

SRUTH

DI-ARDAOIN, 24 LATHA DE'N IUCHAR

THURSDAY, 24th JULY 1969

No. 61

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The now silent Brora Coal Mine by mid-winter will be producing more coal than ever before. The faith and perseverance of the miner-owners pays off.

BRORA STRIKE IT RICH

At a press conference on Tuesday, Mr George Barclay, the colliery manager, accompanied by Professor Sir Robert Grieve and Mr John Rollo, chairman and vice-chairman of the HIDB respectively, announced that a new coal seam was discovered a fortnight ago.

"We know now that there is coal in abundance," he said, "I'm absolutely certain there is enough for 400 or 500 years."

The existence of a new seam was established some months back. This was estimated to add a further 40 years to the life of the coal-mine.

It was while digging towards this seam that the miners struck their klondyke much nearer the surface and 4 ft. 6 ins deep as compared with the 3 ft. of the one aimed for. Geologists had forecast such a field from surface features but its existence is now firmly established.

The extra depth of this seam adds 25 per cent. to the mine's production without increasing the labour force.

Rumours are rife that the new seam is Grade I coal suitable for the very lucrative house coal market. Mr Barclay would not comment on these rumours.

However, as Mr John Rollo said, markets are "no problem." The guaranteed weekly market at present is 350 tons and subject to satisfactory analysis of the new coal a further 150 tons could be added to the weekly total.

The Brora coal mine will again go into full production by mid-winter — three to four months earlier than planned. The anticipated influx of people into Easter Ross should help boost sales considerably.

Work had already begun on sinking two drifts west of the old pit-head to tap an 8,000,000 tons coalfield when the mine was closed recently. The main working of the coal mine will now be concentrated on the new 4 ft. 6 ins. seam which was struck a mere 86 ft. below the surface.

Professor Grieve commented on the contribution the colliery was making in providing 30 jobs in an area

where it would be difficult to provide alternative employment. This represented some 100 people dependent on the colliery.

Mr Barclay was unwilling to comment on the possibility of more labour being employed at present. The details of the industry's training scheme have still to be finalised also. It is, however, considered likely that additions to the labour force may be necessary.

The Highlands and Islands Development Board are providing financial assistance to a total value of £100,000 for the new development.

ADVANCE FACTORY FOR THURSO

The 6000 ft. advance factory promised for Caithness by the Highland Development Board will go to Thurso and it will be only 10 miles from Dounreay Reactor Station where trade union representatives have stressed their fears for the future.

The Board have told the town council that the factory plan has been approved by the Scottish Secretary. It will be built on a one-acre site at the town's newly-approved Ormie industrial estate.

Northern Isles Shipping Costs

If the Government had turned down the application of the North of Scotland, Orkney and Shetland Shipping Co. for a 10 per cent increase in most of their charges, the company would have had to reduce their services to the islands.

This was stated on Monday by Mr Norman Edmond, the company's managing director, commenting on the controversial increase announced last Friday.

The company had lost a month's increased revenue through having to wait for the views of the Scottish Offices on their proposed increases.

The increases had been made necessary by ever-increasing costs.

"We do watch our expenses very closely," he said. "The PIB said in their May 1968 report that the company were well managed and cost-conscious."

The company, a subsidiary of Coast Lines Ltd., of Liverpool, had been examining the possibility of operating roll-on, roll-

off ferries, but he warned that the cost of replacing ships would be "terrific." It would be "suicide" to replace any of their seven ships with conventional vessels. The only way they would get replacement ships would be through some form of Government aid.

At present, the only subsidy they had was a small one to help to operate the Earl of Zetland.

Mr Stuart Donald, Shetland county council's development officer, said yesterday that he was alarmed by the long-term effect on the community of these ever-increasing freight charges. There had been 16 increases in the last 19 years.

The northern islands were more optimistic and more confident than ever before, he said, but these spiralling freight costs hung "like a shadow" over them. Shetland, with a population of some 17,000, was contributing 15 to 20 per cent more per capita towards exports than the national average.

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Di-ardaoin, 24 latha de'n Iuchar

Thursday, 24th July 1969

AM FEAR A BHITHEAS A'ROINN NA MARAIG . . .

Chan fhaca mi o chionn fada litir ann am paipear-naidheachd a chuir a leithid a dh' ioghnadh orm ris an te a chuir fear ris an canar Wicksteed 'dha'n ' Scotsman' o chionn ghoidr, a' caoidh cho beag de chiumhneachaidh an Sgeadhaidh a bha ri'n faighinn ann an Alba agus ag radh gum bu choir dhuinne ciumhneachadh gur e ar Pionnsa-ne a tha ann an Tearlach cuideachd.

Nis, docha gur e te de na litrichean a bhitheas luchd nam paipearan a' sgrìobhadh iad fein airson deasbud a bhròsnachadh a bha anns an te seo. Cha chuireadh e ioghnadh sam bith orm na b'e, ach mura b'e agus tha na treud Wicksteeds 'nar measg tha e furasda thughsinn carson a chuir an Rìghaltas uread a dh' uidh anns an Sgeadhachadh.

Tha doigh-riaghlaidh na duthcha seo a' faighinn moran molaigh (agus tha i a' iairidh air) airson gur e 'constitutional monarchy' a tha ann am Breatain, ach shaoileadh sibh uaireannan gu bheil cuid dhe'n bheachd gur e an Crun fein as coireach airson seo. Tha litir ann am paipear-naidheachd eile an t-seachdain seo a' toirt 'nar cumhne nach ann mar seo a bha cuisean idir. Tha am fear-sgrìobhadh ag radh gur e mìltean de dhaoine cumanta mar a bha Martairan Toimudle agus na 'Chartists' gun gath a radh air Martairan 1820 agus cailleadh an 'Bunghaidh' a chòisinn dhùinn na beachdan a tha sinn a' mealtainn 'san duthcha seo. Agus tha e cuideachd a' ceist, 'Cait an robh na rìghrean an uair a bha na daoine bochda sin a' fulang gear-leannmhair?' Agus tha e fein 'gu freagairt, 'Bha a h-uile uair air taobh an fheadhainn a bha an aghaidh leasachadh an t-sluaigh. Cha b'urrainn dhaibh a bhith air a' chaochladh; cha robh anns an teaghlach rioghal ach inneal ann an lamhan luchd an airgid.' Tha e toirt 'nar cumhne cuideachd gun deachaidh a h-uile leabhar a sgrìobh Charles Dickens at-chlo-bhuaidh an deidh a' chogaidh ach aon fear 'A Child's History of England.' Cha robh facal math aig Dickens ann an leabhar seo airson gin de rìghrean Shasunn ach Alfred Mor.

Mura cumar an teaghlach rioghal a mach a gnothaichean poiliticeach faodaidh sinn car a chur anns an t-seanfhaich agus a radh.

'Am fear a bhitheas a'roinn na maraig gheibh e cuid-eachadh bhò'n Rìgh' no bhò'n Bhan-rìghinn.

GOING TO THE DEVIL

The recent upsurge in both interest and in activity in the field of obscenity should be disturbing to the British public. Strangely, it is quite apathetic. Only a few solitary voices are heard raised in objection to the process which undoubtedly indicates that the country, apart from going to the dogs politically, is also going to the devil, in moral terms.

Politics and religion. Though they have never been wholly compatible, in Christ's terms at any rate, they are inseparable bedfellows. In the context of the troubles which the country is experiencing at present, leaders in both these fields of human endeavour must share the blame. First, politicians have increasingly been thinking in pure politico-economic terms. Second, leaders in the Church have been.

For the second time in this column, we say that unless the Church becomes a Church Militant, our society will lose out in the end. And the Church will become nothing more than a plaything of those immoral forces who are riding so freely on the present whirlwind.

That any Government should even consider that we should be allowed five unrestrained years so that obscenity can become a pattern in our lives is unthinkable. Yet, that fact is almost on our doorstep. This is tantamount to saying that we shall allow ourselves to be over-run by a conqueror, who recognises no terms but his own, for a period of five years, at the end of which we shall tell him to go away!

It is all very well for various factions in the Church to move towards unity, which might benefit themselves but not their Church bodies. It is all very well for relief to be sent to Biafra, while a worse spiritual hunger and famine are lying on our very doorsteps. It is all very well for Synods and Presbyterians to thunder out their condemnations on Sabbath desecration and the like, while the acid of obscenity and permissiveness corrode the fibres of our society at a rate which even now may be beyond recovery.

It is all very well . . . But for those whom we believe make up the bulk of society today, but are without a voice, those whose children are growing up in an atmosphere of confusion, there must be some serious thinking, to be followed by action. It may well come to the militant demonstration of the moral sectors of society against our temporal and spiritual leaders who seem to be so bent on reducing us to a submissive, vitiated mass which it will require no effort to govern.

Truly, the hounds have been unleashed.

FAICINN BHUAM

Disatharna, toiseach Féil Ghlaschu, a' sealltainn am mach air acarsaid Eilean Iarmain. Chanell ach dà yacht bheag ri am faicinn air acaire, ach tha tèile a' nochdadh timcheall a' chinn Ghairbh, agus tha mi cianach gum bi tuilleadh ann mun bh àm latha seachad. Tha an side air togail air, an dèidh sin ann lathaichean a bh' againn, agus an Lìne Shléiteach beagan nas foiseile.

Bha acarsaid Eilean Iarmain làn aon uair cha b'ann le yachtaichean ach le bàtaichean iasgach. Chan fhaca mi e ach chuala mi gu foadadh to cois-eachd o bhàta gu bàta am mach air Eilean Orasa. Bha seo dòcha car bòsdail ach tha fhios agam gu robh buth mhòr Eilean Iarmain gu math trang a' frithealachd muinntir an t-Sraith is Shléite is eadhon àiteachan thall air tìr mòr.

Began nas fhaide muath tha Loch na Dàlach; chuala sinn uaireigin anns an sgòil gum bitheadh bàtaichean a' dèanamh dàil an seo gu an toir-eachd sruth lionaidh cothrom dhaibh cumail orra troimh na Chaol. Theaghamm gun cuir eiseanann làidir an lath an duigh a' chuid mhòr de bhàtaichean troimh na Chaol aig seol mara sa bith. Bitheadh sin mar sin, tha neart an t-srutha an siud follaiseach fhathast do dhùine a' feitheamh aig làimrig Chaol-reithe, no air tìr mòr mu a choinneimh, agus a' faicinn a' bhàt aig a strìth mun dèan i port dheth thall no bhòs.

Bha ìrnas air sruth Chaol-reithe mar air sruthan mara eile. Far am bi sruth làidir bitheadh iasg pailt agus bha e na cleachdadh aig muinntir Chamachros, ged a bha gedh iasgach ri fhaighinn na b'fhaisg air làimh, a' chuid mhòr de dhà latha, is oidhche, a chur seachad airson sgrìob a dh' iasgach shaoithean is liudhaidhean an Caolreithe. Chan iarradh balach curseachad na bu shòlasaiche na sgrìob dh'e'n t-seòrsa.

Ged a tha an t-aiseag bho Chaolacainn cho trang se an t-aiseag bho Chaol—reithe as giorra agus bhithheadh an tuilleadh iarradh air mur a b'e bruthaichean cas cuagach Mam Rataiginn air tìr mòr is am Bealach Mòr air taobh an eilein. Tha rathad an Dòir-nid nas fhasa buileach a nis bhon a chuireadh crìoch air rathad dh'e'n rathad ùr sloa taobh Loch Duthaich agus nuair a nìhear a bhìdeag mu dheireadh cho fada ris a' Chaol, càt am bi rathad san dùthach, gabh e mar a thogras tu coltach ris an sgrìob eadar Ionaragaidh agus Caol Loch Aillse. Cha toirer bàrr air, mar a thuir fear mu rathad an àiteigin eile, ach leis an sgrìob bho Caol Loch Aillse gu Ionaragaidh.

Chanell iad a dochiuimhneachadh buileach na seachd mìle bho Chaolreithe gu Lusaidh, air rathad a' Chaol. Tha fear no dhà a' dèanamh sràsta de phiocadh air an dràsta—tha

barrachd is spaid aca—agus tha e gu math teumach air. Nam bitheadh cuid no dha dhe na muileannan a bh' air an cosg air na rathaidean mòra, mòra, air a chur am mach air na rathaidean beaga, s dòcha gun cumadh e bailtean coltach ri Caolreithe bho bhith cho falamb an duigh sa iad.

Am teachd sa iad am beagan càraidh seo a' dol ad dhart eadar Caolreithe is Lusaidh tha droch dhuibh ga dèanamh air ceann Lusaidh dheth. Cò eile a tha a' dèanamh a' mhìlaidh ach comhlan tapaidh a' mach an rìgh (na barrigh se bu chòir) Ach tha an rùnneach uile buannachaidh, oir tha iad a' dèanamh ceur a' dh' ionnsaidh an roinn adhair a tha iad a' cur sios aig Aisig (bha aiseag an seo cuideachd, tha e coltach, aon uair, na b'fhaidh na gin de dh' aiseagan nan Caol, aiseag eadar an t-eilean agus A' Chomraich).

Is matn na saighdearan fhaicinn aig an obair seo mu dheireadh. Mum bi iad uillean fàgaidh iad, tha mi cianach an ceann uil de rathad Chaol Reithe, chan e mhaìn cho math (mas e sin am facal ceart) sa fhuair iad e, ach nas fheàrr.

Faodaidh na Sgiathanaich iad fhéin a chumtast fortan-ach gu bheil iad a' factan an raon-plèusa seo idir. Bitheadh cumhinn aig cuid air an upraid a bh' ann a chionn beagan bliadhnanach nuair a thairgeadh an t-ionad adhair seo an toiseach is a mheasadh leothas a bu dòchas a bhith fiosrach mu 'n chùis gum e' comhùard Aisig a bu freagarrach air a shon. Cha do chòrd seo ri cuid dha na Sgiathanaich fhéin. Bha iad a' smaoin- teachadh gum b'e aite am meadhon an eilein, na b' fhaig air Dontrigh, a b' fheàrr. Mur fhaigeadh iad a sin e, a réir coltas, b'fheàrr leotha a bhith as aonais. Mar sin cha bhithheadh e na annas ged a thachradh dhaibh mar a thachair an iomadh sùidheachadh eile dh'e'n t-seòrsa, gum b'ann as aonais a bhithheadh iad air a' cheann thall.

Thionndaidh urrasan an airm gu ceannaidhean eile. Fhuair Muile agus Ploch Loch Aillse raointean adhair. Chanell fhios de a thachair eadar an t-arm is na Sgiathanaich an uair sin, co dhà gun ghuth mòr no droch fhacal thainn saighdearan le uidheam b'urach is eile o chionn seachdain no dha. Rinn iad aite seagair airson fùireach dhàidh fhéin an taigh sgoile Bhrèacais, far nachell sgoil-ear air a bhith o chionn bliadhna a nis. An litrichean mòra ri taobh an rathaid tha e ag innse gu bheil obair air 'Raon-adhair an Ath Leathain' (sin an sloinneadh) air toiseachadh. Spoil Bhrèacais aig an nom a' follaiseachadh dol-air-ais is adhartas.

Tha mi fhathast gun an 'Sruth' mu dheireadh fhai-

cinn. Tha bùth nam paipearan an comhaidh curamach agus cha d'fhàgadh ann an teagamh sa bith iad mu luach 'Sruth', ged nach eil iad a' reic ach aon fhear eile dhuibh. Bha còir aige tighinn mun d'fhag mi am baile, ach s' fheadar gun d'fhainnig rudigin anns a' rathaid. Cò dhùidh bha e na mhìnsheach a chluinntinn bho choirch is aon duine gun d' fhainnig e mach agus gun do leugh iad mo chuid fhìn dheth.

Bithidh e na cheist air sgrìobhadairan an fhìach an obair an t-seòrsaibh mureil moran an gabhail suim dheth, agus an e beachdan claon no làidir, no masladh air choir- eigin, a dh' fheumar a chur sios mun teid aige dhaoine a tharrainn da ionnsaidh.

B'e droch naidheachd a fhuair sinn aig coinneamh Steòrnabhagh mu 'Sruth' nuair a dh' innseadh gun do stad buithnean a' bhàile gu léir dha fhaotainn. Saoil an d' fhainnig iad co-dhuna ceart comhla agus de a bh' aca na aghadh? Tha mi an dòchas gur e aon toradh a bhitheas air imrich an Fhìr-Stiùirdh gun co-èignich e muinntir Steòrnabhagh gur fhaic am paipear seo sia sguilinn.

Bha na cunntaisean bliadh- naid mu' comhair aig a' choinneimh cheudna, agus cha bu mhath fhaicinn gun do chosg 'Sruth' £1,800 do'n Chomunn anns a' bhliadhna d'ha fhàill. B'e aon adhbhar a thagair airson dìonndaidh ri puipair ceir-eadh an àite mìosachain gu robh 'An Gaidheal' a' còsg sia ciad sa bliadhna.

Mureil càrdan na Gàidh- lich deonach dè sa' cheirleadh a chur am mach air paipair dha 'n t-seòrsa seo, faodaidh sinn sgrù a bhith gar coim- eas fhin ri Cuimrich, seadh na ri Eireannaich no Frang- Bhrèatainnach no cinneach sa bith eile. A bheil sinn a' cheart-dà-rìreadh no nachell?

Chanell adhartas gearr na b-aimis a' seasamh. Tha còr math is trì yachtaichean anns an acarsaid. Nam bitheadh an turadh ann dh' inn- sinn dhuibh cia meud.

John Hall penman

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Celtica - today

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

by P. Berresford Ellis

The new Cornish National Party is having a painful birth. Colin Murley, the Mebyon Kernow county councillor, has been expelled by MK, the Cornish National Movement, because he aided the formation of the CNP. "I helped to form the CNP because I believe that if Cornwall is to be taken seriously it must not be afraid to reclaim its national status by rejecting the dogmas of all political parties."

Both Mebyon Kernow and the CNP seek self government for Cornwall. Why then does there seem to be fragmentation? Mebyon Kernow, as the National Movement, initially tried to encompass people from all political parties. Cornish MPs, Bessell and Pardoe (Liberals), have made use of MK membership to catch votes. Why then does MK seem violently opposed to CNP?

"As a member of Mebyon Kernow," said Mr Murley, "I have always pursued its aims. This I will continue to do, but without helping the cause of Messrs Bessell and Pardoe or Mudd and others like them who make use of the MK label.

"These people cannot possibly be 100 per cent behind the aims of MK otherwise they would resign from their London based, English political parties."

The formation of a strictly Cornish political party is a great step in the history of the Cornish independence movement. It would seem ridiculous if Mebyon Kernow continues its attack on the CNP whose leader is Robert Holmes, a Liskeard Mebyon Kernow councillor.

After all, both MK and CNP agree on one thing — a Cornish Parliament.

Tynwald Day (the only day when Manx is officially recognised by the Manx Government — when the laws of the country are read in Manx and English to the assembled islanders) has come and gone, July 5. The Isle of Man Times has suggested that the holiday should be made into a more Celtic celebration by the resurrection of a Manx Mod. "It might be worth while considering the possibility of following up the Tynwald Ceremony with a revival of the Cruinnagh Vaminagh Asoonagh in which at least the art and craft competitions would be restored."

The Manx Government has now given formal sanction for the production of a Manx currency and the new coinage will start its issue from 1970. At the same time the Manx Government have appointed its delegation for the Standing Committee on the

Common Interests between Mannin and the English Government. They are R. E. S. Kerruish, J. B. Bolton and E. N. Crowe. The Committee is to try and "iron out" differences of opinion between the Manx and English Government.

The Sunday before Tynwald Day a Manx service was given in St. George's Church, Douglas, by Rev. Canon C. A. Cannan. The service, entirely in Manx, with lessons and sermon etc., was very well attended and shows the increasing interest on the island of the Manx Language Revival.

The Fourth Congress of the International Association for the Defense of Threatened Languages and Cultures will be held in Kertall, Moelan, near Kemperle, Brittany, on July 29 and 30. Delegates, not only from the Celtic countries, but all persecuted European nationalities will attend. Details from Prof. Naert, Nylandsgaten 11c30, Abo/Turku, Finland.

Response to the appeal for a Scottish Language Society, modelled on the lines of the Welsh one, made by Seumas Mac a' Ghobhainn at a recent League of Celtic Nations meeting (Sruth, July 10) has been heart-warming. Mr Mac a' Ghobhainn says he has received letters which show a definite need for a society as well as letters from people in a Gailltachd asking whether a Scottish Language Society would help them get local authorities to start Gàidhlig lessons in a Gailltachd! The response shows the need and such a society deserves all the help it can get from those who do not wish to witness the death of Scotland's National Language. Mr Mac a' Ghobhainn is still keen to hear from people interested in the society and can be contacted at 63 Westfield Road, Surbiton, Surrey, Sasum.

A show of Pan Celtic solidarity was given at the interment of Peadar Barnes and Seumas Mac Cormaic at Ballyglass Cemetery, near Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, a few weeks ago. The 10,000 people gathered to pay tribute to the two IRA men, executed in England in 1940, for their alleged involvement in the Coventry bomb explosion, also stood in silent tribute in memory of the two young Welshmen killed by their own bomb on the day of Prince Charles's Investiture. The two men were the first Welshmen killed in the struggle for independence since English troops opened fire on Welsh demonstrators at Tonypandy in November 1910. The officer who gave the command for the troops to fire on the Welsh crowd was Nevil Macready who be-

came chief of the Black and Tans.

On July 12 the O.ang Order once more set Uladh (Ulster) ablaze. I am reminded of the Irish song: "Two foreign monarchs met at the Boynne, each wanting their head on the back of a coin . . . And making the observation that 'If the Irish had

sense they'd have thrown both in the Boynne and Partition back into the Ocean." Unfortunately, the Irish did not have sense. The empire is dying hard in the Sx Counties. England's divided et impera policy has worked so well in Northern Ireland for the rest of Celtica to learn from.

PRIZE AWARD

A Scottish Benedictine monk who can speak over eight languages — and who can read another six — has been awarded Edinburgh University's Hume Brown Senior Prize for an historical research project which has uncovered fresh aspects of links between Scotland and the Continent.

He is Father Mark Disworth (45), from Edinburgh, who is headmaster of Fort Augustus Abbey School, Inverness-shire.

His research work is entitled 'The Scottish Abbey in Wurzburg, 1595-1600'.

Father Dilworth was given a Leverhulme research award in 1965 for two years to work at Edinburgh University and do research in archives on the Continent, particularly South Germany and Rome.

The work was presented as a doctorate thesis in 1968 and the degree of Ph.D. awarded.

There were 10 Benedictine Irish foundations — abbeys and other centres — in South Germany from the 11th century. The monks called themselves Scoti. The word later changed its meaning to modern Scot.

Scottish Benedictine monks: therefore took over the abbeys and other centres just before the Reformation. Monks went from there to Scotland as missionaries: some were scholars and taught in Continental universities.

There were three such medieval abbeys in Germany up to Napoleonic times, one of them in Wurzburg.

Father Dilworth became interested in this segment of history by following the life of Father Anselm Robertson, of Fochabers, who was the last monk of the last surviving medieval abbey — the abbey of St James of the Scots — at Ratishon in the Danube.

Father Robertson was also one of the founder monks of

Fort Augustus Abbey which was opened in 1878. Father Robertson died in 1900.

The Hume Brown Senior Prize is awarded by Edinburgh University every second year to a graduate of a Scottish university for an original contribution to Scottish history, unpublished or published not more than two years before the award.

(The candidate must not have previously published any other book on Scottish history).

Father Dilworth has been connected with Fort Augustus Abbey all his life. As a boy he attended Fort Augustus' preparatory school, at that time at Canaan Lane, Edinburgh, and now at Carle Kemp, North Berwick, and then moved to Fort Augustus school.

He entered the Benedictine order and was ordained at Fort Augustus in 1947. He taught in the school there from 1947-49. He studied at Oxford from 1949 to 1952, taking a degree in modern languages.

Father Dilworth taught at Carle Kemp for three years (from 1952 to 1955), then from 1955 to 1959 at Fort Augustus, and was appointed headmaster in 1959.

In 1964 he was released for historical research work, and is now back at Fort Augustus as headmaster.

TRAINING OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS

In the 1969-70 session more Scottish colleges are to run pilot courses based on the Construction Industry Training Board's plan for the training of operatives. This is stated in a Scottish Education Memorandum sent to Education Authorities and college principals along with a detailed account of the Board's plan, its objectives, scope and content.

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HIGHLAND MINERAL EXPLOITATION

The Highlands and Islands Development Board are launching a campaign to encourage the exploitation of proved mineral resources in North-West Sutherland. This follows the completion of a commercial assessment of the potential of the area by the Robertson Research Company Ltd.

The Board are seeking enquiries from British and North American mining firms who may be interested in developing interesting mineral prospects uncovered by the survey as well as participating with the Board in a comprehensive evaluation of the magnesium (i.e. brucite, dolomite and sea water) and diatomite resources of the Highlands and Islands.

A Board spokesman said: "We are very pleased by the results of the survey since since two or three minerals seem to be immediately exploitable. This commercial assessment enables the Board to place the minerals of the area in true perspective. It means that exaggerated proposals for large-scale mineral development can be countered by the true facts, which indicate the likelihood of small-scale development rather than exploitation of "bonanza" proportions."

In their detailed report to the Board, Robertson Research conclude that the survey area — involving 1100 square miles west of a line Lairg to Tongue — holds interesting mineral prospects of pegmatite, quartzite, shell sands and garnets. Pegmatite is used for glass and ceramic grade feldspar and by-product quartz, quartzite for silicon and silicon alloy manufacture, shell sands for agricultural lime and garnets for abrasives.

In addition, non-ferrous mineral indications have been located which justify further investigation and new information has been obtained on dolomite, brucite marble, syenite and diatomite.

The survey involved an evaluation of geology and quality; technical exploitation factors such as extraction, processing, transportation, labour and utilities; and markets and overall economic feasibility. The more interesting mineral deposits have been taken to the stage of studying processing techniques and the best prospects have been subjected to an assessment of the requirements for further development leading to eventual exploitation.

When Norwegian shipyard workers were told that their firm might be late in delivering a new drive-on drive-off ferry for Western Ferries, they postponed their annual holidays. The result is that the ship, costing under £400,000, will be on service between West Loch, Tarbert and Islay

PLACES OF INTEREST:**PLUSCARDEN PRIORY**

Situated in a pleasant wooded valley not far from Elgin lies Pluscarden Priory. For centuries it lay ruinous then in 1948 work began in earnest, and continues today, in the restoration of this excellent group of Scottish monastic buildings.

Chosen by Alexander II as the site for a monastery in 1230, Pluscarden became a Vallisculan monastery. The valley was not always so

by Gilbert T. Bell

peaceful, the Wolf of Badenoch sacked the priory and set the church ablaze and some time later it was thought wiser to amalgamate with the Benedictines.

1560 saw the last Prior and the Reformation though the last monk to stay at Pluscarden is recorded as late as 1586. For 300 years the building lay empty and fell ruinous until, in 1897, the 3rd Marquis of Bute acquired the property and began to carry out remedial work. His son returned the property to the Benedictines, of Prinknash in Gloucester. The work is a tremendous task and steadily, if not always spectacularly, continues. The old buildings well merit this new lease of life and it is gratifying that they continue to play their old role.

Much work has been done and the visitor will enjoy seeing the Priory take shape again while the monks thoroughly enjoy showing people around. They do all sorts of things; they have bees to provide honey as well as wax for candles and even make their own stained glass windows (though the beautiful rose window is by Sadie MacLellan, a Glasgow artist).

Though the life of a monk in no way appeals to me, they did all seem bright cheerful and friendly. Perhaps there is something to be said for being cut off from all our national worries.

I believe it is possible to spend a few days at the Priory though I was only there one afternoon while on holiday, and at that only for a little over an hour. It was the first time I had ever been inside a monastery, and next time I pass I'll take another wee look in.

LOCHINVER PIER COST

The approved estimated cost of the extension to Culg Pier, Lochinver, is £92,460.

The Government will meet 75 per cent of the cost.

**Text for
the Times**

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Psalm 127 v. 1.

Mur tog an Tighearn an tigh, gu diomhain saithraichidh a luchd-toigail mur gleidh an Tighearn an baile, gu diomhain ni am fearcoimhid faire.

Saiml 127 r. 1.

PROVERB

Theid duthchas an aghaidh na'n creag.

Kinship will withstand the rocks.

Scotland's £2m. In Contracts For New Smelter

Scotland will benefit by more than £2 million from contracts let in connection with the smelter being built for The British Aluminium Company Limited, at Invergordon, Ross and Comar, by Taywood Wriughson Ltd. Total value of recent orders for construction material and equipment for the plant is almost £14 million.

Redpath Dorman Long (Northern and Tubes Group, British Steel Corporation) have received orders worth about £1 million for the fabrication and erection of nearly 10,000 tons of steelwork. About 8,000 tons of this will be fabricated by RDL in Glasgow.

John G. Stein and Co. Ltd., of Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, will supply refractory bricks for the carbon-baking and aluminium holding furnaces.

Other major orders have gone to Colvilles Ltd. (British Steel Corporation) of Glasgow; Trocoll Industries (Scotland) Ltd., of Irvine, Ayrshire, for concrete pipes and fittings, plus several to the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board. These last are separate from the original basic contract signed in July last year with NOSHEB for a continuous supply of electric power over a period of 25 years.

As well, a fume treatment plant costing well over £3m will be installed by SF Treatment, of Hounslow, Middlesex.

Construction work on the smelter, which is due to begin production in the spring of 1971 and to be fully operational by the end of that year, is running according to schedule.

Initially, the smelter will

produce 100,000 tons of aluminium a year, helping the balance of payments situation by more than £15m. per annum, helping replacing ingot at present the balance of payments imported.

**The Wreck of the
"Christina"**

(article on page seven)

How sorrowful my present lay
Of friends that death did sever;
A gallant crew in health that sailed,
And home again came never.

Many a seaman strong and brave,
That sailed the wave on that day,
And never came to port again,
Nor gained his haven after.

'Twas on a Friday's early morn
That those men sailed together;
For loving friends their hearts beat warm;
Some found it hard to sever.

But Fate decreed that they should leave,
And nought their hour could hinder;
The Messenger Grim did plead his claim,
They dare not stay nor linger.

'Tis not their own dear friends alone
That mourn their vacant places;
But Achmevich all deplore
They'll miss no more their faces.

And here I ought to name the four,
All stalwart men and honest;
Roderick son of Angus 'Roy'
And his own fine son Donald.

Donald MacAlistair Mor Munro,
A lad both quiet and sober;
Roderick Macleod, so well beloved,
As only son as brother.

They set their course, the sea is smooth,
And brightest thoughts were cherished,
But when the storm at night out broke
The strongest hopes did perish.

The boat was strong and long and large,
All solid sound in order;
'Twas not the ocean them did harm
But cruel rocks that gored her.

The people of the North of Skye
When they the wreck discovered,
By searching shores both night and day
The bodies they recovered.

They to their homes did them convey,
And there put them in order;
In coffins lined with linen laid
Right well the work performed was.

The cost of sending home by sea
Most handsomely defrayed was,
And thus they nobly sent the dead
To their own sad and grieved ones.

When they were borne ashore at night,
To Inver for interment,
Both young and old did weep and mourn,
'Twas sorrowful to hear them.

Then to the cemetery they came,
With lanterns' light illumined;
A mournful task to close the graves,
And there the four lie buried.

Now let me plead with gentle folk
To help the poor bereaved ones;
Their men are gone; They're left alone
With nothing to relieve them.

Oh all ye who have heard my tale
This take anew a warning:
For who can tell when comes the call
To go to stand before it.

JOHN MACKENZIE,
Glenlarroch, Lochinver, 28/12/1893



PLUSCARDEN PRIORY

Education Authority Bursaries

Increased

Children in the later years of secondary school and students in full-time further education who are granted education authority bursaries will benefit as a result of new regulation made by Mr William Ross, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland. They are the Education Authority Bursaries (Scotland) Regulation 1969 (H.M.S.O., price 1s 9d) which came into operation on July 1.

The maximum higher school bursary has been increased from £70 to £85 a year for pupils in the fourth year of a secondary school course and from £100 to £120 a year for pupils in the fifth or subsequent years. The new scheme is a simplified one and its general effect is to improve the bursaries for pupils who remain at school to complete a course leading to the Scottish Certificate of Education.

Increased bursary rates

EDINBURGH LOCAL MOD

The Leith Town Hall, Ferry Road, Edinburgh, is the venue of this year's Edinburgh Local Mod, on Saturday, 27th September. The Committee, under the able direction of Mod Gold Medalist, George Clavey have been very active during the year in their efforts to further the Gaelic language, music and culture in the City and it is hoped that their efforts will be rewarded with a very large entry at the Mod again this year. Entry forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Isa Macmillan, 29 Drumshuegh Gardens, Edinburgh 3 and entries should be in her hands by Saturday, 30th August. A Grand Concert, featuring many of the competition winners, will be held in the evening at the same venue.

have also been introduced for students attending non-advanced courses of further education.

For students under the age of eighteen the rates are 65 shillings a week for students living at home during term-time and 105 shillings a week for students living away from home. The parental contribution scale applying to these bursaries is £15 at a balance of parental income of £501 a year with the addition of £15 for every complete £50 by which the balance of income exceeds £501. (The "balance of income" is calculated by deducting certain allowances, for example for other dependent children, from gross parental income).

For students who have

IASGACH

Chan 'eil iasgach an trath seo a' dol mu chladaichean, an eileann Siar tha mugh. Na chaidh a dheanadh de dh'iasgach sgadain air a mhios seo 's ann mu chladaichean an Eilein Sgiathanaich.

An nis a ris tha na gomaich-cuain na's pailte.

Tha bataichean eile ri iasgach nan creachain no ri sgrìobadh air son creachain. Tha iasgairean ag radh gu bhèil nachrechain gle phallt an drasda ged nach eil an tìde th'ann gu araidh mu chladaichean nan eileann a mugh ach gaothach air son a lethidh seo a dh'iasgach. B'ann ri iasgach nan giomach-chuain is nan creachan a bha chuid bu mhotha de dh'eithrichean nan eileannan.

Tha iasgairean ag radh gu bhèil sgadan gu leoir ri fhàcinn a mach a Sholus an Eilein Ghlaich ach gu bhèil e duilich a ghlaicadh 's gu bhèil e domhainn 's nach eil e'g eirigh ar gu leoir eus an ruig iad leis na linn sgrìobaidh.

reached the age of eighteen the new rates are 75 shillings a week for students living at home and 115 shillings a week for students living away from home and the parental contribution scale has been improved to bring it into line with the scale used in the assessment of grants for university courses.

£177m. Spent on Scottish Health in 1968

The total gross cost of the National Health Service in Scotland during the financial year ended March 31, 1968 was £177,197,000 compared with £160,709,000 the previous year, and £80,294,000 ten years before. These facts are contained in "Health and Welfare Services in Scotland" report for 1968, published by H.M.S.O. price 12s 6d.

Between October 1, 1967 and September 1968 679,266 patients were discharged from National Health Service Hospitals in Scotland. This was 16.5 per cent more than for the corresponding period in 1960/61 and 3.5 per cent more than 1966/67. The average length of stay was 29 days compared with 34 days in 1960/61. "This apparently long duration of stay includes the long stay in chronic sick, mental and mental deficiency hospitals and if these are omitted the average length of stay was 13 days" states the report.

The number of patients discharged with a diagnosis of cancer increased—for the fifth year in succession. The overall increase is 11 per cent in men and 7 per cent in women.

In the seven years since hospital discharge statistics were first maintained in the number of diagnoses of cancer of the lung and trachea had increased by 36 per cent in men and by 49 per cent in women. Diagnoses of cancer of the breast at 3,488 increased for the fifth successive year.

The report states that the tallest and heaviest children of both sexes at school entry were found in Zetland and Selkirk. The tallest boys at the leaver stage were in Aberdeen County (63.25 ins.), the tallest girls in Zetland (64.47 ins.). The shortest children at the leaver stage are in Glasgow (boys 64.07 ins. and girls: 59.98 ins.).

During the year 434 patients were taken by air ambulance from the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland and from the remoter parts of the mainland to large hospital centres. The total number of flights involved was 363 against 342 for 1967.

Breton Prisoners

Almost 50 Bretons are being held in French prisons in Paris. They have been accused of violence against the French State. It is a charge, however, which underlines the continued refusal

seen the decline of Gaelic through out own negligence and through the disastrous avuncular interest taken in the language by those with authority over us can hardly appreciate living in a climate of oppression, generated by active opposition by a State.

Frang MacThomais

of the French Government to accept that France is at the very least a bilingual nation.

The violence used by these and other Bretons was trifling in comparison with that used by the French State in the past to establish and maintain itself in Brittany. That country was annexed as the result of a military defeat in which 6,000 Bretons lost their lives. The last Breton National Assembly was disbanded by force used by French troops in Rennes, 1788.

The struggle for the rights of Brittany was repressed by terror and massacres in 1675, 1720, 1794-96 and in 1832. Thousands of Bretons were left to die in the Conlie Camp in 1870. Just under quarter of a million Breton men were "consumed" in the furnaces of the First World War. And indiscriminate repression was carried out in 1944-47 in order to annihilate the Breton national movement.

During the past decade, the State machine in France has continually acted against Breton attempts to exercise their rights. The Gaormig children were actually denied legal existence. The Etiennees were deprived of their children's allowances because they wanted their children to be educated in a total Breton environment. Large areas of Brittany have been taken over for military bases without consultation. And so on.

The jailed men are in no way habitual trouble-makers. Their background has been one of gradual frustration to the point of action.

In particular there has been the economic deportation of Breton youth and the eradication of the Breton language. We in Scotland who have

the question is how would we react? Would we be sufficiently interested in the preservation of our identity if the French environment existed in Scotland, or in the Highlands?

It is all very well for people in this country to condemn the violence which has occurred in Brittany. But it must at the same time be realised that there, but for the Grace of God, go we. The annihilation of ethnic groups is in these days not by the sword but by the machinations of Governments.

Imprisonment for one's political beliefs is becoming too common nowadays. How thin is the ice on which the Western civilisation is treading?

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT UP BY 3.7 PER CENT

Scotland's industrial output in the first quarter of this year was 3.7 per cent higher than in the corresponding quarter of 1968. The Index of Industrial Production in Scotland, issued by the Scottish Statistical Office, shows that this overall rise came from increases of 2.3 per cent in manufacturing output, 3.7 per cent in the construction industry and over 12 per cent in the gas, electricity and water group, with a decline of 1.4 per cent in the output of the mining and quarrying industries.

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SCOTASAY — Experiment in Island-living

The Island of Scotasay, about three quarters of a mile long and half a mile wide, lies in the approaches to Tarbert, Harris, in the mouth of East Loch Tarbert. The Island has an area of about 150 acres and is some two miles to the East of Tarbert and about a mile from the shore of North Harris and a similar distance from the Island of Scalpay to the East.

The Island was originally a part of the North Harris Estate and I purchased it in 1965 from the previous owner, just prior to the sale of the main Estate to Sir Hereward Wake. Harris is probably the most beautiful of the Outer Hebridean chain, and with the tall imposing mountains of its interior, and its long sandy Atlantic beaches, it has more variety of scenery than any of its neighbours.

The first essential was to create somewhere to live—a cottage for holidays — and although the island supported a population of 19 (seven males and twelve females) in 1921, when it was deserted, apart from four crumbling walls of one house, only piles of stones marked the sites of the other crofts and the island is now uninhabited most of the year. In 1861 the population was 14; none in 1881; 18 in 1891, 15 in 1901, and 20 in 1911.

Problems of access for men and materials suggested that any form of conventional building would be too expensive and prolonged, and the final solution was the construction of a small cedar boarded prefabricated cottage.

Scotasay is a beautiful island. The panoramic views from the top of its main hill are superb and the island is a microcosm of all that is best of Highland landscape and birdlife. Our house is built a few yards from a lagoon that is open to the sea at high tide. On a clear day Skye is visible some 25 miles away. However, the scenery, like that of all the remainder of Harris suffers from the lack of trees. Until recently, apart from the established wooded policies of Lews Castle at Stornoway, there are virtually no sizeable areas of trees throughout the whole of the Outer Isles.

In the last few years a sub-

stantial afforestation scheme of some 500 acres has been started on the Garrynahine estate in Lewis. The real significance of this scheme is that it has been undertaken partly on land in hand to the Estate and partly on land contributed from the common grazings, by the local crofters.

A similar problem obtained on Scotasay, and the present experiment could not have been undertaken without the fullest co-operation of the two crofters who between them grazed the island with their sheep.

The site resumed from the grazed area totalled eight acres and comprised a segment of land in the North-West corner of the island. This parcel of land was the only really compact possibility, and had the advantage that the sea formed a natural boundary round a substantial length of the perimeter. Fencing was necessary as although there are neither deer nor rabbits on the island, it was vital to exclude the sheep until the forest had become established. The land had not previously been cultivated, and comprised an undulating grassy slope down to the sea, the majority of which was relatively sheltered from the prevailing South West wind, and almost inaccessible from the damaging effects of salt spray.

At the outset we sought help from the Forestry Commission, and upon their recommendation the scheme was drawn up and the work supervised by Sinclair Burnett of Mumlochry, Ross-shire. The fencing, draining and planting was done by the local crofters, one of whom has grazing rights on the island, and who is now responsible for future maintenance of the fence and the trees.

All the fencing materials had to be shipped from Skye by Macbraynes to Tarbert, taken by small boat to the island, and manually distributed over the site from a rocky shore. The approximate total cost of the finished fence including delivery and many handlings, was 7/- per yard, and was the

by John S. Taylor

major item of cost of the whole operation.

In the wet hollow the land was drained by 18 inch x 9 inch drainage trenches and turves were cut and turned upside down at the planting distances of 6 feet x 6 feet. The trees were planted at the rate of about 1200 per acre in a notch in the



Mr Sinclair Burnett, Mumlochry, who was responsible for the Scotasay project.

peat or the turves, and each tree was given an application of 2.3 oz. of phosphate fertiliser after planting. The approximate cost of the trees, planting and manuring was about £25 per acre. The trees were predominantly Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta) from the N.W. Pacific coast, including a high proportion of Alaskan Spruce (Picea sitchensis) were planted in small quantities in hollows and on the better sites.

The initial planning of most of the land was carried out in the spring of 1967, and some further planting was undertaken last year. This latter planting has suffered from the very dry spring followed by the exceptionally hot summer, but on the whole the plants have taken well and are thriving. Growth will not be spectacular, but should average 12 inches per year.

The scheme was undertaken under the "Approved Woodlands" scheme sponsored by the Forestry Commission. This is intended for owners who are prepared to manage their woodlands in accordance with a Plan of Operations approved by the Commission, and who either cannot or do not wish to enter into a legally binding arrangement that is an essential prerequisite of their Dedication Scheme. Under the Approved Woodlands Scheme the owner receives a planting grant of £22 12s 0d per acre, £16 19s 0d of which is paid in the year of planting, and the balance of £5 13s 0d is paid five years later, provided that the plantation has been properly maintained. Unlike the Dedication Scheme, no management grant is paid.

Last year a small plot of land

was enclosed across the lagoon a few hundred yards from the house. Various species of Rhododendron and Azalea were planted, and this year we propose to experiment with a wide variety of other conifers to see which species will survive the conditions, and to give some interest to the views from the house.

All activities on the island are affected by the problem and expense of access, and relatively speaking the forestry experiment has had to bear many additional costs which would not obtain in mainland areas. Sea travel was relatively slow, and many days were cut short due to rising winds.

The work provided an interesting sideline for the crofters engaged on the scheme, who did very well at the work, and who appreciated the long term benefits of the plantation to their stock. Ultimately we hope to harvest a crop of timber, and the thinning stages will provide more work, when round poles can be converted into fencing posts, after peeling, pointing and creosoting. A grant is available from the Ministry of Agriculture for such fencing material if it is properly prepared and a simple "hot and cold" creosoting tank would be needed.

There are undoubtedly many sites in the Outer Isles capable of growing a productive timber crop, and quite apart from the long term benefits, the immediate advantages are enormous. Valuable work for crofters would be provided at most

stages of the operation, and the somewhat bleak landscape would undoubtedly benefit from planting. There are depressing examples of attempts at afforestation throughout the Highlands, criticised by opponents of forestry as typical of the potential, and the wildness of the Hebridean climate is often suggested as an overwhelming deterrent to planting on the Islands. The fact remains that large areas of the Outer Isles were densely wooded several hundred years ago, and their absence is now blamed on the Norse invaders who decimated them to remove any cover capable of concealing an ambush.

The truth about their destruction is doubtful, but there is evidence that trees did exist a long time ago, and there is no reason why they could not be replaced.

This scheme is only a tiny contribution, but one hopes that others can be persuaded to follow our example.

NA'S SAOIRE

NA'N TOMBACA

Bha te a bhataichean Mhic a' Bhruthainn an LOCH MOR latha ceangailte ri cidhe Scalpaigh gu pairt dhe'n luchd a bh'innte chur air tìr.

Bha luchd-turus air bord innte. Sheol fear dha na bh'air bord a lannh agus a bh'each a' mach a chorràig ghliodh e 's e comharrachadh ceo ag eirigh a tigh-smogaidh no tigh cìbrighidh (Kipper House) a bha faisg air a' chidhe "Seallaihb fhearaihbh" a' magadh "th iad a' smogadh an t-suighean ann am Mal-laig."

"Agus" ars fear dha na Scalpaigh bh'air a' chidhe le eubh 'g a fhreagairt. "Co is saoire e fhein na'n tombaca!"



The author's new house on Scotasay Island. The house was prefabricated in Nottingham and erected by John MacAskill of Tarbert.



The ruins of the old house on Scotasay. It was last occupied by Calum MacKay's mother, Mrs Peggy MacKay, in 1920. Calum MacKay is in the foreground. Part of the planted area is in the middle distance. The Harris hills are in the background.

The Wreck of the "Christina"

The recent drowning disasters in Orkney and Sutherland together with the loss of the seine-netter "Refleiteur" early last year recall many similar tragedies that took place in the North of Scotland within the last hundred years. In West

Sutherland alone, and within living memory, there have been seven such disasters, involving the earliest of these disasters took place in November, 1893, when the beautiful Friday morning

the "Christina," a boat from Achmelvich, Lochinver, left for Stormovay, loaded with herrings. She was manned by a crew of four, all experienced seamen from the same township. When they left Achmelvich that morning under the brightest auspices no one dreamed of the tragedy that was soon to overtake them. During the afternoon a severe storm from the North broke out with great fury, and when showers of sleet and snow darkened the sky relatives and friends were in the greatest concern for the "Christina" and her crew. Their worst fears were soon realised when a message was received from Staffin, Skye, that the bodies had been washed ashore there, after the boat had been smashed to pieces. Lochinver folk never forget the kindness and sympathy shown by the people of Staffin to the near relatives of the deceased, and their concern for the dead and living, all of which is expressively set forth by the late Mr John Mackenzie, Glendarrochi, Lochinver, who was well-known and highly esteemed throughout the whole North-western area, while acting the capacity of travelling agent for the Lochbroom Tweed Mills. The following touching Gaelic poem by Mr Mackenzie will still be much appreciated by the people of Lochinver and Staffin.

In Memory of the Lochinver crew who were drowned 17th November, 1893, at Staffin, Skye

(a translation appears on page 4)

Gur muladach mu dhàn an drasd
Gu innsheadh duibh mu'n sgiob' ud,
A dh' fhalbh gu slàn le bat' air sail,
'S nach pill gu bràth gu'n cuideachd.

Is iomadh maireich gleadaid, calm
A bha air cuan an iasg, ud,
Nach till gu bràth a dh' ionnsuidh àite,
'S nach faicear 'chaoidh leis cala.

Is ann air maidne moch Di-haoine
A dh' fhalbh na daoine ud cuideachd;
Bha 'n cridhe blàth ri 'n cairdean graidh
Bh' 's b' fhearr le pairt duibh fuireach.

'S e falbh a b'eiginn doibh 's an am,
Oir thainig uair an sabbaid;
Thagair an Teachdair Mòr a choir,
'S chan fhaodadh iadsan fuireach.

Chan e a m'han cairdean feid,
A dh' ionndrainneas an sgiob' ud;
Bith an Achamhhalbhach 's iad gu leir
A caoidh le cheile nach tig iad.

Ach 's còir dhomh innsheadh duibh na bh' innt,
Bha 'nan sgiob' ud uile tapaidh;
Bha Ruairidh còir Mac Aonghais Ruaidh,
Is Domhnall calm bu mhac da.

Bha Domh'll Mu'ro Mac Al'stair Mhoir,
'S gu dearbh bu shuairc an gile;
Is Ruairidh Macleoid, òn Mhac is teoir
Na dachaidh gus nach tige.

'Nuair thug i curs' bha'n fhainge ciuin,
Is bha ar soil ri'm pilleadh;
An oidhch 's an storm 'nuair thainig dluth
A chas robh duil ri'n tuille.

Bha 'm bàta mur, 's i treun gu leoir,
Gu bhued gun chròn gun ghaiseadh;
Cha b' e an cuan a rinn a leon,
Ach tir an-ìochdmhor 'creagach.

An t-Eilean Sgiathanach mu thuath
Nochd camhneas mor 's a chruaidhchas,
A sabbhal traigh a dh' oidhch 's a la,
Na cuir ac' uile fhuair iad.

Is thug iad chum na tighèan iad,
Is chuir an sin orr' ordugh,
Le cisteachan 's le anart grin,
Rinn iad gach n' gu doigheil.

Do thionail iad gu h-ìreachdail,
'S an còstais aig phaidh iad,
'S na thairbh gu h-uasal chuireadh leo
A null gu'n cairdean gradhach.

'Nuair chaidh an-a'irt thar bord 's an oidhch'
Gu'n adhlacadh 's an ion bhair,
Bha sean 'òs ri guil is bron,
'S bu chruaidh a bh' g' n cluinntinn.

'N sin thughadh chum na h-ùireach iad,
Le lochran to' airh soluis;
Bu chruaidh an snaim ga' cuir fo'n fhoid,
An sin laigh iadsan cuideachd.

'S e ghuidhinn oirbh a dhaoinè coir
Sibh 'chiumhneachadh an cuideachd;
A dh' fhadhail gu 's an leòn cho mor,
'S gun chuid ac' chum am furtachd.

O! sibhe uile chual an sgeul,
Tha so uire duibh rabhadh,
Gun fhios co 'n uair, a theid buir gairm,
Bhi deas gu dol na choinneamh.

IAIN MACCOINICH
Glenn Darach
Loch an Ionbhair, 28/12/1893

GAELIC AFFAIRS

ELECTORATES—1600-1800

At the start of the seventeenth century, Gaelic was the language of an estimated 150,000 of the 300,000 inhabitants of Scotland and of virtually the entire Highlands and Islands. Although much of Gaelic's rich oral literary tradition has now vanished, sufficient remains in such collections as the Book of the Dean of Lismore to convey some impression of the

by M. R. LEWIS

great cultural loss which not only the Gael, but the whole of Europe has suffered from its destruction. The language of the Celtic Church and of the "fìdh," the hereditary bards and learned men of Gaelic, Gaelic was one of the most vigorous and productive languages of the Dark and Middle Ages, capable of responding fully to the demands of the intricacies of theology or of the impassioned invective and panegyric of Gaelic poetry.

Although the sixteenth century had seen the rise of Scots as a literary medium, Scottish writers of this period, among them Boece and Bishop Leslie, are anxious to point out the rise of Scots represented a radical departure from the former Gaelic of the Lowlands. In his "Gaelic in Scottish Constitution and Life," J. L. Campbell writes: "most of the sixteenth century historians, who make it clear that Gaelic was spoken over half the area of Scotland, as well as the Islands, refer to the Gaelic-speaking Scots as those who had best preserved the original language and customs of Scotland." Gaelic had yet to arouse the hatred and hostility of both Lowlander and Englishman alike which was to be the dominant feature of the educational policies of Scottish and English legislators in the seventeenth and succeeding centuries.

This hostility had two distinct causes. The first of these was the Reformation in Europe and, more especially, its impact upon Scotland. The Scottish Reformation lies of course, outside the scope of a study such as this but a brief discussion is essential for the light which it throws on the motives of the anti-Gaelic legislators.

The Reformed Kirk shared in the general Protestant emphasis of the role of education as a means of combatting what it regarded as superstition, ignorance, and heresy. Counting old doctrine as heresy, the Reformers discovered to their surprise that their enthusiasm for the doctrines of Calvin was not shared by the Gaels who preferred to continue in the Catholic faith. Indeed some of the more isolated parts of the Highlands and Islands, the Island of Barra for example, remain strongly Catholic to this day. Tragically for the future of Gaelic, that language became associated with Catholicism and became in the eyes of the Reformed Kirk the language of heresy. Thus it came about that the destruction of Gaelic and its replacement by English, the language of the Reformation in Britain, was regarded as a godly and pious work incumbent upon all those who followed the true faith. The notion that Gaelic might itself be used as a medium for evangelisation does not seem to have occurred to the Reformed Kirk.

The other cause of hostility towards Gaelic and its use in schools springs from the Union of the Crowns in 1603 and from the personal character of James I himself. With the removal of the court from Edinburgh to London, there was an emulation of all things Scottish: it is significant that the decline of the Scots tradition in literature dates from this period and was to lie fallow until the eighteenth century. Although

full political union was not to come until 1707, the Union of the Crowns led to a not unatural of the dual monarchs to the more union between their disparate kingdoms. Scottish culture and the Gaelic language were bound to suffer when the numerically and politically more important kingdom of England continually received priority in matters of policy.

James I seems to have been spellbound by his acquisition of the English crown. Certainly, he found the change from Holyrood House to Westminster highly agreeable; after 1603 he was to pay only one visit to his former capital. The ceremony, pomp, and prestige of the English court appealed to his sense of his own merits. Doubtless, he shuttered at the recollection of the days when he was simply "Gòr's sille vasal" in Scotland. Andrew Melville once called him, "the earilier warrior of Edinburgh court circles. Negotiations for a political and economic union between the two kingdoms were smacked down over the question of equal trading rights in 1607. James remained determined in his ambition to bring Scotland into line with England by introducing various measures similar to the establishment in Scotland of justices of the peace on the English model. With this movement towards closer links between the two countries, there was not unaturally a rise towards the establishment of English law, the elimination of Gaelic. On both religious and political fronts, the Gael was being swarmed against the tide, and this was not to be for the last time.

In the Statutes of Iona (1609), we see the first fruit of the alliance of church and state against Gaelic and its use in education. Occasioned by the rebellious attitude of the Hebridean chiefs and islanders, the Statutes were aimed at pacifying the troublesome clans, spreading Protestantism, and encouraging the growth of English literature. VI required every gentleman and yeoman in the Islands who possessed sixty head of cattle or more should send his eldest son to a Lowland school where he could learn English. If there were no male children, the daughter should be sent. Another of the Statutes forbade the banning "with all gudlie expeditioun" of the various bardic orders, the learned elite of Gaelicdom, who now disappear from the scene to be merged into the vernacular tradition.

Although more honoured in the breach than in the observance, the Statutes of Iona represent the beginning of the legislative attack on Gaelic and show the common aim of church and state: the Gaelic should have no place in Scottish schools. The attempt to force a Lowland education on the more prosperous sections of the Gaelic speaking community was to prove for the main unsuccessful, owing to the tenacity of the chiefs and their clansmen in clinging to their language and the difficulties of enforcing the Statutes 1609 is, nevertheless a turning point in the history of the Gaelic language and was to prove a prelude to the more sustained attacks which were soon to come.

The first of these attacks came seven years later, in the Scottish Privy Council Act of 1616, and was the earliest attempt to put into practice John Knox's dream of a school and a priest in every parish. That the primary aim of this piece of legislation was the destruction of Gaelic is made unmistakably obvious by its blunt wording. English was to be "universally planted" and Gaelic, "one of the chief and principal causes of the continuance of barbarity and incivility among the

(Continued on page 12)

Broadcasts

Gaelic

Friday, 25th July
12.05 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

6.30 p.m. Seinn an Duan So: Concert of Gaelic songs requested by listeners (recorded).

Monday, 28th July
12.00 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

Tuesday, 29th July
12.00 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.
4.00 p.m. "Dol Dhachaidh": Short story by Rob Shirley. Read by Neil Brown (recorded).

4.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. John M. Loch, Lismaddy (recorded).

6.30 p.m. De Do Bheachd? Discussion from Northbarr, Barra. Chairman, John A. Macpherson. Panel, Christina MacFadden, Mary MacKinnon. Rev. Fr. Angus MacQueen and John Campbell (recorded).

Wednesday, 30th July
12.00 noon News in Gaelic.
6.30 p.m. 1969 World Champions —The Pipes and Drums of Muirhead & Sons Ltd. Pipe-Major Robert G. Hardie (rec'd).

Thursday, 31st July
12.00 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

Friday, 1st August
12.00 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

6.30 p.m. Celidh from Three with Calum Kennedy as your host and with him Hughie MacCallum, Donald MacLennan, John MacFadyen, Iain Johnston, Murray Omand and Alasdair McDonald (recorded).

Oran 'A Champa

by J. E. SCOTT

This song is by Duncan Ban MacIntyre, who was born at Drumlaghart on the Braes of Glenclivie in 1724. After a varied life he enlisted in the Breadalbane Fencibles at an advanced age and remained with them until they were disbanded in 1799. As their name implies these regiments were formed for home defence only. When troubles developed in Ireland the regiment was sent there to preserve law and order. Probably on account of his age, Duncan did not go with them. His army duties were confined to the cook-house. Being of a dreamy nature he sometimes forgot his duties until the men arrived demanding their meal, but the bard made them forget their hunger by his easy good nature; by singing them songs until they forgot they had not dined. He himself tells us that they did not spare the dram at camp. Duncan was not of the stuff of which soldiers are made.

The Fencibles were commanded by General Alexander Leith Hay, a very distinguished soldier in his day. It will be observed that the bard pays tribute to him in the song.

We have drawn attention before to the frequency with which the Gaelic bards have set their songs to low country airs. The above song is a case in point, the tune is the well-known one "Sae will we yet." It will be found in "Genuine Scottish Melodies," page 231, and in various other collections. It is a very old tune.

It was first published by James Oswald, in 1747,

amongst his "Airs for the Season," and called by him "The Tulip" (Spring). In the 1870's the air, slightly altered, made its appearance as a modern English song entitled "The Captain with his Whiskers," which went the round of the music halls of the time. The Germans made a claim to the tune about that time according to a correspondent of the London Daily News who says: "Sir, Your Metz correspondent, in his capital description of a military picnic, observes 'It may interest the British music hall patrons to know that a translation of "The Captain with his Whiskers" is one of the chiefest favourites with the Prussian officers. They rattle away at its lively chorus with great delight. May I venture to say that "The Captain with his Whiskers" is merely a vulgarised version of an excellent ditty of the old French war, and that the melody is borrowed from the famous

Blucher song "Was blasen die Trompeten, Husaren heraus."

This is all very fine, and the "Tulip" may have come across from Germany, but it is nevertheless the fact that James Oswald gave the tune to the public 130 years before the correspondent wrote to the Daily News.

The air is well-known in Ireland as that of "The wearing of the green," for long a popular Irish song. Instead of quoting a verse from that song we give one from a song written to the air in 1798 by an anonymous poet:—

Farwell, for I must leave thee, my own native shore.

And, doom'd in foreign lands to dwell, may see thee nevermore. For laws, our tyrant laws, have said, That seas must roll between Old Erin, and her faithful sons,

That love to wear the green: Oh! how we love the green, oh! how we love the green.

Our native land we cannot stand for wearing of the green:

Yet where so'er the exile lives, though oceans roll between, Thy faithful sons will fondly sing, "The wearing of the green."

It will be observed that this song was written at the time the Breadalbane Fencibles were ordered to Ireland. About eighty years ago this song and air was a regular feature of the Glasgow Gaelic Choir concerts in the city, the air being arranged as a choral piece.



Fhuair Professor Grievie an t-acolade nis.

Ubh, ubh an duine bochd, feumaidh gu bheil e gabhaltach.

THE BAGPIPES

The bagpipes are as Scottish as well worn, at least as well known as the kilt. They have suffered from the music hall joke and the buffoonery of stage comedians.

To trace the origin of the bagpipe would be a far cry from the primitive reed and bladder instrument of the past. Today's windfall is heard throughout most of Europe and as far distant as the land of the long white cloud.

The earliest recorded appearance of the bagpipes was during the fifth century, when in various unbecoming forms it was played throughout the lands of

by REG MOORE

Europe, wherever the Celtic or Roman influence prevailed.

There is some evidence to believe that the bagpipe originated in the Middle East. Many sculptured frescoes, murals, carvings in stone, tomb relics and written references throughout antiquity, have proved the existence of the instrument in and around Egypt, India and Persia.

The old instrument suffers from being widely misunderstood, yet it has always aroused interest and stirred the cockles of the heart. Scholars have found it an amusing and informative subject for long treatises and its history has always raised an eyebrow among the musicologists.

During the twelfth century, a Welsh scholar distinguished no fewer than four different types of bagpipes in this country. The Scots gradually took over and refined it so well, as the music developed, that none of its score of European cousins could ever compete with it again.

Composers of many nationalities, have used its ingenious melodies and piped rhythms for folk music or classical orchestration. The Scottish Highland sounds have provided a source of ideas and inspiration to the northern composers. Classical composers Benjamin Britten and Vaughan Williams have come under its spell. The bounding Basques, in the Pyrenees mountains, have also refined the instrument into their exotic folk-lore and many French and Spanish composers have been influenced by it. European composers have fashioned it over the years to suit their own ends.

The bagpipe is still the odd instrument in the pack. It is difficult to master and play well and like the intricate Sardana music of Catalonia in Spain, the intense concentration of the idiom, makes it largely incomprehensible to the listener.

It is mainly an open-air instrument and can only truly be judged and appreciated in this kind of environment. This renders it ideal for marching and stirring calls to arms. Pipe music at its best is cap-

able of bringing out all the emotions. It has a surprising directness that is uncomplicated enough to reach the hearts of young and old, regardless of any musical knowledge. Although limited to nine notes, the music is surprisingly varied, catering for all tastes, from the extroverted dance and marches to the classical folk-lore. The Highland source of music has provided material for many well-known Scottish composers. The bagpipe has been ridiculed through lack of knowledge and even had its persecutors, yet it has always survived. This, in spite of the fact that the music had largely departed from the open air into the drawing room and the concert hall.

It is a complete solo instrument. As with the organ and the piano, it stands entirely on its own, requiring little or no accompaniment.

The stage comic may continue to poke about it, suggesting it is an ill wind that blows no good, but the numerous bagpipes throughout the western world, suggest it is a long way from extinct. Interest is, if anything, increasing among serious composers and musicians and in some places it is one of the finest musical contributions to the culture of the country.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

by Our Eire Correspondent
The Industrial Development Authority is now ten years old. It works for the development and expansion of Irish industry and carries on promotional campaigns overseas to attract new industry and investment in the country.

In the past ten years, the IDA has helped to attract more than 300 manufacturing firms from overseas. These have made a capital investment of more than £90 million here and they have a direct employment potential of almost 40,000 workers with indirect benefits resulting to more than 100,000 of the Irish people.

Most of these firms export more than ninety per cent. of their production, making a major contribution to Ireland's foreign trade.

Almost 40 per cent. of the new industry has come from Britain, 20 per cent. from Germany, 20 per cent. from the United States, and 20 per cent. from about twelve other countries.

The IDA also gives help to Irish firms, assisting them in the work of expansion and adapting to the changing needs of today. Its Small Industries Programme has given money and professional assistance to small manufacturers in seven pilot countries. It is now being extended to the rest of the country.

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Posadh-coimhthionail

Air an 10mh latha de'n mhios seo chaidh an t-Urr. Coineach MacLeoid a phosadh le Eaglais Chaluin Chille ann an Steornabhagh. A' searmonachadh bha an t-Urr. Domhnall MacAmhláigh (Leumrànagh) agus chuir e ann an eòspaidh ahaisteach air a' mhinistear urr. Moderator na Cleir, an t-Urr. Aonghas A MacIip (Carlo-bhagh). Fhuair Mgr. Macleoid facan misneachaidh o'n Urr. Callean MacGhilleathain (Martin's Memorial) Bha Mgr. MacLeoid na mhinistear ann an Dairsie, ann am Fiotha, mus do thill e gu cilean a bhreith. Bha coimhthionail mor a lathair a iomadh ceann de Leodhas. Tha ministear a nis 's a h-uile coimhthionail ann an Cleir Leodhas, agus tha cleir an Eilein Sgiathanach air an aon doigh. 'Se Barragh an t-aon sgire ann an Cleir Uibhist a tha ban.

Am Moderator an Uibhist

Bho chionn ghoidir bha am Moderator, am Fìor Urr.

Tomas M. MacCalmain, air chaidh ann an Uibhist-a-Deas, a' cuideachadh aig na h-Orduighean ann an Dalabrog. Thadhla e anns an sgòil, anns an ospadal agus ann an Dachaids nan Seann Daoine ann an Uibhist-a-Deas. Bha an t-Urr. Iain M. Mac a' Ghobhainn (Loch nam Madadh) a' searmonachadh aig cuid de na seirbhishean.

Orduighean

Air an dara Sabaid de'n Iuchar chumhad an Comhachaidh ann am Bearnaigh na Hearadh. Bha an t-Urr. Tormod MacSuaib (Sgarasta) agus an t-Urr. Ruairidh M. MacFhionnghain (Dalabrog) a' searmonachadh aig na h-Orduighean. Air Di-h-aoin chuireadh a-mach a' Cheist le Domhnall Mac Iip, cildear, Loch nam Madadh. Thainig a cheist a Lùir nan Ephesianach, caib II, rann 19.

Eileanach air an Reidio

Air an t-Sabaid seo chaidh thainig an t-seirbhis mhaide air Reidio 4 a Eaglais Fairlie ann an siorrachd Air. Air ceann na seirbhis bha an t-Urr.



AIR TUR NA FAIRE

Domhnall MacLeoid, a bhuicadh do Bhearnaragh na Hearadh, agus a bha na mhinistear ann am Port-rìgh o 1951 gu 1968.

Co-chruinneachadh

A h-uile bliadhna tha co-chruinneachadh aig na ministearan Gaidhlig a tha a' saothrachadh air a' Ghaidhealtachd. Ann bliadhna bidh na ministearan a' coineachadh ann an Inbhir-phoeffharinn o'n 29mh latha de'n t-Sultain chur a' cheud latha de'n Damhair. Bidh am Prof. Tomas F. Torrance a' toirt seachd oraiden aig na coineamhan seo, agus bidh am Moderator, am Fìor Urr. Tomas M. MacCalmain a' labhairt.

Misionaraidhean

Choinnich na misionaraidhean Gaidhealach ann am Port-rìgh a' cho-chruinneachadh aig bliadhna. A' labhairt aig na coineamhan, bha Prof. Tormod Robinson, Oilthigh Obair-dheadhain, agus an t-Urr. Ual-tair Gordon. Chraobh-sgòil na misionaraidhean seirbhis air an reidio. Air a ceann bha Mgr. Iain Moireasdan (Caol Acainn) a bhineas do Sgalpaigh na Hearadh. A' gabhail co-pàirt anns an t-seirbhis bha na misionaraidhean seo: Alasdair Mac Mhaolainn (Abhainn Suidhe), Iain Caimeub (Nis), Iain Mac Ille Sheathanach (Greosabhagh), Niall Martainn (Calanais). A' togail an fhuin bha Domhnall Mac Ghilleathain, Siadar an Rudha, Leodhas. Chaidh seirbhis-chomanachaidh a chur air clàr aig am a' cho-chruinneachadh, agus thig i a-mach air an reidio.

AN EAGLAIS SHAOR

Orduighean Bhearnaragh

Air an t-sabaid seo chaidh bha sacramaid suipeir an Tighearna air a frithealadh ann am Bearnaigh na Hearadh. Air ceann nan seirbhishean bha an t-Urr Mgr Mac Gaoith An t-Ob) agus an t-Urr Mgr Domhnallach (Grabhair). Air latha na ceiste, chuir Mgr. Pàdraig Moireasdan, fear de eildearan a' choimhthionail 2 Peadar III: 18 a-mach mar bhonn co-labhairt. Ged nach robh an amsir fabharach bha coirich a lathair a Leodhas agus a Sgalpaigh.

AN EAGLAIS BHAISTEACH A' Fagail Ile

Tha an t-Urr Uilleam I Creighton a bha 'na mhinistear 'san Eaglais Bhaistich ann an

le a nis air uallach coimhthionail a' leigil dieth. Aig coimhthionail ann am Boghachmor fhuair e fhein agus a bhean thiodhachan-spéis o'n chroimhthionail. Bha Mgr. Creighton sia bliadhna ann an Ile, agus bidh e a nis a' fuireach ann an Cille Bhridhe an Ear.

SOP AS GACH SEID . . .

Ann am program air an reidio air an t-seachdain seo chaidh bha seanaidh Ailig Mac a' Phearsain a' seachas ris an Urr. Tormod Domhnallach (a-Tuath) a bha a' toirt seachd a bheachd air a Ghaidhlig agus an Eaglais.

Cuiribh Naidheachdan air an Iomraidh seo gu Geardeasachadh "Sruth."

Guth o na linntean a dh' fhalbh:

Nuair dhearcas mi air crann nam buadh Air an do cheusadh Rìgh na Gloir; Measam gach buannachd mar ni trugh, 'S is tair 's is fuath leam m' uabhar mor. ISAAC WATTS (1674-1748) air eadar-theangachadh le Iain MacGhille-bhain.

SUTHERLAND SCHOOLS REORGANISATION STANDS

Sutherland education authority have decided against reviewing reorganisation of secondary education, and in particular reinstating Dornoch Academy as a full six-year senior-secondary school. Voting, at a special meeting at Brora on Monday, was 12-5 against an attempt by five members to have the review agreed. Dornoch school had been downgraded to a four-year or O-level one, leaving Golspie High the only six-year school in the county.

Mr George M. Murray, of Rogart, who had moved the amendment for further discussion, said he would not agree with the whole document. "But there are many things which none of us can disagree with," he added.

Mr George M. Morrison, Bonar Bridge, said that the people he represented would in the last resort rather have a primary school at Dornoch if there was to be only one senior-secondary school in the county. Their children could spend their whole secondary education career at Golspie High School instead of having to be transferred from Dornoch at the end of their second year.

An alternative was that Golspie High School should take (Continued on next column)

Gaelic Medicine

Marion Matheson (Nova Scotia)

Two important programmes came to fruition recently; one Provincial, one local. I am referring specifically to Nova Scotia Medical Services Insurance, talked of for many months, heatedly debated, and finally in effect as of April 1st, 1969 . . . and on the day before, the formation of the Cape Breton Gaelic Society and the election of its officers.

In the light of these two apparently unconnected happenings, I was prompted to go searching among a pile of old books and newspaper clippings, until finally my persistence was rewarded, by finding information on the Clan "MacBeth or Beaton . . . They were among our greatest medical men."

In their day the names MacBeth and Beaton were as familiar as Lister, Fleming and Simpson are now. For MacBeths were among our earliest and greatest physicians. From the Highlands and Islands their fame spread throughout Scotland. As hereditary doctors to the Lords of the Isles and the Maclean Chiefs of Mull, they practised a sixteenth-century medical skill, learned in far-away Greece, Rome and Arabia.

Even by today's standards their journals are surprisingly learned. Edinburgh's Public Library has a copy of one of their early treatises—"Regimen Sanitatis" or "The Rules of Health."

Long before the advent of bathrooms in Edinburgh or London, a MacBeth physician urged his fellows to bathe daily in hot water, to don clean clothing each morning, and to take pre-breakfast walks to encourage the body's normal functions. In Islay, Mull, South Uist and Skye the MacBeths possessed Gaelic versions of medical writings by Avicenna, Averroes, Joannes de Vige and Bernardus Gordonus. Several Gaelic translations of Hippocrates also found a place in their medical libraries.

And yet some Lowlanders and Englishmen looked upon Gaels as little more than "savages!" With their knowledge of sanitation and diet, their Courts of Justice, their records of weights and measures, their devotion to religion, literature, music, and art, the early Gaels had a civilisation far superior to anything in the South of Scotland or England.

pupils only from their third year, and that the first two years should be spent at O-level schools.

At present children in the Golspie area had the advantage of attending the school there from their first secondary year. Mr George Fraser, Dornoch, said their policy had meant over-crowding beyond measure at Golspie High School. They should reinstate Dornoch Academy until such time as they had Golspie High School on its feet.



Students and teaching staff at the Gaelic Summer School held in Tarbert, Harris, with commandant Roddy Mackinnon (in kilt).

NORWAY

Removal transfer grant is made particularly to cover expenses in moving machinery and equipment, expenses of staff, and through stoppage while the removal takes place.

Costs of Additional Training

Costs of special training of labour will be refunded and grants are made to cover the wages of instructors, for teaching equipment and tuition expenses. The costs of training elsewhere may also be reimbursed. Up to 50 per cent. of the wage bill for a period of 3 months can be given as grant. Specialists and key workers who are trained at other places or attend courses, may be given allowances to cover travelling expenses and lodgings. This is meant to supplement the existing educational arrangements and to help industry overcome the special problems of training and education in underdeveloped areas.

Refund for Low Productivity

In certain cases partial compensation may be paid for low productivity in conjunction with training grants for a period not exceeding six months after removal.

The Fund can investigate and plan projects and can grant financial support to itself. In 1961-66 it has undertaken a number of regional development programmes with official and private efforts integrated.

Training in Management Methods

Technical and commercial training is provided with professional guidance in underdeveloped areas.

The Fund is responsible to the Ministry of Local Government and Labour and they consult with the ministries on relevant policies. Where a sum of over £500,000 is necessary for development of industry, the decisions are taken by the King in Council. An annual report is made to the Storting by the Board which directs the Fund and administers it.

Applications for grants are sent to the County Governor not to the Regional Development Fund and recommendations are made by the County Planning Section to the County Labour and Development Board which can make decisions on loans or guarantees for sums up to £75,000. The commune or county in which the development is to take place must guarantee 25 per cent. of the amount granted. Where final decisions are not taken cases go to the Central Board.

Other funds which can help directly and indirectly to establish industry are (a) The Fund for New Industrial Development; (b) The Fund for Handicrafts and Small Industry.

The Fund for New Industrial Development guarantees loans from the Norwegian Industry Board Ltd. and other finance houses, which deal

with industry. Preference is given to Norwegian industry, to mergers and the development of new products or new production methods. The normal financing methods must be used to a reasonable extent — guaranteed loans from this Fund must be secured by mortgages, assets and reserves, and the personal responsibility of those having an interest in the business. Repayments of loans are normally over 10 years and working capital five years.

The Fund for Handicrafts and Small Industry gives loans or guarantees for credit or working capital for small industries, i.e. employing up to 20 employees in handicrafts and skilled services. Direct loans can be granted instead of guarantees. This is in addition to all other money from other sources and may not exceed 75 per cent. of the equipment to be bought. Where a loan is guaranteed the bank giving the loan is expected to take 25 per cent. of the risk. The upper limit from this fund is £75,000 in capital. Repayment is over 8 years for equipment and working capital, 5 years for factory buildings. This fund co-operates with the Regional Development Fund at local level on applications.

"MONSTER LOSES HEAD"

An imitation Monster lost its head in Loch Ness on Monday. The head sank to a depth of something like 700 feet out in the loch just on the Inverness side of Urquhart Bay and out from Temple Pier, Drumdrachit. Efforts by a submarine and two boats to bring it to the surface failed.

The body of the fake monster, made by a film company for a production, 'The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes', lies at Temple Pier, as it was not being used in the filming on Monday, the head being detachable. The company intended finishing location "shooting" in the Inverness area on Friday. The cost of the "mock-up" monster has previously been stated to have been in the region of £5,000.

an cruinne

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CAMPA COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

This year's Gaelic Summer Camps were held in Inverness from July 8-18. Attendances at both camps were excellent — 122 in the learners' camp at Millburn School, and 144 in the fluent speakers' camp at the High School. The latter was supported by the usual strong contingent from the Outer Isles, but also at the learners' camp, places like Glasgow and Lossiemouth were represented. The staff, too, were just as varied in their "nationalities" and it was noticeable that the music teachers in both camps were proficient "learners."

Fhuair an fheadhainn o na h-eileannan a thadhail air a' Champ cothrom air iomadh rud annasach a dheanadh nach biodh ro fhusardh dhaibh anns na h-eileannan. Dh' ionnsaich sinn snamh ann am amar creagha gun far nach cuireadh partan no deargan traghadh orainn. Chogaich na Cinnidhean — na h-Uiseagan, na Smeoraich, na Cuthagan agus na Feadagan — an aghaidh a cheile a cheart cho daingean ris na laoiach o shean, ach a mhaigh gur h-e ball-in agus ball-buidr agus ball-coise a bh'ag na seoid so. Feasgar bha co-fharpaisean cheist eadar na leannan agus sin air a mheadhan, mar bu tric. Aon fheasgar, fhuair ceathrar de'n luchd-teagaisch cothrom am beachdan a thoirt air eutanhasia, air Apollo, air croitearachd agus air iomadh cuspair eile. Ach 'se fhuair a mhachlachadh ceart am fear-teagaisch a bh'ann duil gu robh feusag air an Sgiathachan mhor ud, Donovan. Cha do leigh na caileagan coir leis a dol na bh' fhaide!

Bha ann BBC a bhios a' cur da chelidh iuchlar — aon ann am camp an luchd — ionnsachaid, agus fear eile ann an Ard-Sgòil. Tha fhios gun cuinn, sinn id air an reidid a dh' aithneadh.

Mar a bha latha is latha a' dol seachd bha sinn a' faighinn enlais air a cheile agus ged a dh' fhalbhas na deoir a bha a' ruith oidhche Dh'iaradaoin, agus madauin Di-h-Aoine, tha fhios gu math nach call moran de na bha ann, cuimhne air an deich latha a bha sud, agus ma dh' fhaoidte gur h-ann a tha an imtinn mar tha air bliadhna an aima so, agus sgrìobh eile gu tìr-mor.

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"History Teaching Failure"

Extracts from the end of Session speech given by The Rector of Oban High School — Mr F. MacIntosh

It is my responsibility as Rector to make mention in my annual report both of the wider national background against which the school operates, and of the main events of the year at home. If we take the former first, those of you who follow educational trends and theories will know that we are living in an age of almost constant change and challenge, with increasing pressure on the schools to enlarge their functions, broaden their curricula and revise the content of their courses and the form of evaluation and adaptation to changing needs and social patterns. I must express my distress as a Scotsman at the continuing failure to re-examine in a really radical fashion the content of the history taught at both Primary and Secondary levels in our schools. It is a strange, if not indeed shameful system of education which seeks to bring up Scottish children on a diet of predominantly English history. To condemn this practice is not to be parochial or isolationist in any way, but to be in line with the most modern and realistic assessment of the needs of children in relation to their local culture and social group. I, personally, know of no other country which fails, as we do, to instill in the rising generation through the story of their own national development and traditions, a proper pride in their native place and people and a truer and more sympathetic understanding of their native environment.

Equally infuriating is the spectacle one sees too often on television of pundits from south of the border pontificating on the problems of mass education and seeking enlightenment from the systems of America and Scandinavia, while right on their doorstep in Scotland is a system older than, and different from, their own, from which they have much to learn. Yet they are either unaware of its existence or they glance at it for the most part curiously and from a disdainful distance. This is a tremendous pity because the present concern about the character of education offers a unique opportunity for bringing the two systems into harmony. As many of you well know, it is being increasingly realised, largely as a result of the Dainton and Swann Reports, that specialisation of the kind fashionable in the South can lead to fossilisation. In other words, the rate of change has accelerated to such an extent that there is an in-built obsolescence in knowledge and the specialist's skill is soon out of date. This is a fact of life which has still to be ap-

preciated by the public at large, who tend to see the future as a simple extension of the present. As a result, the great danger is that children will be taught knowledge and skills which will have no relevance to the kind of world in which they will have to live. The real need, as I see it, is for broader, more general courses to which specialist skills can be added later as the need for them emerges. The Fulton Committee may want for the Civil Service people with "appropriate qualities", who are willing and able to acquire the necessary knowledge at each stage in their lives. The demand for places at Universities and central institutions has increased — and will go on increasing — because more young people are staying on longer at school and leaving with higher qualifications. It seems to me a very disturbing turn of events which prevents well-qualified applicants from gaining admission to the university or faculty of their choice. That is why I am very doubtful about the decision to give first priority to raising the school leaving age and not to the 'Eighteen Plus' problem which, in my opinion, seems likely to replace the 'Eleven Plus' as the major cause of educational disquiet and discontent.

There is no doubt in my mind that at school level the abolition of the transfer test and the introduction of a Common Course in the First Year has been one of the most acceptable reforms of recent years. It is still too early really to pronounce in any final way upon this change, but for a school like our own which draws in pupils from almost a dozen schools of varying sizes, a Common Course is the most sensible way of arranging the transition period and enabling primary children to become accustomed to the different conditions of secondary education. In particular, the new organisation has resulted in greater parental and public satisfaction since the basic cause of criticism — segregation or selection at 'Eleven Plus' — has been eliminated. The old method may have been fair, but the new one is not only fair but is also seen to be fair. It gives pupils this further period of orientation which, I hope, they will appreciate and use to the full.

The other curricular changes last session — work based an "education for leisure" courses in the Third Year and programme catering for the whole school on a Friday afternoon — are developing satisfactorily in most respects. Indeed, the latter scheme is gradually being adopted in different parts of the country and seems certain to become.

(Continued on Page Eleven)

Gaelic and the Educators

(Continued from Page 7)

inhabitants of the Islands and Highlands, was to be "abolished and removed." Under the direction of the local bishop, schools were to be set up in the parishes and a schoolmaster appointed. The expense was laid upon the parishioners who were commanded to pay the bill in their parish, providing that there were "convenient means" for supporting a school.

Scotland has often been praised for being centuries in advance of the rest of Europe in her concern for mass education. The idealism of these educational pioneers is, however, more than open to question. For the overwhelming majority of Gaels, English was the incomprehensible tongue of powerful alien neighbours. If the situation had been reversed, the ensuing conflict could only have been imagined. But the Gaels were in no position to dictate policy. The proscription on instruction in the mother-tongue was indeed a strange way to bring education to the Highlands and Islands.

(to be continued)

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From our Eire Correspondent

Progress Report on Irish Language

Anxieties concerning the progress of the language revival are evident from two Government-sponsored reports on it which have just been published.

One, from An Comhlacht Comhairleach, a consultative council set up by the Government, urges the establishment of a central agency within the Department of Finance which would be concerned with the promotion of Irish in the life of the people.

This agency would not only plan and co-ordinate efforts but would be responsible for carrying out the Government language policy as contained in the White Paper some years ago.

The Government are recommended to make available to this agency all the necessary resources of staff, expertise and finance that it needs.

The Council complains that very few of the White Paper recommendations have been put into effect, e.g. there are still not adequate anthologies of prose and poetry in Irish for secondary schools.

However, there is appreciation expressed of the way in which advanced linguistic methods have been used to prepare teaching material and on Telefís Eireann.

It is urged that an "Irish Speech Library" be set up in Dublin where the best Irish speakers from various Gaeltachts could be heard.

One feature of the other report which discusses progress in

the implementation of the White Paper policy is a suggestion that RTE consider the possibility of setting up a sound broadcasting station in the West. This would cater for the Gaeltacht in particular and for Irish speakers in general.

The report admits that a considerable amount of progress has been made in extending the use of Irish generally but shows that the Government must give leadership and foster the psychological climate in which the language can prosper.

Efforts to promote the use of Irish should be aimed primarily at young people especially those with higher education. Priority should be given to measures which encourage the natural speaking of Irish rather than those which involve reading or writing.

Irish should come once more to be seen as the intimate language of the home as well as a key to past cultural achievements and the language, as far as possible, of public and official occasions.

This report considers in detail the progress made in the field of public administration, the Gaeltacht, the educational system and the cultural and entertainment spheres up to March, 1968.

FEU SYSTEM TO GO

Mr William Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland is determined to abolish the feu system of land tenure in Scotland.

He is to publish a White Paper on the Government's response to the findings of the Halliday Committee.

At present more than 80 per cent. of the land in Scotland and buildings on that land are held under feudal tenure.

Marriages

STEPHEN—MACKAY — At Greyfriars Free Church, Inverness, on the 11th July 1969, by the Rev. D. MacDonald, Michael John, son of Mr and Mrs C. Stephen, 32 Orchard Road, Aberdeen, to Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Mackay, 136 Culduthel Road, Inverness.

Deaths

MACLEAN — At Glencoe Hospital on 21st July 1969, Jeanie Buchanan Hay, aged 88 years, beloved wife of the late Archibald Maclean, Camanagul, Fort William.

SMITH—Passed peacefully away at a hospital in Edinburgh, Mr Donald Smith, M.P.S. (late of Stornoway and of Boots Cash Chemists), beloved husband of the late Jessie Cain. Sadly missed.

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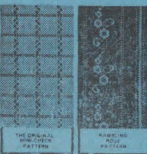
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