnteach gu bheil an cridhe cruaidh, coma, tuilleadh is cumanta an diugh. Tha sinn a' ciallachadh le sin, cridhe air a dheanamh cruaidh le mòran faireachaidh is beagan gnìomha—mòran faireachaidh, ag èisdeachd le tlachd is aoibhneas, aig fichead mòd is cuirm chùil, ris na h-òrain air an seinn gu h-ealanta—ach air a' laimh eile beagan gnìomha; beagan gnìomha le beul dùinte agus bilean air an druidealh a thaobh labhairt na càinain, mar gum bu chàinnt i nach b'fhiach an t-saothair agus nach b'airidh air urram. Cuiridh a leithid so iongnadh air coigrich, agus thig iad gus a' chomh dhùnadh nach eil sinn an da rìreadh—agus faodaidh nach eil iad fada cearr! Thubhairt Gall foghlumte ruinn o chionn ghoidh: "It often annoys me to see how little pride many of you Highlanders take in your fine old language and your beautiful melodies." Sin am beachd aig fear a tha 'n a cheann air aon de na colaistean an Oilthigh Albannach.

SADDELL ABBEY—ITS ORIGINS AND PAGES FROM ITS HISTORY.

By Sheriff MACMASTER CAMPBELL, C.B.E.

II.

Skene takes particular notice of the acquiescence by Somerled and his successors in the Lordship of the Isles in the policy of the Anglicised Scottish Court to give encouragement to the Orders of the Roman Church to settle in their dominions. And, as specific instances of the concord ecclesiastical between the Scottish King and the Princes of the Isles, Skene cites the foundation by Reginald of a Cistercian House at Saddell, and of a Benedictine House at Iona, the first prioress of the

Nunnery in connection with the Iona Monastery being Beatrice or Bethock, the daughter of Somerled and the sister of Reginald.

Somerled was of mixed Gaelic and Norse blood. His patronymic—Mc-Gillebhrìde—is unquestionably Gaelic, but his Christian name is pure Scandinavian, signifying Summer—Soldier or Viking. Born into these Western Coasts while still the Norseman dominated the Hebrides and the Western Littoral, Somerled might well have been expected, when he grew to manhood, to reinforce the domination of the Norse, but the Seannachies tell—and their narrative is well corroborated by concurrent and subsequent history—that Somerled's Gaelic grandfather had been dispossessed by the Norsemen of his possessions in North Argyll. And, because of this disaster to his ancestor, Somerled it was who became the fiercest foe of the Scandinavian; the man, in point of fact, who succeeded in striking the first successful blow in that War of Scandinavian and Scot which ended some few years after in the repulse of the Norse King Haco on the field of Largs. The success of Somerled against the Norsemen did not, it is true, involve his renunciation of Norse Suzerainty: he was content with the restitution of the lands of which his grandfather had been deprived, a restitution which, in these far off days, inferred of itself the right of immediate rule. His position, territorial and vice-regal, steadily improved until, nominally a vassal of the King of Norway, he was virtually Prince of a considerable portion of the Isles and the neighbouring mainland, and, as be seemed a Prince, he espoused Ragnild—we have the precise name in Gaelic yet as the equivalent of Rachel—the daughter of Olaf the Red, the Scandinavian King of Man. Somerled's matrimonial association with the Isle of Man naturally created in him an interest in that historic island deeper than previously he could have entertained; and, in particular, it brought him into contact with one of the most remarkable men of the age who had become Bishop of the Island and who was to live to become Pretender to the then most powerful Thanedom of the North—the Earldom of Moray. Allusion is made to Bishop Wimund, and his romantic career beyond the Isle of Man may well intrigue the curious in the by-paths of Scottish history. I am concerned here with his ecclesiastical position in Manxland, and one of the influences which radiated from the

wonderful Bishop and produced a notable result in Kintyre. Bishop Wimund had been a Monk of Furness Abbey, a Benedictine foundation dating from 1126, and the presumption from the dates of other incidents in Wimund's stormy career is that he was consecrated Bishop of Man circa 1130. It is next found that four years after Bishop Wimund's consecration, i.e., about 1134, King Olaf granted the Abbot of Furness land at Russin, Isle of Man, upon which to build an Abbey, and there is no peradventure in the surmise that King Olaf's pious gift to Furness was influenced by his Bishop, himself a Monk of Furness. As just observed, the Abbey of Furness, and, consequently, its daughter house of Russin, were in their origin Benedictine and were filiations of the famous Benedictine Abbey of Savigny in Normandy. All three Abbeys remained Benedictine until 1147, when a General Chapter of the Cistercian Order was held at Cîteaux—the foundation and name city of the Cistercians—at which Chapter the Abbey of Savigny, for itself and its daughter houses, resolved to fuse, and did fuse, in the Order of Cîteaux, i.e., the Cistercians. And the fusion was pontifically consummated by a Bull of Pope Eugenius III.

I now return to Somerled. His marriage to the Princess of Man took place about 1140, and from that year till his death in 1164 Somerled preserved close association, friendly and hostile by turns, with the Isle of Man, and the conclusion is irresistible that it was this association, the friendly alternations of it, which engendered the resolution of Somerled to effect a religious foundation on his own particular territory, which foundation should be directly affiliated with the Manx Abbey. Bishop Wimund, too, captivated the imagination of Somerled, for in after years, when the Bishop exchanged the Mitre for the Buckler and laid claim to the Scottish throne, Somerled, whose sister Wimund married, was strenuous in his support of the Pretender's cause; and it is, indeed, to his espousal of Wimund's contention that the misfortune is to be traced which terminated the career of the mighty Somerled in his tent at Renfrew—of which happenings notice is taken here because of their undoubted relation to the eventual erection of the Religious House whose story I now endeavour to tell.

Reginald died, according to the authoritative computation of the Clan Donald historians, in the year 1207, and the

succession to South Kintyre became part of the patrimony of Reginald's son, Donald, while North Kintyre was included in the portion of his son, Roderic. Donald it is whose name is borne by that Clan Donald which, right down the intervening centuries, has filled so prominent a place in the annals of Scotland.

Roderic, too, became the eponymus of a clan, but his descendants—MacRories and MacRuries—have, the greater part of them, sunk their identity in the larger clan founded by Roderic's brother, Donald. Donald, it is reckoned, died some time prior to 1249, and it was to him the privilege was accorded, in 1220, to give entry to those monks from the Mother Abbey of Russin, who formed the first community of the historic Abbey of Saddell. Let me attempt a survey of the ecclesiastical conditions of Kintyre immediately anterior to the coming of the Cistercians, for it is well to realise that, despite the decay of the Celtic Church, the monks of Russin had by no means entered a territory where they themselves were to be the sole missionaries of the Christian faith. In a region which teemed with dedications to the saints of the Celts, it is indubitable that there still lingered individuals scattered throughout the Peninsula, representatives of those Culdees who for five hundred years formed so notable a division of the Scotie Columban Church. It is inconceivable, too, that Reginald, or his son, predisposed as they were to the new Order, would deal harshly with the older churchmen, and there is nothing in the old records to disturb the belief that such of the Culdees as chose to remain separate received the most complete toleration, and it goes without saying that the people for a time would prefer the ministrations of the Culdees to those of the new Monks. Many of the Culdees, as has already been observed, adapted themselves to the new system, and either entered the monasteries of the exterior orders or continued as extra-monastic secular clergy. The endowments being diverted to the new monks and secular clergy, the Culdees would of necessity dwindle until, at the end of a hundred years, the name of Culdee was but a sacred memory—a memory which in all its sacredness has persisted to the present hour.

But the Culdees were not the only pre-Cistercian clergy in Kintyre. Somerled, it has been discovered, conceived a prepos-

session for the Monastery of Russin; his son, Reginald, was equally avid to favour the Cluniac Monastery of Paisley, and it is not difficult to regard it as a certainty that but for his recognition of filial obligation the foundation at Saddell would not have been a daughter of Russin Abbey, but an affiliation rather of the Abbey of Paisley. The leading evidence of Reginald's solicitude for Paisley Abbey is, of course, his famous charter, in which he gifts and mortifies to the monastic community "during the first year eight oxen and two pennies from every house whence issues smoke; and after this I will give them annually" (the Charter proceeds) "one penny from each house within my whole territory whence smoke issues, and my heirs shall give the same after me, or should they fail to do so, with the utmost promptitude they shall have my malediction." So far endowment, but the charter tells us, too, that the contemplation was that the monks of Paisley should engage in missionary journeys throughout the territory over which Reginald was prince. The relative clause runs: "And I beseech all my friends, and command all my people, that wheresoever they may find the aforesaid monks, my brethern, or their people, they should maintain them or aid them in their business with the certain knowledge that by St. Columba whosoever of my heirs molests them they shall have my malediction, or if peradventure any evil should be done unto them or theirs by my people, or by any others whom it is my power to bring to account, they shall suffer the punishment of death." It is no part of the present inquiry to search out the subsequent relations of the Paisley Cluniacs with Kintyre, but it is easy to connect their ultimate investiture in two Kintyre parishes with the Charter of Reginald and their sequent religious offices of an ambulatory kind throughout the peninsular area. It is somewhat singular that, crowded as Kintyre was with dedications to saints of the Celtic Church, and occasional resort, as the peninsula must be presumed to have been, of these commemorated saints, there is no record of any Columban community having established itself within the peninsular bounds. The cloistral life was cultivated by the Celtic Church with the same fervour that it was by the Latin Communion, as witness the monasteries of Iona and of Deer, but the Cistercian Abbey of Saddell would appear to be the first Religious House in Kintyre, as it was also one of the four

monasteries of new religious orders in Argyllshire, the others being the Benedictine House of Iona, the Vallisclalian House at Ardchattan, and the Augustinian foundation at Oronsay.

With regard to the racial origins of the monks who migrated from Russin to Saddell, I think it safe to conjecture that a proportion of them would be Manxmen, of that same Gaelic and Scandinavian stock of which they found the inhabitants of the territory surrounding their new home. Others doubtless would originally hail from Furness Abbey, and were probably English, but it is manifest from the subsequent story of Kintyre that there was no such preponderance of English or non-Gaelic religious influence as would effect any change in the linguistic conditions of the district, and the observation thus made applies with the same force to the influence, linguistic and cultural, of the monastic incumbents of the two Kintyre charges committed to the care of the Abbey of Paisley. It is historical fact that the leading factor in the supersession of Gaelic by English throughout the territories now designated the Lowlands was the circumstance that throughout these regions the Celtic foundations were superseded by monasteries, the monks of which were generally ignorant of the language of the people, and were accompanied, too, by craftsmen and others conversant only with English, who formed village communities exterior to, but closely associated with, the monasteries. In the case of Saddell, the original monks were, as I have reckoned, mostly of the same blood as the people, but this could not have been the case in respect of others of the foundations throughout the Highland area, and I arrive at the conclusion that the reason why the ancient Scotie language survived at all was that the unsettled conditions of the times prevented the Church from effecting throughout the country benorth the Highland line but a scanty minimum of religious foundations; these, I believe, can be numbered on the fingers of one's two hands. There is difference of opinion as to whether or not it would have been a beneficial thing had the Highlands been denuded of Gaelic to the same extent that the Lowlands were. But I feel persuaded that, as the advantages and potentialities of Gaelic continue to disclose themselves, the number of those who regret its persistency will prove a rapidly diminishing community.

(To be continued)

CONFERENCE AT INVERNESS.

An important conference was held in Inverness on Friday, 15th August, under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach, at which a large and representative gathering discussed the progress and future of the Gaelic language. The gathering was presided over by Provost A. M. MacEwen, chairman of the Education Committee of Inverness-shire.

He said there were still many people who looked upon the teaching of Gaelic as simply a sentimental fad. One of the most important things, he thought, was to bring home to these people that from the practical point of view of the teaching of the English the acquisition of the Gaelic tongue was a most important factor. He could give some instances of that. He did not say they were conclusive, but they pointed in that direction. That year in the Qualifying Examinations the average age of the children who took part, taking the county as a whole, was twelve years six months. The average age in the island of Barra was twelve years, the lowest on the list. Next came North Uist, which had an average age of twelve years and one month, while South Uist followed with twelve years and three months. Another remarkable feature that year was that in the Higher Leaving Certificates the pupils attending the school at Portree gained 100 per cent. passes in English and Latin. There again was another school which was almost entirely fed from a Gaelic-speaking area, and although there might be other factors to be taken into account, surely it showed that at the very least the possession of the Gaelic language was not only not a detriment to the acquisition of English, but was a very great help to all sorts of things.

The conference was opened by Mr. Malcolm Macleod, an ex-President of An Comunn, who spoke on the value of Gaelic as an educational factor, and the progress the language had made in Gaelic-speaking areas since the passing of the Act of 1918, and the hopes for the future. He pointed out that the teaching profession was being reinforced by many Gaelic-speaking teachers. There were now in Ross-shire 66 schools with 3400 pupils who were being taught Gaelic; in Inverness-shire, 135 schools with 3777 pupils; Argyllshire, 92 schools with 1600 pupils; and in Sutherland, 15 schools with 200 pupils, making a total of 300 schools with 10,000 scholars receiving Gaelic instruction. In order to preserve their Highland nationality surely the most natural and effective way was first by tenaciously

holding on to their national tongue, which was the most distinctive badge of their nationality. He hoped that the prophecy made by Professor Watson, of the Celtic Chair at Edinburgh University, that in the wide Gaelic-speaking districts from Tain to Dingwall there would be in twenty years time not a word of Gaelic spoken, would not be fulfilled. It was their business to do what they could to secure its non-fulfilment.

Mr. Angus Macleod, M.A., rector of Oban High School, said there was a fallacy that the school could make up for all the deficiency in the home. He had come across children whose parents wished them to study Gaelic at school. Some of the parents who spoke Gaelic sometimes addressed their children in Gaelic. He asked the children if they answered in Gaelic, but their reply was that they did not. That, in his opinion, was the death of Gaelic. The teachers were prepared to do their best, but they could make little progress unless they were supported by the home.

Dr. George Philip, Dingwall, Director of Education for Ross-shire, delivered an interesting paper on the progress and prospects from the administrative side of the teaching of Gaelic in Gaelic-speaking areas. He pointed out that there was no antagonism between the teaching of Gaelic and of English, as both played their part in training the intelligence of the people. He had two suggestions which he wished to make, and he felt that An Comunn could give their assistance in these. The crying need of Gaelic schools at the present time was an increase in the number of cheap books of single continuous prose. He felt that it might be possible to produce a number of cloth bound books containing extracts from some of the Gaelic classics. His other suggestion was that An Comunn should consider the advisability of arranging for the production of a few gramophone records of current Gaelic speech. This, he thought, would help in establishing a standard of correct pronunciation.

Mr. Norman Macleod, Gaelic master, Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow, referred to the need of more Gaelic-speaking teachers.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale said that in Ireland there were schools where every subject was taught bi-lingually, first in one language, and then in the other. Even geography and mathematic lessons were conducted both in English and in Gaelic. The inspectors who went round these schools paid a great tribute to the higher intelligence of the children who were being instructed in

both languages, than that of those whose education was received purely in English. She was of the opinion that if they in the Highlands could do something of the kind it would improve the children's knowledge both of Gaelic and English, and its cultural possibilities were very great.

Colonel Gilbert Gunn drew attention to the fact that in Sutherland, Gaelic was taught in the elementary schools, but there was not a single teacher in the secondary schools so far as he was aware. Reference had been made to orders coming down from the Education Department. His conviction was that suggestions should really come from the Gaelic democracy themselves, and not the Education Department.

Mr. Neil Orr, Edinburgh, said that parents left matters very much with the teachers and seldom interfered. He thought that teachers should take more risks. If they considered a certain thing advisable to do, why not do it?

Mr. Charles Davidson, lecturer in Spanish in Aberdeen University, also emphasised the value of reviving the Gaelic language in the Highlands. In other countries, in Spain, Brittany, and even in Mexico, the people retained the tongue of their fathers. The gist of his remarks was that one saw how by the cultivation of language a nation could express its soul.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, M.P., for Inverness-shire, said he was naturally very much interested in Gaelic, and he regretted that he had not taken full advantage of the opportunities which he had of learning the language as a boy. He was glad to hear that at the present day parents were much more willing, indeed anxious, that their children should learn Gaelic at school, because he was sadly aware that at the time when he was at school that was really not the case. The fact that there was a changed attitude nowadays was an excellent augury for the future further development of Gaelic in the Highlands of Scotland. Many Highland boys like himself had found themselves in positions outside their own native sphere, and they required a sound knowledge of English. It was, however, a very desirable thing in every way that all of them should have a second language.

The practical problems arising out of school work in the teaching of Gaelic was afterwards discussed, and among the speakers were Mr. Alex. Urquhart, M.A., Stornoway; Mr. Donald Maclean, M.A., Newton, Islay; Mr. Norman Macleod, M.A., Glasgow; and Mr. W. D. McColl, Glasgow.

On the motion of Mr. Norman Macleod, Glasgow, it was unanimously agreed to appoint an Advisory Council on questions relating to practical problems arising out of the work of Gaelic teaching in schools, as follows:—The Directors of Education for Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, Inverness-shire, Argyllshire, and Perthshire; Dr. D. J. Macleod, Inverness; Mr. Angus L. Macdonald, Argyll; and Mr. Barron, Inspectors; the President of An Comunn Gaidhealach; the Convener of An Comunn Education Committee; and Mr. Norman Macleod, M.A., Glasgow, and others.

Another resolution was passed, on the motion of Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Glasgow, in the following terms:—"That it be a recommendation to the Education Committees of the Highland counties to arrange for Gaelic being made the medium of religious instruction in schools mainly attended by Gaelic-speaking children."

The Press of the northern capital gave excellent reports of the conference.

MAIRI BHAN GHLINN FREOIN.

By GEORGE E. MARJORIBANKS, Sonachan.
First Prize 1929 Mod.

III.

Cha robh 's a bhuidhinn bhrònach a ràinig am baile-mór aig beul na h-oidhche sin ach aon fhear nach sleuchdadh fhathast do'n mhulad a bha na prìosanach eile a' faireachdainn. B'uallach a cheum agus b'ard a cheann, mar gum b'ann a dh'ionnsuidh bainnse a bha e ag imeachd, an àite bàis mhaslaich air a' chroich. B'e sud Alasdair òg. Nuair a chaidh na Griogaraich a chur an ceangail air cìoch Shasuinn, bha fear no dithis is 'fhuil mu thalamh mu'n do chuireadh bràid mu cheann an steud-eich mheannmhaich sin. Agus bha 'bhuihl 's a bhlàth, oir fhuair Alasdair mar fheiceadan duine lùthor, borb, as am faoidte làn earbsa a chur a thaobh an fhuath a bh'aige do mhuinntir Ghlinn Sreithe. Cha robh tàir no tamailt a b'aithne do Dhiarmad Bàn nach càradh e air ceann Alasdair, 's mar sin bha Diarmad 'na roghafhear-ghléidhidh aig Ceannard an Iarla. 'Se "Diarmad gun Dearmad" a theireadh esan ris. Carson mata, a bha aobh air Alasdair ri am teann a bhraighdeamais? Gu latha a bhàis cha b'urrainn Alasdair innseadh ciamar no cionnus. Ach bha lathaireachd nighinn mhaisech ga shior-leantainn fad làithean gort an t-siubhail, agus chum dà shùil dhonn, chiùin, fo gheasaibh e, a latha 's a dh'oidhche.

Ach mu'n tig sinn gus an dealbh mu dheireadh, feumar innseadh an am beagan briathran mar a dh'èirich do Mhàiri Bhàin Ghlinn Freoin, a dh'fhàg sinn ann an cor cho truagh an lèimh nan ceard. Cho luath 's a b'urrainn do Chiortan gluasad a rithist, 's cha robh sin fada, oir is muinntir chruadalach a th'anns na ceaird, cha robh na channan d'fhéin 's a fear air sgàth na h-inghinne a bha iad cho fada 'na comain. Dh'innis Màiri dhaibh a h-uile car mar thachair agus 's e rinn iad, ghluais iad an camp is ghabh iad gach rathad a bu dìriche na chéile chum deanamh suas air na ceatharnaich, 's air am freacadaid mun ruigeadh iadsan Dunéideann. Agus leis gun robh rathad gach buidhe dh'abh' co-aomadh d'a chéile cha robh sin ro dhuilich idir. Bha latha Féill-Brighe a' tarrainn am fagus, agus iomadh ceard le' theaghlach 's le' ghloireas-treallais, a' greasad air chum a' bhaile-mhóir air obair na féille. Mar sin, bha buidheann mhór cheard, agus Calum mór 's a mhuinntir fhéin 'nam measg, 'nan laighe taobh an rathaid an uair a thàinig na h-Earragaidhalaich a chur suas am Baile-na-Liune, turus-latha mach o Dhunéideann. Faodaidh tu bhí cinnteach gu'n robh Màiri agus Calum a' gabhail geur-bheachd air na Gaidheil 's iad a' dol seachad, gu sonruichte air fear-ghléidhidh Alasdair oig. Agus bhuail rud 'na h-inntinn-sa air ball. Bha Diarmad mu'n aon mheudachd rithe fhéin, 's bha e caol, bàn, mar a bha iomadh Diarmad roimhe 's na dhéidh. "O, na'n deannainn-sa iomlaid ris," ghlaoidh ise an cluais Chalum. "Faodaidh tu sin," arsa Calum, "cuideichidh mi fhéin leat." 'S a dheanamh seula goirid d'fhéin, 'se bh'ann gun do thàlaidh iad Diarmad chun a' champa feadh na h-oidhche, agus gheall iad dhà fainne seudach Màiri, a bharrachd air fichead púnd Sasunnach a thoirt seachad dhà air an ath oidhche an Dunéideann, na'm faigheadh e cead a choisce car tacain bho'n Cheannard, 's gu'n leigeadh e le Màiri a' dhol air ais na àite 's na éideadh a dheanamh faire air Alasdair òg. Bheireadh na ceaird fhéin an aire nach aithnicheadh a h-athair fhéin i nuair a bhiodh iad ullamh dhith. Sheas Diarmad 'nan aghaidh car tamuill, ach chaidh mu dheireadh sannt thar dilseachd agus dh'fhalbh "Diarmad gun Dearnad" 'na "Dhiarmad Dearnadach."

Bha'n oidhche air tuiteam air latha Féill-Brighe, 's bha dumladas mór sluaigh mu iomall a' bhaile mhóir, far an robh camp, mu'n lùbhradh an Ceannard a phrìosanach do Riaghladair a' Challtuinn air maduinn an la' na mhaireach. Bha bùthan air an cur suas an iomadh àite, pàillunn cheard an sud 's an

so, cluichean is greadhnachas a' dol air gach taobh. Bha na Griogaraich 'nan dithis 's 'nan trì, no fear dhiubh 'na aonar, a' gluasad bho àite gu àite, no srann aca fo sgàil nan craobh, ach daonnan ròpa gach fear ma' ghaideanan 's e ceangailte r'a fhear-faire fhéin. Cha b'urrainn Alasdair fuireach samhach. Ghluaiseadh e air ais is air adhart, gu neo-shocrach, neo-fhoighidinneach, 's e 's laodadh Dhiarmaid as a dhéigh (ar leis) mar a b'fhearr a dh'fhaodadh e.

Bhuail e 'na inntinn, nuair a bha e car air leth o chàch, carson nach robh Diarmad 'ga mhallachadh 's 'ga chàineadh mar a b'abhaist dhà? Cha d' thug e facal seachad o'n a thàinig e air ais an déidh dhà biadh a ghabhail. Stad Alasdair fo sgàil craobhe. Dh' amhairc e gu dùrachdach air. "An e Diarmad idir a th' ann?" dh'fheòraich Alasdair d'fhéin. "Nach eil e car na's caoile, nach aithne dhomh na sùil—?"

Agus air a cheart mhionaid sin, thubhairt guth beag ris "Fuirich samhach, Alasdair, is mise do leannan a th'ann, thàinig mi 'gad thearnadh."

Cha mhór nach do thuit Alasdair far an robh e. Thug a chridhe leum as, ach chum e greim teann air fhéin, agus 'se bh'ann nach d'fhàinig facal as a bheul.

"Eisd rium" arsa Màiri, oir b' i fhéin a bh'ann. "Cho luath 's a th'ann an Ceannard seachad oirnn an ath uair, leanaidh mi thu gu socrach mar a bha mi, agus 'nuair a ruigeas sinn a' chraobh sin far am bheil an ceard mór ud 'na sheasamh, gabh romhad gu réidh troimh 'n t-sluagh combla ris, agus air do bheatha na fàg e gus am bi thu 's a phàillunn aige. Bidh mise a'd dhéidh. Cuist! So an Ceannard."

Stad an Ceannard car tamuill ma'n coinneamh, 's thubhairt e: "'S fhearr dhuit, a Dhiarmaid, dol a laighe le d' chompanach. Cuimhnich, am fear a leigeas Griogarach fa sgaoil, 's i'n oidhche mu dheireadh a chl e gu bràth."

"'S mi nach leig" fheargair Màiri le guth cho domhain, tùchanach 's a b'urrainn i ruigsinn air. "Is ged a bheirinn-sa mionach mo Ghriogaraich as cho togarrach 's a thug mi riamh grealach a fiadh, bidh sealladh a's breagha fhathast r'a fhaicinn am maireach, 'se sin na feannagan 's iad a piocadh sùilean Alasdair aig ceann slait air Torr a' Challtuinn agus cha chaillinn sin air son mòran."

Sguab na briathran oillteil so na bha de dh'iomagair fhathast am broilleach a' Cheannard cho buileach, glan air falbh, 's gun d' thug e' chairealan fhéin air car na h-oidhche sin, agus ciod a th'agad air no dheth, mu'n

abradh tu "b'e sud e," bha Alasdair òg Ghlinn Sreithe agus Màiri Bhàn Ghlinn Freoin am broilleach a chèile gu tèarainte, slàn, an am pàilunn seasgar Chalum mhóir.

"Fheada-coille, Fheada-coille, innis, mar a rinn thu e, eudail nam ban!" ghlaoidh Alasdair 'se 'ga mùchadh ach gann fo neart a' chaid-reimh.

Ciod e mar is urrainn domh sin, 's tu 'gam mhùchadh?" ghair ise 's i ag alnich. "Ach innsidh mi so dhuit, ma ruigeas mi ceithir fichead 's a deich—rud a ruigeas—cha b'urrainn domh chur ann an cainnt na dh'fhuiling mi a tighinn g' ad ionnsuidh."

Aig a' cheart uair air an la' r na mhaireach bha iomadh Griogarach treun an crochadh air croich a' Chaltuinn, ach bha Alasdair òg 's a Fheada-coille fad air an slighe gu Tìr nam Beann."

LOCHABER JUNIOR MOD.

The Annual Lochaber Children's Mod took place at Fort William, and was fortunate in having a beautiful summer day. The competitions commenced at 9 a.m. in the Masonic Hall, and the judges were Revs. D. MacMichael, D. Gollan, A. Bevington and M. Galbraith, Fort William; Rev. Dr. MacKinnon, Kilmonivaig, with Mr. John MacLeod, Knockbain, and Mr. MacAulay of Banavie.

The prizes were presented by the headmaster of Fort William School, Mr. J. J. Robertson, who made a strong appeal to the Gaelic-speaking boys and girls to take full advantage of the Gaelic teaching in the Secondary School, and emphatically expressed his conviction that Gaelic-speaking young people would get from Gaelic everything they would get from French, and a great deal besides, which the average pupil could never hope to gain from the limited knowledge of French he or she would acquire in the years at school.

SENIORS.

Reading 21st Chapter of St. John's Gospel.—1, Archibald Cumming, Fort William Public School; 2, Mary Cumming, Fort William Public School.

Reading Gospel (judge's choice)—1, Flora Macdonell, Fort William Public School; 2, Mary Cumming.

Reading Test (enclosed)—1, Flora Gillies, Glenfinnan School; 2, Archd. Cumming.

Spelling from the same—1, Janet Stewart, Fort William Public School; 2, Annie Macdonald, Fort William Public School.

Reciting Test Poem—1, Flora Gillies; 2, Archd. Cumming.

Conversation with Judges—1, Mary Cumming; 2, Flora Macdonell; 3, Janet Stewart.

Literary—Gaelic Letter—1, Flora Macdonell; 2, Janet Stewart; 3, Mary Cumming.

Place Names within radius of three miles translated into English—1, Flora Cameron, Fort William Public School; 2, Alastair Cameron, Fort William Public School; 3, Iain Mackinnon, Fort William Public School.

JUNIORS.

Reading (First Step)—1, Margaret Sharkey, Glenfinnan School; 2 (equal), Lewis Lockhart, Tulloch; Christine Cumming and Allan Campbell, Kinlochiel Public School.

Reciting First Poem in Children's Choir Book—1, Lewis Lockhart; 2 (equal), John MacLennan, John Innes, and Mary Macdonald, Tulloch.

Reading Children's First Gaelic Book—1, Lewis Lockhart; 2, Allan Campbell.

Reciting Advanced Poem Children's Book—1, Mary Macdonald; 2, John MacLennan.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Singing (Girls, Elementary)—1, Margaret Low, Kinlochiel School; 2 (equal), Lily MacMillan and Margaret Anderson, Kinlochiel School; 3, (equal), Myrtle Campbell and Margaret Sharkey, Kinlochiel School.

Singing (Boys, Elementary)—1, Allan Macdonald, Glenfinnan School; 2, James Sharkey, Glenfinnan School.

Singing (Girls, Advanced)—1, Pearl Campbell, Fort William Public School; 2, Mary Bain, Kinlochiel.

Short Gaelic Dialogue or Story—1 (equal), Lewis Lockhart and Mary Macdonald; 2 (equal), John MacLennan and Archd. Cumming.

ADVANCED HIGHER GRADE PUPILS.

Reading from "Rosg"—1, Catherine Macqueen, Fort William Public School; 2, Donald Macdonald, Fort William Public School.

Reciting from "Bardachd"—1, Catherine Macqueen; 2, Donald Macdonald.

Translation from Gaelic to English—1, Mary Maclean; 2, Donald Macdonald; 3, Elizabeth Mackinnon.

Translation from English to Gaelic—1, Donald Macdonald; 2, Mary Maclean; 3, Eliz. Mackinnon.

Infant Class Recitations—1, Myrtle Campbell; 2, Chrissie Riach.

The Moffat Pender silver trophies were again retained in the Fort William Secondary School, the flower vase being won by Flora MacDonell, while the silver quach was secured by Donald MacDonald.

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(*Eadar Coinneach Beag agus Dòmhnall Bàn ann an tigh Choinnich.*)

COINNEACH ('na shuidhe air a' bheinge a' leughadh "*An Albannaich*.")

DOMHNALL (a' tighinn a steach air a shocair le a' ph'ob 'na phluic.) Fàilte stigh. Tha mi a' faicinn, a Choinnich chòir, gu bheil thusa aig na paipearan-naigheachd mar is àbhait duit. Is ann agad a tha an déidh orra.

COINNEACH—Dean suidhe steach ris an teine, a Dhomhnall, a bheil sibh gu leir 'nar slàinte shìos ann an Liana nan Currucag an diugh?

DOMHNALL—Chan eil guth dhuinn ann. Tha sinn uile air ar cois agus an ceann ar gnothaich.

COINNEACH—Is mòr am beannachd sin, a Dhomhnall, Nach maith, bochd 's mar a tha sinn anns an eilean so, gu bheil slàinte, sìth agus sàmchar againn ann.

DOMHNALL—Is maith da rìreadh, agus bu chòir dhuinne a bhì tàingeil gu bheil na beannachdan mòra sin againn. Ach siuthad an dràsda, thoir dhomh do naigheachd. Is e sin dìreach a ghluais o'n tigh mi.

COINNEACH—Chan eil gainne air naigheachdan de'n t-seòrsa a tha ann. Tha mi a' faicinn anns a' phaipeir so gu bheil Pàrlamaid 'ur aca air a cur air chois bho chionn ghoirid, agus, gu dearb, ma nì na seòid ud cho maith 's a gheall iad cha bhì dìth bith-beò mairne anns an eilean bho chd so.

DOMHNALL (a' biorachadh a chluasan)—Ma ta, mil air do bhial, a charaid! Chan eil droch fhéum againne air. Ma ghabhas roimh chùisean chan fhada gus am bi sinne air Bòrd-na-Bochd. A bheil guth aca idir air airgid a thoirt duinn air son rathaidean?

COINNEACH—Tha, ma gheallas sinn féin ceathramh earrann na cosgais a dheanamh suas. Chan fhaigh thu sgillinn ruadh á innean na cuideachd ud gun fhios carson.

DOMHNALL—Chan iad dad is fhearr na 'n fheadhainn a bha ann rompa.

COINNEACH—Bó odhar mhaol agus bó mhaol odhar. Tha an dara fear mar am fear eile. Nì iad othail gu leòir an uair a bhios iad ag iarraidh a steach do'n Phàrlamaid—dìreach mar a bha am fear a bha a' bearradh na muice ag radh, "*Móran éigheach ach beagan cloimhe.*"

DOMHNALL—Thubhairt thu dìreach a dh'aon fhacal e. Ach bha dùil againne an uair a gheibheadh an Riaghladh 'ur a steach nach biodh sìon againn ri a dheanamh ach fios a chur thuca airson airgid. Fhuair iadsan a steach ach sealladh sinne a mach.

COINNEACH—Biodh foighidinn agadsa agus thig cabhair fhathast. Cho luath agus a

gheibh iad airgid bheir iad dhuinne rud-eigin.

DOMHNALL—Cha leig thu a leas a bhì ag gabhail an taoibh idir. Chan eil guth aca oirnn. Ach tha mise ag ràdh riut gun h-ann bu chòir breith air chaol dà chois orra agus na cinn aca a sgailceadh ris an ursainn.

COINNEACH—(a' briseadh air a ghùire)—Dean thusa rud beag air do shocair an dràsda, a Dhomhnall, agus innsidh mise dhuitse mar a tha cùisean. Chan eil sgillinn aig a' Phàrlamaid ach na tha an rìoghachd a' toirt a steach le cisean 's le rudan eile.

DOMHNALL—(ag coimhead gu colgarì)—Cha leig thu a leas a thoirt a chreidsinn ort féin gu'n téid agad air mise a chur air ghocaireachd idir, a bhalaich. Tha de dh' airgid aca nach eil fios aca ciod e a nì iad ris, agus is maith a dh' fhaodadh iad beagan deth a chur thugainne na'n togradh iad féin. Chan ionndranadh iad uapa e. Ach na truthairean a tha iad ann, is ann a tha iad 'g a ghlèidheadh air an son féin.

COINNEACH—Chan ann idir. Chan eil aca ach na gheibh iad bho shluagh na rìoghachd, agus féumaidh iad cunntas a thoirt as a h-uile peighinn deth. Chan eil iad a' cumail riutha féin deth na chuireadh ceann-rìgh air litir.

DOMHNALL—Bheir iad sin a chreidsinn ortsa, a bhròinein, agus air do sheòrsa, ma chuireas iad sìos anns na paipearan-naidheachd e. Ach faodaidh tusa a bhì cinnteach gu bheil imlich na corraig aig na seòid ud de na tha a' ruith tre an làmhnan bho latha gu latha.

COINNEACH—Tha cosgais mhór air an rìoghachd so. Tha arm-mara, arm-tìre, maighstirean-sgoile, agus seirbhisich a' chruin ri an cumail suas. Seall féin an liuthad seòrsa pension a tha iad an diugh a' toirt seachad.

DOMHNALL—Tha mi dìreach air mo thàmh-aiteachadh eadar a h-uile rud a tha ann. Faic am maighstir-sgoile againn féin le còrr agus ceithir chlad pundo Sasunnach de thuarasdal anns a' bhliadhna. Agus ciod a tha e a' deanamh airson a phàighidh ach a' bhochdainn. Tha e 'na dhuine-ualas a' falbh ann an carbad-ola agus a' chlànn bho chd air am fàgail gun fhoghlum. Sin agad uile 's na tha againne airson na tha sinn a' cosg ris an sgoil.

COINNEACH—Tha thusa tuilleadh is trom air a' mhaighstir-sgoile agus air a' chloinn.

DOMHNALL—Agus nach eil làn thìde agam! Chan eil a' chlànn an diugh a' faighinn foghlum ann. Is ann a tha iad air an toil féin. Leabhar chan eil 'ga fhosgladh aig an tigh; ach abair thusa nach eil gainne air pròis, air dalmachd, agus droch oilean. Ma bheir thu comhairle orra is ann a nì iad gàire fanoid riut ann an clàr an aodainn. Sin agadsa duais foghlum an latha a rug oirne.

(*Ri Leantainn.*)

SKYE PROVINCIAL MOD.

Prize-List for Juniors appeared in last issue.

SENIOR SECTION.

LITERATURE.

Gaelic Poem on any Subject—1, John Nicolson, Uig; 2, William Campbell, Uig.

Essay of about 500 Words on any Historical Local Incident—1, John Mackinnon, Portree Secondary School; 2, John Nicolson, Portree Secondary School; 3, Catherine M. Robertson, Portree Secondary School.

Collection of Unpublished Skye Songs—1, William Campbell, Uig; 2, John Nicolson, Uig.
 Essay of about 300 Words on "Bardachd an Eilein Sgiathanaich"—1, Kenneth G. Cameron, Portree Secondary School; 2, Annie Macpherson, Portree Secondary School; 3, Morag Stewart, Portree Secondary School.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading at Sight—1, Cathie Robertson, Portree Secondary School; 2, Christina Macfadyen, Portree Secondary School; 3, Morag Stewart, Portree Secondary School, and Helen Macdonald, Edinbane (equal).

Recitation—1, Cathie Hay, Portree Secondary School; 2, Helen Macdonald, Edinbane; 3, Annie Cowan, Dunvegan.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing, Female Voice (own choice)—1, Annie Cowan, Dunvegan; 2, Nettie Nugent, Portree; 3, Maimie Nicolson, Portree; 4, Mairi Nicolson, Portree.

Solo Singing of a Song, Male Voice (own choice)—1, Hector Mackinnon, Broadford; 2, John A. Graham, Uig; 3, Walter Ross, Portree.

Solo Singing of a Song, Female Voices (test song and choice of three songs)—1 (equal), Morag Macdonald, Edinbane, and Margaret Macdougall, Uig; 2, Nettie Nugent, Portree; 3, Rena S. Davidson, Dunvegan.

Solo Singing of a Song, Male Voices (test song and choice of other three songs)—1, Hector Mackinnon, Broadford; 2, John A. Graham, Uig; 3, William Campbell, Uig.

Solo Singing of a Song, Female Voice (former prize-winners)—1, Betsy Macleod, Broadford; 2, Maimie Nicolson, Portree.

Solo Singing of a Song, Male Voices (former prize-winners)—1, Duncan Corbet, Uig; 2, Walter Ross, Portree.

Solo Singing of a Skye Song, air unpublished—1, Duncan Corbett, Uig; 2 (equal), Mary Macpherson, Isleornsay, and John Nicolson, Uig; 3, John A. Graham, Uig.

Duet Singing of a Song—1, Misses Cathie and Nettie Nugent, Portree; 2, Mairi Nicolson, Portree, and Flora Macpherson, Portree; 3, Miss Marion Harcus, Uig, and Miss M. A. Tulloch, Uig.

Unison Singing—1, Kilmuir Choir (conductor, Miss K. MacLennan); 2, Portree Choir (conductor, Miss M. Graham); 3, Dunvegan Choir (conductor, Miss MacLennan) and Edinbane Choir (conductor, Miss MacLennan) (equal).

Choral Singing—Portree Choir (Miss Graham); 2, Kilmuir Choir (Miss MacLennan).

Piuit a beul—1, Betsy Macleod, Broadford.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Bagpipes—Playing of March—1, Andrew Stoddart, Portree; 2, Peter Macfarquhar, Kensalyre; 3, Norman Mackinnon.

Playing of March, Strathspey and Reel—1, Peter Macfarquhar; 2, Andrew Stoddart; 3, Norman Mackinnon.

Violin—1, Peter Mackinnon, Glendale; 2, John Mackinnon, Broadford.

Pianoforte—1, Miss Rena S. Davidson, Dunvegan; 2, Peter Campbell, Portree.

THE CELTIC CONGRESS.

The pessimistic note which marks a good many of the papers and speeches at this year's Celtic Congress is surely a bugle call, a thrilling call to the rally. We can recollect a certain gloomy morning in Edinburgh, shortly after the outbreak of the Great War. Distressing news had just arrived that the choice number of the Old Contemptibles were in sore straits, and that the enemy was passing on like a flood. And behold an impressive thing happened all at once. On the previous day there had been no crowd at the recruiting office in Cockburn Street. But on this dark morning the queue of volunteers suddenly formed right down from the office to the Mound. We cannot but think that something similar may surely emerge from the note of danger which the Celtic Congress has sounded. The facts are there, they have not been exaggerated. And if a Congress is to be of any use at all it must be to rouse the scattered remnant of the Celtic race, to sound the bugle call and the rally, and summon all earnest combatants to the breach.

This year's Celtic Conference, which lasted a full week, opened in London on 22nd July, when in the forenoon the presidential address was given at University College by the Rev. Dr. Maclean Watt, of Glasgow Cathedral. In the afternoon the official opening of the Congress was performed, at His Majesty's Theatre, by Lord Howard de Walden, who briefly welcomed the delegates from all the Celtic nations.

Later, in the same place, the inaugural concert of contemporary Celtic music was given by Miss Megan Foster, Miss Beatrice Harrison, Mr. Plunket Greene, and Mr. John McCormack, with the Virtuoso String Quartet and Mr. Leon Goossens and Miss Gwendolen Mason. In the evening the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London gave a civic reception to the delegates at the Mansion House.

In his presidential address Dr. Maclean

Watt put in a strong plea for the building up of a great Gaelic brotherhood throughout the world. They belonged, he said, to one of the most ancient races whose footprints were clearly marked all over Europe, whose hand had knocked at the door of all nations, and whose blood was mingled in the veins of all living white folk. The Celt was not unlike the Jew in that he did not die, but differed from the Jew in that he mingled with other races.

It was their duty to see to it that Gaelic children were taught their own language so that they might preserve their own nationality and personality. A Gaelic geography and history should be provided for Celtic children so that they should know the brave struggle and passionate love of freedom and home which characterised their forefathers. Whether the idea of a Celtic college in Scotland fructified or not the children at school ought not to be deprived of the story of their heritage.

Professor Watson, Edinburgh University—in a paper read by Mr. John McLeod in his absence—expressed his opinion that the Gaelic language would be practically extinct between Dingwall and Tain within the next twenty years.

"The position of Gaelic in Scotland at present," asserted Professor Watson, "was not all that the friends of the language would wish it to be. There could be no doubt that the number of Gaelic speakers was steadily getting smaller, and that the area over which it was spoken was contracting."

Districts which were Gaelic-speaking when he was a boy were so no longer. In his boyhood, churches were still full at the Gaelic service, and at communion times the Gaelic congregation worshipped in the open air while the English remnant occupied the church. All that was now changed. Where and when Gaelic was preached the congregation was tenuous. The language had ceased to be the means of ordinary intercourse.

Professor Watson further thought that in other districts of the mainland, especially on the eastern side, the state of matters was not much, if any, better. The stronghold of the Gaelic was now the isles of the west.

The census of 1921 gave a total of less than 160,000 Gaelic speakers, of whom nearly 10,000 professed to speak Gaelic only. If, however, they were to consider what is commonly known as the Highlands, including the isles, they had to deduct 30,000 from the total in respect of the Gaelic speaking population of Glasgow and other lowland towns and counties.

One of the most effective methods of stimulating the interest in Gaelic speech he suggested was through short plays. He paid a compliment to the work of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, which had published some thirty-two volumes of its transactions.

He regretted the way in which in Scotland the old Gaelic literature had been allowed to get out of print. The collections of Gaelic poetry were becoming matters of antiquarian curiosity.

The position of bilingual education in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, was dealt with in papers read at the Celtic Congress. The meeting, which was held in the University College, was presided over by Sir Percy Watkins, Permanent Secretary to the Welsh Department of the Board of Education, who, in his introductory remarks, gave an indication of the Welsh attitude towards the subject under review.

In a memorandum which had been issued, of which the main purpose was to remove difficulties from the path of teachers in dealing with the two-language problem in junior elementary schools, two principles were enunciated. The first was that a Welsh-speaking child should be as proficient in Welsh as an English child of the same age was in English, and the second was that every Welsh child should be taught English to a degree of attainment that would safeguard his material and cultural interests, as well as his prospects as a future citizen of the British Empire. The interests of the child were regarded as paramount.

The view taken was that in the present stage of development it was not possible or equitable to make Welsh a compulsory subject at examinations, but, on the other hand, it was felt that it was not possible or equitable to place a Welsh-speaking child at a disadvantage compared with an English-speaking child. The object, therefore, was to devise a system of examination that would be perfectly fair to each child, and to do that each child must be given an opportunity of deciding for himself whether he could best do justice to his own powers of expression by taking the examination in English or in Welsh, or partly in English and partly in Welsh. They had now reached a period in which a positive and definite encouragement was given to Welsh in the schools, and in another 30 years they would see the results of the new spirit.

A paper by the Rev. Dr. Neil Ross on the Scottish side of the subject was read by Mr. Angus Robertson. Before the Education Act of 1872, said Dr. Ross, knowledge was conveyed

to the Gael in Scotland in a sensible manner—through his own language—and it was by ignoring this that the Act approached the problem in a very unscientific way. It ignored the Gaelic language, and treated it with contempt, and the middle of the nineteenth century saw a time of humiliation for the Scottish Gael. The rise of the industrial era in the South, and the failure of agriculture in the North had a serious effect on the Gaelic language, as when the Celtic youth left for the cities, he found that English was an advantage, and then naturally concluded that his knowledge of Gaelic was a hindrance.

Gradually the germ of Gaelic melodies had taken hold of the rising generation, and with the Scottish Education Act of 1918 considerable changes were made in the organisation for teaching the language. As the result of a petition signed by 20,000 people a special clause regarding the teaching of Gaelic was inserted in the Act, and a great step forward in the movement was taken. But only a certain number of the Education Authorities had given effect to the clause, and it was necessary that it should be wider in its application. Some influence would have to be brought to bear on those Authorities in the Highlands which had not yet given full effect to the clause. There were now 331 day and evening schools in Scotland in which Gaelic was being taught to 10,000 pupils.

Discussing the situation in Ireland, Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick said that the position there was different from that in other countries, as in the Irish Free State at least the Government was making every effort to foster Gaelic, and, in fact, Irish was becoming the *sine qua non* in the Free State.

"The idea was to have Irish as the language of the country, and not necessarily to have a bilingual State. They wished to reverse in the twentieth century the bad work that had been done in Ireland in the nineteenth century.

The Irish language had almost disappeared then, because, while in 1801 there were 4,000,000 out of 5,000,000 who spoke the Gaelic language, by the end of the century only 500,000 out of 4,500,000 people spoke it. It was generally ignored, and the educated people despised it. The Gaelic League fought to secure a place for Irish in the schools, and now the ultimate stage of bilingualism in Ireland was that Irish was to be the dominating language, with English taking a secondary place.

Discussing the present position of the Cornish language at the Celtic Congress, Mr. Trelawney Roberts said that although the use of the Cornish language as a medium of expression

and for conversational purposes ceased at the end of the 18th century, it never really died. It became moribund. There was no corpse, but a patient out of whose being vitality had almost passed, leaving just the flickerings of life.

At the beginning of the present century, however, a more general interest in the old tongue began to manifest itself, and the Cornish Celtic Society was formed in 1901 through the efforts of Mr. Henry Jenner.

The natural background of Gaelic as a language for everyday use was receding day by day from such centres as Glasgow and Edinburgh, said the Rev. John McKechnie in a paper read at the concluding session of the Celtic Congress in London.

Mr. McKechnie, who had as his subject, "The present position of Gaelic in Scotland," said that in the Outer Hebrides there were people who could not express themselves in English, but coming in towards the mainland it would be found that the Gaelic tongue thinned away and disappeared. Gaelic had a particular background. It was a language which expressed thoughts, ideas, and aspirations, but in that sense it was only used at present in Scotland in the Outer Isles.

In the Inner Hebrides it was not being used to the same extent to express everyday life, and was becoming more and more a subordinated language. With the increased facilities for travel the natural, or Celtic background for Gaelic, was daily receding further and further from centres such as Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Commenting on the paper, Miss Agnes O'Farrelly said that the Gaelic revivalists in Scotland had an extremely difficult task to perform, much more difficult than those in Ireland, because Gaelic speakers were so scattered. It would require tremendous energy and enthusiasm to place the language on a proper footing again, as from 1911 to 1921 those who used the language in Scotland had decreased 21 per cent.

Speaking of the reduction that had taken place in the number of Gaelic-speaking people in the Highlands, Miss Kirsty MacLennan protested against the schemes for the emigration of Scottish crofters to Canada. They were being lured abroad by promises of work, she said, but when they arrived in Canada they either found that work was not available or that it was unsuitable. There were hundreds of them who were anxious to get back to Scotland, but could not afford the cost of the journey, and she thought that something ought to be done for them when they were in such circumstances.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

The entries for the National Mod to be held in Dunoon during the last week of this month constitute another record, the total being 1391 as against 1337 at Perth last year. The entries for the various sections are as follows:—JUNIOR—Literary, 383; Oral, 189; Solo and duet, 147; Choral, 17. SENIOR—Literary, 41; Oral, 63; Solo and Duet, 466; Choral, 60; Instrumental, 18; Musical Compilation and Harmony, 7. The Junior entries, except in the literary section are slightly lower than last year's, but this may be accounted for by the absence of the Laxdale and Inverness Choirs, both of which combinations enter in large numbers in the Oral and Solo sections.

The largest number of entries has been received in the "James Grant" competition, there being no less than 89 ladies and gentlemen for this popular competition. The "Oban and Lorn" follow closely with 69. There are nine entries for the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield, and an equal number for the Lorn Shield presented by Colonel and Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds) to encourage Rural Choirs. The time-table has been made up on lines similar to last year. Tuesday will be given over entirely to Junior competitions, all of which will be held within the Burgh Halls. Seniors Solos will commence on Wednesday morning at nine o'clock, and continue all day in the Burgh Hall and Pavilion. The official opening will take place in the Large Burgh Hall at 12 noon on Wednesday. On Thursday four halls will be kept busy with Oral, Solo and Rural Choir competitions. Friday, as usual, will be the big Choral Day, and will close with the Grand Concert in the Pavilion.

The L.M.S. Railway Company has kindly arranged to give late connections leaving Dunoon on Tuesday at 9.45 p.m., and on Friday at 10 p.m., with train connection at Gourock for Glasgow.

The booking arrangements for Mod concerts have been entrusted to Mr. A. M. Smith, Smith's Library, Argyle Street, Dunoon, to whom all applications for tickets should be directed. The prices for admission are as follows:—Junior Concert on Tuesday evening, 2/4 and 1/2. Rural Choir Concert on Thursday evening, 3/6 (Reserved) and 2/4. Grand Concert on Friday evening, 5/9 (Reserved), 3/6, and 2/4. Mail orders for tickets should include return postage.

By arrangements with the Railway and Steamboat Companies, reduced travelling facilities are this year again to be granted to competitors and others attending the Mod. One-day return tickets will be issued from

any station within a radius of 60 miles of Dunoon, including Glasgow and Edinburgh, at single fare plus fractions of a penny. These tickets are available for return on day of issue only. Tickets will also be issued from any station in Scotland at single fare and a third, fractions of 3d reckoned as 3d, for the return journey. These tickets will be valid from day before until day after Mod. Messrs. David MacBrayne (1928), Ltd., and Messrs. MacCallum, Orme & Coy., Ltd., have kindly agreed to issue return tickets at single fare on their steamers for the Mod period. These tickets, however, do not apply on Messrs. MacBrayne's motor service. Competitors and others from Campbeltown will be granted return cabin fare tickets at 4/- on the Campbeltown and Glasgow Steam Packet Joint Stock Company's steamers, "Dairiada" and "Davaar." Before advantage can be taken of these concessions, special vouchers, which can only be had from this office, must be obtained and presented at the railway booking offices or on steamers. All applications for these vouchers should reach this office here not later than Saturday, 20th September, and must be accompanied by stamped, addressed envelope.

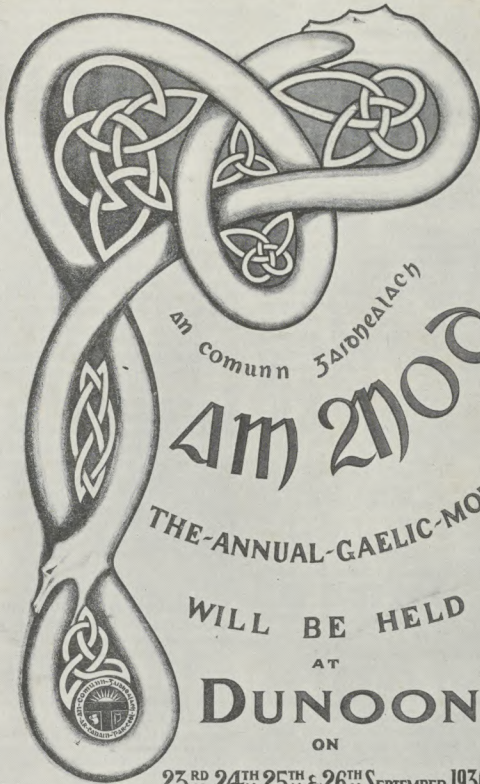
A very pleasing addition has been made to the number of trophies in the Junior section of the syllabus. The Shiant Shield—a beautiful example of Celtic art in silver—has just been presented by Mr. Compton MacKenzie to the Action Song competition, and will be much prized by the winners of this class. There is now a trophy for each of the Junior choral events, the others being the "Oban Times," Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Campbell Blair trophies.

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