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DI-ARDAOIN, 19mh LATHA DE'N MHAIRT 1970

THURSDAY, 19th MARCH 1970

No. 78 Sixpence



The Trotternish Range, Isle of Skye, from the Quiraing

Hopes For Skye Diatomite Revived

HOPES that the diatomite fields at Trotternish in Skye will be re-opened were raised at the week-end with the news that the Highlands and Islands Development Board are to start discussions with a number of mineral users and mining companies who have expressed an interest in the future of the Skye deposits.

Mr Raonull Macinnes, the Skye-born London business man abandoned the project after carrying out a feasibility study six months ago. The Board have now examined the results of the study and are resuming the fight to re-start quarrying of the island's diatomite deposits.

This latest effort by the H.I.D.B. is in keeping with their policy of mineral hunting throughout the north with the aid of other organi-

sations. The quality of the Skye deposits of diatomite is good, but problems are created in quarrying and marketing at a profit. The further study recently completed by the well-known Pitlochry consultant mineralogist, Mr Robert Robertson, indicates that the Skye diatomite industry could be revived as an economically viable proposition, providing jobs in an area where new jobs are needed.

This latest study investigated the capital cost of plant installations, and running expenses, and estimated the possible returns. The drainage of Loch Cuithir constitutes one of the major disadvantages against the successful exploitation of the deposits, and a team from the Department of Industrial Science at the University of

Stirling carried out a survey to establish requirements for this particular aspect of the work.

The product from the Skye deposits would be used mainly for the manufacture of building board, and in heating insulation.

While further investigations into the development of the Trotternish diatomite deposits are carried out with some optimism, the H.I.D.B. are planning to extend their search to other parts of the west coast, and the islands. Subject to financial support from interested industrialists, the Board hope to cover areas of the mainland—Ross-shire, Sleet in Skye, and the islands of Mull and Iona. These can only be regarded as pilot surveys to be followed by detailed assessments of the true potential of identified deposits.

Full feasibility studies of this nature are carried out by the commercial developer.

AM BORD 'SNA H-EILEANAN

A REIR nan cunntasan mu dheireadh a rinn Bord Leasachaidh na Gaidhealtachd tha suas ri 465 an deidh obair fhaighinn mar thoradh air na chuir iad am mach de airgead anns na h-Eileanan an Iar anns na ceithir bliadhna bho'n Duidlachd 1965 gun 1969. Chun an ama sin chaidh faigs air £1 millean a chuir ri oibrichean anns na h-Eileanan agus roinneadh an t-suim seo air 175 a dh'obraichean air leth.

'Sann ri leasachadh an iasgaich agus obraichean co-cheangailte ris a chaidh a chuid mhor de'n airgead a thug am Bord seachad anns a' chearnaidh seo. Eadar bataichean is eile tha suas ri £3 millean ac' air a chuir an sàs. Tha 53 de bhuidheann obrach a' deanamh feum de'n airgead seo agus eatorra tha duil gu bheil mu 173 a bharrachd a' fhaighinn teachdan air.

A thuilleadh air an iasgach thug am Bord cuideachadh do 64 obraichean eile agus tha 102 a bharrachd a'

faighinn obair mar thoradh air an £141,000 chaidh riutha sin.

Air feadh na roinne gu h-iomlan chosg am Bord suas
(Continued on page 12)

Eil 'cu math' agad?

THA e coltach gu bheil coin a' marbhadh 'sa' milleadh 1,500 beathach an Alba gach bliadhna. Aig an am seo de'n bhliadhna nuair a tha uain og is caoraich lag tha e cunnartach gum bi coin-reubainn a' brath orra.

Dh' aindheoin de cho umhail 'sa tha cù tha e cunnartach air toirt as an deidh beathach caothrach agus ged nach leagadh e fiacail air dh' fhaodadh e cron a dheanamh an doigh eile.

Tha Roinn an Fhearainn 'san Lagaich an Alba ag Amais air aire dhaoine tharruing chun a' chail a tha coin a' deanamh air stoc agus a' cur 'nan cuimhne gu faodad an t-uaine tha le cu-agradh gu lagh ma chuireas an cù dragh air beathaichean. Theid suas gu £50 de chain air duine airson a lethidh seo.



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Di-ardaoin 19mh latha de'n Mhàirt 1970

Thursday, 19th March 1970

THE END OF THE LINE

IN December 1969, Mr Fred Mulley, the Minister of Transport, announced that the Inverness/Kyle of Lochalsh railway line will receive in 1970 a grant of £179,000, in respect of this line being classed as an "unremunerative passenger railway service." Mr Mulley also gave details of seven services (including Kyle) for which, on the information available to him concerning social and economic need, he did not think he would be justified in giving an undertaking for a period longer than two years.

Mr Russell Johnston, Member for Inverness-shire, has managed to draw the General Manager of British Railways, Scottish Region, out into the open with a statement which indicates that the end of the year 1971 will also see the end of the Inverness/Kyle railway.

Now all this is serious. But who is awake to the fact at this early hour of the day?

Mr Johnston has said: "The position we face is clear. British Rail take the view that they cannot operate the service without the support of a Government grant and will therefore re-open the question of closure when that grant ends at the end of next year. It is therefore of the greatest importance that those of us who regard the railway link as very important should begin to prepare our arguments."

We wholeheartedly support Mr Johnston. But who else is doing so? Who else will in fact do so? Time is obviously not on the side of those who wish to see this link, to the west coast preserved. And what time there is left must be used efficiently.

It will be no use relying on the sympathy of those who make up the Scottish Transport Users' Consultative Committee. These faceless wonders are at the behest of their political masters. This is a fact which has been proved time and time again. British Rail, too, are past masters at doctoring figures so that the blindfolded T.U.C.C. willingly and without stabs of conscience close lines.

A point we should like to raise at this juncture is one concerning Mr Mulley's statement that his decision to close the Kyle railway will be based on information already available to him. But who gave him this information? Has the information been doctored in any way? Presumably the public and semi-public bodies such as Inverness County Council and the H.L.D.B. have been associated with this information? If not, why not? And if so, why have the Highland public not been given the opportunity of assessing the quality of the information presented to Mr Mulley so that he is able to make such statements?

The whole matter smacks too much of the way in which vital and final decisions are taken long before any public hearing is instituted. The public are then handed a fait accompli and are not able to present a stronger case for any decision to be reversed.

Already private, though public-spirited, bodies interested in the retention of the Kyle line, on the basis of social need at least, are gearing themselves for action. One would hope that public and semi-public bodies are doing the same. Otherwise the finger of accusation may well point at them as in 1971 draws to a close.

In the interests of keeping this vital link to the west open, SRUTH will be coming back to this subject again, again, and again. We feel it is not something that should be allowed to be broached when it is too late. Already the bureaucrats are prepping their case; they have duned the jury and they are no doubt working on the judge. Only strong public opinion will save the day for the Kyle line.

STAILCEAN

"Tha iad a mach rithis." Gu h-iomadh uair a tharraingeadh an onna sin a nis o chionn bliadhna no dha. A reir coltais tha luchd obrach air neart fhaighinn, air comas labhairt a lorg nach robh aca riann roimhe. Tha a h-uile buidheann air seo a lorg — o' feadhainn thurasdail mar luchd tagaisg gu na tuathanachan fhein. Tha iad uile a' strìth ris an aon rud — an tighinn a stigh a chumail co-ionann ris an dol a mach. Air a shon sin 's air fad tha uamhas a' deannamh uamhas — gu h-àraid na tuathanachan tha 'g eubach gu beil iad cho bochd Dh'fhaodar a radh gu bheil aobhar gearrain aca ach chan eil a leth uidhe reusoin aca 's th'ag na daoine a tha am fosdadh dhaibh.

Tha a 'mhòr chuid de luchd obrach na duthcha a'

fhaighinn ceithir notaichean fichead 's an t-seachdainn — co mhead de luchd eolais tha fhaighinn sin? Cha bhi ach a bheag. Tha an t-sium sin air a bhith a' sìor-dhàin an airde le iartasan bho buidhinn-obrach nan càraichean. Tha an cothrom seo aca a chionns gun urrainn daibh éirig iarraidh bho an uachdarain. Ma stadas iad, caillidh na — h-uachdarain muileannan ann an aon latha.

Thatar an ceart uair air stailc aig Port-adhair Heathrow, co-dhiuth tha an luchd-smalaidh an sin ag iarraidh an ochdamh-ardachadh ann a coig bliadhna. Nis tha Mgr. Clive Jenkins air a shron a chuir 's a' ghnothach ach 's e gearran da san gun tugadh cothrom lannsheachaidh nam pleanachan do dh'fheadhainn nach bu toigh leasan. Tha e gearran cuideachd air "Caledonian Airways" a cur a steach targair air son B.U.A. — a bheil gnothach aige san ris an seo. Tha seo a' togail ceist gu math tron domain: an bu chorr an comas bhith aig luchd fhadshad a leigeadh leotha riaghladh an uachdarain nuair a bhitheas iad an duil ri cuideachd a reic no tha iad an duil ri cuideachd eile a' cheannach.

Chaidh feadhainn air stailc am bliadhna nach deach a riann roimhe — a bharrachd air Glaschu o chionn naoi bliadhna — is e sin luchd tagaisg. Tha e gu math searbh do dhùine a chosg ochd bliadhna ag ionnsachadh a cheaird agus a rainn an innbe as airde anns an Oilthigh a bhith fhaighinn targair nas lutha chosnadh n' a' reic peatral no a' cartadh bathach. Tha aobhar gearrain aca an chan eil aig fear a tha 'lannsheachadh bathar 's a fhaighinn £60.

Ach air a shon sin 's air fad, co dhialtadh comas an deagh bheatha do dhùine a chaidh a cheusadh 's a chumail fodha airson ceudan bliadhna? 'S i cheist am bu chorr duinn a chur aig deireadh seo air fad.

"An deannan-sa obair an duine ud airson na tha e 'fhaighinn air a shon? "

AIR MO CHASAN-DEIRIDH

'S e rud gle dhùilich 'sa'

bhaile-mhòr, greim teann fhaighinn air Gàidhlig, o nach eil mòran 'san àite a bhruidhneas i riut. Rinn mi plàighe dhom fhin, nuair a bha mi ag iarraidh beagan Goidhlig ri chur na mo cheann. Cho luath 's a chumma mi Gàidheal air na sràidean, 's na buitean, no an àiteachan eile nach ainmich mi, thiginn sìos orra mar Bhirlinn Ghòr-aidh Chròbhainn 'na lann shuill, is cha tric a bhiodh cothrom aca fhaighinn air fuadair orm. Nuair a thoisich mi air an gnothach so, bha na Gàidheal tuilleadh is modhail; chan abradh iad an fhìrinn gun e fìor dhroch Gàidhlig a bh' agamsa, ar sheasadh iad gu foighidheach ag éisdeachd, le coltas orra mar gun robh iad a tuigsinn gach facal a thainig as mo bhaig, agus iad a feuchainn gu diochiallach ciall ri chur air mo chaint. Is docha gu robh feadhainn dhiubh am beachd gu robh Beurla a dh'fheall orm, o'n a bha mi ag obair cho trang snàim a chur na mo thànga air son reiceigin ri radh 'sa Gàidhlig. Thair na Frangaich, nuair a tha duine a deannamh mort air an cànan . . . 'Tha e 'buidhinn Frangais mar bò Spàinnteach' . . . cha chuimn 'am de an t-seòrsa Gàidhlig, 'a' bagam aig an am ud, ach is docha gu robh mi 'ga' bhruidhinn coltach ri tarbh Inbhir-Air. Ach, mar sin, cha bhi mi a' fhaighinn ach — "Chi mar a tha thu," agus "Chi mi sibh a rithist," agus, ged 's fhada a theid duine troimh 'n t-saoghal gun corr aige ach na facan ud, chan fhada bhios e dol ma tha e air son leughadh — "Moladh Mòrag," Mar sin, bha mi a' sealltainn mu'm thimchioll chumh gum fagh-

inn àite anns am bithinn air mo bhòdh-radh le Gàidhlig.

Aig a' cheud dola-mach, cha robh an dānadas agam 'dol gu ceilidhean; ach co-bhàidh, air oidhche araidh, chaidh mi stigh gu Comunn Clann MacLaisgairth. Thuit mi rium fhin, "Gheibh thu Gàidhlig gu leòir an a, a bhòinein, 'oir, a reir mo

le Uilleam Neill

bharail-sa, bha iomadh fìor. Ghaidheal 'san àite, agus, nan robh breacan mar dhearbhadh air sin, cha bhiodh amharus sam bith air duine gu robh na suim ud na bu Gàidheal-aidhe na Fionn MacCumhail fhin. O'n a thair an leabhar beag buidhe a cheannach mi gu robh e ceart gu leòir breacan a bhi air mo leithid, chuir mi an fheadhaidh umam;

ach, nuair a bha mi na mo shuidhe 'san talla, agus Clann MacLaisgairth ag amharc gu gearm orm, thainig e na mo tocan d' do cheumainn oigridh an nis ga chumail a' dol chun an 13mh la de'n mhairt, 1973.

Bheir e a' cheud cothrom do fheadhainn le feumach an aiteachan anns nach eil giorasan cho pailt agus a cheitras cuisean air adhart am meas oigridh eadar 14 is 19. Mu fagh buidheann grant bho n riaghlath feumaidh a bhaidh cinnteach gu seas comhairle 'n fhoghlum 'san roinn co-dhiuth uibhir is data leith 'sna tha Ruanaire na Stair a tabhach.

Ann's a' chumantas gheibhear suas ri leth na cosgaibh cho fad 'snach teid seo thairis air £10,000 ach far a bheil àite 'ga staidheachadh gu chleachdadh gu sonruichte airson clann eadar 14 is 19 gheibhear 60 p.c. de'n chosgais suas gu £25,000.

Bho thainig an seime an mach ann 1961 chaidh £860,000 thoirt seachad.

Ra leantainn

Croiteirean nan Uachdarain Bheaga?

(Continued from last week)

Tha rud eil' ann. Duilich ri ghradh, ach is fìor e, tha iad ann, eodhan am meas Gàidheal, a reiceadh gun dragh sam bith dha'n fhear as motha a phaidheadh, am fearann air an robh iad a nis nan uachdarain bheaga.

Tha fìos gu math de a bhiòd buailteach air tachairt, beag is beag, rachadh na Gàidheal a lughadh, rachadh na croitean agus na h-eileannan a ionadhadh le daoine nach robh idir deth air fuil, coigreach as gach uachdar duthaich, mar a tha air tachairt ann an iomadh àite eile.

Tha nithe eile a tha feitheamh freagair! Caite am faghair an t-airgead gus na h-uachdarain mhòra a phaidheadh air son na tha iad gus a chall! A rithist,

de mu dheidhinn am monadh agus na cul-cinn! De mu dheidhinn an t-sealg agus an t-iargach air loch agus amhainn. De mu dheidhinn gach nì eile a bhineas d' nò fhearann?

Bheil na nithe sin gu bhi air am failgail ann an lannan nan uachdarain mhòra? Am bith na seann uachdarain fathas na uachdarann ann an doighean araidh air fearann a nis a bhineas do na croiteirean? Bu cho math dhaibh a bhi mar a tha iad na a bhiidh na'n leth uachdarain. Cha'n oibrich an leithid sin idir. 'Is fhearr an t-olc eolach na'n t-olc aneolach' 'ris am focal, agus is fìor e.

Tha aon uachdarannach ann a bhiòd taimeach dha'n h-uile croiteir a tha de fhuidh Ghaid-

(Continued on page 9)

Kinloch Eriboll

Text of an address delivered to the Rotary Club, Inverness, on 25th February 1970.

All the dialogue at present about developments on the Clyde, make me wonder 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. Simi-

by Alex D. Craig

larly with the Midlands of England, with some areas 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 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'. 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 1000 yards.

In 1966 the annual cost of maintenance dredging in the 79 ports in the United Kingdom amounted to £7,750,000 and the National Ports Council also tell us that between 1962 and 1966, over £8,500,000 was spent on capital dredging projects at 18 ports. Loch Eriboll has no dredging problems to accommodate the largest tankers.

The Government at this moment are studying the establishment of Maritime Industrial Development Areas (MIDAS), where there are relatively few deep water sites near a centre of population. Loch Eriboll is not one of those sites. But the Government have also said they

are anxious to establish 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 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 the 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 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. This city with the administrative centre at Tongue will be spread over an area of 1000 square miles with an eventual population of over 100,000.

The greatest factor of all is lacking — people. For people coming to the area, we can offer them the romanticised 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

"THE CRISIS IN AUTHORITY"

Vantage Press of New York is processing the proofs of a new book — "The Crisis in Authority" — written by Ulla-pool-born, Dr Kenneth I. E. Macleod, who is the eldest son of Kenneth Macleod, M.A., F.E.S., the retired Rector of Fortrose Academy, who lives in Inverness.

Dr Macleod's forthcoming book deals with the present unrest in society and the world, under several headings: "The Crisis in Society, The Crisis in Youth, The Crisis in Law and Order" — a trouble that besets the Old as well as the New World. The Crisis in the Church (Roman and otherwise), and finally The Crisis in the International Order.

This is subject of great topical interest.

The date of publication will be announced shortly.

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 our 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. This will not be an extension of existing communities but instead will mean carving a new way of life out of the mountains. This offers a challenge to young people to remain at home and watch the Pioneer City of the Scientific Age arise within our own country.

Comunn Gaidhealach Motherwell Agus Wishaw

Chuireadh Comunn Gaidhealach Motherwell agus Wishaw air bonn anns a' bhliadhna 1935. Bho'n ann sin tha na cruinneachaidhean aca air cothrom a thoirt do Ghaidheil shiorramachd Lannraig colas fhaighinn air a cheile agus oidhirp a dhèanamh air an canan 'san eòl a chleachdadh.

'Se baile na smuid a tha ann an Motherwell gu dearbh 'le moran de obraichean iarumh' a' preadhadh a mach eò, smur agus duslach dho iarmailt.

Mar sin nì e urachadh inn-tinn do neach a dh'ol a measg chaidrean airson oidhche de cheol, orain agus sgeulachdan.

Tha an Comunn a toirt suim airgid dho Chomunn Gaidhealach gach bliadhna agus a' deanamh nas urainn dhaibh airson cuideachadh le luchd ionnsachaidh na Gaidhlig agus pioabaireachd.

Chumadh cuirm chiuil ann an talla a Y.M.C.A. air 7/2/70 agus bha buidheann bho Ceol-raidh Gaidhlig Ghlaschu an lathair. Chord an oidhche gu riasda ris a h-uile duine. Air 12/2/70 bha cuirm chiuil le dannsa ann an talla Ard-spoil Bhrandon. Bha suas ri ceud gu leth an lathair. An measg an fheadhainn a bha a' seinn gu sunnachd, bha Calum Ross agus chluich pioabairan bho Chomhlan Phioibairean Carluke Caledonian gu sgileil. 'Se an Chomhlancuill Dannsa ris an canar na Croitearan a bha a' chluich airson an dannsa. Thugadh suim airgid dho Chomhlan Phioibairean airson drum-achan ur a cheannach.

Tormod MacDhonnhuill

The views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the publishers: An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Aid For New Argyll Sawmill

A new sawmill capable of processing over 240,000 hoppus feet (about 85,000 tons) of home grown timber per year is to be established at Airdeny, Taynuilt, in Argyll.

The project is being promoted by 40 year-old Mr Fritz Olsen, who has operated a sawmill at Fasnacloch in Appin for the past five years, at an estimated cost of £63,000. Financial assistance is being provided by the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

The sawmill will be one of the most modern in the Highlands, incorporating the latest automatic plant. Full-time employment for twenty-eight dually by the milling and forestry operations with fifteen of the jobs being taken up by those currently employed at Fasnacloch.

Timber grown in North Argyll will be processed for use in fencing and general constructional work. Trimmings

and waste wood will go to the pulp and paper mills at Fort William.

Mr Olsen, a native of Denmark who holds a Danish diploma in forestry and is a member of the Danish Forestry Commission, said yesterday that the need for a new sawmill with increased capacity in North Argyll had become evident in recent years.

"The pulp and paper mills at Fort William have solved the problem for smaller sizes of timber in the area, but a better local market for saw-logs will be of great benefit to everybody," he said.

Mr Olsen sees particular marketing possibilities in the Scottish construction industry. "Our new equipment will enable us to cut larger lengths of wood and open up a new market for home grown timber thus reducing the quantity of timber imports."

FRANK TALK

● VOTES FOR CASH?

IT seems there is a growing pressure on Mr Roy Jenkins to produce something in the April budget to entice the British voter over to the Labour camp. But the slickness with which Mr Jenkins performs his duty as Chancellor of the Exchequer makes him a hard target for those in the Government who wish to preserve their existing posts.

Mr Jenkins has warned the Labour Party not to expect a vote-winning sweetener on April 14. In addition, he is saying that the flood of wage increases could wipe out any tax concessions he might otherwise have been able to introduce in the national economic interest.

One thing is certain; Mr Wilson's ability to walk the razor's edge will be apparent in the next few weeks, whatever Mr Jenkins decides to do in April, either on his own account or as a members of the Cabinet.

● WHAT'S COOKING?

THE "miracle" rice, IR-8 rice seed, derived from International Research of the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, is being quietly imported by China from Pakistan and Nepal. This species of rice stands only about 40 inches high and has a yield of almost 6,000lb. an acre (compared with local varieties of 1,500 lb.). Such a rice has more than nutritional significance. The political implications of such a seed need no say; it could add a significant element to the already growing Chinese participation in the world affairs, in a

thin-bamboo-edge kind of way. Perhaps this wants closer watching? As does indeed the retention of British merchant seamen in Shanghai — an unfortunate name.

● QUEUE QUEUE CUBA

IT seems that a potential customer for Havana's restaurants, who already has to queue outside for a ticket which entitles him to come and queue again, is faced with a new form of initiative.

Some queue speculator, obtaining queuing tickets which they sell for high prices to those at the end of the queue. Many people are making a regular income out of this unusual form of activity.

With the British penchant for queuing, will this racket soon show its face in this country? We shall have to wait and see.

French A 'Must' In Quebec

All students in Quebec schools must (in future) learn French, even where the home language is English. A bill passed by the provincial government makes French the official language of the province of Quebec and provides that no graduation diplomas will be given to any student, English or French, unless he has a "working knowledge" of the French language. For the minority groups the bill provides that Quebec parents will have the choice of having their children educated either in French or English.

WESTERN ISLES CROFTERS UNION

In a bitter reproof of Mr A. I. Mackenzie, M.P., Ross and Cromarty, the Western Isles Crofters' Union have claimed that landlordism will dominate crofting in the Highlands for the 21st century, if Mr Mackenzie's 'fossilised, unprogressive views' on crofting tenure are accepted.

Mr Mackenzie has publicly opposed the Crofters Commission's proposals now before the Secretary of State for Scotland, for crofters to become their own landlords.

Mr Mackenzie has publicly opposed the Crofters Commission's proposals now before the Secretary of State for Scotland, for crofters to become their own landlords.

The Union has stated that of all people, Mr Mackenzie should hold his tongue about crofting, since, as a former member of the Crofters Commission, he signed the notorious 1959 report by the Commission which goaded crofters to revolt and to defend themselves by forming unions in the Highlands and Islands.

"Mr Mackenzie," the Union said, "then advocated a modern Highland Clearance as one of the signatories of the 1959 report which said: 'If we are given the necessary enabling powers, we shall be creating a drastic reduction in the number

of croft homes.'

"During Mr Mackenzie's membership, the Commission's report visualised that there would be an extinction of two-thirds of croft tenancies.

"Under pressure of crofters' unions and public opinion as well as the decision of Parliament, the Commission were denied the alarming powers they sought. Since then, a re-organised Commission, without Mr Mackenzie, have pursued progressive policies, culminating in the final necessary reform of crofter-owner-occupation.

"The Commission's proposals have built-in safeguards for crofters' grants to continue under owner-occupation, so that, in all, the reform would be a tremendous advance for crofters."

In an 'alert' to crofters, the Union warned that unless Mr Mackenzie's peculiar opposition to the grass roots movement for crofter - owner - occupation which was first proposed by the Western Isles Crofters' Union, accepted unanimously by the Federation of Crofters' Unions and adopted by the Crofters Commission, is vigorously resisted, the proposals may be doomed.

"Then," the Union's statement added, "Mr Mackenzie, certain other political candidates, landowners and their

psychopants will have a lot to answer for. With land-hunger for developments in the Highlands, landlords are cashing in on sale of croft land to the tune of £1,000 per acre, while crofters get a miserable pittance for their loss.

"By his opposition," the Union concluded, "Mr Mackenzie would deny to crofters full development values, which, historically, should be theirs by moral right. This will apply most especially in Mr Mackenzie's own constituency with Easter Ross developments where some of his crofter constituents will be affected.

The Federation of Crofters' Unions has written the Secretary of State for Scotland, asking that the forthcoming price review take account of the very unfair gap between prices received by crofters and hill farmers for their products and retail prices in the shops.

It has expressed very grave concern at the plight of crofting agriculture and hill farming in the Highlands and Islands.

Unless the forthcoming price review takes account of the difficulties facing crofting, it urged, there will be a disastrous decline in the numbers employed in agriculture in the region. As crofting agriculture and hill farming is basic to rural living, any further fall in profitability will seriously disrupt an already shaky population stability.

Member unions has asked the Federation to press for substantial rises in the level of guaranteed prices to take account of remoteness from markets and increased transport costs.

Also urged is a greater incentive for land improvement which has such considerable potential for production of beef, wool and mutton, by means of increased date of subsidy for lime and fertilisers. The promising developments in land improvement of the fifties has been checked by actual reduction of subsidy for lime and increased costs of fertilisers and transport, deterring crofters from continuing with these developments.

The Federation drew the Secretary of State's attention to the memorandum by the Planning and Development Officer of Sutherland, on the serious plight of crofting and hill farming in the area and to similar representatives on the need for increased guarantee prices made by the Crofters Commission.

Proverb

Faodaidh breith luath a bhi lochdach.

A hasty judgement may be harmful.

Text for the Times

Tha suilean a Tighearna air na freasanibh, agus a chluas 'ar n' glaoibh. Salm Ch. 34 v. 15.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. Psalms Ch. 34 v. 15.

Celtica - today

A look at Alba — Breizh — Cymru — Eire — Kernow — Mannin

by P. Berresford Ellis

The Urd Gobaith Cymru (Welsh League of Youth) is holding an Inter Celtic Camp this year in Llandowry College at Llanymddyfry, Carmarthen. The week (July 25-August 1), has been selected as it is immediately prior to the National Eisteddfod Week at Ammanford (Rhydaman). Some visitors may wish to take advantage of both arrangements for the Eisteddfod will have to be made by the members themselves and they would leave Llanymddyfry on August 1.

Membership of the camp is open to any Celts over 16 and most members will be aged between 16 and 30. Of the Welsh members, most will be Welsh speaking but it is understood that English will be the lingua franca of the camp.

The programme will provide an opportunity for each group to describe the problems and achievements of their own country. There will also be discussions led by guest speakers on matters of general interest to the Celtic nations. Excursions to places of interest will, of course, be arranged. There will be time for folk dancing and singing and evenings generally will be devoted to social recreational activities.

The cost per person for the week will be £6 10s, a deposit of £1 per person should be sent in advance. Reservations for members from the Celtic countries outside Wales should be made by April 20. Any places not taken up by that date will be allocated to additional Welsh members. Accommodation will be mostly in dormitories, together with a few smaller rooms. Bed linen will be provided.

Urd Gobaith Cymru is one of the major youth organisations in Wales. Its activities are based on its three fold aim of service to Wales, to fellow man and to Christ. During the period 1949-1959, the Urd (as it is known in Wales) organised annual Inter Celtic Camps at Borth, in

Cardigan, and these were attended by representatives of all six Celtic nations.

These camps had to be discontinued due to pressure of other work. Because the Urd felt that the camps were of great value they have decided to reintroduce the camps into their summer programme.

Another important pan-Celtic Congress of Youth over the week-end, March 28/29, in Aberdeen.

Another step forward in the campaign to prevent the death of the Welsh language has been achieved. Bilingual motor licence discs are to be introduced in Wales as from April 1. Announcing this, George Thomas, Secretary of State for Wales, said that the Government "hoped(!) to provide bilingual driving licences test certificates for people who applied for them."

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg announced: "There will be no easing up because of one small victory."

Entries for the Gorsedd Kernow (Cornish Gorsedd) should be sent to Miss R. Moss, 51 High Street, Falmouth, Kernow, by June 30. Details of the Gorsedd are also available from Miss Moss.

An appeal has been started in Padstow, Kernow, to establish a truly worthy memorial to the late Stephen Fuller, whose work for Cornwall has been widely acclaimed. Aged 35 at death, Stephen Fuller was prominent in the Cornish language movement and, as Map Pyscador was a bard of the Cornish Gorsedd. He was an enthusiastic member of the Celtic Congress and the League of Celtic Nations. His family and the people of Padstow (where he launched and ran his own newspaper called "Padstow Echo") are being consulted about the final form the memorial should take.

Any of his friends who would like to give a donation to the appeal fund should send it to Lloyds Bank, Padstow, where the memorial Committee has opened an account. Please make out cheques and postal orders to the "Stephen Fuller Memorial Fund."

GAELIC SUMMER SCHOOLS

6th - 18th JULY 1970

STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS

A school for LEARNERS of Gaelic will be held for two weeks from 6th to 18th July.

Cost for fortnight, including twin and three-bedded accommodation, meals and tuition, £27.

Music School

13th - 18th JULY

The programme will cover the range and development of Gaelic music.

Cost, including accommodation and meals, £11 10s. For both schools the charge for non-resident students will be £15- per day.

Application forms from The Director, An Comunn Gaidhealach, Abertarf House, Church Street, Inverness.

In The Service Of The Tzar

IT is to his own journal that we owe most of our knowledge of General Patrick Gordon, born in Aberdeenshire in 1865, and who died in Russia in 1969, after a most distinguished career in that country's service.

The Gordons of Auchleuchries were Roman Catholic and royalist. After he

by Joan C. Young

attended the local school, young Patrick was sent abroad to a Jesuit College to complete his education.

He appears to have left the Jesuit College because he could not "endure such a still and strict way of living." With his few possessions, the young Scot set off to try his luck in the world.

Like many of his fellow countrymen, he became a soldier of fortune, serving in Germany, Sweden and Poland, and finally entering the Russian service.

Again, like many other Scots, he served under the great Swede, Gustavus Adolphus, who had such a high opinion of Scots fighting men. Gordon found himself a prisoner of the Poles and the Austrians. When he entered the Russian service, he was enrolled in Crawford's Scottish Regiment.

His first impressions of Russia were not favourable. The country was still very barbarous. The ruler was a despot, and the condition of

the people miserable, indeed.

It was in 1861 that Patrick Gordon first arrived in Moscow, the city that was to be his permanent home. There he was to live in considerable style, to marry twice and bring up children.

Under the Commonwealth, Britain had lost her trading privileges at Archangel. Now in 1865, Tzar Alexis entrusted Patrick Gordon with a diplomatic mission to London.

Arriving in London, after a long journey which took him through the Low Countries, Gordon was warmly welcomed at the court of Charles II. He seems to have enjoyed himself in London, and took the opportunity to visit the Tower and see the "jewels."

Patrick Gordon returned to Russia. He was not to see London again for twenty years. In those years, he served the Russian rulers with great loyalty and distinction.

On one occasion, he made a daring escape from Tschigir, which had fallen to the Turks. Before doing so, he managed to set fire to a house near an arms magazine, which when it blew up, accounted for many Turks. For this exploit, he was promoted Major-General.

During the regency of Sophia for her young half

(Continued on page 9)

Grampian Petro-chemical Refinery HIBD Chairman To Address European Symposium

THE refinery will be built on the Grampian site of 377 acres at Delny Farm, Invergordon, and oil storage facilities will be established at Nigg Point where Grampian Chemicals have purchased a further 220 acres of land.



Crude oil will be off-loaded at the deep water terminal in

FORESTRY COMMISSION NORTHERN RESEARCH STATION

The Forestry Commission's new Northern Research Station has recently been completed at the Bush Estate of the Edinburgh Centre of Rural Economy, six miles south of Edinburgh.

The Station will be formally opened at 3.00 p.m. on Friday, May 8th, by the Rt. Hon. William Ross, M.B.E., M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, and invitations to Press, Broadcasting, etc., will be issued in due course, together with fuller background information.

Up to now the Commission's Research Staff in Scotland has been mainly accommodated at Government Buildings, Sight-hill, Edinburgh, and this Staff is now in process of moving to the new building.

the Cromarty Firth, pumped to the storage facilities at Nigg Point, and then across Nigg Bay through submarine pipelines to the Delny Farm for processing.

The annual throughput of

May 1970 with completion scheduled for the end of 1972.

Good wastewater management and control techniques, coupled with the most modern wastewater treatment tech-

nology, will be employed to assure that the effluent wastewater from the Grampian Chemicals Plant at Invergordon will be equal to or better than any existing refinery or petrochemical plant in the United Kingdom.

Air pollution problems from the refinery will be relatively minor because low sulphur crudes will be processed. Despite the fact that the Grampian plant will be burning low sulphur fuels, very careful consideration will be given to the design of all stacks to minimise SO₂ ground level concentrations.

These processes will produce the following products: ethylene, propylene, propane, butadiene, naphtha, benzene, kerosene, diesel oil, heating oil and coke.

A rail spur will run adjacent to the Delny refinery (to join up with the existing Highland Railway from Wick to Inverness and then south) for handling both incoming and outgoing shipments. It is not contemplated that any refinery products will be shipped by road, however, after completion of construction, some of the operating and maintenance supplies will be transported by road.

It is presently estimated that general site preparation work will commence in early

May 1970 with completion scheduled for the end of 1972.

GOLLANFIELD LEVEL CROSSING

Mr Russell Johnston, Liberal M.P. for Inverness-shire, who has been in correspondence for some time with the Ministry of Transport, the Chief Constable and the County Clerk about the dangers of Gollanfield Level Crossing, has now had a letter from the County Clerk giving the up to date position.

The County Council have now had an invitation from the Scottish Development Department to prepare a scheme for an underbridge and approach roads at the level crossing.

Mr Johnston said in London today, "I understand that this invitation will come before an early meeting of the Roads Committee of the County Council. I am very pleased to learn that progress is being made, and I hope that the Roads Committee will take up this invitation with all speed."

CUIDEACHADH

Tha comhairle Baile Steòrnabhagh air ceud not a thoir seachad do Bòrd an Luchd-
"ruis a bhios 'na chuideachadh leò ann a bhith a' cumail oifis 'sa bhaile. Bha cuid de na comhairlichean de'n bheachd gum foghnadh leth-cheud not.

HIBD Chairman To Address European Symposium

Professor Sir Robert Grieve, chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, has accepted an invitation from the European Conference of Local Authorities of the Council of Europe to address a symposium in Brest, France in May.

Called to discuss the participation of peripheral regions in the life of the European community, the symposium will be attended by most of the member countries of the Council of Europe with delegates consisting of leading figures from the regions concerned in those countries.

A number of specialists of European renown have been asked to present papers or introduce general discussion on the six themes of debate. Sir Robert has been invited to introduce the theme "The

analysis of the Specific Problems of Peripheral Regions."

The symposium is one of a series of such events being organised jointly by the European Conference of Local Authorities and by the Committee on Regional Planning and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe. They are designed to provide an opportunity for regional and local authorities to consult together on aspects of European policy concerning regional planning and local and regional government.

Sir Robert said at the weekend: "This is the second international conference which I have been invited to attend. Last June I acted as Rapporteur General to a 42-country congress in Dublin on the same theme. It is clear that the Highland Board is creating genuine international interest."

Tweed Firm For Kyle?

Kyle of Lochalsh, the West Highland village living under the threat of losing its railway and shipping links, may be chosen by a Canadian company as their first Scottish base for the manufacture of tweed. They already have a tweed market in Canada, and if they choose Kyle of Lochalsh for their branch mill, the bulk of their products would go to Canada.

There would probably be about a dozen jobs at the outset.

Mr George Nicholson, prospective SNP candidate for Ross

and Cromarty, said it was a step in the right direction.

He had written to about 50 firms, mostly in the electronics industry, inviting them to consider Kyle of Lochalsh as an area in which they could expand.

"Already I have had discussions with two firms, and I am pleased to announce that one of these is seeking a base in the West Highlands and is prepared to settle in Kyle, provided co-operation is forthcoming from the local authorities."

Mr Nicholson had had a meeting with a partner of the Canadian firm, a Scot with homes in both Edinburgh and Canada, but would not be able to give details of the firm until they had reached a decision some time in the summer.

He said he had contacted various firms after the Minister of Transport's statement that more evidence was needed to show why the Inverness-Kyle railway line should remain open.

"My line of reasoning is that if industry could be attracted to Kyle of Lochalsh before a decision is taken to close the line, there would be far greater pressure behind our argument in favour of leaving it alone."

Study Group Queries HIBD

The Highlands Development Board are to be asked by the Inverness-shire Development Study Group, a special committee of the county council, whether a survey of tidal firings in the Highlands had decided on the feasibility of reclaiming land from the sea for agricultural use. The survey, arranged in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture early in 1968, covered tidal land on the Dornoch, Cromarty, Beaulieu and Inverness Firths and in the Kyle of Tongue and Baleshare Island, North Uist.

The results were aimed at helping the board to decide whether to go ahead with full engineering studies, and the development study group at their meeting in Inverness yesterday felt that the board should now be invited to state whether reclamation was thought feasible.

The group also agreed to ask the board for information about their general programme of geological surveys for minerals in the Highlands with particular reference to the recently completed study on diatomite deposits in Skye, and the possibility of feldspar being extracted in Harris.

Gaelic Tradition

The School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh, is soon to issue a record of Gaelic traditional songs, said Mr John MacInnes when he spoke to a meeting in Edinburgh recently of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

He played examples from the school's archives of Gaelic songs ranging from heroic ballad to waulking song. Most of the singers, who had been recorded in Tiree, Lewis and Barra, were well over 70. Mr MacInnes lamented the fact that the varied characteristic styles of each district were gradually being lost.

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AG IONNSACHADH NA

LE IAIN A. MACDHOMHNAILL

LEASAN A CEITHIR DEUG



Mairi: Ach cò ris a tha i a' bruidhinn a nise?
Sine: But to whom is she speaking now?
Mairi: Nacheil ri bean Sheorais?
 Isn't she to George's wife?
Mairi: Saoil am faca i sinn?
 Do you think she saw us?
Sine: Tha mi clinnteach gum faca.
 I am sure that she did.
Mairi: Chunnac gu dearbh.
 Yes indeed.

Tha i fhìn agus Mor, bean Sheorais,
 She and Marion, George's wife,
 a' feitheamh ruinn.
Sine: are waiting for us.
 Stad ort.
 Wait.

Tha mise dol a steach do Ofis a' Phuist.
 I am going into the Post Office.
Mairi: Chanell math dhuit.
 Chanell math dhuit.
 You had better not.

Tha iad a' feitheamh ruinn.
 They are waiting for us.
Sine: Chanell iad.
 Chanell iad.
 They are not.

Tha iad a' coiseachd sìos an rathad.
 They are walking down the road.
 Tiugainn fhuasla comhla riumsa.
 You come along with me.
Mairi: Tiugainn mata.
 Come then.

Sine: Eisd thusa.
 You listen.
 Chanell mi dol air cheilidh air
 I am not going to visit
 Seoras idir.
 George at all.

Ach nach bi dùil aca riut?
 But won't they be expecting you?
Sine: Mo thogair. Dè an uair a tha e?
 I don't care. What time is it?
Mairi: Tha e da uair dheug.
 It is twelve o'clock.
Sine: Glé mhath.
 Very good.

Ach dè tha thu a' faicinn?
 But what are you seeing?
Mairi: Tha Seonaid a' tilleadh ann rathad seo.
 Janes is coming back this way.
Sine: Tiugainn thusa mar seo.
 You come this way.

A bheil thu ag iarraidh dad
 Do you want anything
 ann an Ofis a' Phuist?
 in the Post Office?
Mairi: Chanell. A bheil iù fhéin?
 No. Are you yourself?

Sine: Chanell a' tiugainn co dhiubh.
 No but come anyway.
Mairi: Stad Sine a' dol seachad.
 There is Jean going past.

Sine: A bheil Mòr comhla ri the?
 Is Marion along with her?
 Saoil am faca i sinn a' tighinn a steach?
 Do you think she saw us coming in?
Mairi: Chan fhaca
 No.
 Tha i a' dol seachad.
 She is going past.

Sine: Glé mhath gu dearbh.
 Very good indeed.
Mairi: Ach cò ris a tha i a' bruidhinn a nise?
 But to whom is she speaking now?
Sine: Corra leat.
 Never mind.

Tiugainn thusa comhla riumsa.
 You come with me.

Mairi: 'Chit i bheil thu dol?
 Where are you going?

Sine: Tha mi a' dol air cheilidh air Seoras.
 I am going to visit George.

Read this passage and answer the questions which follow.

Bha Mairi glé thoilichte leis a' chota ri. Bha dùil aig Sine a dhol air cheilidh air a' bràthair Seoras. An uair a bha iad a' coiseachd sìos an rathad, ch'annac iad ach Seonaid, bean Sheorais, a' bruidhinn ri bean Sheorais. Bha Sine a' smaoinachadh gun robh Seonaid a' dol air cheilidh air Seoras agus cha robh i toilichte idir. Bha i ag ràdh nach robh ise a' dol air cheilidh air. Bha Mairi a' smaoinachadh gun faca Seonaid iad agus bha Sine ag ràdh gun robh ise a' dol a steach do Ofis a' Phuist. An uair a bha iad ann an Ofis a' Phuist chunnac iad Seonaid a' dol seachad ach chan fhaca Seonaid iad. Bha e meadhan latha a nise agus bha Sine ag ràdh gun robh i a' dol air cheilidh air Seoras.

1. Cò leis a bha Mairi toilichte?
2. Cò chunnac iad air an rathad?
3. Cò ris a bha Seonaid a' bruidhinn?
4. 'Chit i an robh Mairi agus Sine an uair a bha Seonaid a' dol seachad?
5. Dè an uair a bha e?

GRAMMAR

The Regular Verb Imperative
 Coimhead, see, look.
 Innis, tell.
 Na innis, do not tell.
 Saoil, think.
 Eisd, listen.

Verbal Nouns
 A' feitheamh, waiting.
 A' faicinn, seeing.
 A' tilleadh, returning.

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Thainig Sine agus Mairi a mach as a' bhùth.
 Jean and Mary came out of the shop.
 Bha iad a' coiseachd sìos an rathad agus
 They were walking down the road and
 cò a chunnac iad ach Seonaid.
 whom did they see but Janet.

Mairi: A bheil thu tighinn mata?
 Are you coming then?
Sine: Stad ort. B'fheàrr leam gun robh
 Wait. I wish I had
 a'airidh gu leòr agam.
 plenty of money.

Mairi: Nacheil a'airidh gu leòr agad?
 Haven't you got plenty of money?
Sine: Chanell idir.
 Not at all.

Coimhead thusa na tha anns a' bhùth.
 You look at what is in the shop.
Mairi: Dè tha dhith ort?
 What do you want?

Sine: Bha mi a' coimhead air na brògan,
 I was looking at the shoes,
 air na miotagan agus air na h-adan.
 the gloves and at the hats.

Mairi: A bheil feum agad air brògan.
 Do you need shoes
 na air miotagan na air adan?
 or gloves or hats?

Sine: Tha mi clinnteach nacheil.
 I am sure not.
Mairi: Tiugainn mata.
 Come along then.

Sine: Dè an uair a tha e?
 What time is it?
Mairi: Nacheil e cairteal gu da uair dheug?
 Isn't it a quarter to twelve?

Sine: Cairteal gu meadhan latha.
 A quarter past midday.
 Tiugainn mata.
 Come then.

Mairi: 'Cait a bheil thu dol a nise?
 Where are you going now?
Sine: Nacheil mi dol air cheilidh air Seoras?
 Am I not going to visit George?

Mairi: Oh tha gu dearbh.
 Oh yes indeed.
Sine: Tiugainn comhla rium.
 Come along with me.

Mairi: Chanell math dhomhe.
 I had better not.
Sine: Carson?
 Why?

Mairi: Cha bhi dùil aca ruinn.
 They will not be expecting us.
Sine: Mo thogair. Tiugainn thusa.
 Never mind. You come.

Mairi: Stad ort. Coimhead cò tha tighinn.
 Wait. See who is coming.
Sine: Cò?
 Who?

Mairi: Nacheil Seonaid?
 Isn't Janet?
Sine: Na innis faclal dhith.
 Don't tell her a word.

Na innis e 'cait a bheil sinn a' dol.
 Don't tell where we are going.
Mairi: Bithidh fìor aice glé mhath.
 She will know very well.

Sine: Saoil am bi?
 Do you think she will?
Mairi: Bithidh gu dearbh.
 Yes indeed.

Nach bi a' bruidhinn ris a h-uile duine.
 Will she not be speaking to everyone.
Sine: Na innis thusa faclal dhith co dhiubh.
 Don't you tell her a word anyway.

GAIDHLIG

The Irregular Verb — Past Tense

Chunnaic mi, I saw.
Chan fhaca mi, I did not see.
Am faca tu, Did you see?
Chunnaic, yes.
Chan fhaca, no.

Masculine Nouns with and without the Definite Article

Feum, need. Am feum, the need.
Meadhon, middle. Am meadhan, the middle.
Fios, knowledge. Am fios, the knowledge.
Oifis, Office. An oifis, the office.

Common words and usage

B'fheàrr leam (gun), I wish (that).
A bheil feum agad (air), do you need.
Meadhon latha, midday.
Chanell math dhomh, I had better not.
Co dhiubh anyway.
An rathad seo, this way.
A' dol seachad, going past.
Na tha, what is.
Ma tha, if (there) is.

EXERCISES

A. Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks.

1. Bha Màiri thoilleach a' chòta.
2. Bha iad smaineachadh gum Seònaid iad.
3. Bha Seonaid a' ri bean
4. Bha e latha.
5. Chunnaic iad Seonaid a' dol

B. Give the answer "yes" to the following

1. An robh Màiri toilleach a' dol dhachaigh?
2. Am faca iad Seonaid.
3. Am bi iad a' dol do Oifis a' Phuist?

C. Give the answer "no" to the following.

1. An robh Seonaid a' dol air cheilidh air Seòras?
2. A bheil Màiri ag iarraidh ann an Oifis a' Phuist?
3. Am faca Seonaid iad ann an Oifis a' Phuist?

THEID MI DH'AN EILEAN le Aonghas Maca'phearsain

Theid mi dh'an Eilean, 's mo, ghradh air cha cheil mi,
Theid mi gad amharc cho mad bhios mi beo,
Cha'n eil aite idir eile as aille na'n t-Eilean,
'S bi mo chridhe gu deiradhn an Eilean a Cheo.

Nuair dh'fhalbhas an gearmradh, 's gun till ruinn an samhradh,
Bheir mi cuairt air na gleannan far an robh mi 's mi og,
Chi mi gach coire, gach ion agus lochan,
Far an tric robh mi casruss' gun stocain gun bhoig.

Chi mi an t-òisean far an biodh a bhean-tìghe,
Far an tric robh mi ceilidh, le danusa agus ceol,
An dugh tha an t-urial fo dh'eanntag 's fòdh luachair,
'S na daoine bha còmhuidh, nan cadal fòh fhoid.

Chi mi an t-òisean far an biodh a bhean-tìghe,
Caradh 's a' snìomh deamhna snàh ohan chlo mhòr,
'S an seana na shuidhe air taobh eil an t-òise,
Caradh linn sgadan na beartadh lìon-mhòr.

Tha nìs sealladh eile, air adòann an eilein,
Dh'fhalbh an tigh dhan eile ch'ail e gu brath,
Ach tha fathadh mun a larach còmhleas is cairdeas,
Nach caochail gu brath ann an Eilean a Cheo.

Le Aonghas Maca'phearsain, nach maireann, Darvel,
Siorrachd Ayr, agus Linico, Throarnish an Eilean
Sgiathanaich.

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Review Order

KYTHINGS

Ronald Eadie Munro, better known as Duncan Glen, has led a busy life as writer, editor and publisher, in addition to following a career in graphic design.

'Kythings' is his fourth poetry publication and contains for the most part extracts from a long sequence entitled 'In Appearances'.

All the poems are in Scots, which may deter some readers (but why?) and attract them to others. And all are a true and faithful reflection of the poet, his mind, and his thoughts.

Many poems contain soft-spoken messages within a strong iron-like glove. Others make their point, almost at a glance as with 'Stanes'.

The volume is the fourth in the Series 'Modern Scottish Poets', published by Caithness Books, 1 Bank Street, Caithness.

Munro, with 'Kythings' has added stature and enhancement to the work of the other poets in this long projected Series: David Morrison, Charles, Senior, and Robin Fulton.

For those who do not read Scots Munro's poems will be a useful introduction to prove just how much more effective a poetic message can be, as compared with English. The Scots is easy to understand and Munro has provided an excellent kind of environment in which the reader becomes totally immersed while listening to his voice.

'Kythings' by Ronald Eadie Munro; 68; from Caithness Books at the above address, address, from whom details of the Series mentioned are also available.

MACDIARMID AND SMALL PRESSES

It has often been a blotch on Scotland's cultural face that the large commercial publishing interests in Scotland have rarely supported the writer in Scots, English or Gaelic.

It has always fallen to the small, dedicated Press to provide the medium through which the writer makes contact with his readers, thereby increasing Scotland's cultural stature—if she really deserves it. But of course Scotland deserves it. It is those who call themselves Scots who don't.

Be that as it may, it has always been a fact of a Scottish writer's life, particularly when resident in Scotland, that his work is often threatened with non-appreciation, no criticism no encouragement, and no financial reward. The latter is often borne stoically. But work produced without criticism and appreciation is to the least extent disenchanting.

How many good Scottish authors have faltered because no publisher felt himself responsible for the state of writing in Scotland today? And how many are faltering at the present time?

This makes the role of the

small Press in Scotland of primary importance both to the individual writer and to Scotland's cultural facade.

Often these Presses are run on a shoestring; more often just a string, well-worn and liable to break at any moment. The wonder is that they have survived for so long without the financial injections they now receive from the Scottish Arts Council.

It is timeous, therefore, that AKROS Publications should produce a new book: 'A Small Press and Hugh MacDiarmid,' by Duncan Glen.

Here tribute is paid to MacDiarmid's resolution in the face of Olympian odds (that Olympus whereon hang about the pseudo-Scots who bleat 'Culture!' and who refuse to keep the thing alive) at a time when large publishers were reluctant to commit themselves to printing his poetry.

Often it was the courage and foresight of an individual associated with publishing who managed to effect the change from MS to type.

But always there had to be the falling back on the small Scottish Presses.

The book is also a useful indication of how a writer becomes involved in publishing, a transition which seems to be on the increase (e.g. John Humphries and William Neil's new Ballad 'Scotland's Castle').

Also, Duncan Glen indicates how much is owed by small Presses to those poets, large of stature, and yet, often with financial loss to themselves, contribute to the various Small Press publications without thought of payment.

A very useful check-list of AKROS publications shows the real contribution which Duncan Glen, writer and publisher, has made over the years to keeping the wrinkles from Scotland's cultural face.

The blotches are still there, of course. If Scots persist in calling Scotland a nation, then they should see to it that the right fiscal treatment is made available to remove them: the interest of the larger Scottish (if any there be still) publishing houses in truly Scottish Publishing.

'A Small Press and Hugh MacDiarmid' by Duncan Glen, 10/6d; from AKROS Publications, 14 Parklands Avenue, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs.

THE SERPENT

Review by Charles Senior

Neil Millar Gunn, doyen of Scottish novelists, is undoubtedly the best possible choice of author to introduce CLUB LEABHAR. He was born in 1891 at Dunbeath in Caithness, and has become recognised internationally for his ability to interpret the Celtic mind, to depict the everyday life of the ordinary Highland folk in a vivid style devoid of sentimentality. *THE SERPENT* was first published in 1943 and it is to be hoped

that by reprinting and introducing it to a new generation that it will have continued success for the profits will go towards publishing new works in Gaelic and English.

It is twenty years since I first read *THE SERPENT* and its impact on me on re-reading has been considerable—either I have become wiser or I missed a great deal of the impact of the previous reading. The story unfolds itself back and forward through time in the divergent spirals and elliptical curves of an ancient Celtic design carved on stone, moulded or engraved in metal.

The story is told by Tom Mathieson, it is his autobiography, starting in the 1880's and continuing through to the early times of the hydro-electric schemes. In his old age Tom is taking what is to prove to be his last walk up into the heights above the village. His life unfolds before him as he climbs, being prompted by landmarks, a sight of a person a bird or a plant. He remembers the apprenticeship in Glasgow, the awakening of a lively mind to the attractive visions of free thought, philosophy and politics; his return home on his father's severe illness and his father's disapprobation; his mother's constant affection, the tenderness of his first love affair and the drama of his father's death which brings on him the tortures of guilt and self-judgement and the hyper-sensitive visions of severe mental shock. Then the ultimate resurrection and being absorbed once more into society with the dear bought tranquility of wisdom.

Through all this *The Serpent* coils and uncoils itself, changing its form and its intent—at once good and evil. The serpent of the Garden of Eden, the coils of sin, the Antichrist of the Serpent of Wisdom, the earth spirit of pagan times.

We are treated to a vivid description of ordinary folk and we come into contact with the great issues of the times. Religion, Free thinking or sternly dogmatic; philosophy, economics, politics all giving point to the greatest problem of the individual when he comes to break the taboos and defy 'The Idols of the Tribe.' Neil Gunn's ability to describe landscape and nature is a constant delight, in little cameos he will describe the flight of a chaffinch or the fear of a crouching rabbit or the significant quartet of ancient standing stones to which—"He sometimes made a fifth in this eternal seance—"

One could go on quoting and pointing out the significant symbols with which the book is crammed, but everything has its own dignity and importance, the parochial Towers into the poetry of universal experience.

This is good value for nine shillings. Like the salesmen at the Glasgow Barrowland I would shout to those who would (Continued on page 12)

Free Spirits of the Pyrenees

JETTY AT HARLOSH

YOUTH is in revolt all over the world and nationalism is ripe in many countries. High in the Pyrenees, Europe's oldest living race strike fresh blows for freedom.

The Basques are the freedom-loving provinces on the French and Spanish side of the mountains in perpetual revolt from their benevolent rulers on either side. The sturdy Spanish Basques hope

by Reg Moore

for a return of the Carlist Monarchy and up on the plateau around Pamplona, they are a united young force. Their strength is in a clarity of ideas from the golden heights of old Navarre to the sandy shores of St Jean-de-Luz in France.

Sir Winston Churchill often found quiet relaxation and inspiration for his painting in Saint Jean-de-Luz. The little tuna resort is one of a number of clean and engaging Basque beauty spots within a short drive of the Pyrenees. This delightful region of light and gaiety, where green rolling mountains sweep down to the surfing sands and trim chalets, is a charm for visitors all year round.

The Basque coast is a precious jewel in the arc of the Bay of Biscay. It is an ideal region for those wishing to combine beachcombing with strolls into the mountains, or sample folklore at its most colourful.

The area is surprisingly little known in the tourist world, conditioned to Riviera and sun worship. The Basques are probably among the most independent races in the world. Their language is completely foreign to the widely spoken French and Spanish around them, their folklore uniquely original and historic.

Every Basque resort has something different to offer and anytime between the lush spring months, when the landscape is a painter's delight, to the golden hues of October, you will find the Basques at their very best.

High in Navarre on the Pamplona plateau, the full-gilt season reaches a mid-summer climax with the running of the bulls through the narrow streets. The famous San Fermín festival, beloved by writers and aficionados from Ernest Hemingway to Orson Wells, takes place early in July. All the young Basques show their unique spirit and courage by racing ahead of the bulls, as they surge through the streets into the arena. There is singing and dancing in the streets and squares for ten long wine-splashing days in this ancient capital that lives mainly on this one major event.

Pamplona has a wealth of history and young life emerging from its fine university. The cool healthy mountain climate makes it an ideal place to visit in spring and summer, when it is a bracing interlude from the fashionable

coastal resorts. As an ancient capital of Navarre, the largest of all the Basque provinces, Pamplona is 1,500 feet high overlooking some of the finest mountain scenery in Europe.

San Sebastian is the most celebrated resort on Spain's rugged northern coast and the famous festival in August packs in visitors from far and wide. It is the summer home of many fashionable Madrilenos and something of a Government capital during the holiday season. The city has many winding streets and

its own brand of panache and it is a worthy capital of one of the French departments. Some of the best rugby football in France can be seen there and in September the small bullring is filled with tourists watching the best matadors from Spain.

Biarritz, six miles along the coast, is making another attempt at reviving former glories. She was once the fashionable "Queen of the Silvery Coast" but the image is faded today. The town winds interminably on slopes to the sea, where bronzed new-world surfers pause during their grand tour, riding the waves of prosperity.



The rocky promenade of Biarritz.

bars in the old port area and fine modern avenues and shops in the new area. There are breathtaking mountain-top excursions with commanding views of the city and towering Pyrenees and her beautiful natural land-locked bay, La Concha (Shell) is ideal for bathing. She is a miniature Rio in appearance, with all an international tourist could wish for and unlike many other European cities, provides entertainment all the year round.

Bilboa, away to the west of San Sebastian, is the industrial heart of the Spanish Basque country, and scene of her more volatile unrest. The frontier pass of Roland can be reached from Pamplona, heading towards France and Lourdes. Pau, Santander and Loyola, are within reach of this ancient territory.

Three main French resorts are Bayonne, Biarritz and St Jean-de-Luz. There are smaller Basque resorts worth visiting, and St Jean Pied-de-Port, a charming little Venetian-style inland village, and Ascan, Cambo and Roncesvalles.

Bayonne is a clean spacious town with gracious squares, an imposing cathedral and much youthful vitality. It rests serenely on the river Adour and runs into the fashionable Biarritz and the coastline. It is an ideal centre for many excursions into the hills and the combination of old and new live alongside the historic Basque images from the past. The dignified chalets lend Bayonne an air of the southern Tyrol, with

St Jean-de-Luz, with its ideal sheltered bay, whaling, tuna and sardine port, offers a peaceful contrast to the sun-drenched paseo strollers on the other side of the border. The little church of Louis XIV is renowned and the old fishing birthplace of composer Maurice Ravel stands in nearby Ciboure. A gay mixture of old and new buildings look out on an enchanting skyline of mountains and sea and the tall Rhune mountain provides excursions for the country lover. Sun lovers can bask on a good curved stretch of sand and be in the mountains for the afternoon, or relax amongst the stylish shops and watch the artists in the main square.

The Spanish landscape beyond the frontier towns of Hendave and Irun is dusty and harsh, but the rolling green hills follow the coastline until the arid browns and emeralds meet in San Sebastian.

French festivals are usually during early September, when open-air theatre, pelota, folklore, fireworks and history are the order of the day, as all the bounding Basques reach for the stars.

The Basques are sporting people, fond of good living and their flute and bagpipes herald their wild fandango on festive occasions. Their love of sport and dancing is part of their own special gift of independence. On every small front next to their village churches, you can see white-clad players with red berets competing in their national pelota. Sometimes, the village

priest joins in with small boys, usually found hitting a ball up against a wall in the region.

From April to October, the characteristic song of the mountaineers, who make wonderful shepherds, mingles with the lively music of the mixicos and the abandon of the dancing. The gaiety of a Basque fête brings out the white costumes and there is a meteor of peace beneath the mountain sky.

The seven provinces — four French and three Spanish — cover a region of unique colouring and strange luminosity. This is particularly striking in Spring and Fall, when the tints of the trees are softened by the southern wind merging into the green and purple mountains. The carpet of meadows brim with emerald fauna over the red and green wooden chalet-style houses.

When Spring arrives, there is the added delight of rippling torrents abounding in trout and salmon. There is little industry and most Basques make a living out of farming and fishing, if they haven't answered the call to wide adventure across the Atlantic. The summer months are always clear for an influx of tourists, but strangely enough, the winds and rain forewarn sun-lovers who often give the lands a miss. The Basque enjoys many sunlit days, when the landscape is fresh and sparkling and the mountains have enhanced the full beauty of the villages.

They eat and drink well and always active, proud of their customs and origin, but always capable of courtesy to anyone interested in their way of life. They have a solid reputation for eating and produce strong wine and good liquor, such as Spanish Rioja and French Izarra. There is a local saying in the mountains that the Basque must be a true Basque if he goes on foot, is fond of Izarra and plays pelota.

Perhaps the most lasting impressions can be conjured up at night, when during fiesta time, an old Basque song might burst through the plane trees and linger in the memory. There are many beautiful places in the world, but few as independent as this little kingdom in the south west corner of the Pyrenees, bidding the traveller to return.

AOIS MHOR

Chaochail 'a' Bhean-phosda Oighrig Robasdan mios an deidh dh' ceud bliadhna 'a' ruigheachd. Bha i 'a' fuireach ann an Sleibhte 'san Eilean Sgiathanach.

BAN-PHRIONNSA AIR GHAIHDEALTAICH

Air 'a' cheud latha d'èin Cheitein b'hidh 'a' Bhana-phrionnsa Alexandra air chuiar 'a' Ghaidhealtachd. 'A' b'hiobas 'a' fòsgradh ospadal Creag Phadraig ann an Inbhirnis.

ON a visit to Vatten, Isle of Skye, last year, Mr Russell Johnston, Liberal M.P. for Inverness, received representations from a number of people in the district that it would be very desirable to have a jetty at Harlosh. At that time, Mr Johnston suggested that as an earnest of their concern, the people is Harlosh might form themselves into an association to achieve this end.

The Harlosh and District Development Club was later formed under the Secretaryship of Mr Donald Campbell.

Mr Johnston raised the matter with the Highlands and Islands Development Board and the County Council, and has now had a reply from the County Clerk. This indicates that under their OPMAC scheme, the Army are prepared to provide a jetty at Harlosh. They propose to rebuild the jetty alongside the old one which would be dismantled to provide some of the stone. The new jetty would be similar to the old one 25 feet long and 5 feet wide.

As Harlosh Jetty has been given no priority by the County Council, the proposal has been referred to the Skye District Council in the hope that they would consider whether they could sponsor the scheme.

Mr Johnston said: "I very much hope that the District Council will be able to sponsor this scheme which would be of great benefit to the local fishing and tourist industries."

Cuil nan Ceist—19

CLANN MHICLEOID

- Co am bard Leadach a chuir 'a' cheile "Moladh Coille Chrois"
- Cuin a fhuair Fionnghal, Ceann-feadhna nan Leadach an t-urram D.B.E.?
- Lion gach bearn 'sa n-sreath seo—

(a) "Is MacLeod 'sa n—
as am fear treun sin nach maireann."

(Mairead nighean Lachlainn)
(b) "Fhuair sinne greis 'gar n-arach

aig MacLeod a bha 'san —"

(Lachlainn MacFhionghain)
(c) "Ach 's ro mhiann mo dhoigh as abhaist MacLeod —"

(An Duanaig Ullamh)
4. De cho caidreach is a tha am Morair MacLeod (An t-Oil.

Urr, Seoras MacLeod) do Charaid na Gàidheal?

5. Co a bha na chleann-cinnidh air Cloinn MhicLeoid aig toiseach na linn seo?

Fuasgladh air i.d. 9

AG IARRAIDH SOLUIS

Tha e coltach nach faigh muinntir Eaphola solus an dealain diubh 1980. Tha stèag an eilein duimhach gum bheil mail cho mor 'sa chuis. Tha obair an dealain ann an Uibhist-a-Tuath agus Bearnaraigh an ire mhaith.

Naidheachdan Mu Na h-Eaglaisean Air A' Ghaidhealtachd

Le "FEAR-FAIRE"

EAGLAIS NA H-ALBA

Cuairt a' Mhoderator

Bha an t-Oll. Urr, Tòmas M. MacCalmain, Moderator an Ard Sheanaidh anns na h-Eileanan a rithist bho chionn ghoirid. Bha e air turas ann am Muile, agus shearmonaich e ann am Beurla agus ann an Gàidhlig ann an Tobair Mhoire.

Gàidhlig an Inbhirnis

Uair 'sa mhios tha seirbhis Ghàidhlig air a cumail anns an Eaglais an Ear ann an Inbhirnis. Aig an t-seirbhis mu dheireadh bha an t-Urr, Iain R. MacChilleathain a' searmonachadh.

Comunn a' Bhiobuill

Bho chionn ghoirid bha an t-Urr, Uilleam MacNeill a' labhairt ann an eaglais chrombaigh. Tha esan 'na fhear-stiùirdh aig comunn Nàiseanta a' Bhiobuill, agus dh'innis e mu obair a' Chomuinn.

Orduighean

Air Tairbeart na Hearadh bha an t-Urr, D. A. MacRath air a chuideachadh leis na h-Urr, Iain Mac an t-Saoir (Strath-phoeafarin) Aonghas

MacPhàrlain (Baile na Cille) agus Domhnall MacAmhlaigh (Leumrabbagh). A' searmonachadh ann am Barabhas bha an t-Urr, Uilleam M. Domhnallach (Faibh) agus Uilleam Domhnallach (An Rudha). Aig Orduighean a' Chlachain bha an t-Urr, Tormod Domhnallach air a chuideachadh leis na h-Urr, Aonghas F. MacFhionnghain (Eaglais chalium chille, Glaschu) agus Uilleam MacLeod (Tiridhe).

Fialaidheachd

Aig a' choimheachd mu dheireadh a chunn Clàir Lathairne agus Mhuile chaidh innse gun deach tabhartas nan coimhthionail an àirde an uiridh. Thug iad mìle not a bharrachd seachad airson obair na h-Eaglais ann an 1969.

AN EAGLAIS SHAOR

Ceud Bliaidhna

Air an t-17mh latha de'n chèitean 1870, dh'fhoilladh an Eaglais shaor ann an Inbhir-phoeafarin. Bidh seirbhisean sònraichte air an cumail uair a bhios an eaglais ceud bliadhna a' dh'aois, agus a' searmonachadh bidh am



AIR TUR NA FAIRE

AN EAGLAIS SHAOR

CHLEIREIL

Orduighean

Aig a' Chomanachadh air Tairbeart na Hearadh bha na seirbhisear air an cumail leis na h-Urr, Iain MacLeod (steornabhagh) agus Domhnall MacNeacail.

Tubaist

Bhris an t-Urr, Iain Domhnallach a dha chois nuair a bhuail an car air aig ann an lampa-sràide. Tha e 'na mhinistear 'Sa Ghearasdan, agus is an do na Hearadh a bhigheas e.

SOP AS GACH SEID . . .

AIR FEADH an t-saoghail chum mnathan as gach Eaglais Latha Urnuigh air an t-6mh latha de'n Mhàrt. Chumadh corr is mìle de na coimheachdan sin ann an Albainn, cuid mhat dhùibh air a Ghaidhealtachd.

BIDH AM FEAR-DEAS-ACHAIDH fada an comain leughaidh sam bith a chuireas naidheachdan thuige.

GUTH O NA LATHEAN A DH' FHALBH: 'Innisibh do nighnean Shian, Feuch tha do Rìgh a' teachd a' t-ionnsaidh gu cluin, agus e 'na shrudhe air a sail (Lucas XXI: 5).

ministear ainmeil, an Dotair Màrtainn Lloyd-Jones. Bidh leabhran air a chlo-bhualladh 28 nàise mu eachdraidh a' choimhthionail.

Am Miosachan

Ann an àireamh a' Mhàirt de'n mhiosachan tha ionmradh air a thoirt seachad air posadh a' mhinistear ùir ri coimhthionail Buccleuch — Greyfriars ann an Dun-èideann. Is esan an t-Urr, Uilleam Greum a bhigheas do Chataibh. A' searmonachadh aig seirbhis a' phòsaidh bha an t-Urr, Domhnall MacLaomainn a bha a' labhairt air 1 Corintianach XV:58.

Comanachadh

Air a' cheud Sàbaid de'n Ghiblean bidh Sacramaid Suiper an Tighearna air a friteadhail anns na sgìrean Gàidhealach a leanas: Brea-

cadal, An Gearasdan, Doruis, An Cnoe, An storr agus Uige Leòdhais.

Coinneamh am Brùra

Chum mnathan coimhthionail Bhùra coinneamh bho chionn ghoirid aig an robh an t-Urr, Eeachann camshon 'na fhear-labhairt. Tha e air a bhith air chuairt ann an Israel agus bha e a' bruidheann mu dheidhinn na dùthaich sin.

Orduighean

Aig a' Chomanachadh ann an Cille-mhailidh bha an t-Urr, Domhnall Domhnallach (Inbhirnis) agus an t-Urr Uisdean MacCaig (Ros-cuibhne) a' searmonachadh.

Groiteirean nan Uachdarain Bheaga?

(Continued from page 2)

healach agus is sin an seors' uachdarannach a tha aig sluagh an Gleanndail an Eilean Sgiathanaich far an deach cotrom a thoirt do na daoine ann fearann a cheannach gu h-uile agus gu h-iomlan, agus a' chosgais a phaidheadh beag is beag tha nam bliadnaichean. Buinidh am fearann dhaibh a nis agus tha a h-uile sgillinn dhen chosgais paidhte agus e aca dhaibh thein. Se sin an sgeime a b'hiach an t-saathair.

'Se seo an t-am a bhi a'nochdadh na nitean sin agus ag cur nan aghaidh gu laidir. Chan ann a diutredh na tha air a theigris sin dhaibh, ach a seasamh a mach airson uachdarannach is fhaich an t-saathair. Chan fhaod sinn leigeadh leo nìche a sparadh oirnn leughaidh air toil. Tha sinn ro colach air a bhi faicinn luchd-rìghlaidh an latha 'n diugh a'sparraidh an toil fein air daoine an aghaidh an toil, agus chan ann a deanamh toil an t-sluaigh mar bu choir dhaibh. Co a sparr oirnn na maduimean dorch a an aghaidh

ar toil? Chan ann ga' toil, no le iarrtas an t-sluaigh ach ge boil leo.

Sin mar a ni iad a thaobh "Crofter Ownership." Thoircaid ann a' aire! Tha cuid ann (agus co a chuireadh coir orra) a tha air an sarachadh feadh na linteann le droch uachdarain 's gun aonachaidh iad air sgath a bhi cuidhteas nan uachdarain. Ach mor 's gu bheil toil a bhi cuidhteas nan uachdarain mhora, maith no dona iad, chan fhaod sinn a bhi tigeadh a mach air sgath geallaidhean faoine, an ni as fhearr a thaighean roamh dhan' Ghaidhealtachd — Achd nan Croiteirean a dhion agus a gheidh sinn feadh iomadh linn.

CUIL NAN CEIST

Fuasgladh

1. Eeachann MacLeod (18 mh linn).
2. 1953.
3. (a) Hearadh.
(b) Dun.
(c) Leodhas.
4. far-ogha.

5. Tormod Manus MacLeod.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE TZAR

Continued from page 4
brother Peter, life in Moscow was a hazardous affair. Amongst all the intrigues Gordon remained strictly neutral. He writes, however, of "rumours unsafe to be uttered," and is said to have warned Peter that his life was threatened. When finally he did back Peter, his prestige was such, that all important foreigners in Moscow followed him.

Meanwhile, in 1785 he set off for London again. He had been very reluctantly granted leave on compassionate grounds. His parents having died, he wished to visit his family estate. Sophia, however, insisted that his wife and family remain in Russia, as hostages for his return.

In London, James VII and II was now king. In the king's company, Gordon visited the forts of Tilbury and Sheerness. He also saw the king review Scots troops in Hyde Park.

Then he was off to Edinburgh and Aberdeen. He was made much of in both cities. It was with a "sadd heart" that he saw Scotland fade from his sight when he sailed from Aberdeen.

Yet, in his pocket he had a letter from king James in which the latter wrote that "... Our trusty and well beloved subject Patrick Gordon hath served your Imperial Majesties many years, and now he serveth in the quality of Lieutenant-General; who now, by decease of his father, is to inherit lands, for which he is to perform personal service to us . . . and he goes to request that you would direct him to the

Patrick Gordon, with his wife, children, family and affects, out of your dominions . . ."

Under threats to his family, Gordon was compelled to withdraw his request to leave Russia for good and retire to Scotland. Instead, he found himself in the Crimea fighting the Tartars.

When Peter became Tzar, he treated Patrick Gordon with every possible mark of favour. So much so that there was much grumbling about the privileges enjoyed by Gordon.

Gordon himself would probably have dispensed gladly with the Tzar's gifts and friendship. Peter was a talented man, a reformer of his country, but subject to fits of rage, and capable of cruelties which Gordon, a civilised and humane man, must have found nauseating.

On the birth of Peter's son, Alexis, Gordon paraded his troops before the Tzar, drawing them up in three lines, one kneeling, the second stooping and the third standing. As the drums rolled, they fired simultaneously and the colours were dipped. Peter was delighted. So much so, that he insisted that the unfortunate soldiers repeat the operation again and again.

Peter was a frequent visitor at Gordon's home in Moscow. He must have been a trying guest at times. He liked experimenting with fireworks. On one occasion he blew off the head of a boyar! It is unlikely that she gave the matter a second's con-

Peter's great love was ships. He Europeanised both his army and navy. So keen was he on the navy that he visited Holland and England to see the shipyards, working as a shipwright in Holland, and taking back with him to Russia, mechanics from that country.

On an expedition to Archangel, Peter made General Gordon honorary "Rear-Admiral." He himself was "The Skipper." His ships meant far more to Peter than his wife and son.

When the revolution of 1689 exiled the Stewarts, Patrick Gordon refused to accept the accession of William and Mary. For him there was "only one king — James. At a fashionable party in Russia, he firmly refused to drink the health of the man he considered a usurper.

Years later, one of Patrick Gordon's sons also an officer in the Russian service was to serve king James's son in the '15, and to settle and die in Scotland.

Patrick Gordon died in November 1699. Peter was shattered. He was genuinely attached to the Scot, who was so unlike him in temperament and tastes. In Gordon's last illness, Peter had visited him regularly. Now he pined for him.

Patrick Gordon was given a magnificent state funeral. His coffin was carried by twenty-eight colonels; with his widow walked ladies of the highest rank. He was laid to rest in the little Catholic chapel, he had himself founded with the Tzar's permis-

Domhnall Domhnallach Tairbeart na Hearradh

PAIPEARAN NAIDHEACHD IS UIDHEAM DHEALBH
(Photo Equipment)

LADIES AND GENT'S CLOTHES

CLO HEARRACH — STOCANNEAN IS FIGHE

Comunn na Gaidhlig an Lunnainn

MP SPEAKS ON CROFTING LAW

Addressing a well attended meeting of the Gaelic Society of London, of which he is chief, Mr Alasdair MacKenzie, M.P., outlined his views on crofting reform last Saturday at the Royal Scottish Corporation, Fetter Lane, London.

As the son of a shepherd at Suinsh, Skye, he grew up amongst the ruins of croft houses whose people had been evicted. Thirty-two families had been ordered to remove their cattle from pasture and themselves from their holdings in 1853. The Crofters' Act of 1886 guaranteed security to those who remained provided rent was paid and regulations observed. This has been the chief factor in stabilising the population of the Highlands. It is now possible for an absentee crofter in the south to get a feu of land so that he can retire to the croft house and enable the land to be used to enlarge other crofts. Justice on relinquishment of croft land is secured by the Scottish Land Court. The improvements to the croft are valued and made good to the outgoing tenant.

The Crofters Commission has now suggested that crofters become **landowners** and their rents to become 20 year annuities. Is it a good or a bad thing for a crofter to become an owner-occupier.

The crofter has many benefits as a tenant: security of tenure, compensation for improvements on giving up, and eligibility for various grants. It is noticeable that on Orkney, where owner-occupiership is common that housing is not so modern as in Lewis. Owner-occupiers do not get building grants. One could not get a government to guarantee the continuance of cropping, fencing and draining grants to owner-occupiers of crofting land. Common grazing without crofting security would be difficult to share—this is a principal source of crofting income. It is vital to ensure that crofters displaced by future industrial development should be properly compensated for reclaiming the land from the rough.

We should continue the present system but have a hard look at compensation when crofting land is taken. The original crofters had been evicted from the best land. Much crofting land today has been reclaimed from the moor.

It will be difficult for those brought up on the land to acquire or inherit smallholdings if crofting tenure is abolished. An ageing owner-occupier will sell the croft for the maximum profit to a rich outsider wanting a holiday home. An intending crofter starting from the bottom will have great difficulty getting started. The young Highlander would not have a chance compared with those prepared to pay for a holiday home.

Mr MacKenzie had evidence that the majority of our most progressive crofters were against this change.

*Crofters' Chairman to Chair
London Mod*

Mr James Shaw Grant, Chairman of the Crofters Commission is to chair the 1970 Mod Grand Concert in St Pancras (Camden) Town Hall, London, N.W.1, on Saturday, 30th May. Amongst the artists appearing will be Norman MacLean, Ian MacFadyen, Evelyn Campbell and Joan MacKenzie, together with mod prizewinners from the competitions to be held earlier that day.

The Society will also meet at the R.S.C. Hall for a bring and buy sale and dance on 7th March, for an evening arranged by Mr Hamish Graham on 11th April, for an entertainment arranged by Gaelic learners on 2nd May and at the Old Deer Park, Richmond on 9th May, where the society will be arranging a clachan at the London Highland Games.

GROUP FOR IRISH SPEAKING FAMILIES

Na Teaghlaigh Gaeilcha is ten years old and has almost 90 families on its membership roll at present.

At the recent annual meeting of the organisation Seosamh O'Gortaigh, Chairman said Irish-speaking parents found that they were required to do battle with the various state agencies and authorities to obtain services through Irish. It was the aim of Na Teaghlaigh Gaeilcha to do this in an organised way because not many had the courage to fight lone battles.

He said the Stiúrthoir of Comhdháil Naisiunta na Gaeilge had announced that a comprehensive plan for the spread of Irish among all sections of Irish society was near completion.

"We as Irish-speaking parents welcome this statement and offer our full support to the plan, particularly if it eases the problems which we experience in endeavouring to lead a full life through Irish," he said.

During 1969/70 the organisation ran many excursions and social occasions for Irish-speaking families. At the moment the committee is trying to discover the extent of support for an all-Irish secondary school for girls on Dublin's south side. The response to a circular was very good and replies are still coming in.

Efforts are continuing to contact the many Irish-speaking families scattered throughout the country. It has been through the Teaghlaigh Gaeilcha that Irish-speakers have discovered that near neighbours were also Irish-speaking.

Traditionally, small manufacturing—particularly in Ireland—is categorised very often in the craft and cottage line: bannin and woodcuts.

The products of Irish small-scale industries approved, for assistance by the State-sponsored Small Industries Programme are striking evidence of the key, and urbane, role the small firm plays in our economy. These products range from electronic tachometers (revolution counters for motor cars) through steel fabrication and crankshaft regrinding, to fibre-glass, liquers and fishing flies.

George Colley, Minister for Industry and Commerce, has already waxed lyrical on the subject: "Our industrial frame, though young, is putting on weight fast. To balance and strengthen its physique it needs many new sinews—the sinews of small industries" he says in the foreword of the brochure introducing the public to the programme.

The agency with the Governmental brief to foster this side of things is the Industrial Development Authority, a statutory body established under the direction of the Minister for Industry and Commerce, with far-flung international contacts and offices in Chicago, Cologne, Paris and elsewhere. In the past decade, the I.D.A. has attracted more than 300 manufacturing firms from overseas—meaning an estimated capital investment of £90 millions plus in the country and a direct employment potential of almost 40,000.

For Ireland is presently undergoing a metamorphosis changing from an agricultural to an industrial nation—in the past ten years, Irish Industrial exports have soared by 390 per cent, while agricultural exports grew by only 37 per cent. Change is our staple diet, taken for granted, in more ways than one.

A variety of conveniences are available to our manufacturers, and to those who wish to set up here, including technical advice and training, information on marketing, design and presentation, and, by no means least, attractive loans and grants for equipment, workshops and small factories. Grants (non-repayable and cash) of up to 60 per cent of fixed assets for medium size projects can be obtained in certain under-developed or "designated" areas.

But it was only recently that the vitality of the smaller enterprise was realised. In 1967, the Small Industries Programme was unveiled, aimed at the modernisation and expansion of small-scale manufacturing by the provision of an equally enticing range of services in finance, management, production and marketing for even the smallest concerns.

The scheme is based on the aim being to help the small-scale producer to help himself. The programme has access to the most up-to-date commercial facilities and expertise, and is imbued by the most enlightened

political and social conceptions of the moment.

The I.D.A. itself is currently being revamped—the Industrial Development Act 1969 will see the separation of the I.D.A. from the civil service, giving it a semi-state status like that of Aer Lingus or the E.S.B., and the merger of the organisation state body responsible for the payment of grants to new industries.

Although the Small Industries Programme is still in its infancy it is already a proven industrial force. The shortage of "high-risk" capital backing for new ideas and small enterprises is being overcome and new enterprises are proliferating in the countryside—and in the most unlikely places.

Such initiative has boundless scope, and success stories are legion. Holly Park of Limerick Ltd. employs some fifty girls, turning out knitwear (suits, two-pieces, sweaters) to the value of some 150,000 dollars annually, with a round 90 per cent shipped to the U.S.

Now Holly Park displays two collections every year, with showings in New York and London and Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis is among the satisfied customers. Yet this business was started by three

people in the stables behind their house, with a borrowed machine and a subsequent 50 per cent capital grant from the I.D.A.

The Small Industries Programme has already been a catalyst for improved products and even inventions—including a motorised dental chair, a new type hospital bed, several special purpose machines, packaging materials, insulating material for walls, an electronic fish counter, and even ready spawned trays of mushroom compost!

The Industrial Training Authority and the Irish Export Board are more than willing to aid the most humble venture—cases of a few people setting up with very limited finances are the inspiration of the Governmental promoters. Capital, they declare, need be no major barrier; all that is asked is that the project be suitable and practicable, the enthusiasm genuine and determined.

For an enterprise to come under the Small Industries Programme, the number of workers involved in a prospective firm is, in general, less than 30 and the capital invested in fixed assets below £60,000.

(Reprinted from 'The Irish Post')

HEBRIDEAN VIEWPOINT

le Coilleach an t-Sruth
**BARRA — TAIL END
CHARLIE?**

THE island of Barra has ever been in an awkward position in the context of the Western Isles as an identifiable island-archipelago unit. It is often awkward to get to, and to get off, mainly due to the scheduling of the island's sea and air services?

But does this really matter? We think it does. Because the enterprise which has been shown in Barra, and in Vatersay, which lies in Barra's shadow, should be noted for the benefit of the Western Isles as a whole.

But it is all too easy for enterprise, innovation and initiative to be stifled. Take the case of the new airstrip which the Barra folk want to replace the existing tidal beach strip.

The proposal for a new strip was made over 18 months ago. Yet recently, Councillor Fr. M. J. MacLellan had cause to raise the question about a possible blocking of the proposals by Inverness-shire County Council so that the matter is prevented from reaching a higher echelon of authority and decision.

While the delay may well be the natural result of a mass of County Council business, it is a serious matter that proposals which are aimed at improving facilities for the folk on Barra are held up for any length of time.

Time is of vital importance

in an island where the black cloud of emigration, generated by disenchantment, looms large.

What, for instance, has been done since the announcement of the Barra Council of Social Service that the island's population could be increased by over 200 people (at present Barra-born residents in Glasgow) in the space of a few weeks — if only there were the economic opportunities available on the island to absorb the influx?

It would be interesting to hear from Barra whether anything was ever done about this.

It is awkward to be the last in line of a chain of islands. It is the same as being last in the queue, knowing that the best handouts will go to those at the head of the queue.

Barra deserves more than just a superficial kind of treatment which not even a brand new hotel for tourists will go some way to heal a wound which has been exposed for decades.

Official notice of enterprise, however, would really mean something for Barra. Surely there is someone, somewhere . . .

Faillte Do Lybster

THE PORTLAND ARMS
extends a warm welcome
Salmon Fishing, Trout Fishing
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over to you:

"GENOCIDE BY NEGLECT"

Sir,—After 21 years spent in Britain, I, an Australian of Highland descent, have been finally most reluctantly forced to return to the land of my birth, due to sheer economic necessity.

A devoted Scotophile, my name has been on the Project Counterdrift list for service as an agricultural technical officer for many years, and of course I have never heard a single word from the H.I.D.B. This is part of the general tragedy of the Highlands, that there should be so many highly qualified and experienced people like myself who would be prepared to go and work in the Highlands for the most minimal salaries and under very simple living conditions, and who are denied the opportunity to serve the land they hold in such high regard. I remember having a letter published in SRUTH several years ago, and receiving replies from several embittered Highlanders who jeered at my desire to work in the Highlands, and told me that I did not know what I would be letting myself in for, and that I would never stand the conditions, etc. Let me now tell any Highlanders who may feel like this that I shall now have to work in Australia in conditions of extreme heat, loneliness, total lack of civilised facilities, even lack of sufficient water to have a wash, in arid regions hundreds of miles from comforts of any kind. I have

done it before—I can do it again!

Another objection that has often been made to my ideas of working on agricultural recovery in the Highlands is that the major part of the country is so given over to bracken, heather and peat that the task would be impossible, and in any case, what would I, an Australian, know about work of this kind? I can tell such doubters that I have had many years experience in the north of England working successfully on the reclamation of far worse land of this type than any I have seen during my many long visits to the Highlands, and that there are now areas of land that were once peat hags that it was almost impossible to walk on them in Lancashire that are now growing good cereal crops and potatoes. The farmers in that area also jeered at our intended efforts. Now that the job is done, they cheerfully discount all credit that we might have claimed for this "miracle," and claim all the credit for themselves. We did not mind this—agricultural scientists do not exist for the purpose of basking in the credit for a job well done—they are too busy getting on with the next one.

Too many people forget that the Highlands once supported over 2 million people and all their livestock, and that in the primitive conditions of over 200 years ago, if the 20th century has not got the skills and the means to support another 2

million people in the Six Counties, then it is a pretty poor look out for the 20th century! For my part, I would be pleased enough for a start if enough work could be done to stop the present loss of Highland population, and at least maintain a status quo of a kind, instead of standing helplessly by and watching what amounts to slow racial genocide of the native Gael by cynical neglect. As I have tried to point out to several Australian friends of Highland descent, at the present rate, there will be no Gaels left in the Highlands by A.D. 2010, and the job so brutally begun on an April day in 1746 will be completed.

The awful part about it is that I have an impression that this is the final consummation that is desired at heart by everybody, even the dejected Highlanders themselves, who show every sign of being affected by a racial suicide wish. If this is so, then the case is hopeless indeed. Yours etc.,

T. G. SMITH
Flat 2, 4 Newton Court,
St Kilda,
Victoria, 3182.

NATIONALIST NOTES

Sir,—A copy of "Sruth" of December 11th last has just come into my hands, and I should like to comment on the letter from Mr G. H. L. Buxton.

Mr Buxton takes Mr Berresford Ellis to task for uncritically quoting some passages from other nationalist writings, and among these are some quotations from one of the weekly articles which Méc Vannin, the Manx Nationalist Organisation, contributes to the "Isle of Man Times" under the general heading "Nationalist Notes."

First, Mr Buxton asserts that the British Empire was not, as we stated, "lost" in a mere quarter of a century, but "given away." Well, to go further back in history, rash indeed would be the historian who would maintain that the American colonies or the Twenty-six countries were "given away." They were prizes of war, won by conflict and suffering, agony and death. In more recent times (apart from the special cases of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, where colonies were indeed given freely to the inhabitants—not, be it noted, to the natives, but to the dominant settlers of mainly British origin), let us look at the post war period in question, India was "given away," only after a long period of unrest and disobedience, and some violence; Kenya after the horrors of Mau-Mau, Cyprus only after a bitter campaign of terrorism and murder. Many other former colonies have admittedly been yielded up with comparative good grace with only minimal trouble, but it is surely fair to say that in general they were only freed when it became plain even to the most obtuse Whitehall diarch that it was becoming politically impossible to hang on to them.

Secondly, Mr Buxton objects to our description of the average Englishman as imperialist in outlook. Well, of course, such sweeping generalisations

are always to some extent unfair, but not too much so in this instance. We in Mannin are perhaps even more exposed to the impact of the Sostnagh incomer than any other region from Kerry to Caithness. (It's a fair guess that this accelerating immigration is not wholly unconnected with our low rate of taxation, which our insular government is actually and avowedly using, to the bitter shame and disgust of the nationalist minority, as a bait to attract wealthy settlers, so that we can collect their taxes for ourselves.) We have had a long experience of the Sostnagh, and while of course not claiming that their "Herrenvolk" outlook is expressed in any arrogant or supercilious way (the Manx are too cowed and too habituated to colonial inferiority to make any such attitude necessary) it shows itself obviously in a total inability to understand what the deuce this nationalist lark is all about. Even after the traumatic experiences of losing (pace Mr Buxton) their Empire in 25 years, they still take English hegemony over its remaining fragments for granted. Nothing learnt, nothing forgotten. But it would be surprising if it were not so; all of them over forty were educated in an atmosphere of opinion which accepted British domination of a quarter of the world as much a law of nature as the law of gravitation.

As for Scotland and Wales not being "dominated" from Westminster—well, what's in a word? To "dominate" need not imply a big stick or an army of occupation; it's only necessary to ask where are the corridors of power, political, economic, diplomatic etc. There can be only one answer.

It is a dangerous fallacy, and one of which nationalists in all Celtic countries should rid themselves, to suppose that generous representation at Westminster, or even the grant of Home Rule on Manx lines, does anything to advance the kind of national independence and integrity for which Celtic nationalists are working. Indeed, quite the contrary, as we here know to our cost. The worst handicap to a nation desiring freedom is the delusion that it has it already.

Don't ever settle for Home Rule, a Regional Parliament, or any other gimmick; to accept any such concession only means that you cease to be a colony, but become a Rural District Council. The leading-strings are longer, but make no mistake, they're still there, and the same fingers grasp the other end.

For imperialism, even on its last legs, "dominate" is the key word.

L. V. CRELLIN
"Girvan,"
Rheast Lane,
Peel, Mannin.

GAELIC BY CORRESPONDENCE

A Chairdean,
I would like to mention the following. First, Donnchadh Mac Labruinn has proposed to use the term Tir na Machrach for "The Netherlands" in

stead of the old term "An Aland." Tir na Machrach is almost an exact translation of the Dutch Nederland. An Aland like Holland only indicates part of The Netherlands, viz. the two provinces of North and South Holland. But there are eleven provinces in the Netherlands in all.

The second point is: how many readers of SRUTH and others, especially outside Gaidhlig speaking areas and outside Alba, would be interested in a correspondence course for Gaidhlig by post? And if there is a sufficient number of would-be students, who will take the task to provide us with such a course? This job might be something for the universities. If there are no evening classes it is possible to study Gaidhlig from such books as MacKenzie and MacLaren, but to have a teacher, who corrects one's work and whom one can ask all questions is by far a better way of studying a language when there are no native speakers in one's place of residence.

And last: who has not yet joined Communn na Canain Albannaich I am sure Donnchadh MacLabruinn needs active members all over the country and abroad. And everyone can help now by very simply writing all addresses on letters etc. in Gaidhlig (names of people, streets, places and countries). Of course this alone will not mean the restoration of the Gaidhlig to her former place—much more education and courage and love is needed for that—but it is one of the first steps, and everyone can help. The P.O. need a lot of training for some of my letters for Bruach Chluaidh, Siormarach Dhun Breatuinn went to Bruichladdich, Ile first. The P.O. still have to get used to our new spirit and new way of addressing our letters.

Is mise, leis meas moir,
HANS UYL,
Oirschodhich 25,
Eindhoven
(Tir na Machrach/Nederland)

ON CROFTER OWNERSHIP!

Sir,—I have the highest respect for Mr Alasdair MacKenzie, M.P. for Ross and Cromarty, indeed a sincere and dedicated Highlander.

But I must disagree with his stand on croft ownership.

The trouble with Scots and Scotland is this ever abiding concern with security.

There is an old adage, with wisdom in it, to the effect that "nothing venture nothing win."

Let the crofters grasp the thistle of ownership, and take the chance that the thorns may strike deep. But at one and the same time let these prickly wounds remind each and everyone of them that they have the ultimate stake in Scotland and the Highlands. They are the true owners of the land. Therefore let them take possession, without fear of any of the consequences, to which Mr MacKenzie alludes.

And let all Scots be that bold. Even if some choose to let go, and sell off to a Sassen-

(Continued on page 12)



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Review Order

walk past and ignore the bargain, "Ye cam' be lookin'." Buy, look and enjoy this celebration of life, this feast of fine writing.

"The Serpent" by Neil M. Gunn: Club Leabhar, Aberart House, Church Street, Inverness; 9s plus post.

MERTHYR TO MYKONOS

Le MacMhuirich MacAustan
The Liting House: An Anthology of Anglo-Welsh Poetry 1917-67, edited by John Stuart Williams and Meic Stephens, with an introduction by Raymond Garlick London and Llandybie, 1969).

This anthology does not belie its title (taken from Dylan Thomas' evocation of his golden singing youth in the poem "Fern Hill"), in their selection the editors, both distinguished Welsh poets, show a sureness and deftness of touch that makes the volume a joy to read. The anthology runs from W. H. Davies, born almost a century ago to Meic Stephens who was born on the eve of the Second World War, and it runs with the deep-vowelled musical purposefulness of the Merioneth mountain streams I knew when younger.

The geographical range of the poetry it presents is from Merthyr to Mykonos (is this impact of the Atic sunshine on Welsh poets similar to its impact on those early Greeks who moved into the Mediterranean world from the cooler greener lands to the north three millennia ago?) and beyond, in Alun Lewis' Indian poems.

But even when not about Wales what these poems express is, in Raymond Garlick's words, "Welsh in the sense that it is being presented by a sensibility which . . . is not English." All of them are Welsh in that they are ultimately statements about what it is like to be a Welsh human being. But some of them are Welsh in this fullest sense, that not only are they written by Welshmen or about Wales—they are written for Wales."

It is invidious to single out individual poets, since virtually every significant Anglo-Welsh poet of the last half-century is represented. More relevant than personalities is the recurrence of certain themes which enhances the close-textured quality of the anthology—the historical roots of Wales and the problem of

national survival; the future of the two languages in Wales; the corrosion of traditional life and values and of the land itself by the impact of metropolitan England; the social protest against an often inhuman economic system; above all, the qualities of humanity and compassion, whether for those who fought "with banners, hymns, tight bellies" for a decent life in the valleys of South Wales or for those who struggle still on the hill farms of the North "Castaways on a sea/of grass, who call to me/Clinging to their doomed farms". . .

Raymond Garlick describes the work of these two score poets as a "steady gale at one clearly defined acre of the experience of Europe" and this "European consciousness" is one of the most striking features of the work of many of the poets. And in Raymond Garlick's poem "Capitals" this Europe-encompassing vision is set out clearly:

"Europe
young Ap Iwan's yard,
Gruffydd Robert's vision's scope,
Morgan Llwyd's hoist petard:
source to which our ballads grope
—context, compass-card
and hope"

Indeed, in poems such as this, *The Liting House* demonstrates conclusively the truth stressed by all the Celtic nationalist movements—that a healthy nationalism is the only basis on which a genuine internationalism can be built. . . For, as John Tripp has put it: " . . . who loves not his own patch of plundered soil, learns nothing of pity for all men"

(Poetry Wales, Spring 1969, p. 41)

AM BORD 'SNA H-EILEANAN

(Continued from page 1)

ri £6 millean a' cuir ri 1,100 de obraichean agus a' deam-am a'fear air airson 4051 a dhaoine. As an seo chaidh £1.7m. ri obair fearaidh, £1.9m. ri turasachd, £1.1m. iasgach, £282,000 ri obair fearainn.

THE fishing industry of the Highlands and Islands will be on show at the Scottish Fisheries Exhibition in Aberdeen in June. Each of the main sectors of the trade—catching, processing, boat-building and equipment manufacture—will be represented on the Highland stand.

Harris Tweed Shop

(C. & J. Morrison)

Buth a Chlo Hearrach

Stocainnean . Tweed Slippers

Tweed Deertalkers . Hose and Working Shoes

TARBERT, HARRIS

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over to you

each or two, that after all is free enterprise, that same free enterprise which made Britain once the chief merchant of the world.

Socialism, while it might bring false succor to the needy, like the sirens of old, attracts the wayward travellers on to the seeming paradise. Yet on that isle dwelt the vicious vipers of Lassitude, Fear, False Security, Sloth, Idleness, Indifference, Self-centredness, Ill-omen.

We were put on this earth to toil, and to do our best. By ownership we have a double responsibility—to our land, and to our folk.

Eschey Mr Mackenzie's fearfulness and false premises. Take up the responsibility of ownership, and let the Devil take the hindmost.

With all good wishes, however, to that stalwart Highlander, the M.P. for Ross and Cromarty.

Scotland forever—Yours etc.,
Coinneach Iain Eachainn
MhicLeoid

NORMAN McCAIG

"Poets are sometimes more political than politicians," commented Mr Norman McCaig opening a discussion on "Contemporary Scottish Poets," arranged by the Inverness Branch of the Scottish National Party.

"That is the reason poets, artists and novelists are the first to be put against the wall. Politicians are persuadable, but artists and writers are a stiff-necked lot and they keep on doing what they have to do. In Scotland, today, we have more poets of merit than have ever existed simultaneously in our history and they are writing in three languages, Gaelic, Scots and English, living in different parts of the country and every one an individualist." Mr McCaig was in no doubt that the flowering of such talent was a reflection of the increased consciousness of Scottish nationality, made up of divers geographic and linguistic backgrounds each of which lends its own local colour to the whole pattern of Scottish culture.

But poets must be measured internationally, claimed Mr McCaig, and he thought Hugh MacDiarmid and Sorley MacLean were the equal of poets writing anywhere in the world today.

After touching on the work of George Mackay Brown, Ian Crichton Smith, Sidney Good-sir Smith and Maurice Lland-sir and reading extracts from their poems and some of his own, there followed a very lively discussion and a stimulating exchange of ideas ranging over the "kailyard," the influence (good and bad) of education of people's understanding of what poetry is, and the need to develop a critical faculty which seeks always the best of its kind whether in 'pop', tradition music or poetry. Mr McCaig's abrasive wit and scintillating vocabulary delighted his audience who could truthfully say there was never a dull moment.

Gaelic Broadcasts

Thursday, 19th March

12.00 noon News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

7.00 p.m. V.H.F.—In the Highlands: An all sorts magazine—comment, interview, music and song from Gaidelom (recorded).

Friday, 20th March

12.00 noon News in Gaelic.

6.3 p.m. Taobh Tuath Earraigh-aideal (North Argyll): Alasdair Cameron from Ardmurchan on whom Edinburgh University conferred an honorary M.A. degree last year in recognition of his scholarship, talking to Fred Macaulay about his personal choice of Gaelic songs and music (recorded).

10.35 p.m. Television (BBC-1) Highland Transmitters: Bonni Cromraidh: A close scrutiny of events each month, the world around, in the Highlands and beyond.

Monday, 23rd March

12.00 noon News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

Tuesday, 24th March

12.00 noon News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

4.00 p.m. Mo' Chearn-sa (My District): A series of talks about the more remote islands. This week—the island of Raasay as seen by John MacLean (recorded).

6.30 p.m. Eilean Spailpaigh na Hearadh (The Island of Skye): Neil Campbell introduces a selection of songs and poetry from Scalpay Harris (recorded).

Wednesday, 25th March

12.00 noon News in Gaelic.

6.30 p.m. Masters of Piping 6. John MacDonald (1866-1953). The last of a series in which Seumas MacNeill talks about the life and times—and the musical influence of famous pipes of the past. Musical illustrations by Pipe-Major Robert U. Brown and Pipe-Major Donald MacLeod (recorded).

Thursday, 26th March

12.00 noon News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

7.00 p.m. V.H.F.—In the Highlands: An all sorts magazine—comment, interview, music and song from Gaidelom (recorded).

Friday, 27th March

12.00 noon News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

6.30 p.m. Siream Sios. Siream Suas: A Look Around for new talent in music and song. Introduced from Aberdeen by Duncan MacLeod (recorded).

Births

LONG — At Queen Mother Wing, Arbroath, on 8th March 1970, to Michael and Judy (nee Greaves), Garnet Bank, 6 Collier Street, Carnoustie, Angus — a son. (Both well).

MACCELLAN—At Belford Hospital, Fort William, on 3rd March 1970, to John and Morag (nee Cameron), Eilean Shona, Achard, a daughter; both well. Deo gratis. Thanks to Dr Sen and nursing staff.

Deaths

MACCORMICK — Suddenly, at 77 Ardsmonie, Eochair, South Uist, on 3rd March 1970, Archie MacCormick, aged 58 years, R.I.P.

PERRIE — Suddenly, at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on 5th March 1970, James Fraser (Jim), beloved husband of Flora, Martin, Kildradd, Councillors' Walk, Forres. Interred Clovenstone Cemetery, Forres.

Misc.

AN T-EILEANACH. Leabhar misail Eaglais Bhearnaraigh — gu leir ann a Gaidhlig. 10/- sa bliadhna o An T-Eileanach, Bernery, Lochmaddy, North Uist.

Situations

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