

# SRUTH

DI-ARDAOIN, 22mh LATHA FHAOILTEACH 1970 THURSDAY, 22nd JANUARY 1970 No.74 Sixpence

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Looking towards Portree, Isle of Skye, from the Storr Cliffs.

## Crofter Ownership "Not Of Real Benefit"

MR Alasdair Mackenzie, M.P. for Ross and Cromarty and a former member of the Crofters Commission, criticised the commission's proposals for making crofters owners of their holdings, in an address to the Aberdeen University Celtic Society on Tuesday 13th January.

They had failed to produce sufficient proof that these would be of real benefit to the Highlands or that a legal change could bring about a noticeable improvement in the crofting economy.

The commission's recommendations, said Mr Mackenzie, had been given very wide publicity and had been presented in a manner that would give the impression they were universally welcomed by the crofters.

In fact, it was because a large proportion of their most progressive crofters disagreed with this view that he had decided to make his opinions public.

"The commission has presented one side of the picture and I want to present the

other. The commission claim this to be the most important change in crofting tenure since 1886. I would agree that it would be the biggest change but, speaking with respect, I would say that it would be showing a lamentable disrespect to the memory of the great men of 1886 if we were to put the 1886 Act and the commission's 1968 proposals on a par," he said.

Outlining the background to present crofting legislation, Mr Mackenzie said that towards the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century there had been an increased demand for meat and meat products from the south because of the industrial revolution. Some of the Highland lairds dis-

covered that they could get much higher rents from Lowland farmers who were particularly interested in sheep breeding, than the native crofters could afford to pay. But in order to pay those rents the Lowland farmers had demanded a written lease and vacant possession of the grazing. This meant that the crofters had had to go to the rocky coast-lands, the barren uplands, the cities of the south or the wastes of Canada.

This was "the Clearances" of which so much has been written and which were so inhuman that no Highlander could even think about them without a sense of shame.

On some estates no crofter had any security if his land would yield a higher rent than he could afford to pay. Lowland farmers had come up with their flocks chiefly from the Borders, and these flocks did extremely well on the green pastures which had been reclaimed from the rough state by the crofters

## Wester Ross Mod Cancelled

At the A.G.M. of the Wester Ross Provincial Mod held in Poolewe last Monday it was unanimously decided that a Mod could not be held in the area in 1970.

"This is a direct result of the registration of qualified teachers with the G.T.C.," said the chairman of the committee, Mr Duncan MacLeod, Auchtercairn School. "In spite of representations to the County Education Authority and An Comunn Gàidhealach it has not been possible to resolve the situation. Apparently qualified music teachers are not interested in coming to Wester Ross."

### Expressed concern

Miss Kay Matheson, Inverisdale who is secretary of the committee expressed concern with a side effect of the formation of the General Teaching Council that would militate against Gaelic. "This is pos-

sibly the result of a lack of understanding of the precarious position of Gaelic in certain areas. I feel that special consideration should be given to the appointment of instructors in this case," she said.

### Major items

The Wester Ross Mod has become recognised as one of the major items in "Gairloch Week" promoted at the end of May each year, mainly for the entertainment of tourists in the area.

This is not the only area that will be deprived of the services of a music teacher as a consequence of the G.T.C. Both Skye and Lewis are affected and it is possible that the provincial Mods in these areas may suffer also. The long term effect could be reflected in a reduction in entries in the National Mod.

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## Celtica - today

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

by P. Berresford Ellis

Feumaidh mi aideachadh gun bheil mi a' gabhail ionganais aig amannan na tha cuid de na cruth-shuidheachaidh Gaidhlig a' miannachadh na 'Gaidhlig a' bhith 'na canain bheo idir.

Chunnaic mi o cheann ghoirid anns a' phaipear-naidheachd Steornabhaigh sanas air a chuir a mach leis a' choisr-chiùil as Na Lochan. Bha an sanas seo air a sgrìobhadh ann an Sags-bheurla gu leir—a rithidh anns a' phaipear-naidheachd ceunna leugh mi sanas eile fo'n tiodhal—An Commun Gaidhealach. Ars' an sanas seo ann am beurla chruaidh nan sasunnach—

"We are looking for a secretary preferably with a knowledge of Gaelic for Abertarf House."

A Leughadairan reusanta chaneil dith 'sam bith air a' Chanain Albannach airson naimhdean le cairdean mar seo!

What is the attitude of the University of St Andrews (Scotland's oldest university, established in 1411) towards the national language of Scotland? What interests does this great university take in the language? What research does it undertake with all its powerful resources and scholarship?

"I regret to inform you that there is no formal teaching of Celtic Studies in this University, and this includes the teaching and study of Gaelic. Any studies of Gaelic (and there have been occasional studies in the past) have been the result of private arrangement."

Now what of the Post Office's attitude to language?

"The Post Office is sympathetic towards the use of these languages" (the indigenous languages of the U.K. other than English) "but mail which is addressed in a manner which tends to prevent easy and quick reading is an embarrassment to the Post Office staff and is prohibited, consequently we do not encourage the use of indigenous languages for postal addresses as this could easily lead to delay. In fact, parcels etc., handed in at Post Offices are refused unless the English equivalent of the address is added."

What is needed to give the Scottish (Gaidhlig) language a much needed boost and a status is a Postal Campaign. Scots, refusing to use English when addressing letters to persons in A' Ghaidhealtachd would—within six to twelve months, gain recognition by the postal authorities to the language. If the Welsh can achieve this, why not the Scots?

It is a simple way, a non-fantastical way, but an effective way! Why not make 1970 a Campaign for Recognition of the Scottish (Gaidhlig) language by the Post Office year? Let everyone address one letter every week to a friend in Scottish (Gaidhlig). The postal authorities would soon take the hint!

The New Year has started ill both in Wales and Cornwall. In Cornwall, 34 year old Stephen Fuller of Padstow, has died. As *The Cornish Times* stated: "He had a great awareness of the Redcoats." A Meybon Kernow worker, a keen supporter of the Cornish language, and a great patriot, Stephen Fuller launched *The Padstow Echo* three years ago. It was a monthly magazine devoted to Cornwall. The Cornish national movement has lost one of its greatest men of inspiration and tireless workers.

In Wales, David John Williams of Fishguard, a founder member of *Ffaiid Cymru*, has died aged 84. Dr Williams became famous with his short stories and autobiography. He refused to write in any other language but his own—Welsh. One of his best sellers "Hen Dyfferm" was translated into English in 1962 by the Welsh poet Waldo Williams.

Dr Williams was sentenced, with Rev. Lewis Valentine and the great poet-playwright Saunders Lewis, to imprisonment at the Old Bailey in the 1930's for setting fire to an R.A.F. bombing range which totally destroyed a Welsh speaking community in the Llyn Peninsula. A Caernarvon jury had refused to find them guilty and so the English authorities transferred their case to the Old Bailey. All three men refused to plead because the case had been transferred from their own country. All three refused to address the court in any other language but English.

As Gwynfor Evans, *Plaid Cymru M.P.* for Carmarthen, said: "His name will live as long as the Welsh language lives."

The young generations of Welsh have ensured that D. J. Williams' name will live for many centuries yet.

Oh where, oh where, is the young generations of Scots to save their badge of humanity? And shall the names of Alasdair MacMhaighstir, A las da'ir Uilleam Mac Dhùmhleibh, Seumas Mac Garaidh, Ruairidh Erskine and others of that ilk be buried in museums, as dead as the poets of Etruria? And shall the badge of slavery prevail? Let us hope that in 1970 the Scottish people will have a little more awareness of their situation.

## Hope For Gaithness Industry

The possibilities of reviving the Caithness flagstone industry, at one time a large export concern employing many hundreds of people, are to be investigated by the Highlands and Islands Development Board and Alexander Sutherland Limited, the Golspie contracting and quarrying firm.

On their behalf The Robertson Research Company Ltd. are carrying out a study which will include preliminary work on geology, marketing, mechanisation and economics.

Prior to 1967 rising costs and competition from concrete had forced the Caithness flagstone trade to contract. In that years Sutherlands took over the remaining quarries of Spittal and Achanarras, then employing two men. They have since raised output and increased the number of jobs to eleven.

During the past twelve months slabs have been supplied to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Caithness County Council, the Ministry of Works and several other building companies.

In addition to pavings and the external cladding of buildings the slabs can be used for interior floor tiles, window sills and surrounds and roofing slates. When polished, the stone can be made up into tables and fireplaces and used for other ornamental work. Sutherlands are currently following up an enquiry from Europe for a large quantity of floor tiles.

Sir James Mackay, Board member with special responsibility for area development planning, said today (Thursday): "The initial work which Sutherlands have undertaken, and enquiries made by the Board, show that if slab production can be mechanised, thereby reducing costs, there is good reason to believe that wider markets can be tapped. This, in turn, could lead to assured production, rising employment and greater productivity."

## Cuil nan Ceist—17

FUASLADH

1. Tri, An Eaglais Chaidhealach (Eaglais na h-Alba) Eaglais Chaluim Chille (An Eaglais Shaor) agus An Eaglais Shaor Chleireil air Gilmore Place.
2. Domhnall MacFhionghain.
3. (a) Chrìos.
- (b) Ghilleain.
- (c) Glas.
4. Beagan is da mhìle — 2,092. JJ
5. Tha. Bhà 468,000 ann an Dun-eibhann ann an 1961 agus 185,000 ann an Òbair-dheadhain agus 182,000 ann an Dun-deagh.

## "Do It Yourself" VHF Gaelic Music Broadcasts

The difficulty in obtaining visiting teachers of music in Lewis and in the West Coast of Ross-shire has resulted in an approach to the B.B.C. by Arthur Brocklebank, County Music Organiser for Ross and Cromarty and by Donald John Mackay, Director of An Commun Gaidhealach with the suggestion that V.H.F. from Rosemarkie be utilised for the transmission of Gaelic singing programmes specifically designed for schools.

The B.B.C. agreed to do this and the first of 10 weekly broadcasts will go out from Rosemarkie Transmitter at 11.40 a.m. until 12 noon on Friday, 16th January, 1970. Seven songs will be taught during the 10 weeks of broadcasts and these songs will be taken from the 1970 National Mod syllabus for the nine to twelve age group.

The tunes are being taught by Robert Scott, Principal Teacher of Music, Nicolson Institute, Stornoway and the Gaelic words by Mary M. Macleod, Principal Teacher of Gaelic in the same school. The programmes have been produced by Arthur Brocklebank. All the teaching will be done in English.

This is a new venture in local broadcasting and it is understood that a large num-

ber of schools in the High-therm. All schools in Ross-shire are being provided with V.H.F. radios and tape-recorders, these being necessary equipment to exploit the singing lessons to the full.

Questionnaires will be sent to the schools receiving the broadcasts to find out what effect they have had so that improvement may be made in future series. "I am delighted with the response made by the B.B.C. to our request to transmit these broadcasts on V.H.F.," said A.B., music organiser.

"Many of the schools in Lewis and in Wester Ross have been concerned about the future of singing Gaelic songs by the children and this series of 10 weekly broadcasts will provide a stimulus and perhaps assist schools in making entries for local Mads.

It has been hard work making the broadcasts but with the co-operation of the Senior Studio Manager, Scotland, and a Sound Engineer we have been able to make, what we hope, are professionally acceptable broadcasts."

Parents may listen to the broadcasts at their own V.H.F. radios at home—if they have them.

## FRANK TALK

### FRANK TALK LESS COMMON

I hear that a coin has been flipped in the air at Westminster by Harold Wilson. If it comes down heads, then he will go for entry to the Common Market and leave the next Prime Minister to face the impact of increasing prices in 1971 and 1972. If he is Prime Minister at that time, he may well find himself losing the subsequent General Election in 1975.

If the coin comes down tails, these are exactly what Harold will show to the country: an anti-Market election ticket, which could win him the next election.

All this puts Ted Heath in a tight spot. He may well find himself losing votes by continuing to appear pro-Market.

### QUEEN OF THE CASTLE?

Whoever she may be, it is not our Barbara. Wage increases are being demanded all round. Some, like those of the M.C.s, are being granted. Others are being held up. Dark clouds are certainly gathering round the castle towers. Top Labour ministers fear that if the whole matter of wage claims is not handled correctly the next election will be lost.

### RED FACE?

It is rumored that the Soviet Government would be

willing to see the return of Harold Wilson on Britain's throne if his Government were not so blatantly anti-Soviet.

Harold Wilson has been playing the world-statesman role of late, as part of his pre-election plans (while Ted Heath sails merrily to victory on a local Australian seapath).

Keeping in mind Harold MacMillan's 1959 Winter visit to Moscow which undoubtedly helped him to win in that year's election, Mr Wilson was hoping for a visit to Moscow. The Kroger affair was to have eased the path to Red Square.

Soviet commentators say that Britain's leaders have 'permitted a deterioration and even aggravation of relations between our countries.'

### BIAFRA

The end of the Biafran War of Independence has undoubtedly caused a few sighs of relief in top Labour ministerial circles. Apart from moral considerations—those involved in the sending of arms to Nigeria—the Biafran economic ones. Among the benefits which will come to Britain, now that the war has ended, is an increased dependence on Nigerian oil, and less on that from the Middle East, including Libya's.

# Croft Ownership "Not Of Real Benefit"

(Continued from page 1)

who had been so cruelly evicted.

Continued Mr Mackenzie: "Naturally there was bitter resentment and much heart-searching as to how the crofters could be protected from the inhumanity of those landlords whose sole aim was to extract the maximum rent: This resulted in a vigorous campaign in the Press, at public meetings, and in Parliament. Those were the famous land league days when a large number of able and dedicated men and women fought for justice and security for the crofter. In this campaign they got a great deal of inspiration from the Gaelic bards of those days.

"Their efforts were fully rewarded when an Act of Parliament was passed in 1886 giving the crofters security of tenure. This Act gave the crofter a sense of security that not only enabled him to play a far more important part in the social and economic life of the Highlands but also to make a greater contribution to the nation and British Dominions and Colonies overseas. Between 1886 and the present day there have been a series of Acts which have brought crofting legislation up to date and have given it certain important features which distinguish it from other forms of tenure.

"The most important feature is security of tenure. The crofter cannot be evicted so long as he pays his rent. He can leave his croft by will to his children or other designated successors. The two provisions, i.e., the right of bequest and security of tenure, mean, in effect, that he has the right of tenancy in perpetuity. A croft, or part of a croft, may be resumed for a specific purpose but only by due process of the law. The same applies to an owner-occupier. An owner can have a purchase order served on him and be dispossessed if his land is required for a specific purpose, which means that his rights are not any more secure than that of the crofter. There is no absolute protection in either case.

"Other advantages of crofting tenure are: assistance for the erection or acquisition of permanent improvements at ingoing. The special assistance available for house building, and specially tailored to the needs of the crofter, is largely responsible for the high standard of croft houses throughout the Highlands. These grants are not available to owner-occupiers. Assistance is available to ingoing crofters for the purchase and improvement of livestock as well as more generous grants for reclamation, regeneration, draining and cropping in general.

"A crofter has the right to approach the landlord asking

him to sell him the ownership of the croft. It sometimes happens that a crofter buys his land, but such cases are few indeed. The crofter who derives the most of his living from the land is, in most cases, perfectly satisfied with his present position as a virtual owner irrespective of who the legal owner may be. The crofter has the advantage under the present tenure that if he is situated in a remote area, where there is little demand for crofts, he still has to get compensation for improvements from the landlord whether there is an incoming tenant or not.

## Many disadvantages

"What then are the disadvantages of abolishing the crofting system?" asks Mr Mackenzie. "There are many but I would only list a few of them here. It is claimed by the commission that none of the benefits to which I have referred will be affected by the proposed change. This is a matter over which the commission has no jurisdiction. Those benefits are given to crofters, and once you abolish the system and put all small units throughout Scotland on the same footing there is no guarantee that future Governments will continue the present benefits.

"There is a great demand for holiday homes on the western mainland. If all crofts became owners of their crofts a likely sequel is that some of these owner-occupiers will put their property on the market. The croft would go to the highest bidder who would be unlikely to be a crofter or someone of similar economic status but some wealthy person from outwith the crofting counties. This is happening on a considerable scale already."

There were a large number of crofts owned by the Secretary of State in the arable areas of the Highlands. A number of very good farms had been subdivided into smallholdings during the period between the two wars. It was true that many of those holdings were too small to be economical but by a gradual process of consolidation and enlargement carried out by the Department of Agriculture's lands officers, many more viable units were being established. Similarly, in the hill areas, many of the best sheep farms had been taken over for land settlement.

Declared Mr Mackenzie: "If those crofters become owner-occupiers many of them would sell out to the highest bidder who would not always be the young crofter or agricultural worker wishing to get a place of his own, but someone with enough money to outbid the prospective young crofter. This would

be true of both arable and hill categories and so a ladder of promotion for the very type of young man who has a birthright to the land would be abolished for ever.

"The commission maintain that the necessary legislation would be introduced to prevent this happening. Again it is difficult to visualise a Government introducing legislation to prevent a small owner-occupier from disposing of his property as he thinks fit. To pretend otherwise would, in my opinion, be less than honest. It is also important to remember that those land settlement schemes were carried out at considerable expense and paid for out of Exchequer funds. There are grave doubts as to whether the commission would be within its rights in disposing of them in the manner proposed."

"The question of the management of common grazings would also present an enormous problem, he points out. With 20 to 30 proprietors sharing a common grazing it would be virtually impossible to get agreement on any major improvement scheme. Anyone who had experience of hill grazings was well aware that there would be very few cases indeed where a common grazing could be apportioned on a fair basis because of the uneven quality of the grazing. The idea of vesting common grazings in local trustees might be quite unworkable.

## Lacked authority to buy

Since the inception of the Crofters Commission 14 years ago there had been a number of estates which could have been bought and reorganised. Take, for example, a small compact estate with a large number of vacant crofts and absentee crofters. The proprietor had a large tract of the best land, both arable and hill, in his own hands. The commission could have bought this estate at a moderate price and could have produced a reorganisation scheme that would be a credit to it, but it lacked the authority to buy the land.

To suggest that to make all those absentee crofters owner-occupiers as an answer to the problems of this estate was simply ridiculous. If the commission proposals were to be accepted it would mean that the Government would have to buy all the crofting land outright as the crofters would be paying back over a 20-year period. If the commission failed to raise the money to buy this small estate, how did they expect the Treasury to sanction payment of several million pounds to buy all the crofting lands?

Continued Mr MacKenzie: "I have no doubt that cer-

tain landlords would welcome the compulsory takeover of their crofting land at the highest figure that could be put upon it, especially since the commission propose that shootings should be re-let to the former landlords. To re-let shootings and fishings to former landlords would be a most retrograde step.

"However, that is not to say that certain changes are not necessary in a changing economic pattern. Where a crofter invests substantial sums of money in order to engage in non-agricultural employment he should have safeguards regarding compensation at his outgoing. Where the Highlands and Islands Development Board in conjunction with other bodies such as the SAOS and the Forestry Commission are prepared to promote schemes for the rehabilitation of certain areas it might be necessary to make changes in crofting law.

## Enough bodies already

"The question of owner-occupancy was fully considered by the Taylor Commission. Crofters were asked for their views at the hearings which took place in different places throughout the Highlands and Islands. It is interesting to note that crofters on the whole could not possibly have shown less enthusiasm for the change. It must be clear to anyone who has studied the commission's proposals that a new body would have to be set up to administer the common grazing and other functions, but surely we have enough bodies already?"

Concluded Mr Mackenzie: "In my opinion the commission have failed to produce sufficient proof that its proposals would be a real benefit to the Highlands or that a legal change could bring about a noticeable improvement in the crofting economy. Therefore, I hope that the Government will consider the position very seriously before abolishing a system which has so much to commend it."

## Barrachd Oigrìdh Ris An Tombaca

A reir aithisg a thug an Tobacco Research Council a mach an t-seachdhuin se tha an oigrìdh a' smoadh barrachd na bha iad a riannh.

Air an laimh eile thatar a' reic nas lugha de thombaca na bha o chionn da bhliadhna.

Bha balach a dh'fhag an sgoil aig 15 an 1961 a' dol troimh 13.4 toisean 'san t-seachdhuin ach balach 15 a dh'fhag an 1968 a' smoadh 19.2 'san t-seachdhuin. Tha na callagan eadhon fhastag gu math air deireadh—channel iadsan a' gabhail ach mu thrìtheamh carrain 'sa tha na balach.

# Militant Demands In Uist

Brigadier Winfield, who is in charge of the expansion of the rocket range, Mr Gray, Ministry of Defence Land Agent, and Lt. Colonel Pickford, C.O., Benbecula, were present at a meeting held in Borinish recently to discuss the implications of the activity they propose to undertake in Rudha Ardvule. The Army hope to get under way there in early 1972 and according to the Brigadier there will be no interference with cultivation or with the land as such: at the same time he said that some form of slit trenches would have to be dug, a parking space

## OLIVER SAYS . . .

"The trouble with Gaelic is that it has no modern equivalents. For an example, what would be the Gaelic word for Macaroni?"

"I don't know. What's the English word for it?"

built and a communications post set up. All that would be involved, said the Brigadier, would be soldiers on the foreshore firing at an air-borne object. A clearance area of 120 acres would be required during firing and during this time no one would be allowed to stay on board any boats which were at anchor. No doubt the crofters of Borinish and the lobster men who use Ardvule will want to give careful consideration to the various implications of these proposals.

# Helicopter Ambulances Out

The suggestion by Inverness County Councillor, Rev. J. Morrison, North Uist that three helicopters should be based at selected points throughout the Western Isles to provide an emergency ambulance service, has been rejected by the Board of Trade.

With the completion of the Skye airstrip there is a considerable coverage of landing grounds which can be used for air ambulances.

Apart from the lack of reliability of helicopters in adverse weather conditions the cost of operating multi-engined craft can be three to four times greater than the operating costs for small fixed wing aircraft.

Such small ambulance aircraft have operated successfully in the past and it is possible that the solution may be found in providing more airstrips for this type of aircraft.

# New Fisheries Rules

A new scheme for the international enforcement of the conservation rules of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission came into operation on January 1, 1970. Under this scheme the nets and catch of fishing vessels of a member country of the commission may be inspected by officers from another member country on the high seas within the commission's area to see if they conform to the rules of the commission.

To enable Britain to play its part in the scheme the Fisheries Ministers have made the Foreign Sea Fishery Officers (North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission Scheme) Order 1969 which came into force on January 1, 1970. The Order made under the Sea Fisheries Act 1968, specifies the class of persons who will be foreign sea fishery officers for the purposes of N.E.A.F.C. scheme of joint enforcement.

It is hoped that this new venture in international co-operation will do much to ensure the uniform application of the Conservation rules and will serve as a model for other areas.

The Order together with the relevant provisions of the Sea Fisheries Act 1968, has the effect of permitting authorised inspectors from Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the U.S.S.R. to stop and board a British vessel outside national fisheries limits within the Commission's area in order to inspect its catch or its nets. If contraventions of the commission's rules are found the inspector sends a report to the British authorities

who alone would be responsible for any subsequent action. If there have been infringements of the commission's rules, they will be treated in the same way as a contravention reported by a British sea fishery officer. In no circumstances will follow-up action under the scheme be taken by the foreign country of which the inspector is a national: nor does he have power under the scheme to arrest a British fishing vessel.

Under the scheme British sea fishery officers will be able to carry out similar inspections of catch and gear on fishing vessels of the countries listed above. In the case of the U.S.S.R., Poland and Sweden there will be no inspection of catch or gear below decks and in the case of the U.S.S.R. no inspection of catch anywhere on board. Similarly these three countries will not be able to inspect the catch and gear of British vessels below deck nor will inspectors from the U.S.S.R. inspect the catch anywhere on board a British vessel.

The Netherlands, the Republic of Ireland and the Federal Republic of Germany are also members of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission and are expected to join in the scheme in due course. Until they do so inspectors from these countries are not permitted to inspect British vessels under the scheme.

The commission's conservation rules relate to the mesh size of fishing nets, use of top-side chafers and in the minimum size of certain species of fish.

These rules are reflected in our current Fishing Nets and Immature Sea Fish Orders.

# "The Irish Post"

A new newspaper, *The Irish Post* (An Nuachtan Eireannach), is to be launched on February 14 aimed at the two million Irish immigrant community in Scotland, Wales and England. *The Irish Post* will be 1s, two-colour weekly tabloid.

Managing Director of the newspaper, Brendan Mac Lua, comments that the Irish in Britain have never had a newspaper of their own. "The need for such a publication has long been recognised and *The Irish Post* now fills that void." It will be a quality newspaper containing everything of interest to the Irish communities.

The newspaper will also contain stories and articles in Irish. The initial print order will be 100,000.

Pat Chatten, a graduate from the *Sligo Champion* and *Irish Press*, has been appointed editor. *Sruth* columnist, P. Berresford Ellis, has been appointed deputy editor.

The newspaper will be launched officially by George Colley, the Irish Minister for Industry and Commerce and the Irish Government will also be represented by Ambassador J. G. Molloy.

The head office of *The Irish Post* will be at 2-4 The Broadway, Southall, Middlesex, and the Irish office is at 25 Lower Camden Street, Dublin. A third office is expected to be opened in Birmingham.

# SNP WELCOME FERRY

Mr George Nicholson, prospective S.N.P. candidate for Ross & Cromarty has said that he was delighted to learn of the possibility of an Ullapool-Stornoway sea link. "This ferry should have been in operation years ago. As for Kyle of Lochalsh, there ought to be no reason to fear for the future of this area. For too long people in Scotland have been used to receiving the crumbs instead of a fair share of the cake from the government. There is an old familiar Westminster game of playing one region off against another.

"Kyle must fight along with, and not against, Ullapool for its future. If there is a need for ferry services at Kyle and Ullapool then we must have both. The technique of 'you can have one but not both' must not be allowed in Wester Ross. It has been demonstrated again and again that sustained public opinion can modify any Westminster Beauocracy."

Mr Nicholson continued "Let those people who are fearful of the future of Kyle read S.N.P. Highland Policy which aims to develop the whole of the Highlands for the benefit of Highlanders. Scottish Self-government will restore to our communities a sense of security and purpose."

# Standing Stone On Eilean Mor

Eilean Mor lies about two miles due west of Kilmory Knap and is the largest of a group of half a dozen small islands in the Sound of Jura. It is about a third of a mile in its extreme length and barely half a mile in width. It is a place only to be approached in fine weather, for the conflict of tides between it and the mainland is something which should be seen to be understood, when the full swing of the ebb tide rushing out of Loch Swen meets the opposing currents and a sou' west wind, it is no time to be thinking of crossing to the island.

The view of Eilean Mor and its companion islands looking down upon them from the hills above Kilmory Knap is very striking on a clear day. Behind looms up Jura with cloud traversed peaks, and the intervening rocky islands stand out of the sea, one beyond the other, with an effect as though some Titan had intended to throw a chain of stepping stones across the sound, but stopped short ere his task was completed.

As we approach by boat the largest of the group, we see its outline to be low with two slight eminences, and the buildings between these, which were visible from the mainland can make out to be a chapel. In other respects the island has the usual aspects of such spots, rich green pasture, with a sedge patch or two on it, and all the rest rock and bracken.

This standing stone so called is not really one but the shaft of a cross and the jagged top bears evidence to this. It is in fact one of several headless crosses on the island. It stands on the highest point of the island; on a stone pedestal about 7 feet square by three feet in

height. On one face is a griffinish animal of the more ordinary type, on the other, part of an inscription most of which fortunately is legible. I am not aware that any one has yet given a reading of this interesting record. What I have puzzled out in spelling runs as follows:—"Insularum Domina et Johannes presbyter ac heremica isti, insule me fieri fecerant." From this we learn that a lady of the Isles in conjunction with one John, priest and hermit of the island erected the cross. It has long lost its head. One supposed to be it is in the Museum of Antiquities, at Edinburgh; taken there from Eilean Mor in 1786.

This stone which crowns the little insular eminence is indisputably both genuine and authentic; it seems to establish the fact that at least one of the island hermits was also an ordained priest, possibly incumbent of the chapel.

# STORNOWAY/ULLAPOOL FERRY THIS YEAR?

Subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for Scotland the Scottish Transport Group hope to introduce a car ferry service between Ullapool and Stornoway next year.

The new service would replace the existing Kyle-of-Lochalsh/Stornoway service. South West Ross District Council, concerned about the effects of the withdrawal of the service from Kyle may ask to discuss the matter with Mr William Ross, Secretary of State.

The news has delighted the people of Lewis who have fought for this mainland link for so long and regard it as a pre-requisite for the attraction of industry to Stornoway.

# SANDEMAN SCOTCH

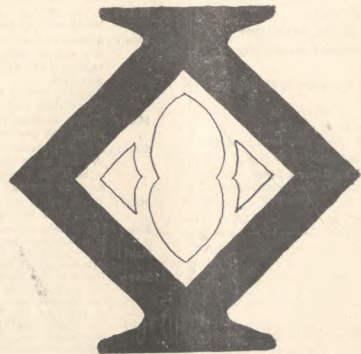


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This is a Celtic O, the symbol for OGRAS, Conradh na Gaeilge's new youth organisation. It is the sort of O to be found (with variations) in the Book of Kells and Durrow and the other great books produced when Ireland was an island of saints and scholars. It is considered to be an ideal choice, embodying a spirit of pride in Ireland's past and—as a symbol for Ogras—hope for Ireland's future.

# AG IONNSACHADH NA

LE IAIN A. MACDHOMHNAILL

## LEASAN DEICH

TIM AN OBAIN



Chanell mi faicinn sgath mu dheidhinn nan Sgiathnachan on a sgur "De tha Dol?"

### MAR CHUIMHNEACHAN

650 bliadhna air ais chuir Alba a saorsa an cèill aig Obair-bhrothaig. Air an 7-6mh Iatha de'n Ghibleann bidh comharadh puist air litrichean a bhios air am postadh 'sa bhaile mar chuimhneòr seo.



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Tha Iain agus Mairi air falbh do'n sgòil agus John and Mary have gone to school and tha Alasdair anns a'mhonadh. Tha Mairi anns Alexander is in the hill. Mary is in an taigh leatha fhein. the house alone.

Sine : A bheil thu staight a Mhairi?  
Are you in Mary?  
Mairi : Tha. Thig a steach a Shine  
Yes. Come in Jean.  
Clamar a tha thu fhein an diugh?  
How are you yourself today?  
Sine : Tha gu math. Clamar a tha thu fhein.  
Fine. How are you yourself.  
Mairi : Oh tha mi gu math tapadh leat  
Oh I am fine thank you.  
Ach c'ait' a bheil thu dol?  
But where are you going?  
Sine : Tha mi dol do'n bhaile.  
I am going to the village.  
A bheil thu ag iarraidh dad anns na burthan?  
Are you wanting anything in the shops?  
Mairi : Chanell tapadh leat.  
No thank you.  
A bheil thu a' coiseachd do'n bhaile?  
Are you walking to the village?  
Sine : Chanell. Tha mi a'falbh comhla ri Murchadh.  
No. I am going along with Murdo.  
Mairi : C'uinge bhithes sibh a' falbh?  
When will you be going?  
Sine : Bithidh sinn a' falbh aig leth.  
We will be going at half  
uir an deidh deich.  
past ten.  
Tiugainn comhla ruinn.  
Come along with us.  
Mairi : C'uinge bhithes sibh a' tilleadh?  
When will you be returning?  
Sine : Bithidh aig uair.  
We will be at one o'clock.  
A bheil thu a' tighinn?  
Are you coming?  
Mairi : De an uair a tha e a nis?  
What time is it now?  
Sine : Tha e coig mionaidean an deidh deich.  
It is five past ten.  
Mairi : De' an rathad a bhithes Murchadh a' dol?  
What way will Murdo be going?  
Sine : Tha e a' tighinn an rathad.  
He is coming this way.  
seo aig leth uair an deidh deich.  
at half past ten.  
Mairi : Gle mhath mata. Bithidh mi.  
Very good then. I will be  
deiseil an ceartuir.  
ready soon.  
Dean thusa cupan "tea."  
You make a cup of tea.  
Sine : Gle mhath mata. Greats thusa ort.  
Very good then. You hurry up.  
Mairi : Cha bhi mi fda.  
I will not be long.  
Sine : C'ait' a bheil an "tea" ??  
Where is the tea?  
Mairi : Tha i air a' bhord aig an inneig.  
It is on the table at the window.  
Sine : Bithidh an "tea" deiseil an ceartuir.  
The tea will be ready soon.

Mairi : Tha mi 'n dochas gum bi.  
I hope that Alexander will be  
Alasdair anns a'mhonadh fad an Iatha.  
in the hill all day.  
Sine : Co tha comhla ris?  
Who is along with him?  
Mairi : Tha Seumas. Thuir iad gum bi iad  
James is. They said that they will  
anns a' mhonadh fad an Iatha  
be in the hill all day.  
ma bhithes an Iatha math.  
if the day will be good.  
Sine : Tha mi cinnteach gum bi an Iatha math mata.  
I am sure that the day will be good then.  
Mairi : Tha mi cinnteach gum bi.  
I am sure that it will.  
Sine : A bheil thu deiseil fhasthat?  
Are you ready yet?  
Mairi : Tha. Tha mi deiseil a nis.  
Yes. I am ready now.  
A bheil an "tea" deiseil fhasthat?  
Is the tea ready yet?  
Sine : Chanell ach bithidh i deiseil an ceartuir.  
No but it will be ready soon.  
Mairi : A bheil m' ad ceart gu leor?  
Is my hat alright?  
Sine : Tha i gle mhath. A bheil i ur?  
It is very good. Is it new?  
Mairi : Chanell gu dearbh.  
No indeed.  
Ach c'ait' a bheil mo mhiotagan?  
But where are my shoes?  
Sine : A bheil iad 'nad phocaidh?  
Are they in your pocket?  
Mairi : Chanell. Bha iad agam aig an dressair.  
No. I had them at the dresser.  
Sine : Stad ort. Siud iad air an Iar.  
Stop. There they are on the floor.  
Mairi : Tapadh leat a Shine.  
Thank you Jean.  
Sine : Tha an "tea" deiseil.  
The tea is ready.  
Siudh aig a' bhord.  
Sit at the table.  
Mairi : Ach c'ait' a bheil mo sporan?  
But where is my purse.  
Sine : Ol an tea an drasda.  
Drink the tea just now.  
Tha uine gu leor againn.  
We have plenty of time.  
Mairi : Oh siud an sporan anns an inneig.  
Oh there's the purse in the window.  
Ach de am fuisin a tha an siud?  
But what noise is that?  
Sine : Siud an car aig Murchadh.  
That is Murdo's car.  
A bheil thu deiseil?  
Are you ready?  
Mairi : Tha mi a' smaoinachadh gu bheil.  
I think I am.  
Sine : Tiugainn mata.  
Come along then.  
Glas an dorus.  
Lock the door.  
Mairi : Tiugainn mata.  
Come along then.

Read this passage and answer the questions which follow.

Bha Alasdair agus Seumas anns a' mhonadh agus bha a' chlànn anns an sgòil. Bha Mairi agus Sine anns an taigh. Bha Sine a' dol do'n bhaile comhla ri Murchadh. Bha Sine ag iarraidh air Mairi a' dhol do'n bhaile comhla riutha. Bha Sine ag radh gum bi iad a' tilleadh aig uair. Bha Mairi ag radh gum robh i an dochas gum bi Alasdair anns a' mhonadh fad an Iatha. Bha Sine a' deannamh cupan tea agus bha Mairi deiseil aig leth uair an deidh deich. Bha cotas agus ad agus miotagan air Mairi. Bha sporan aice cuideachd. Bha i gle thoilichte a' falbh anns a' char comhla ri Murchadh agus ri Sine.

1. C'ait' an robh Alasdair?
2. C'ait' an robh Sine a' dol?
3. De bha air Mairi?
4. Co comhla ris a bha Sine a' dol do'n bhaile?
5. C'uinge bhithes iad a' tilleadh?

### Grammar

**The Regular Verb**  
**Imperative:** Greas, hurry  
Stad, stop  
Glas, lock.

### Verbal Noun

Ag iarraidh, wanting  
A' falbh, going  
A' coiseachd, walking  
A' tighinn, coming  
A' tilleadh, returning  
A' smaoinachadh, thinking  
Ag radh, saying.

### Masculine Nouns with and without the Definite Article.

Sporan, a purse An sporan, the purse  
Spar, a car An car, the car  
Baile, a village Am baile, the village  
Dressair, a dresser An dressair, the dresser.

### Feminine Nouns with and without the Definite Article.

Ad, a hat An ad, the hat  
Pocaid, a pocket A' phocaid, the pocket  
Miotag, a glove A' mhiotag, the glove.

# Gaidhlig

# Review Order

## CELTIC TWILIGHT

Common words and usage.

Tha mi an dochas (gun) I hope (that)  
Tha mi cinnteach (gun) I am sure (that)  
De an rathad? In what direction  
Ceart gu leor, alright  
'Nad phocaid, in your pocket  
Uine gu leor, plenty of time  
Dad, anything  
Gu dearbh, indeed  
Co comhla ris? along with whom?

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

1. Cha robh Mairei ..... iarraidh dad.
2. A bheil ..... miotagan ..... phocaid?
3. Bithidh sinn a' ..... aig uair.
4. De an ..... a tha e ..... tighinn?
5. Bha iad ..... falbh aig leth ..... an deigh deich.

B. Give the answer 'yes' to the following questions.

1. Am bi Alasdair anns a' mhonadh fad an latha?
2. An robh Calum ag lasgach an de?
3. A bheil Mairei a' dol do'n bhaile?

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

1. An robh Alasdair anns a' bhaile?
2. Am bi Seumas a' dol do'n bhaile?
3. A bheil ad ur aig Mairei?

## EILEAN MO RUIN

By Donald Maclean, a native of Roag, Dunvegan, now an exile in Sussex, England.

Fonn.

O seinnbhis clù do'n armun, gach la be sud mo mhiann.  
Eilean Sgiathach nan beam ard, a's ail dhearsadh grian  
Is trugh nach mi bha'n drasda am measg do phallain 'sìabha.  
A ruag nan damh crogach, 'sa cuir air doigh mo lion.

Rann.

'S tu' eachdraidh an diugh ainmèil 's i sgrìobhta anns gach ceann.  
'S na furain a bha calma, air an sgapadh anns gach ait,  
Gur lionmhor bard is fàidhich, thug run dhuit agus gradh,  
Is gus an teid mo charadh, gum bi mi seinn do bhan.

Is ann gu tur an ard-bheann, bu mhaìn leum a bhì triall,  
Far am faicinn blath na Gaidhlig, agus cairdean a tha fal,  
Far am biodh ceol is galre, is orain nach biodh gann,  
'S na h'aignean 's iad cho boidheach, be'n solas a bhì ann.

Gur mise a bhìodh sudann, nan robh mi an drasd'  
A sturadh mo chrusa do dhùthaich mo ghraidh,  
Far am faicinn cròbhan, le fiur air cho ail,  
'S an ulseag is an smeorach, gu ceolmhor ann an pairt.

## An Exiles Song; THE ISLE I LOVE

English translation by the Rev. Donald Budge, Dunvegan.

Chorus.

Come sing with me the praises of the Isle of my delight,  
Sky of the Gullin mountains where summer suns shine bright,  
If only I could now be there, in glens where dwell the deer,  
And in the evening hour to sail, my boat in waters clear.

Verse.

The name of Skye is known afar, her fame in every land,  
Her sons are held in high esteem, on every foreign strand.  
The bards her praises oft have sung, and paid their homage due,  
And I while I have breath to sing, will sing her praises too.

To the isle of soaring mountains, I fain would now return,  
To hear again the Gaelic speech, I knew so well when young,  
I'd find a Highland welcome there, from friends I knew of old,  
Full many a song would come to sung, full many a story told.

How happily I'd take the road, if I were homeward bound,  
For the native isle I love so well, and tread on Highland ground,  
The forests in their brightest green, the flowers in brightest hue,  
With larks above and thrush on tree, all singing "Welcome true!"

The above is a fairly recent song by Donald Maclean. It is not included in his book of songs "Cuairtear nan Gaidheil", 1949. He has written several songs since then, "Eilean mo Ruin" and its translation into English can be sung to the well known Gaelic air, to which is sung a number of well known Gaelic songs including Mary Macpherson's "Ged tha mo cheann air liathadh" Iain MacLeod of Glendale's "Tha gilleann oga tapaidh ann Glendaillid ag eirigh sus" and his brother Neil MacLeod's "Tigh a' mhìsgair" and others.

D.B.

The Celtic Twilight mood. He was later to confess its influence on him in his writings, not directly but obliquely, as in Anna Livia Plurabelle's passage in 'Finnegans Wake.'

Victorian Verse Dramas and Yeats' early and later plays form the latter part of this book.

Although it is a useful introduction to a literary phase which has been too often denigrated, sometimes justly so. In the Hebrides, the Celtic Twilight mood produced Kennedy Fraser, whose song-polishing activities probably increased rather than diminished the stark realities which were crying out for the voice of a concerned social writer or commentator.

'Celtic Twilight and the Nineties' by Austin Clarke; Dolmen Press, Dublin; or Oxford University Press, Ely House, 37 Dover Street, London, W.1.; hard covers, 28s; paper covers, 14s.

## BEN DORAIN

When Iain Crichton Smith published his long poem 'Deer on the High Hills' in 1962, one was immediately taken with his sympathetic sense of kinship with the wild nature associated with the mountainous Highlands. Though it was perhaps a difficult poem for the reader to interpret there was no doubt about the author's meaning as it eventually came across.

Now, Iain Smith has translated 'Ben Dorain', from the Gaelic of Duncan Ban MacIntyre. It has rightly been considered to be among the very finest of poems in Gaelic. As Smith himself says in the Introduction to the translation: 'What distinguishes Ben Dorain is its gaiety and its music.'  
In 'Deer on the High Hills', Smith writes:

'Duncan Ban MacIntyre, the poet, knew them intimately, was one of them. They had waxen hides, they were delicate dancers.

They evolved their own music which became his music; they elected him their poet laureate.

It was a kind of Eden these days With something Cretan in his eulogy. Nevertheless he shot them also . . .

And the clean shot did not disturb his poems. Nor did the deer kneel in a pool of tears.

The stakes were indeed high in that game.'

Can one say that Smith has had the idea of a translation in his mind for seven years? If so, the germination time has been used effectively and the final product an excellent display of Smith's command of words.

This is a faithful translation. Not so much faithful in the actual substitution of words in one language for those in an-

other. This is relatively easy to do. But faithful, in that Smith has captured the essence of life with which Duncan Ban was most familiar. It was a distillation of experience, of life among natural things and events, and of the thoughts which only a man in such excellent isolation could engender, taste and express in such eloquence.

In his Introduction, Smith continually refers to the realism of the original poem, its toughness, its manner of imparting information to the reader, its liveliness, its colour, music, and above all its marvellous example as a piece of Gaelic writing.

"When one considers it, it is a very strange poem for a Highlander to write. It is the Gaelic language at its peak. It is the poet writing before morality. Never again would a Gaelic poet write like this. Never again would the Gaelic ethos allow him to."

Only a poet of Smith's calibre and Gaelic-based background could have translated MacIntyre so effectively. The result is essential reading for anyone who professes even the slightest interest in Gaelic. The book is well produced and well worth its cost. Readers who buy the publication would also indicate to the publisher that his justification in printing the work was confirmed by practical public support. That the book has gone into a second edition is proof enough of the general interest BEN DORAIN has created.

'Ben Dorain' translated by Iain Crichton Smith; 7s 6d, plus postage; Akros Publications, Preston, Lancashire.

## SEIRBHIS UR AIRSON ILE

Dì-Juain seo chaidh chuir-each air fìod an R.M.S. "Arran" air an deachaidh £30,000 a' chosg airson a leasachadh. Bha i' uaireigin a' seòladh eadar Arrain agus tìr-mòr, ach a' nìs bhid i' a' ruith eadar Loch an Tair-beirt agus Ile, Giogha, Dùrna agus Colbhasa. Bidh i' a' gabhail àite na "Locheil" a' bha deich bliadhna fichead air a' chùrsa seo. Gabhaidh am bàta-aiseig ùr barrachd chàraichean agus bhid na far-aidhean na' saoire.

## CALUM MACLEOD, NACH MAIREANN

Chaochail ann an Inbhirnis Mgr. Calum MacLeòid a' bhà imadhadh bliadhna na mhaighis tìr-sgoile ann an Loch nam air seisean Eaglais Loch nam Madadh mhos deachaidh e a' d'fhuireach gu tìr-mòr. Bha e 'na bhàrd, agus clinnear fear de na h-orain aige o àm gu àm air prògraman a' Bh.B.C. Bho choinn beagan bliadhnaich chuir a' Bhan-ghrì uirram M.B.E. air, agus fhuair e F.E.I.S. mar an ceudna. Bhùineadh Mgr. MacLeòid do Bheinn nam Faoghla.

## AIRMSIR NÀS BLAITHE

Bho'n dì-fhalbh an sneachda tha an t-side na' s' taitneic' na h-e-Heileanan an Iar. Mar tha, tha dreach an earrach air iomadh àite. Cha robh an aimsir cho gailionnach air a' greamhradh seo.

# A Rise in Crofters' Commission Recommendations For The Modernisation Of Crofting

## Harris

Tweed making took a great deal of time and imagination. Cross was the designer. The children were all clad in homemade garments made of excellent

by G. ROSS

tweeds. At that time, they did not wear shoes and stockings, much, except to go to Church. Indeed, I noticed quite a few people walking on the tracks in bare feet and only putting on shoes when they reached the church.

I remember one evening when a young man came to tell me I was urgently required at Finsbay where his sister was ill.

We walked together over the rough track, rocks, peat bogs and heather. It was a long way, but the youth could speak some English and so it did not seem so far. His sister certainly needed medical attention and I wrote a note for Harris to take to the doctor who was in Rodel. He had to walk as far the other way on a rough track. I hoped the doctor would return with him. But he came back alone as the doctor was needed more urgently elsewhere.

It was built under in bed upstairs, with a partition separating my patient from the other bed. There was a bed of netting from my patient, she explained how they could frequently change the hay and keep the bed neat and clean.

My patient was no doctor, and this was a time when a doctor should have been there, I had some anxious hours. Eventually she became better from everything I was alright. Just before dawn I was able to leave her and make my way back by myself.

though it was a long way over a lonely track, each visit brought joy to me.

The old mother sat at her loom in the kitchen in quite a dark corner. She taught me to throw the yarn and how to work my feet. Each day I was allowed to do a few lines. She also showed me how to spin. This was not so easy, the yarn would break easily and the old woman would patiently repair it. There is much dexterity needed in the tension working on the spinning wheel.

The expert never wearied of showing me her skill and I loved to watch the sheer joy she had in her work.

At the end of my visits there, a huge parcel was ready for me. It was a long double blanket, sewn down the middle. This was one I had helped to make. It is still one of my dearest treasures.

Passing the Carding mill on my way to the pattern, an old woman was coming out with two huge sacks. I recognised her face as a neighbour from Finsbay and we were both going to the mill. The other sacks and we walked along together. It took most of the afternoon and our only conversation was "No Gaelic, plenty English" and "No Gaelic, plenty Gaelic." Once or twice we looked shyly at each other, became embarrassed and laughed heartily. I'm sure they were all very sorry for me because I could not speak Gaelic.

SERVICE

Another day, a lovely sunny day, I was approaching my destination, when the sound of singing came from the breeze. It gathered crescendo as I turned a corner, my breath was taken with the wonderful sight. It

was a scene which made me think of the "Beatitudes."

The hillside was covered with people. There were too many for the church and the minister was conducting the service outside. I was told afterwards that the Crofters were the Rev. MacQueen and that there were 400 people on that hillside.

I felt very guilty in not joining, but I was on my errand of mercy and duty and I hoped they would understand.

They certainly inspired me with their singing and devotions on that hillside.

Some days I tried to take a short cut but would land up with my knees in peat bog. I would have to go to the sea to wash my legs to get the smell away. In little time I had three pairs of stockings with the soles pulled off.

To meet one old woman with a basket of peats on her back, knitting as she went along with bare feet, never failed to amaze me. I was watching her knit and she was watching me knit, and even then making mistakes. My shins were all skinned with the making tugs on the rocks. There she was going happily on her way. I would smile and wave and stand to watch how it was done. She would wave and bled to this way of the hill.

My patients were often far apart, and even though I could manage to cope on my own, I had together we went back to visit the woman who was wonderfully well.

Each day I paid a visit to give the necessary treatment and al-

PROPOSED REMEDIES

COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT

15 There is no ready solution to the difficulty of finding qualified Grazings Clerks from time to time in various areas groups of townships, or sheep stock clubs, have shared the services of a Crofting Treatment Committee. Management has worked well until the person concerned has left the district or become too old to carry on. For geographical reasons this solution is not applicable in many areas even if persons of the right calibre were available, but it seems important that Grazings Committees should have power to delegate any of their functions, including clerical and book-keeping duties, to any body such as an Area Committee (see paragraphs 13 to 33) if the function can be carried out more efficiently or economically on a co-operative basis. Co-operation between townships may in future be as important as co-operation within townships. It is important to ensure that Grazings Committees are not inhibited from co-operating by any statutory order or lack of statutory authority.

16 As has already been indicated the duties of Grazings Clerks can be quite onerous, yet in many cases there is no formal arrangement to pay them for their services. In the Commission's view the most desirable statutory warrant for payment of a reasonable sum to Grazings Clerks. Apart from the ordinary justly payable for work done, remuneration on a proper basis should help to reduce the present widespread difficulty of finding suitable men willing to take on the job of Grazings Clerk.

17 A Grazings Committee should have power to require that subsidy payments in respect of townships where the grazings should be administered through the Committee's account and be disbursed by the Committee to the individual crofters, possibly through the sheriff. If crofters feel aggrieved he should have a right to appeal against the Committee's action. The idea of payments to be made directly through Committees is not new since almost 600 township already have their members' hill cattle grazing rights administered through the Crofters' Commission. However, if the service therefore already has the acceptance of very many crofters, but without statutory authority for doing so, the danger to the land is a disintegrated few can wreck the arrangement so far as their townships are concerned. As well as the Crofters' Commission, over the finances needed for township purposes, bulk payments of both cattle and sheep subsidies to the Crofters' Commission for the Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland.

18 Education is also important in ensuring that the Crofters are encouraging other schools to follow the lead of those who already teach pupils the rudiments of crofting and farm management accounting. No statutory provisions are required in this respect, but adequate education in committee management and grazing management is important.

19 Crofters at almost all the meetings held by the Commission to explain the Commission's proposals expressed a desire that some body like the Commission should remain in being to support and guide the Crofters' Committees. If there is to be no central body which could discharge this function the need for the provision of such a body, whether in the form of Committees becomes all the more important.

BASIS OF LEVYING DUES

20 There is no simple remedy for the shortage of manpower in staffing areas, although the proposals which the Commission have made in regard to the extension of housing grants, coupled with the activities of the Highlands and Islands Development

Board, should draw younger men back into some areas. The best that can be achieved generally is to ensure that those who do the work are adequately paid by those who don't. It is the practice in many areas to "fine" those who do not participate in handlings or pay those who do. The assessment is generally related fairly to the value of the work and wages, but having regard to the fact that those who do the work may be losing substantial earnings as farmers or industrialists or in other employment while those who fail to participate may be earning considerably more than agricultural wages, a high rate is justified. A clear statutory warrant for the practice of paying those who do the work at a rate related to industrial rather than agricultural wages in the area is required.

21 It was important at one time that those who were understocked should be encouraged to get those who were overstocked because understocking was normally an indication of extreme poverty, or of a young crofter who was not in remunerative employment who have lost interest in or have no time for agriculture, there is no time for compulsory payments for overstocking. What will encourage stocking, but not overstocking, and which will put pressure on those who do not stock or are absentees to free their hill shares and their inbye land (apart from the house site) for others. In the Commission's view the following arrangements can be achieved as follows:-

- (a) There seems little point in enforcing individual soundings produced by the Crofters' Commission stock for the whole grazings is not exceeded, but the crofter's sounding entitlement could be regarded as the maximum. The number of townships dues are calculated.
- (b) Dues should be levied on the stock actually carried or the sounding, whichever is the higher. In cases where a shareholder has no stock would still be liable for township dues, while those who exceeded a reasonable carrying capacity should pay more.
- (c) Committees should have power to make a progressively higher charge once the sounding entitlement was exceeded in areas where it is necessary to control overstocking, or to safeguard the right of those who have been understocked to come up to a reasonable carrying capacity.
- (d) They should also have adequate warrant to enforce payment by absentees.
- (e) Committees should have the right to defer or cancel the collection of dues in cases of hardship.

In cases where dues have been deferred they should have power to collect the arrears or a proportion of them from the outstanding stock on the croft changing hands.

- (g) It would always be open to a non-active shareholder or an absentee to consent to let a proportion of his share to some prepared to accept the liabilities.
- 22 It might be considered inadvisable to allow townships to be open to people who have no stock, and who may not even be resident, but the Commission take the view that it is necessary that townships grazings has obligations as well as rights. If, however, it is considered that the arrangement bears some weight on the industry in the absence of a distinction could be drawn between the cost of handling stock and the cost of the necessary wintering capacity, the former falling only on stockholders.

POWERS OF GRAZING COMMITTEES

23 Once elected a Grazings Committee should have power to budget for necessary township services, the positive maintenance and development, without reference

back to the shareholders, and shareholders should not have the opportunity of putting up a payment, but they do not even have they do not use their shares. The relationship of a Grazings Committee to the township is roughly that of a town council to the ratepayers and the present misuse of so many grazings is due to the fact that this principle has not been observed in past legislation and Grazings Committees have never been given real power to improve and develop.

24 There is a danger that the inactive crofters in a township who do not trouble to attend township meetings now, would attend in future to elect an inactive committee. It is important, therefore, that some authority should have power, if the Commission have at present, to remove from office a Grazings Committee which fails to fulfil its duties.

25 Grazings Committees should have power to effect improvements to the grazings and their outbyes. This might be done by means, including the selection of areas for improvement by reclamation or regeneration, the subvention of young crofters to permit easier herdine and rotational grazing, and the establishment of sathing or lambing sheds.

26 Crofters should have a duty to reapraise periodically the stock carrying capacity of grazings. The Grazings Committees should have power to ensure that all the stock on the common are adequately treated for any infectious disease. This power would require to have appropriate changes in methods of treatment may create new problems from time to time. The simplest and most effective way to do this is to give Grazings Committees the right to employ someone to treat any untreated stock running on the common. This would be at cost from the crofter concerned.

27 Grazings Committees should have similar powers in regard to the control of vermin on common grazings and recovery of the cost from shareholders.

28 The need for securing effective township drainage in regard to arterial drainage and other matters which may affect people who are not shareholders in the common grazings is an important responsibility. In the Commission's view one of the great weaknesses in many crofting areas is the lack of effective drainage for ensuring that communal drainage systems are adequately maintained. The difficulty might be overcome by giving an appropriate authority power to authorise the setting up with adequate powers of drainage committees representative of those who have an interest in the land to be drained.

(To be continued)

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# SCOTLAND— ON A MOPED

A two week camping holiday in Scotland, touring by moped, cost only £18 inclusive. I visited almost every county in this manner. A lightweight tent, polythene groundsheet, sleeping bag, air bed and a small 'primus' stove were carried in a kit bag strapped to the luggage carrier of my 49 c.c. machine.

In September 1967 I rode to Aberdeen for the sole purpose of bringing back to my Lincashire home some fresh herrings. (The season was over, I had to be content with kippers). This took me one week.

A typical fortnight's holiday took me via the A.1 to Berwick on Tweed, where I mended the first of six punctures in six days! The last one was in Tain, Ross-shire.

I averaged about 120 miles a day. The first day I managed 160. The second day brought

by John Breckon

the old thrill of crossing the border. I had a look round King Robert The Bruce's Cave, escorted by a competent guide. I noticed a spider on the cave wall, and wondered if it was a descendant of the one which encouraged the King to victory.

I stayed overnight in Dalkeith and visited the chief places of interest in Edinburgh next day.

The ride to Perth was a miserable one. It rained, and instead of taking shelter I rode on, and arrived in Perth soaking wet. After making inquiries, I found Salvationists who dried me out, and put me up for the night. Their hospitality was overwhelming.

In cheerful mood I left for Inverness. At Lossiemouth I mended another puncture on the forecourt of a petrol station. (The proprietors of these are obliging.) This was near the Royal Naval Air Station. Having read in a Scots magazine about the boat building yards in Buckie, I went to see them. But they were closed for the annual holiday, though I was able to view some 'skeleton' craft from outside the yard.

At Tain, I experienced more kindness when a farmer's wife sewed together the broken ends of the rim tape of the moped wheel on her electric machine.

At Toremore Farm, Dunbeath (Caithness) I noticed a heart-shaped growth of ivy on the house wall. I photographed it and talked to Mr John George Barrie Macdonald, the farmer. He told me that his son trimmed the ivy with sheep shears. The growth is 100 years old.

I was glad to reach Wick and here in a cafe I enjoyed the finest meal of fried fish and chips I have ever had. The harbour is interesting and our camera again. A week after leaving home I reached John o'Groat's. The John de Grot family is featured in a small museum a couple of miles

south. So this was John o'Groat's!

I was amazed to find electricity and television in the smallholder's house at the roadside. I pitched my tent nearby, using bales of hay as a wind-break. The smallholder's wife kindly allowed me a hot water wash in the modern tiled bathroom. She cooked on a calor gas stove.

Next day I left for Cape Wrath, via Thurso. At Durness, the most northerly point attainable by land, I left my moped at the hotel, and crossed the Kyle of Durness in an outboard-engineered boat.

A minibus takes you to Cape Wrath Lighthouse, 11 miles away. Our party of nine was allowed to ascend the lighthouse which was immaculate, inside and out. The brass inside was highly polished, and the walls outside dazzlingly whitewashed. Nearby, a brick building houses the generating plant which powers the lighthouse and the keepers' television!

There are living quarters for the crew of three. Back to Durness, then south to the free ferry at Kylesku. At Ullapool it was warm. This yachting centre is worth a visit.

When I arrived at Strone I had clocked a thousand miles. The ferry took me to within a few miles of the Kyle of Lochalsh. I crossed to Kyleakin, in the Isle of Skye, visiting Portree, the capital. A sleek, modern car ferry, with an hydraulic lift, took me to Mallaig, the fishing port, and I camped at a site two or three miles south.

Next day I commenced, with keen anticipation, the never to be forgotten ride through the Western Highlands. It began to rain slightly as I left Mallaig, but it cleared before I completed the thirty miles to Fort William.

I had to stop every hour to allow the engine to cool. This provided an opportunity to appreciate the breath-taking scenery. The weather had improved remarkably, and with it, my spirits. Everyone visits Fort William, with its West Highland Museum, and the ruins of the 15th century Inverloch Castle. I was enthralled by these items of historical interest. My interest was held as I rode through Glen Finnan, and saw the monument to Bonnie Prince Charlie. Ben Nevis was shrouded in mist when I 'chanced' a photograph of it.

The 103 mile ride to Glasgow, and later, the 113 miles to Perth were completed safely. My impressions of the holiday—Scotland is far more developed than I imagined. The roads are good, even in the extreme north.

Here, passing, or overtaking places are provided every 200 yards where the roads are narrow. There are plenty of petrol stations and telephones. I found the Scots friendly and very helpful. The catering is good, and meals are cheaper than they are in England.

# 'Nuair A Bha Mhaighstir Iain Ann Am Bagh A Tuath

'S FHAD o'n ann sin, an uair a bha Maighstir Iain ann am Bagh a Tuath. Cha robh guth an uair sin air reubadh Phòlann, Blizkreig, ceusadh nan Ruiseanach, Belsen, Hiroshima, Korea no Vietnam. Bas gun chunnais, bron cogaidh. Co shaoileadh nist gun robh Maighstir Iain 's na laithean sin riamh ann,



Maighstir Iain

laidhean roimh na linne atomach?

Chanell anns na Coireachan ach froig bheag chreagach dhosrach ach 's fhearr leum iad na seachd coireachan Ghaig nam feadan tuara air fad.

Seann bhoireannach a bha sud shuas 'sa Ghleann, te ris an canadh iad Ealsaid Eachainn. Cha robh aice ach faclan no dha dh'è Bheurla ach cha bu mhisid' i sud. Rugadh is thogadh i air Sannraidh agus chan fhac' i Gall, a reit coltais, gus an deach i chosnadh. 'S ann aice a bha sgoil, sgoil aosda nan Gaidheal.

'S aithne dhomh roinntean an Catabh a tha fo chanas o bhun gu barr ach chan fhaca mi riamh dath na bu bhuidhe na tha air conasg Ard Mhithinnis. Cha do dh'fhaicrid mi faileadh na bu chubhraidhe.

Bha e alunn a bhi leam

fhein ag iasgach 's na lochan sin, Loch an Duin. Loch Nice Ruaidhe is Loch na Car-tach agus na daoine buchan, moma 's a Ghleann Dorcha.

Saoil a bheil na crachainn, cho pailt mu thimchioll 'o' saidh is a' Chaoilais Chumhig 'g 'sa bha iad an turas a bha mi fhin is Donnchadh Dhomhnaill Dhonnchaidh sin a'tabhaich?

Mar as trice bhitheadh Calum Iain 'ic Eoin aig an doras a' bruidhinn ri duine sam bith a bhitheadh air an rathad. Calum laghach a' choltais bhreagha chridheil agus an deagh naduir.

Flurricanean nam machar, blathean beaga is faileadh nam meala orra air a' chnos sin an cul Eilean Charrag. Ruith far am bu dheonach leis an Sgoilear Ruadh a bhi air latha fial shamraidh.

'La bha sud 's mi air Beinn a'Cheathaich chunnaic mi seol air a chuan chunnartach a theadar a sin is Maol Domhnaich. Sgoth bheag chaoil a bh'innte is sgioba de ghillean an eilein innte. B'e an t-ionnsachadh og a bha aca, ionnsachadh airson rias-ladh cogaidh.

Traigh Thangasdail, Traigh

Bu ghasda le Maighstir Iain an laudh uid is Bean Shomhairle Bhig aig ceann a' ghnothaich is 'Woldaidh is Ruairidh Iain Bhaian an lathair. Sin an uair a ghabh Ruairidh Blar na h-Eaglais Bhric is Bo Run Geal Og. Ruairidh nan oran is nan deagh bheus.

'Se mo bheachd gun e rud prìseal a tha 's an t-sloinneadh ged is rud beag gun feum a tha ann, is docha, ann an suil ainealach an t-saoghail mhoir. Leadan fonn-mhor a tha ann, a'ceangal na bhe ris na mairbh. Bha lagain Iain Chamshroin ann is Niall

Mhicheil MacMhurchaidh Pheadair agus Ruairidh Nill Sheumais, Murchadh Dhomhnaill Dhonnchaidh is Seumas Pheadair Sheumais. Bha Seumas Iain Eachainn ann is Eoin Ruairidh Mhoir agus Iain Mac Iain Mhicheil a rugadh ann am Mìlaidh. Their-eadh cuid ris Rìgh Tobhta a Dhruiseach. 'Se rud prìseal tha 's an t-sloinneadh gun teagamh, sin mo bharaill-sa co dhùibh.

Bha iad tapaidh na seann daoine. Ghuaiseadh iad mar ghillean eua. Shuidheadh iad air muin eich mar rhidirean



Calum Iain 'ic Eoin 's a bhean

Ala'asdail is Traigh Iais air latha gairbheach agus an fhaige bristeadh gu buan air na cleitèan.

Sgeirean Fiaclach, Caolas Snuasamull, Sgeirean Mas a' Mhail is Sgeir a' Chlogaidir, dorch aig gach duine is na teipacham ann am miltean, suilairan, fulmairan, lang-saigh, sgarbhir.

Innse Gall. 'S ann aca-san bha sgil agus uaisleachd mar an cìanda, sgil is uaisleachd nan Gaidheal.

Ged is mo leam bo'chead an Eilein, 'se mo tha leam uile gu leir na daoine, gu h-araid na daoine a bha sud 'nuair a bha Maighstir Iain 'sa bhàrdachd ann am Bagh a Tuath.



Iain Mac Iain Mhicheil — Eoin Ruairidh Mhoir

# over to you:

A Charaid Choir,

Recently letters have appeared in *The Times* not only lamenting the scarcity of the kilt but even bemoaning the rareness of spoken Gaelic in Scotland. They say that the tourists goes away disappointed and disillusioned after a vain search for national dress and national speech. These English visitors are quite right in complaining, so what are we going to do about it?

Let's first look at the causes: of course originally it was the English who were to blame by their laws in the eighteenth century for thirty years forbidding our national costume under pain of deportation as slaves. However, another correspondent pointed out that the setting up of Scottish regiment with the kilt did much to prevent its disappearance. But what is the position now? Why should the penal laws of two centuries ago prevent us from wearing national dress? Apparently this is sometimes due to false humility. There are Scots who don't dare to wear the kilt for fear of "aping the gentry." There are others who laugh at Englishmen or Americans who come to Scotland in our garb. I've even seen an Italian in full Highland dress. Needless to say he was unable to answer an enquiry in Gaelic! But why not after all? Non-Scots who wear our national dress are paying us a compliment for as the saying goes "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." Of course it would be a courtesy if they stuck to a "regional tartan" instead of letting themselves be mistaken for members of some particular clan, but if they behave themselves they are not bringing disgrace on anybody.

We should wear our national dress not just because we like it but because we are doing something for the tourist industry and helping local craftsmen. The initial outlay may be costly but a kilt and Harris tweed jacket lasts a lifetime whereas an ordinary suit would be lucky if it lasted a year.

As letters pointed out, the tourist actually gets a thrill from hearing and seeing written up a language that they don't understand, such is the lack of logic of human beings. But I think our ambition should be to give him a thrill by writing something good in Gaelic (or rather the Scottish language) that he DOES understand and like.

is mise

IAN G. MACNAIR-SMITH

Sir,—Reading your article, "Inverness chosen for Forestry College" (25-12-69) and the daily press of 12-12-69 leaving one with the comfortable feeling that Willie Ross has at last pulled out a sweet plum for the Highlands. In fact it is a rather sour plum, albeit welcome for itself. The Scottish Secretary has again been completely out-manoeuvred by his English counterpart, as he was in the

case of the Forestry Commission Headquarters a few years ago, when they went from London to Basingstoke.

The sweet plum—The Forestry Training Centre—simultaneously announced with the Craft Centre to Inverness—went to Newton Rigg Agricultural College, Cumberland and it was to the Forester Training Centre that Scottish Forestry bodies gave their strong support. The Royal Scottish Forestry Society initiated the demand for a Forester Training Centre to be run under the National Education Authority, as opposed to the system which had operated since the Forestry Commission's inception and was run by that body.

For a time Moray and Nairn was the only Education Authority which indicated an interest in having this Centre, and an estate in the area generously offered the land on which to build it. Only after this did the other authorities you mention, and England, waken up to what was happening. This led to such strong pressures from various angles that the decision was eventually left to the Cabinet with the regrettable decision we already know.

Politics came in at the door and Forestry went out of the window. Scotland had by far the greater claim to a Forester Training Centre because of her already larger forest areas, and greater future forestry potential and Moray and Nairn could position a training centre with the largest area of present day forestry types surrounding it, and readily accessible to trainees.

The Cabinet's decision to have the Craft Centre in Inverness was a sop to the Highlands, and to the Highlands and Islands Development Board who attempted at a late date to exert pressure for the Forester Training Centre to come to Inverness.

In my dictionary "craft" means "manual skill," and with all due respect to Inverness and her Technical College, I take the liberty of saying that the craft of forestry cannot be trained inside a town or college. The actual craft of forestry can only be learned in the country and the manual skills necessary can only be demonstrated there.

The Forester Training Centre course was, and in all likelihood would continue to be, a two-years continuous course whereas the craft courses have no claim to such continuity. Furthermore, if my reading of the discussions which took place over the last five years is correct Scottish interests strongly favoured the Forester and Craft Centres to be combined in the same locality and building if possible, with mutual advantages to both. Such advantages are now lost. Yours etc.,

ALEX. A. MUNRO  
Ceann-a-Choilte,  
Evanton,

Ross-shire.

(Continued on page 12)

# Na h-Innsibh Air Atharrachadh

## Iuil

(Continued from last week)

ainn ri toirt air Indira gluasad nas fhaide air an taobh chli air chor 's gun cuir ann mor-shluagh na h-aghaidh, air eagal gun faigh na co-mhoinich a stigh dha'n riaghaltas naisenta.

le Seumas Robasdan

tuilleadh is diochumhneach air ruinatean partitidh a h-athair. Math dh'fhaoidte gun robh Indira a'fas searbh ri cumhne a h-athair—leithid 'sa bhiodh an Sionndacath 'ga dealbhadh dhìoh co-dhù. Canadh droch theanganann gun robh Nehru coltach ri craobh "banyan"—'se sin, bhiodh an duilleach cho tìugh oirre agus an dorchadas cho dumhail foidphe 's nach fàigheadh an lus a bu mheanbh air fas fo 'meanlagh. Ach bha latha Nehru seachad.

Am bliadhna chuir Indira caothach air an t-Sionndacath nuair thug i na bancaichean uile fòr thà na staite. Fhàgair iad-san le bh' deanamh a mach gun robh cuid dhe'n luchd-leantail agh Indira fada 'ir deireadh ann bhi paigheadh an cisean. Is math a chiumhsich iad ach is beag riarrachadh a fhuair iad, oir tha na h-Innsenachd, usail is iséal, mor air seachnadh chusean.

De dol seachad nam mìosan dh'fhalbh dochas na h-cadraiginn. Ann am meadhan na Samhainn thoisich iad air nam beuman da rìreadh an lùb 'a phairtidh:

12 Nov. Chaidh Indira a chur a mach as a'phairtidh le votadh mor-chuid 'a choimite fò cheann Nijalingappa.

13 Nov. Chruinnich buill a' phairtidh ann an Delhi agus ghairm iad—'a chuid a bu mhudha dhiubh—an dìlseachd de dh'Indira.

Oidheche de 15-16 Nov. Chaill Indira an làn mhòr-chuid anns an Lok Sabha (rìgh ìochdarach na parlamaid) nuair ghabh tri fichead is a coig de luchd-leantail an t-Sionndacat air taobh eile na seomair. Steidhicheadh partitidh ur leotha fò cheann Morarji Desai.

22 Nov. Chaidh seisean a chumail de choimite partitidh 'a'Chongres airson na h - Uile h-Innsibh. Thainig riochdairean gu Delhi bho gach cearn agus chuir a'mhòr-chuid dhiubh taic ri Indira. Chaill Nijalingappa a dhrèuchd mar cheann - suidhe air 'a'choimite.

Le sin thug Indira a mach a'bhuidh agus fhuair i, mu dheidreadh thall, cothrom riaghalaidh ann broim a partitidh fhèin. Ach chan eil partitidh 'a'Chongres cho ionnmhor a nis agus bhithidh aice ri bh' tarraing phairtidhean eile gu 'taobh, gu h-àraid air an laimh chli, airson mor-chuid dhe na votichean a thrusadh sa'pharlamaid. Bithidh Morarji Desai 'a'feuch-

air an oilcanachadh ann an sgòilean Breutacham neo Amreiganach, fàoidadh gun teid ise nas fhaide ann bhi lensachadh cor nam daoine bochd na dheidheach bhuicheadh an t-Sionndacat riann.

Dh'fhaoidte gun teann i air coist an fhearainn fhulgsladh ann an uine gun bhi fada—mun gabh an slugh ag 'a'cheist air an ceann fhein le bh' a' toirt suas an fhearainn ge' b'oil leis na h-uachdarain agus 'ga riarachadh eatorra fhein, mar thathas a'deanamh an dràsda ann cuid aiteachan ann an Bengal agus Andhra Pradesh. Ach tha na h-uachdarain bheag air an deagh charadh agus tha iad a'fas nas beartaiche agus nas cumhachdachda leis a h-uile latha. Bhiode e dullich an smachdachadh.

Dh'fhaoidte gun cuir Indira crìoch air sporan prìobhaideach nam prionnsachan—'se sin an t-airgid a bhios an riaghaltas 'a' toirt seachd dha na rajahs a h-uile bliadhna mar phàigheadh air an dlighen is na coirichean a leig iad seachad ann an 1947. Ach is beag fhulgsladh a bheachd sin do cheist na choirichean air feadh na h-Innsibh. Nam b'e gun cìreadh mar sin, bhiodh na prionnsachan suas ann an Delhi sa'mhionaid is iad ag iarraidh seirbhis amns an riaghaltas. Tha fios gu bheil pailteas dhaoinè a stigh ann an seirbhis na riochdhar mar tha, agus pragan eile a muigh 'a'freagairt na h-uarach a is 'a'fèitheamh an cothrom fhein airson feuchainn a stigh. Foghnaidh na dh'fhoghnadh—bhiodh na rajahs tuilleadh is a choir.

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