

# SRUTH

DI-ARDAOIN, 17mh LA DE'N SULTUIN 1970 THURSDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER 1970 No. 91 Sixpence

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Sheep being gathered in Skye in preparation for the Autumn sales

## SRUTH in the narrows

OWING to increasing financial difficulty, it has been decided meantime to reduce the size of each issue of SRUTH to eight pages, beginning with this issue. These are extremely hard times for any newspaper, and our readers will know of the financial difficulties of the big newspapers, with turnovers of many millions of pounds. How much more difficult it is then, for a small sponsored newspaper to survive, particularly when its raison d'etre is to act as a voice for a minority interest.

In the next few weeks, a decision will be made about the future of SRUTH. Readers may rest assured that they will be kept informed of this decision and of its consequences.

In the past year, the circulation of SRUTH has, after a period in slack water, increased by some 20%. But more subscribing readers are needed, and any help in this direction offered by our existing readers will be more than appreciated, not only by those who work hard for SRUTH, with little material reward, but by those who see SRUTH as a contemporary medium of expression for the Gaelic-based identity to which the whole of Scotland can lay just claim.

## Crofting Experts for Bavaria

IN an effort to find possible solutions to the problems of Highland crofting, a team of three experts will fly to Bavaria in a fortnight.

The Crofters Commission, who are sending the team are represented by their secretary, Mr D. J. MacCuish. Accompanying him are Mr Norman MacAskill, a member of the commission, and Mr Archie Gillespie, crofting adviser to the North of Scotland College of Agriculture.

Bavaria has problems similar to those of Highland crofters, and the delegates will spend a week studying ideas on such things as ancillary jobs for crofters, and the amalgamation of small farms, releasing some of the holders for industry.

This is not the first similar study that the commission have made in their efforts to help the 15,000 crofters in the Highlands. Four years ago a team visited Ireland to investigate the methods being employed to combat the failing economy of the Gaeltacht. The commission are anxious

to encourage crofters to undertake part-time supplementary jobs like handicrafts and tourism. Recently, they recommended to the Government, that crofters should become owners of their holdings.

### Stornoway Ferry Service

STORNOWAY Town Council are to press the Scottish Transport Group to implement the Stornoway-Ullapool ferry service as soon as possible and have suggested that MacBrayne's latest drive-through car ferry, the Iona, be brought into service immediately to replace the mail steamer Loch Seaforth.

MacBrayne's are also to be asked to ensure greater care in loading the weekly Glasgow cargo boat, Loch Dunvegan. It was stated that because of breakages and pilferage, there was a danger that fewer firms would use the vessel for delivering goods to Stornoway which could lead to its withdrawal from service.

### CROFTER'S ROOF

ROSS and Cromarty County Council now appear to be in two minds about insisting on their objections to the type of roof proposed for the house at 5 Enaclete, Uig, Lewis, built during the past 20 years by Mr John Macleod (68), a crofter, with stones he has collected. The roof joists and rafters are now in place, but because of financial difficulties Mr Macleod asked Ross-shire Planning Authority for permission to use asbestos sheeting for the roof.

He was told the County Planning Officer felt that corrugated asbestos would detract from the appearance of the house, and that the committee had confirmed a previous decision that slates should be used.

As an alternative, Mr Macleod was informed that he could use a concrete tile "of a suitable colour" — subject to his approval of the Planning Officer's choice of colour. "Blooming rigmorale" was how Mr Macleod described the council's specifications.



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by IAIN C. SMITH

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# '72 National Mod For Inverness

Six short years after holding one of the most successful National Mods ever promoted the local Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach are inviting the Mod back for 1972. The decision was taken at a meeting held on Monday evening.

The normal interval between Mods has been 9 years but as the festival increases in entries and following it is becoming more difficult to find a venue for it. As the capital of the Highlands Inverness is ideally situated for the Mod.

The President of An Comunn Gaidhealach, Rev. A. M. Beaton, welcomed the news. He said "The town of Inverness gave the 1966 Mod a real Highland welcome and we look forward to a return visit."

An open meeting will be held on Saturday, 26th September in the Cummings Hotel to appoint the 1972 Mod Convener and office-bearers. Provost W. A. Smith,

Inverness, was pleased to hear the news and said "I personally would certainly welcome it and no doubt the town will also." Town Clerk, Mr John Hill, thought that from a business and social point of view the Mod would prove a boost for the town at the end of the tourist season. "I enjoyed the last Inverness Mod and look forward to having it back in '72."

Still heavily committed to fund-raising activities for the 1970 Mod, Provost of Oban and Convener of the Mod and Music Committee, Mr Donald Thomson is delighted that Inverness are inviting the Mod back. "I anticipate that An Comunn as a whole and all Mod followers will welcome the news that Inverness will house the '72 Mod."

This will be the tenth Mod to be held in Inverness, the first having been in 1897. Only Oban where the Mod first started in 1892 will exceed this figure when the 1970 Mod is held there.

## SCOTTISH FISH CATCH RECORD

FIRST-HAND sales of wet fish and shellfish landed in Scotland last year from British vessels reached a new record level of £22.6 million, an increase of £900,000 on the previous year. White fish landings dropped 5.1% in value but landings of herring at £2.9 million showed a 36% increase. The weight of shellfish landed rose by 31.7% and the value increased by more than 28% to nearly £3.6 million.

These figures are given in the "Fisheries of Scotland for 1969" (Cmnd. 4380) report published by H.M.S.O. for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland (price 6/-). For the first time the nephrop fishery produced a return of more than £2 million. The greatest expansion compared with 1968, occurred in the scallop fishery where the value of landings rose by 132% and the weight by 112%. The 1969 catch of sprats was about 23% higher in weight and about 60% higher in value.

The value of the demersal catch fell by about £846,000 to £15.7 million. This is attributed mainly to the strike of trawler crews at Aberdeen combined with the high pro-

portion of small haddock landed. The average price of all demersal fish was 77/- per cwt, against 76/3 per cwt, in 1968.

The average price of herring per cwt, at 26/6 was 62 (2%) higher than the 1968 average. Winter fishing in the Minch was the most successful for many years, both the weight and value of the catch being the highest recorded in any post-war winter season. For the first time this century, excluding war years, no Scottish vessels fished from Yarmouth and Lowestoft, (In 1900, 910 Scottish drifters took part in the East Anglian fishery). Exports of herring from the United Kingdom increased in value by 44% compared with 1968.

The report notes that because of increasing demand in Continental and American markets, more boats engaged in shellfish fishing for the whole year. "Facilities for processing the main species of shellfish continued to keep pace with the expanding production, and the increasing numbers of factories around the coast and in the northern and western islands not only gave the fishermen the assurance of a ready market but also provided a useful source of employment."

Nephrops continued to make the most valuable contribution to the Scottish shellfish industry, landings of 161,171 cwt., valued at £2,027,913, accounting for 43.5% by weight and 56.6% by value of the entire Scottish shellfish catch. The average price received by the fishermen rose from 228/9 per cwt, in 1968 to 251/8 per cwt, in 1969.

## SSTA + EIS = ?

THE President, Miss G. M. Gains, and the General Secretary, Mr James Docherty of the Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association are severely critical of the EIS President, Mr James Baxter, in a bulletin sent to all members of the SSTA. They refer to a statement recently made by Mr Baxter on the progress of talks between representatives of the two associations aimed at uniting the associations in one professional body. Mr Baxter's statement had given rise to widespread speculation about an imminent merger.

The SSTA officials explain to members that at the last meeting between the representatives of the two associations on June 25, the SSTA representatives complained most strongly about statements which they claimed had been made by EIS spokesmen suggesting that amalgamation was imminent and therefore that there was no point in teachers joining the SSTA. The EIS officials had agreed that such statements were reprehensible. Despite this, the EIS President had made his statement only a few weeks later.

The SSTA bulletin informs members that not only is a rapprochement with the EIS far from imminent, but that the first step towards amalgamation has not yet been taken — the explicit acceptance by the EIS Council that any new organisation of teachers would require to be constituted in the manner of the present categorised constitution of the SSTA and of the EIS salary conference.

## Irish Centre For Six Counties

AN Irish Cultural Centre was opened in Lurgan, Co. Armagh, recently, by Mael-sheachlainn O'Caollain, President of Conradh na Gaeilge. The centre has been developed by Lurgan branch of Conradh na Gaeilge and will be used for Irish classes, Irish dancing, Irish singing and music and other cultural activities.

The opening of the centre was followed by an "Irish Week" which included a dinner/dance, a cello, a concert and a mass in Irish. Special exhibitions were organised by An Club Leabhar, Gael-Linn and Conradh na Gaeilge. There was a daily exhibition featuring the history of the locality.

The officials of the Lurgan branch of Conradh na Gaeilge are Liam O' Maoileagha, chairman, Alf O Muiri, treasurer and Brendan O Labhra, secretary.

The centre is located in a building bought by the branch in 1969. Improvements to the building cost £1,500.

# Scotland: A Dmp For U.S. Nerve Gas?

"AMERICA's stocks of poison gas which, according to President Nixon last month, the United States would never be the first to use, are nevertheless giving him something of a headache. Since the President has not renounced the retaliatory use of lethal gas, he did not wish to be criticised for weapons, he needs to retain existing stocks. But no one is anxious to be in the proximity of such stocks, gas containers have a tendency to leak, especially as they age.

At present there are stocks of lethal gas, mostly nerve gas, in the U.S., and at American army depots in West Germany and in Okinawa. Following representations from the Japanese Government last summer, after leakage from at least one canister of nerve gas had put a number of civilians in hospital, the U.S. decided to remove the gas, which is being shipped back to the U.S. The first shipment, to be made in the next few days, will be unloaded near Seattle and sent on by train to the Umatville army depot in Eastern Oregon.

But the people of Washington and Oregon are deeply disturbed by this development. The Republican and the Democrat (the latter of Oregon) have written to President Nixon to protest. The nerve gas now in West Germany completed firstly that may!

(THE GUARDIAN Monday, December 15, 1969)

SINCE the above despatch arrived from Washington not another word has appeared in the press to deny or affirm the report that Scotland may be used as a base for U.S. lethal nerve gas.

The people of Scotland and the U.K. are entitled to know if these containers of gas have arrived here. Beside the fact that all decent citizens would be strongly opposed to the storing of these bloody and barbarous weapons of war in their homeland, the resultant danger to themselves in the event of one or more of these containers developing a leakage would be sufficient grounds for vast protest moves by the people. The Government of the day will not of course voluntarily disclose this information to the people. The people them-

self had only recently become aware of the fact that lethal gas was already being stored at Umatville, and secondly that it was to be supplemented by the gas carried by train across his state.

There were nationwide protests early this year when it was discovered that the Army was planning to move surplus gas stocks across the country by train before dumping them in the Atlantic. Governor McCall further protested that the U.S. having agreed not to subject the people of Okinawa to proximity with the lethal gas, was now planning to inflict it on the people of Oregon. He suggested to Mr Nixon that the stocks of gas both on Okinawa and at Umatville should be neutralised at sea, in a plant to be located on a surplus ship.

This is not the end of Mr Nixon's troubles. The West German Chancellor, Helmut Brandt, has already been gently prodding Washington to remove its poison gas stocks from West Germany. Where? There is some suggestion here that Mr Nixon is wondering whether the United Kingdom, which has been complicitous about providing U.S. nuclear submarines with base facilities in or near Devon Hatfield (Republican) Scotland, might be equally complicitous in providing storage for President Nixon to protest. The nerve gas now in West Germany completed firstly that may!

They will have to demand an answer and an assurance that if these lethal gas containers have arrived already, that they be immediately despatched back to where they were manufactured.

The people as a whole should use all available means to determine if this lethal nerve gas has arrived in Scotland. Indeed, the question of these gases should be linked with the demand for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. nuclear bases and weapons and armaments dumps from Scotland.

## MARGADH UR ANN AM MUILE

O chionn da bhliadhna tha tuathanaich Mhuilte air a bhith a' reic an laogh aig Creag an Iubhair anns an Eilean an t-àid a bhith 'gan loirt do' Oban. Tha na laogh air an cur fa' leth a reir an meudachd an cludrom agus cho math 's a ghabhas iad feoil. Mur fa'igh na tuathanaich prisean mar is aill leatha chan eil dragh san bith aca a' diultadh' droch thairge agus na beathaichean a thoirt dhachaigh a rithis. Roimhe seo cha gabhadh seo deanamh a chionn gun robh aca ri dol do'n Oban 'gan reic is bha coisgais is cumnart ann a' tilleadh leotha. Mar seo thainn orra iomadach uair prisean nach do chod riutha a ghabhail.

A nis tha an goireas seo dol a bhith aca chum uain is caorach a bharrachd. Tha iad air am margadh air an eilean aig Creag an Iubhair agus tha obair is dragh an giulain a nis air a' cheannachais is chan ann a tuathanaich.

## An Sleamhnan

NUAIR nach robh dotar ann a h-uile cearn do'n Ghaidhealtachd na do'n na h-eileanan Bha na seann daoine deanamh leigheas dhaibh fein ach 'sann a Bha leigheas neonach aig an sleamhnan bhiodh tighinn air suil. Bha iad a'fhaighn nàr naoghean de uilt coir na eorna — 'se sin ceithir fichead is aon (81). Bha iad 'ga suathadh fear as deidh fir air an t-suil agus 'ga cur nuair sin fo chloich. Agus mar a bhitheadh na h-uilt a'cnamh bhiodh an sleamhnan a' falbh.

Bha iad de chreideas eile gun robh faine oir a shuathadh ris an t-suil a cheart cho cinteanch gun leigheas. Is docha gun robh iad a gabhail beachd air cunghadh a bhiodh aig lughd sgil air a dheanamh suas mar blonaig air "oxide" an Airgid Beo (Mercury), air am biodh dath an oir.

**Faillte Do Lybster**

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Good Fare and a Fine Cellar  
Sea Angling

Salmon Fishing, Trout Fishing

# Ullapool Secondary School

## Shell Conservation 1970 Competition

THE total Secondary Roll of Ullapool School is 37, comprising 19 boys and 18 girls ranging from 12 to 14 years of age. All 37 pupils were involved in the project.

An area of waste ground (approximately 2,500 square metres) at the southern approach to Ullapool was chosen.

It has always had a neglected look and was very much an eyesore. It was overgrown with rushes, thistles, nettles and other weeds, until roadworks in the immediate neighbourhood helped to cover the worst of the weeds. On occasions, in dry weather, small travelling shows and sometimes itinerant missionaries used the area nearest to the road.

From the road there is a gradual slope to a fairly level area which previously was not well drained. The shore line was very irregular as it has been eaten away by the sea during the stormy weather. A concrete seawall, which is part of the project, ensures against further erosion.

The initial step in the project was to obtain the approval of the owners of the site (The Ullapool Property Company). After hearing our proposals the owners readily agreed to allow us to proceed. They suggested — and we agreed — that the Feu Charter should be drawn up in the name of the Lochbroom District Council, who, by this time, had agreed to help the school financially with the cost of the project. They had also agreed to accept responsibility for the finished project, although it would be open to the school to suggest and carry out further improvements in the future, if such were agreed by the District Council.

Immediately after the owners had given their approval to the project, application was made to the County Council for planning permission. This was granted.

Close liaison with the District Council has been maintained throughout the project. One of the main results of this liaison is that the District Council will shortly be building a paddling pool for the young children on the foreshore below our project. A wicket gate has been included in the fence on the sea wall for easy access and the par-

ents can watch their children from the seats at the entrance to the park.

Ullapool stands on the only low-lying area of size in the inner reaches of Lochbroom. The whole site of Ullapool is a raised beach; everywhere there are pebbles at varying depths. In the project area there was little soil cover, and it was necessary to import about 200 tons of soil from roadworks at the head of Lochbroom. This soil was provided by the County Council Roads Department.

We had hoped to save as much of the natural grass in the project area as possible. However, after completion of the neighbouring road works,

bedded down in the paths (a hand-roller was used), all the paths were tarred by the local road repair squad. Pupils and staff helped with the tarring.

The fencing of the area was carried out by a local fencing contractor. Along the sea wall there is a 3-wire plain fence and on the other two sides there is a chain link fence. Galvanised posts are used for both types of fence.

The contract of building the sea wall (of concrete) was given to the County Council road squad who were working in the area at the time. They built a very substantial wall at a very low cost — £575 14 3.

A soil sample was sent to

mainly composed of a hard core of gravel, 240 Ericas in 21 varieties were planted. They were planted in 40 beds of six varieties. Each bed was filled with good soil and an ample helping of peat. These heaths will not only provide a splash of colour from early Spring till late Autumn, but they will also cover large areas of the rough gravelly bank. Bone Meal was used as a fertiliser for these plants.

Fifty-three trees were planted at the south eastern end of the area where they will provide both shelter and privacy. A plan, giving the names and numbers of these trees is attached. Care was taken to plant the trees according to the amount of dampness they required. The taller trees were staked to protect them until they are well established. All trees were provided free by the Forestry Commission, who also advised on location and planting.



Entrance to the project, looking west

A hardy type of grass, suitable for football/hockey pitches was used. At the time of sowing, the services of a seeding contractor who happened to be in the area, became available at very reasonable cost. The grass seed was treated with bird repellent and was mixed with manure for quick growing.

Part of our project was the clearing of the fore-shore in the vicinity of the project. This is being done every fortnight during the summer months while the school is in session.



The project team at school

we found that only a very small area at the south eastern end was left undamaged. This area we treated with weed-killer — and Sulphate of Ammonia. Trees were planted here later on.

This was back-breaking work after the area was levelled, paths 5' 6" wide were cut out. The bank was cleared of stones as far as possible. All these stones were used as a foundation for the paths. Over this stone foundation we put lime scalplings (available from the local lime quarry at 13/- per ton, but they gave us about 50 tons without charge). In all about 100 tons of scalplings were used, and this had to be barrowed from the entrance gate.

After the scalplings had

the North of Scotland College of Agriculture for analysis. After studying the college report on the soil, we decided there was no need to add any fertilisers.

It was agreed at the outset to have hedges on three sides. This would in time provide protection for flowers on such an exposed site. No flowers are to be planted until hedges and trees provide the necessary shelter.

After much discussion it was decided to plant 200 Escallonia along the sea front; this type of hedge was chosen mainly because it can stand up to sea spray and severe exposure. Escallonia forms a semi-formal hedge, so a formal hedge of Contoneaster was chosen for the other two sides. In all 750 Contoneaster plants were used. They were so well advanced at the time of planting that shortly afterwards, they were pruned and the cuttings were used to thicken the hedge. There were few failures among the original Contoneaster plants or cuttings; about six Escallonia plants died.

All hedges were double planted in staggered rows. As Escallonia is a very "hungry" plant, a generous helping of manure was added to the soil.

On the bank, which is



Spreading weed killer on the project site

## MALIN

Bereft of its people

Steeped in the presence of the past

Grass by the side of the untravelled road grows longer  
And is parted by Atlantic gusts,

The rusted hand-plough rests on unploughed land  
Witnessing the rush of the incoming tide at dusk  
Other dusks, years ago, witnessed the peopled scene.  
Now in the crisp air at moonlight, ageing thatch  
Crackles under unroofed ruin. Beyond the pitch  
Of well-tempered sea come far away sounds of  
Motions.

Daybreak spawns a soul on the windblown hill  
Gathers his sodden peat and repeats his hoven path  
To the warm beckoning of the damp hearth-fire.

Bereft of its people

Steeped in the presence of the past

Grass by the side of the untravelled road grows longer  
And is parted by Atlantic gusts.

LAURENCE O'DOCHERTY

(Laurence O'Docherty, 29, was born near Malin, Co. Donegal. He now works at the Ministry of Technology, London, and regards poetry as a hobby.)



The original site

# Loch Eriboll — Why the Neglect?

# Loighne A' Chaoil

**L**OOKING for a European market, Samuel B. Singer of the Singer Sewing Machine Co., sent across his personal representative to view the prospects in Scotland. As an exiled Scot from Newtonmore, John Mackenzie, made for the Highlands. But the civic fathers of Inverness did not want factory chimneys in their area and MacKenzie went south again. Unsuccessful at Coatbridge, because of high prices of land, he was eventually accommodated at Clydebank, the first sod being cut on 8th May 1882.

In the 19th century, smoke belching from factory chimneys was a source of natural pride (but not in Inverness) and equated with progress. Today, it is the most obvious signs that, consciously or not, man is engaged in biological warfare against himself and his environment.

One of the great concerns today, is the speed at which man is reproducing. It took 200,000 years to reach his 1,000 million, the second 1,000 million took only 100 years and was reached in 1930. The fourth 1,000 million is expected to take 15 years and will probably be reached in 1975.

The trend would be less alarming if the amount of land was unlimited, but of course it is not. The great problem facing growing cities is that they need urgent repair and renewal. This casts a pall of ugliness and despair on the spirits of the people and is reflected in rising crime rates and social disorganisation.

We have vast conurbations and an English pessimist has written:

"and nothing remains of England, where the country used to be, but a road runs straight through a building estate and a single specimen tree."

Although we receive the marvellous heat and light of the sun for nothing, and free also the air we breathe, we do our foolish best to pollute it. In our large cities in Britain millions of vehicles release many tons of exhaust fumes and nitric acid daily. It is reported that the Rhine, over a stretch of 500 miles, has become a gigantic open sewer. Man is learning the hard way that air, land and water are limited natural resources which cannot be treated with almost criminal regard.

In their need to expand, the cities are using up valuable agricultural land. When one considers that the United Kingdom is the world's largest importer of food—£1,560 million in 1967—it is important that we should develop more fully our agricultural resources. 20% of the land area of Great Britain is underdeveloped and yet is rich in

natural resources. This is the area of the Highlands and Islands. During the last war Scotland exported one million tons of food to England every year and met the challenge of the enemy blockade.

All the dialogue at present about developments on the Clyde Estuary, make me wonder

**by Alex D. Craig**

der if we are not falling into the mistakes we have so readily criticised in the south.

It is accepted that London and the south east are severely overcrowded. Similarly with the Midlands of England, with some areas actually discouraging growth. Is there not a danger, that unless there is planned development on a national scale, we are going to see a sprawling conurbation from Greenock to Edinburgh.

It is disturbing how many Scots, not only in the Forth/Clyde area, but even in Aberdeen and Inverness are not aware of the great potentialities within their own country.

Let us examine North West Sutherland, an area of great natural resources, not the least being Loch Eriboll.

Here is a six mile channel of at least 20 fathoms — 120 feet — nearly three quarters of a mile wide at its narrowest neck. It enters into the wide open spaces of the ocean and lies at the intersection of the important sea route from the Central Atlantic to Northern Europe. By sea it is 350 miles nearer Europe than Glasgow.

It is doubtful if the largest tanker afloat today could safely negotiate the English Channel, where there is very much less water than the Northern Route and this presents difficulties to ships above 200,000 tons dwt, and draughts in excess of 60 feet. Some 300,000 ships pass through the Straits of Dover each year and at any one time, there can be up to 40 ships. Half the world's shipping collisions take place between the western approaches to the Channel and the Baltic. Southampton has an average of 40 days per year when fog cuts visibility to 1,000 yards.

The Government have been studying the establishments of Maritime Industrial Development Areas (MIDAS) where there are relatively deep water sites near a centre of population. Loch Eriboll is not one of those sites. But there is also a desire to create new "growth areas."

An oil depot and refinery at Loch Eriboll would not be in isolation. It could also provide a port of entry for tourists linking east and west. It can provide the essential

mineral — dolomite — for the production of magnesium metal for use in industrial purposes or ground limestone for agriculture.

It could provide processing plants for long distance fishing fleets, which in some cases are taking 10 to 15 days from their home ports to reach the rich fishing grounds of the Arctic Circle, Icelandic, Norwegian and Russian coasts.

A new railway, 42 miles long, would connect with the Highland Section of British Railways at Lairg and provide an outlet for the products. Subsidy to keep the Highland Railway going would no longer be required and its future would be assured.

There is ample scope for the greater development of agriculture, forestry and tourism.

All the natural assets, aided by the man made asset of Dounreay to provide the power will be the basis for the creation of the new federal city of Kinloch Eriboll. The city with its administrative centre at Tongue, will be spread over an area of 1,000 square miles and have a population of 100,000.

The greatest factor of all is missing — people. For people coming to the area, we can offer them the romanticized quiet of the rural area, so necessary to preserve people's health right from the start of building new settlements. The creation of Dounreay and the growth of Thurso clearly indicate that the North of Scotland can offer the true values of life — work and leisure in an environment that can bring nothing greater than health and happiness for this and many generations to come.

Resource development must be governed by the unity of nature herself and the people of Sutherland must participate actively in the development of Kinloch Eriboll. We don't want exhausted land, polluted streams or industrial ugliness.

In the modern world we have the choice; to use science either for good or evil. Fields that are grown old and barren with the years can be made vigorous again. Men with imagination and faith, the greatest power in the world of men and the most "practical" force of all, can move mountains.

All the essentials are there for the creation of an entirely new community. The growth of this pioneer city of the scientific age in our own land is the challenge to modern youth to stop the brain drain, take a hand in the shaping of their own environment and halt depopulation.

Only by the creation of such a self contained community, which would have great periphery benefit, can we get rid of the ever increasing rates and fares to the Highlands, the Western and Northern Isles.

**O** CHIONN ceud bliadhna air an t-seachdamh latha de'n t-Sultain dh'fhoghladh Loighne an Eilein Sgiathanaich no mar a theirte ris Loighne a' Chaoil. Air an latha sin dh' fhaig trean Inbhirnis is chaidh gu ruige Strom a' togail daoine aig Inbhir Pheotharain is aiteachan eile air an rathad. Anns an fheasgar chumar cuirm mhòr airson luchd riaghlaidh nan trean agus bha dluth air coig cheud an lathair.

Bhatar an duil an loighne fhoghladh ann am meadhan an Lunsaidail chaidh seo a chuir air ais a chionns gun robh luchd sgrudaidh an Riaghaltais ag radh nach robh an d'èadh-iarrainn air fheasgadh ceart. Bha treanachan badhar a'siubhal co dhiubh agus bha na bataichean a' ceangail ris na treanachan, a' seoladh a mach a Strom gu ruig Port Rìgh agus Steornabhagh.

Bha uail mhòr aig a h-uile duine as an linn ur agus bha a h-uile carbad lan dhaoine is badhar, Cha robh duil aig an luchd togail gu biodh a leithid ag iarraidh siubhail. Bhatar uile an dochas gun deanaidh ad probhadh math as an loighne a chionns gun robh i cho saor a' togail agus gun toireadh eadhon pairt de'n a bha a' dol sìar agus sear soirbheachadh do'n fheadhainn a bha air cul a' gnoth-aich. Bhatar am beachd cuid-eachd gun bitheadh seo 'na fheum mhòr agus air leth giorrachadh dhaibhsan a bha a' fuireach air an loighne nan bitheadh dad a dhiùrr orra bho na bailtean mora.

Ged a chaidh an loighne a chuir air bhonn le daoine a' seasamh air an sòn fhein bha e air obrachadh le cuideachd nan Treanachan Gaidhealach agus bha uairean nan trean a' ceangail a steach le uairean nan trean a' dol mu thruath 's ma dheas a Inbhirnis troimh Inbhir Pheotharain. Chaidh an lagh airson a thogail a chur air aghaidh ann an 1864. 65 agus bha e 'na lagh an ath bhliadhna ach cha robh gnoth-aichean a' dol a bhith cho

reidh sin air chuir coig uachdarain na aghaidh ged a bha iad a' moladh a' ghnathach fhad's nach bonnadh e dhai-bhsan. An lorg seo dh'fhas gnoth-aichean cho daor a thaoibh fearainn fhaghinn nach robh an gnothach fada o thighinn gu crìoch. Co dhiubh le cuideachadh, gu h-àraid, bh'o'n Bhalj Parlamaid air an am, Maighstir MacMhathain, fhuair iad buaidh air na naimhdean.

An toiseach ann an 1864 bha an loighne ri dol do'n Chaol triomh Srath Pheotharain agus a thaoibh coisgais chaidh an gnothach air fad chuir air chul gu 1867 nuair a chuireadh braicheadh nan caise is luban nas tinne anns a' phlana agus chum seo sìos an coisgais. Bha e nas saoire buileach a chionns gun robh an rathad ur nas glòrra is nas fhasa. Ach tha na brui-chean nas caise troigh 'sa leth-cheud an aite troigh 's an tri-ficead 'sa deich mar a bha ann an toiseach. A bharrachd tha an loighne pìos iar air seo. Bha an loighne gu chean Srath Pheotharain an aite bhith caigean slat air falbh. Bha seo a chionns gun do chuir Uilleam MacCòir-nich an t-uachdaran bacadh orra. Bhatar an duil cuideachd stad aig Atadail ach cha robh seo freagarrach agus chaidh iad air aghaidh gu Strom-leidh no coig a mheiltean iar air seo. Bha an loighne gu ruige seo leth-cheud is a sia mìle ann am fad an aite tri ficead 'sa coig gu ruige Caolas Loch Ailse.

Cha do chosg an loighne ach ceithir mìle gu leth no a' mèile; ceithir mìle 's trì cheud airson an togail is da cheud not airson an talamh. Chosg an gnothach ro laimh mu dheich mìle not. Chaidh a' mhòr chuid de'n airgeid seo a chuir comhla le daoine an aite is uachdarain agus aig an am b'e is saoire ann am Breattan.

Anns an am nuair tha e 'n cumnart olaimeid deoch shlan-te ris an linn — "Guma fada beo e!"

Your Saturday Rendezvous . . .

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# — REVIEW ORDER —

## AKROS

THE most recent issue of AKROS is again a good buy, even when taking this term in the context of the Consumers' Council. For not only quantity of pages (110) but quality of contents makes this magazine worth supporting, either by annual subscription or by the purchase of single copies.

As usual there is a good mixture of prose and poetry. Of particular interest is a really good feet-on-the-ground assessment of Scottish poetry by John Herdman. He covers the period 1959-1969. He traces the development of poets who in the early 60s were just emerging to contribute to the literary scene in Scotland.

As is natural in a paper like SRUTH, the reviewer was particularly interested in his comments on the contribution of Gaelic poets to the recent volume "Contemporary Scottish Verse 1959-1969" edited by Norman MacCaig and Alexander Scott, published by Calder & Boyars, London.

In the context of the contributors to this volume he says: "I leave the best till the last. In spite of the fact that it is supposed to be the dying mouthpiece of a dying culture, Gaelic is the medium which supplies the most completely satisfying linguistic section of Contemporary Scottish Verse. The prose translations (presumably to the poet's own, appear to be models of their kind, and the fact that I don't know Gaelic only confirms to me the quality of these poems; for it is a very good poem which establishes its quality in translation, even the poet's, and certainly it is a great poem which so establishes its greatness."

The four Gaelic poets discussed are Derick Thomson, Iain Crichton Smith, Donald MacAulay and Sorley MacLean.

Says Herdman: "There can be no doubt that the peak of the Gaelic section of Contemporary Scottish Verse, as of the whole anthology, is formed by the three magnificent poems by Sorley MacLean. . . For me at any rate, it is finally because of great poets that poetry matters; and so long as there is one poet like Sorley MacLean writing in Scotland, we haven't too much cause for complaint about the state of Scottish poetry."

In the poetry section of Akros, No. 15, there are familiar names (Tom Scott, George MacBeth, Maurice Lindsay et al). But there are one or two new names, new to the reviewer at least who perhaps does not cover the Scottish poetry scene as broadly as he should, names who have written good verse. I like for instance, Laughton Johnston's "Ring of Brodgar."

There is a goodly emphasis

on Scots poetry in this volume which is all to the good. It means that at last the restrictions of artificiality which English has imposed on Scottish poets for long enough are now being loosed, by the poets themselves. Whether it is too late in the day for this to appear is a matter for argument. But somehow one suspects that if verse of sufficient virility and importance can come from this awakening, then the future for the whole Scottish literary scene will be encouraged and enriched and be recognised as a literature in its own right, a recognition which has yet to come, if we except the recognition of individuals like MacDiarmid.

I have left little space for a mention of all the contributions in Akros 15. But for 5/- for the price of a packet of cigarettes, they can be sampled from Akros Publications, 14 Parklands Avenue, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs.

\* \* \*

## SAMUEL BECKETT

WITHOUT having to make such a deep study of Beckett, to understand and appreciate his work, that it must become something of a religion, the study of Beckett by Patrick Murray in a recent Mercier paperback is most helpful to those who have read or seen his work.

Beckett, and more particularly, his work, has been more than a puzzle, indeed at times an intellectual challenge. Often Beckett's messages have been so obscured by the author's very personal voice that one has to turn away in defeat. Patrick Murray's handy book is therefore very welcome. His study of Beckett is not rarified as are many of the

books which in the past have attempted to interpret the author. Rather he has gone straight to the core of Beckett's work and examined in a broad and readable manner his philosophy, his treatment of religion, his originality as a writer of the 20th century, and his unique comic gift.

There are many pitfalls for those who attempt to evaluate the kind of writer which Beckett is. Murray manages to pick his way successfully through and past the traps and offers entirely acceptable interpretations which allow the reader to make his own assessments. In this respect Murray offers good starting points.

Beckett the novelist is also considered.

For those who are concerned with the performance of Beckett's plays, Murray's book is timely. Directors and producers in particular will find that they can, through this book offer audiences a deeper understanding of Beckett.

"The Tragic Comedian" by Patrick Murray; 10/-; Mercier Press, 4 Bridge Street Cork.

\* \* \*

## ARGYLL HISTORY

A NEW and revised edition of "Mid Argyll: a handbook of history" has recently been published by the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll.

The author is Miss Marion Campbell, well known for her antiquarian interests and as an author for children in books which re-live many incidents in Scottish and Highland history.

The book retails at 6s, plus 1/6 postage, is available from Dr D. L. MacNab, Ardmearach, Lochgilphead.

## £500 Air Chall Air Croitearan Bharraidh

Bha bata Mac a' Bhruthain amnoch. Tha an leusgeur air a thoirt seachd gu robh an tìde dona agus gun du chum an stoirn air ais am bata badhair ca. Air o shailleim se bh na caoraich a Bar-



Bheil sgìllin agad a Mhurchaidh?

raidh gu math truagh an deidh dhaibh a bheith air a' feitheamh air a' cheith ann am Bagh a' Chaisteil fad na h-uicheadh seo gun doigh aig na daoine leis an robh iad air am biadhadh gu ceart, no eadhon uisge thoirt dhaibh. A Bharrachd air an sin cha robh doigh aca air an cumail aig a' cheithe ann am Bagh a' Chaisteil. Leis an sin bha choibhreach a' cumail grunnan mor chaorach cruinn ann am pàirce airson corr is da uair dheug. A dh'aindeoin cho math 's a bh iad fhein is an coin, chailleadh mu dha fhichead caora. Chailleadh cuidheadh sia air an turas a' bhata a' Bhatharsaidh. Bhasaich trì air a' bhata mus d'fhanais an t-Oban. Bha stad ann caoraich a bha air fhagail cho truagh 's nach d'fhan iad leth cho math is a b' choir dhaibh—chailleadh deich tasdan an ceann orra thatar a' deanamh a mach. Nuair tha mìle caora agad 's e sin gheud not.

# The Granary Of Wales

The island of Anglesey is strange and remote, often seeming lost in the midst of prehistoric times. Yet it remains one of the friendliest places on earth. The wild beauty of the island flora and the startling luminosity of colouring make it a haven for any artist or mainlanders seeking the quiet life.

The beauty of the island extends from the rugged northern reaches, exposed to wind and sea, to the almost sub-tropical sheltered region

by REG MOORE

along the Menai Strait, where the mainland mountains always seem a mere stone's throw away.

The ancient stone walls on the island meander into a maze of contradictions once past Llangefni, the market centre. Strangers can lose themselves in a labyrinth of gorse and stone, when the mist comes down over the flat fertile countryside. The white-washed cottages and scattered farms offer comfort but little in the way of landmarks. Only the small towns of Holyhead, Llangefni, Amlwch, Menai and Beaumaris, have anything in the way of shops, commercial life and entertainment on an island where all the isolated villages and hamlets seem closely knit into one compact unit.

But the natural joys of basking in the sun, exploring historic sites and rare fauna, or strolling across miles of brilliant gorse and heather, on this large island where spring comes early, more than atone for a lack of artificial amenities.

The history of the island dates back more than two thousand years. The Welsh term 'Mona' or Mother of Wales is an affectionate reminder of the island's rich fertile resources. Not for nothing is Anglesey named 'The granary of Wales.' The island supplied grain to Welsh forces resisting English attacks from the mountain strongholds in Snowdonia during the thirteenth century, a turbulent time in Welsh history.

The railway terminus and port of embarkation for the emerald isle is Holyhead, the largest town on the island. Holyhead appeals to naturalists and geologists through its high landmark containing drill fort circles and remains of a hill fort. The steep winding steps to the formidable South Stack lighthouse is within walking distance and cliff-top views and sea birds add to the rugged expanse and isolation.

Just outside Holyhead are the picturesque bays and sandy coves of Rhosnig and Trearddur Bay, where firm sand provides safe bathing and beach games. There is a wide golf course at Trearddur and a marble quarry

further along a coastline steeped in romance and legend of days when pirates plundered the island.

The strange charm of the island can be felt more strongly in the north, particularly in the ghost town of Amlwch, once rich in copper mines, but now a scattered resort renowned for magnificent coastal scenery and startling cliff-top colours. The neighbouring lighthouse guides the cliff liners to and from the Merseyside and giant waves hiss across the rocks along this rugged exposed tip of the island. South along the eastern coastline lies Moelfre, a charming little haven where the lifeboats are kept, and Bwllech, where the submarine 'Thetis' was beached after accidental sinking off the Great Orme's Head on the mainland.

The administrative market centre of the island is the grey-stone town of Llangefni, a bustling little place full of activity and strong Welsh voices. The home of Owen Tudor, a fervent Welsh hero of the past, is just outside the town and further south lies the fifty-six letter railway station and village, the mecca of globe-trotting tourists.

The famous Menai Bridge spans the Strait and introduces the tourist to a wooded region of contrast from the north of the island. Menai Bridge has a huddle of modern shops and views of small boats across the blue-green waters of the long Strait.

The ancient town of Beaumaris has a moated castle and houses of architectural beauty and variety facing the mainland. The main regatta takes place here in Summer, when yachts of all sizes race to Conwy Bay. The main street of this quiet little town contains an interesting museum, antique shop and Tudor house, depicting much of the good taste of the inhabitants. The long coastal road winds away from the pebbled beach past Beaumaris to the sixth century church of St Seiriol, a wishing well and twelfth century Priory. The village of Penmon is the nearest to the bird sanctuary island called Puffin, where visitors can picnic and watch the shipping throughout the long summer days.

Visitors to Anglesey, anytime between Easter, when daffodils and primroses line all the stone walls and cottage fronts, to late Autumn, can always be assured of hospitality from kind gentle people. The leisurely pace of the island is a far cry from the hustle and bustle of the cities and ideal for quiet relaxation. The safe sandy bays, beautiful gully coves and soft silvery dunes are among the gems along the shoreline. The flowering inland and the mysterious druid stones are part of the variety that is Anglesey all the year round.

# Ainmean Aitean

## LIST OF PLACE-NAMES IN SCOTTISH GAELIC

**A**

Abhainn Dùn Abington  
 Abarraig Berwick  
 A' Bhruathach Brae  
 Achadh na Cairigh Achnacarry  
 Achadh nan Uan Achinchoan  
 Ach' na Sìne Achnasheen  
 A'Chill Mhòr Kilmore  
 A'Chionghal Connel  
 A'Chromaich Appelcross  
 Agaidh Mhòr Aviemore  
 A' Ghàidhealtachd The Highlands  
 A' Ghallachd The Lowlands  
 Aileih Ailyt  
 Aircioig Aikraig  
 Aird-Chonghlais Ardkinglas  
 Aird an t-Snaimh Ardentive  
 Aird an Teine Ardentiny  
 Aird-Lusa Ardussa  
 Aird-nam-Murchan

Ardnamurchan  
 Airdh nan Gobhar Arinagore  
 Alanais Alness  
 Allt a'Bhonnach Bannockburn  
 Allt Beith Aultbea  
 Allt Eire Auldearn  
 Am Bac Back  
 Am Barra-caltuinn Barcaldine  
 Am Blàran Odhar Bettyhill  
 Am Blàr Dubh Muir of Ordn  
 Am Bogha Mòr Bowmore  
 Am Bràigh Braeolochaber  
 Am Bràigh Riabhach Braeriach  
 A'Mhanchainn Beaulieu  
 A'Mhoigh Moy  
 A'Mhorairne Morven  
 An Annaid Annat  
 An Aoidh Eye Peninsula  
 An Apainn Appin  
 An Caol Kyle of Lochalsh  
 An Ceann Mòr Kenmore  
 An Cnoc Dubh Blackhill  
 An Dòrmaidh Dornie  
 An Droighthead Drynoch  
 An Eaglais Bhreac Falkirk  
 An Fhùrneis Furnace  
 An Gearasdan Fort William  
 (Inbhir Lòchaidh)  
 An Lagaidh Logie  
 An Leargach Ghallda Largs  
 An Leathad Laid  
 An Leth-dabhach Lettoch  
 An Ruadh Rhu  
 An Sàilein Salen (L. Sunnart)  
 An Sàilein Muileach Salen (Mull)  
 An Scarp Scarp  
 An Srath Strath  
 An Srath Mòr Strathmore  
 An Tairbeart Tarbet(?)  
 An t-Ath Leathann Broadford  
 An t-Ainm Dubh Black Isle  
 An t-Eilean Sgitheanach Skye  
 An t-Oban Oban  
 An t-Srùigh Struie  
 Aoinaadh Innis  
 Aoraisgeidh Eriskay  
 Arainn Arran  
 Arasaig Arisaig  
 Arascaim Erskine  
 Arcaibh Orkneys  
 Ard-laogh Ardul  
 Ard-Rosan Ardrossan  
 Ardruigh Airdrie  
 Asainn Assynt  
 Ath-Tharracail Acharele

**B**

Bagh a'Chaisteil Castlebay  
 Bail a'Chaisteil Castletown  
 Bail a'Chaolais Ballachulish  
 Bail Ailein Ballalen  
 Bail a'Mhanaich Ballyvanich  
 Bail a'Mhuilinn Milton  
 Bail a' t-Saoir Blantyre  
 Bail a' Bhoird Rothesay  
 Bail a'Chaillein Colinton  
 Bail a'Chluichrig Pitlochry  
 Bail Eilidh Helensburgh  
 Bail Dhubhnaich Tain

Baile Ghobhainn Govan  
 Baile Hamalton Hamilton  
 Bail Iain Johnstone  
 Baile Mac Duibh Dufttown  
 Baile Mhoireil Balmoral  
 Baile na Cille Kirkcubbin  
 Baile nam Fiasgan Musselburgh  
 Baile nam Frisalach Fraserburgh  
 Baile na h-Eaglais Kirkwall  
 Baile nam Manach Monkstown  
 Baile nan Grandnach

Baile nan Stiùbhartach Stewarton  
 Baile na Traigh Ballantrae  
 Baile Sear Baleshore  
 Baile Stiùbhart Newton Stewart  
 Bail Ur an t-Slèibh—Newtonmore  
 Banbhuidh Banavie  
 Banbh Banff  
 Barabhias Barvas  
 Barraidh Barra  
 Bathaich Geata Bathgate  
 Bealach Balloch  
 Bealach Maol Ballochmyle  
 Bealadair Ballater  
 Beannachar Banchory  
 Beannraidh Bernara  
 Bearuig Berwick  
 Bearuig a Tuath North Berwick  
 Beinn a'Bhaodha Benbulbin  
 Beinn nam Faoilha Benbulbin  
 Bhatarsaidh Vatersay  
 Blàr an Athail Blair Atholl  
 Blàr Goinnre Blairgowrie  
 Bòd Bute  
 Bogha Mòr Bowmore  
 Borbh Borve  
 Borgh Borve  
 Borroraidh Boreray  
 Both Ghartain Both of Garton  
 Both Chuidir Balquhiddie  
 Braacadail Braacadale  
 Brahadh Albainn Breadalbane  
 Breaadag Brodick  
 Breatunn Britain  
 Brìchir Brechin  
 Bruach Chluaidh Clydebank  
 Brùra Brora  
 Bucaidh Buckie  
 Buneasain Bunesan

**C**

Caistal Dhubhglas Castle Douglas  
 Caladh nan Clach Stonehaven  
 Calanais Callernish  
 Calasraid Callander  
 Calasraidh Callander  
 Cam Chnoc Cumnock  
 Canaidh Canna  
 Caol Acaim Kyleakin  
 Caol an t-Snaimh Colintarive  
 Carlabhagh Carloway  
 Carrag Carrick  
 Cas-rois Cardross  
 Catrona Catrine

Ceaslo Kelso  
 Ceann Loch Bearbhuih  
 Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain  
 Ceann Loch Eire Lochearnhead  
 Ceann Loch Gilp Lochgilphead  
 Ceann Loch Gùil Lochgoilhead  
 Ceann Loch Liobhainn  
 Cillachleven  
 Ceann Phàdraig Peterhead  
 Ceannrois Kinross  
 Ceann Torr Kintore  
 Ceapach Keppoch  
 Cearrara Kerrara  
 Cill an Inbhir Kilniver  
 Cill an t-Sàbhair Kilbarchn  
 Cill Bhrìghde (an Ear) (East)

Cill Chòmhghann Kilchorn  
 Cill Donnain Kildonnan  
 Cill Earnan Killearn  
 Cille Chiuimoin Fort Augustus  
 Cille Chuihtbeirt Kirkcubright  
 Cille-Màrnag Kilmarnock  
 Cille Mhaoil Chalum Govan  
 Cill Fhinn Kiflin  
 Cill Iùrnain Killearnan  
 Cill Mhàrtainn Kilmartin  
 Cill Mhealaidh Kilmelford  
 Cill Mheanadh Kilmenny  
 Cill Phàdair Kilpatrick  
 Cill Rìmhinn St Andrews  
 Cillsaidh Kilsyth  
 Cill-Saoidh Kilsyth  
 Cill Shaoide Kilsyth  
 Cinn a'ghhuthsaich Kingussie  
 Cinn Chardainn Kincardine  
 Cinnire Kintyre  
 Cìce-post Kirkcubst  
 Clach na h-Aire Clachnaharry  
 Claignean Claggan  
 Cnapadal Knappdale  
 Cnoc a'Bhealach Broomhill  
 Cnoideart Cnoydart  
 Coit Ghartain Both of Garton  
 Colbhasa Colonsay  
 Collasa Colonsay  
 Colla Coll

Comar nan Allt Cumbernauld  
 Comhal Cowal  
 Comraich Comrie  
 Conghlas Kinglass  
 Craichidh Crathie  
 Craig an Iubhair Craignure  
 Craig an Teine Craigmenny  
 Craoibh Crieff  
 Cragh Ghoraidh Cragorry  
 Crian Làraich Crianlarich  
 Crìonan Crinan  
 Cromhaidh Cromarty  
 Cumirigh Comrie  
 Cuil Bhraonaidh Kilmorie  
 Cuil-todair Culoden  
 Cumradh Mòr Great Cumbrae  
 Cupar Aonghais Coupar Angus

# AN ATHOLL GATHERING

The sky cleared and the sun came out hesitantly, late on Friday afternoon, as if in salute to the Duke of Atholl and his Atholl Highlanders—the only private army in Britain.

A crowd of local people and visitors had gathered in front of Blair Castle to watch the Trooping of the Colour ceremony, marking the 125th anniversary of the presentation of colours to the Atholl Highlanders by Queen Victoria in 1845. The cannon sounded, the pipes skirled, and the Duke, a tall impressive figure, took the salute.

In 1844 when Queen Victoria was advised that her health required her to take a rest, she and Prince Albert were sent Blair Castle by the then Atholl heir, Lord Glenlyon.

The Queen not only recovered her health in this lovely Highland home, but came to hold the Atholl Highlanders, who mounted a guard during the royal visit, in "high esteem." So much so, that she decided to present them with a pair of colours, as a mark of that esteem.

The following year on September 4th, the ceremony

was held at Blair, Prince George of Cambridge and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar having been sent north to take part. Lady Glenlyon, representing the Queen, presented the colours.

This historic ceremony of 1845 was itself an anniversary; a century earlier on that very date, Lord George Murray set off to join Bonnie Prince Charlie, and as a result, to end his days an exile in Holland.

The main duties of the Atholl Highlanders are now ceremonial. When royal visitors stay at Blair Castle, a guard is usually mounted by the Atholl Highlanders. It was very appropriate that in 1931 when the Appin Colour carried at Culoden, was placed in the keeping of the Scottish National and Naval Museum, Edinburgh, it had an escort of Atholl Highlanders. The men of Atholl played a gallant part in the '45.

The Atholl Highlanders are justly proud of their Pipe Band. The present Pipe Major is Alec MacRae, curator of the Clan Donnachaidh Museum at Bruar, which was opened by the Duke of Atholl last year. The success of the museum owes much to the dedicated work of its curator.

## The Stag

I saw the stag  
 Staunin there,  
 Sterk tale the dusk-sky,  
 Perfect hulk  
 O masculinity.

And I thought,  
 Here's Scotland  
 And Whit maun be,  
 Strength, and sic simplicity  
 of form.

Ay, here's Scotland,  
 And whit maun be,  
 David Morrison

The Murrays and Robertsons have long been closely associated in Atholl, and many Robertsons have served in the Atholl Highlanders. In 1853 the 18th Chief of Clan Donnachaidh became a lieutenant in this distinguished personal bodyguard of the Dukes of Atholl.

Friday evening closed with a clan gathering of Murrays at Blair Castle.

JOAN YOUNG

## BATTLE OF BRITAIN



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 for  
 those  
 who  
 Gave

Thousands of our finest men and women in the Royal Air Forces have given their service, their health, and in many cases, their lives for their Country and in defence of Freedom. Today many of them and their dependants are in urgent need of the R.A.F. Association's Welfare Service. Please give all you can for the Emblem on Wings day or send a donation direct to Headquarters.



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See gaibh dealbh thlachdmhor de Oifig a'Phuist ann an Ceap Breatainn, Alba Nuadh. Nach breagha na canain fhàcinne co-ionann ri cheile ann an ainm a tha ceangailte ri teachd na Gàidhlig do dh'Alba.

# The Problem of Latin Revival

## Linguistic Struggles by P. Berresford Ellis and Seumas Mac a' Ghobhainn

Cesky, the Czech language, is spoken by ten million people in western Czechoslovakia, Bohemia, Moravia and part of Silesia where it is the official language. Slovak is the official language of Slovakia, an autonomous part of the country. For the purposes of our essay we are concerned only with the Czech language and people.

In his An Outline of Czechoslovak History, Frantisek Kavka states: "The fact that the Czech lands were part of the mature Celtic civilisation had a beneficial influence on their further development: this period is thus sometimes termed 'the golden age of

biggest one being in 1775 but the failure of the Czechs only brought more penal laws. German was made the official language of the state and the only schools that were allowed, taught German and through German all other subjects. This policy of enforcing German through the educational system was intensified in the period 1775-1848.

During the latter part of the 19th Century a number of Irishmen visited Bohemia. One Irishman, William James MacNeven, who studied medicine in Prague, saw a parallel between the Czechs and the Irish. He was inspired to return to Dublin and join the United Irishmen in 1797. Following the 1798 insurrection MacNeven was arrested and banished for life. He died in America in 1841 still fighting for an independent Ireland.

Another Irishman, Et. Col. Wallis Ceven learned the Czech language and, according to his friend, the Czech patriot Jan Jenik, supported the Czech National Revival. He frequently compared the Czech struggle for language and independence with that of his native country, Ireland.

It was at the beginning of the 19th Century that Czechs began to recognise the importance of their language and determined to save it from death. Foremost among these language fanatics was Josef Dobrovsky (1829) who fought hard to raise the status of the language. He laid the foundations of modern Czech grammar, lexicology. He in 1847 compiled a Czech-German dictionary to encourage Czechs to relearn their language.

A literary revival started and this was led by Jan Kollar (d. 1852), Frantisek Ladisek (d. 1852) and the romantic poet Karel Hynek Macha (d. 1836) whose lyrical poem "The May" is well known in European literature. But all forms of Czech literature were being silenced under the official policy of Germanification. Manuscripts were collected in underground presses, many had to be smuggled out of the country.

From 1830, following the start of the Czech Cultural Revival, the ordinary people began to resist the Hapsburg imperialism. On March 11, 1848, in Prague, a radical movement was inaugurated and demanded the introduction of the Czech language into schools and into the civil service. The movement had strong support among the peasants and among the now Czech speaking intelligentsia.

An insurrection took place between June 12 and June 15 in Prague. Armed contingents arrived from many parts of the country but the Austrian imperial armies completely crushed the Czechs. A strict censorship was imposed which continued until 1860.

The Czech National Movement now began to organise their own Czech language schools, concentrating on making ordinary people literate in Czech. A National Party was formed in order to fight for constitutional independence. This National Party almost immediately split into two separate wings. One wing "the Old Czechs" was led by Palacký and Reizer and sought a federalisation of the Austrian Empire. "The Young Czechs" were a more progressive element. Led by Josef Sladkovs and Julius Gregr they wanted not only national independence and social independence. They were supported by a Czech language newspaper, Narodni Listy (National News).

In 1874 the "Old Czechs" split with the radical wing and formed their own party. The "Young Czechs" formed a Sokol (Falcon) society which in 1862 started to establish cultural training centres and also physical training centres to prepare young Czechs for a future uprising. On April 7, 1878, a Czech Social Democratic Workers Party was founded.

The "Old Czechs", however, agreed to participate in the Austrian Government of their country, as part of an Austrian plan to try and stop the growth of national feeling. In return for their co-operation the Austrians recognised German and Czech as the official languages of Bohemia and Prague University was allowed to teach in Czech.

Following this recognition of the Czech language, there was a great flowering of literature. But the Government concentrated on the use of the language caused a great many German speaking Czechs and colonists to hold anti-Czech demonstrations.

Schools were few open institutions, higher education was available at Prague University. The language fight had been won.

Fool-wisdom of the Great Nations and the social revolutions in eastern Europe, the Czechs and their neighbours, the Slovaks, who had also been under Austrian rule, decided to unify their two peoples into the Republic of Czechoslovakia in 1918. The watchword of the Czechs was "Socialistic Narodni" (Socialist National).

The creation of the Czechoslovakia Republic and the first 20 years of its existence had far reaching significance in the development of Czech and Slovak culture. After centuries of suppression, the Czech language again became the official state language (in Slovakia the official language was Slovak) while the national culture was no longer under the tutelage of Vienna.

In 1939 German troops again entered Czechoslovakia and annexed it. All universities were closed and thousands of students were sent to concentration camps. Czechoslovakia was liberated in May, 1946.

After 250 years of a vicious Germanification of the Czech nation, the Czechs had resisted and revived their language and culture. Today, the once young language, has given the world Jaroslav Hasek's The Good Soldier Schweik stories, which are world famous, as well as the works of Karel Capek, such as Krakatik, Letters from England, and R.U.R.

In 1957 there was a revival of interest in Czech literature among English publishers. The firms of Heinemann and MacMillan published numerous translations from Czech literature. The success of the Czech language struggle is, indeed, one of the most heartening linguistic revival successes in Europe.

(to be continued)

### BIRTHS

MACKAY - At the Lewis Hospital, Stornoway, on Thursday, 3rd September, to Norman and Joan (née Morrison), 100 Newmarket, a son (Donald Morrison). Both well.

### DEATH

MCGILLIVRAY - Suddenly at Sunderland Farm, Bruchlichad, Islay, on 6th September 1970, Donald McGillivray, beloved husband of Ella Campbell.

### OBITUARY

MACDONNACHAIDH - Mar chaimhneach air deagh beann, chairid, chompanach, S. agus A. An t-Oban Lathairne.

### SITUATIONS

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### Droverb

Theid an t-amhann dichollach thar an laidir leig.

The diligent weaver will win o'er the lazy strong.

### Text for the Times

Ach is aithne dha an t-slighe am nair a dhearbhas e mi, mar ur ois a' m' a mach. Job. C. 23, R. 10

But he knoweth the way that I take; when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. Job Ch. 23, V. 10.

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Czech antiquity." By the 7th Century the Slav tribes had reached the north, consolidated and united.

From the 10th to 13th Centuries the history of the Czechs is that of unrelenting struggles against aggressive German imperialists bent on subjugating the Czech state in Bohemia. Though the Germans made heavy inroads, the Czechs emerged as a strong central European power. Their language has become a popular literary language which excelled in love lyrics and religious works. The importance of the language was enhanced at this period because of the strong opposition to the German colonists.

In 1348 Prague University was founded and became a great seat of national learning. Students from many countries came to study there. Czech became the official language in all fields including theology and learned writings where Latin had predominated before. Czech was acclaimed as having no peer excepting French and Italian.

In the 14th Century, however, the Catholic Church owned one third of the Czech lands and a high proportion of the clergy, and all the Czech hierarchy, were German colonists who were anti-Czech in culture and outlook. This naturally created a resentment among Czechs. This resentment, not only against cultural inroads



Concert in the Valdštejn Garden

but the whole system of exploitation by the Church, found a voice in Jan Hus (1371-1415), the rector of Prague University. Hus taught a doctrine which has similarities to that of John Wyclif. His teachings brought down the wrath of the Church and the State and Hus was forced to flee to southern Bohemia. Hiding among ordinary people Hus wrote his great masterpieces in Czech (including the famous Postilla) and dissertations criticising the Establishment. Hus also did much work on the language, purging it of many German inroads and recreating a strong literary language. Hus also participated in the first Czech translation of the Bible. Finally, he was burnt at the stake on July 6, 1415.

With his death a Hussite revolutionary movement sprang up dedicated to reform the Church. The Pope backed Sigismund of German King, who proclaimed a crusade against the "pagan Hussites" in 1420. In fact it was a convenient excuse to annex the Czech state. But the Czechs had a strong leader in Jan Zizka who soundly thrashed the Germans at the Battle of Vukov Hill. Between 1420 and 1431 the Pope and Sigismund organised four crusades, each one being repelled by the "Hussites". Zizka died in 1424 and the Hussite movement became fractionalised. Finally, in 1436, Sigismund made a deal with the Hussite leadership and he became King of Bohemia.

Hussitism had been of great importance to the Czech language. While the movement was in power it established Czech language schools for the peasants. A school in Tabor, for example, educated both boys and girls, with a curriculum of strong literary language. In the 15th Ages, Czech was adopted as the language of the Church liturgy and had, in fact, become the language of diplomacy in Central Europe.

In 1515 the first Czech newspapers were started and by 1526 there were five major publishing houses in existence.

Under German leadership, however, the process of German erosion continued at a very slow pace. In 1526 Ferdinand, King of Austria took over the Czech lands and further curtailed the liberties of the Czechs. In May 23, 1618, the Czechs rose in arms against the increasing Germanification of their country. It was not until November 8, 1620 that the insurrectionist army was beaten in the field and the Austrian troops began to exact a terrible retribution on the Czechs. Czech language and literature, despite 200 years of German domination, was fairly sound. Jan Blahoslav (1523-1571) made a new translation of the Bible and contributed various Grammars and Dictionaries. Georg Agricola's "Twelve Books on Mining and Metallurgy," published in 1556 won world wide acclaim. Tadeas Hajeck was producing science books and Pavel Stransky's "On The Czech State," a work on the Czech struggle, was translated into many European languages.

Following the Czech defeat of 1620 there began a suppression of all things Czech. The forced emigration of a considerable part of the Czech people, including practically all the "upper classes" and intelligentsia, together with an influx of German colonists, paved the way of the denationalisation and ultimate loss of the language during the 17th and 18th Centuries. By the 18th Century only the Czech peasantry spoke the language.

There were many Czech risings against this persecution. The