

Sruth

SCOTLAND'S BI-LINGUAL NEWSPAPER

Newspaper of current Events in the Highlands, the Islands and in Scotland

DI-ARDAOIN, 17 LATHA DEN DAMHAR 1968
THURSDAY, 17th OCTOBER 1968

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DEPOPULATION RAMPANT

An Comunn's Concern For Isles

In its Annual Report for 1967/68 An Comunn Gaidhealach mentions that in submissions to the Highlands and Islands Development Board they have expressed concern about the future of the Western Isles and Western mainland, which is largely outwith the labour catchment area scheduled for development. That this concern was justified is borne out by the 1966 sample Census figures when some 1,300 people in the 15-24 age group left Lewis and Harris alone.

During the year An Comunn has been active both at national and international level and considerably more work is being done than was envisaged two years ago.

There has been an increase in Gaelic in primary schools and further education classes. Five new books have been published and a Gaelic grammar has been reprinted in addition to the excellent series of information pamphlets. New literary awards and bursaries for learners have been instituted.

As 1968 is Human Rights

Year the minimum human right—that of official recognition is being sought for Gaelic—following on from the resolution submitted from the European Conference of Lingular Minorities in Oslo that lingular minorities must have their legal rights, they must have their rights implemented, they must be respected.

The report also contains interesting information on Discrimination, what the U.S.S.R. has done for lingular minorities, and the basic principle of the rights of minorities.

On the financial side more support was given by local authorities. The excellent surplus of £14,130 from the Glasgow Mod enabled the organisation to carry out its mandate.

Over £2,700 was spent on choirs and music publishing and £5,600 on literary publications of all kinds. It is pointed out that telephones, national insurance, postages and rates have all increased during the year and that this alone will add 7½ per cent to administration costs in 1968/69.

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Former Bard To Be Moderator

The Rev. Dr T. M. Murchison, St Columba-Summertown Church Govan, Glasgow has been nominated for election as Moderator of the 1969 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Crowned Bard of An Comunn Gaidhealach at the 1958 Glasgow Mod, Dr Murchison is a well known Gaelic author. He is the first Gaelic-speaking Moderator since the Rev. Dr Alexander Macdonald in 1948.

A former Moderator of the Glasgow Presbytery he has been prominent in Highland affairs for many years. He has been joint editor of "Alba," and for the last 16 years editor of the Gaelic supplement to "Life and Work," and was editor of "An Gaidheal."

Tha sinn a' cuir meal-an-naidheachd air an t-Urr MacCalmain, deagh charaid ar canain, agus ag uidhe soirbheachadh leis anns na bliadhnaichean na roimhe.

An Comunn's New President

A Profile on Archibald McLennan Beaton

Born — Overnewton, Glasgow. Brought up in Parish of Snizort, Isle of Skye.

Education — McDiarmid Public School, Carbost, Skye; Portree Secondary School; Glasgow University and Trinity College, Glasgow.

Ministry — Assistant Minister (a) Highlanders' Memorial Church, Glasgow, and (b) Lesmahagow Old Parish Church, Lanarkshire, 1935-42. Minister of Leuchphead Parish Church, Argyll, 1943 to present, Minister of Dundonald Parish Church, Ayrshire, 1961-62. Moderator of Ayr Presbytery.

War Service — Served as Chaplain in 51st Highland Division, attached to 8th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Chaplain to Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' Depot at Strirling Castle. Awarded T.D. for services to Territorial Army. After the War—Chaplain to Ayrshire Yeomanry. Since 1948—Officiating Chaplain to Regular Army at Dundonald Camp, Troon. Invalided out of Forces in 1942.

Gaelic Work — 1942. Appointed Gaelic Assistant, British Broadcasting Corporation, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow. Also served in similar capacity (part time) in 1952. President of (a) Kilmarnock Gaelic Choir, and (b) Kilmarnock Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach since 1955. Gaelic teacher for beginners in further education classes at Kilmarnock Academy and Ayr Academy. Author of Gaelic songs—"Cronan Carsaig," "Christinn" and Puirt a Beul.

An Comunn Gaidhealach — Member of Mod and Music Committee; Vice President of Executive Council since 1963; Chairman of Southern Regional Council since its inception. A. Adjudicator at Mods—National and Provincial.

DONALD JOHN MACDOUGALL



BARD — DUNOON, 1968

Donald John MacDougall, the 1968 Bard of An Comunn. Donald is a technical clerk with a refrigeration company in Glasgow. He was born in Barra and moved to Glasgow 12 years ago. His winning entry, "The Rim," has a central theme of death and the life beyond. "It is a Christian's viewpoint," he says. The poem was written in two nights, but it shows no signs of haste. Indeed, one would say the theme has been in Donald's mind for a long time waiting only the inspiration to move the pen to produce an outstanding contribution to Gaelic poetry.

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BIRTH

ANDERSON — On 19th September 1968, to Mairead (née MacLaren), York Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, London SW11, a daughter, wife of Dr J. A. D. Anderson, 92 Sister for Shienna.

MARRIAGE

MATHESON — MACKENZIE — At the Free Church Manse on 20th September 1968, by Rev. Norman MacLeod, Donald, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs William Matheson, 8 Balarnach, Braes, by Portree, to Christina Margaret, youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Neil Mackenzie, 14 Leurbost, Lochs, Isle of Lewis.

DEATHS

MACDONALD — On 26th September 1968, at Marylea, 49 Terregles Street, Dumfries, Marion MacInnes, beloved wife of John Macdonald, dear mother of Christina, Johnny, Flora and Anne, and daughter of the late Alexander and Christina MacInnes, 4 Stonefield, Sleat, Isle of Skye. Deeply mourned.

MACLEAN — At Kilmarnock Infirmary on 29th September 1968, Mary Bell Macdonald, wife of the late Allan Maclean (formerly of Tiree), 12 Fergus Drive, Glasgow

PROVERB

Ma's ann ortsa tha feum Bidheadh an t-saothair ort. If its you that's needed, Let the labour be yours.

Text for the Times

Nach 'eil fhios againh bh'heil sibh 'n 'ur teampaill do Dhia, agus bh'heil Spiorad Dhe a chomhnuidh annaibh. 1 Corinth c. 3 r. 16. Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. 1 Corinthians Ch. 3 v. 16.

JOHNSTON: Information sought for any of the family of James Johnston and Elizabeth MacDonatid whose children George, Georgina, Robert, Harmonia Margaret, John and William Mackay, born 1812 to 1822 and baptised in the parish of Farr, Sutherland, E. JOHNSTON, M.D., 7 Park Street, St Johnsbury, Vermont, 05819, U.S.A.

Struth

Scotland's bi-lingual newspaper published fortnightly by An Comunn Gaidhealach

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Naidheachdan Mu Na h-Eglaisean Air A' Ghaidhealtachd

Le "FEAR-FAIRE"

ENGLAIS NA H-ALBA

AN ENGLAIS SHAOR

Misionaraidh

Bha Mgr. Coinneach Caimbeul, a bhuidheas do na Hearadh, iomadh bliadhna 'n mhisionaraidh ann an grunn aiteachan air a' Ghaidhealtachd. Tha e a nis air uallach na h-obrach sin a leigeil dheth agus tha e a' fuireach ann an Spadabhagh 'na Hearadh. Mus do dh'fhag e Lochportain, an t-àite mu dheireadh anns an robh e a' saothrachadh, fhuair e tiodhlac-speis o' choinmhtional.

Taigh-coinnimh

Air an t-Sabaid mu dheireadh de'n t-Sultuin chaidh an taigh-coinnimh ann an Caol, faisg air a' Ghearasdain, fhoghladh as ur deidh dha bhith air ath-choisrigeadh leis an Urr R. Andrew, ministear na sgrì. Chaidh an togalach 'na teine anns a' Ghiblein agus chumhadh na seirbheisan ann an sgoil agus anns an Eaglais Shaor. Tha an coimhthional fada an comain ministear na h-Eaglaise Saoire, an t-Urr. Domhnall MacLeod, agus Seisean na h-Eaglais, airson cabhair a thoirt dhaibh nuair a bha iad gun aite-adhradh.

Cuideachadh

Aig a' choinneamh bhliadhnaid a chum Comunn nan Ban ann an Lios-mòr bh'chionn ghoirid dh'innis ceann-suidhe a' Chomuinn, a' Bhean-phodha Nic a' Phearsain, gun deachaidh £211 a chruinneachadh anns a' bhliadhna a chaidh seachad. Thugadh £152 de'n t-sium sin do'n Eaglais.

Seirbheisan Mhalaig

Tha Eaglais Mhalaig fhathast bha bh'na leig an t-Urr. Domhnall MacPhail dheth uallach coimhthional. Bho chionn ghoirid chum Mgr. Caimbeul, oileanach a Oilthaigh Dhun-eideann, na seirbheisan ann an Malaig agus ann an Cnoideart. Tha Mgr. MacPhail a' fuireach ann an Glaschu a nis, agus tha sinn an dochas gun faigh e urachadh slainte. Tha iomradh air Mgr. MacPhail anns an air-eamh seo de mhiosachan na h-Eaglais.

Posadh Dhun-bheagain

Chaidh an t-Urr. Coinneach Mac a' Phearsain a phosadh bh'chionn ghoirid ri coimhthional Dhuirinis 'san Eilean Sgìathnach, agus a nis tha ministear suidhichte 'na h-uile eaglais ach Port-rìgh. Bha Mgr. Mac a' Phearsain a' teagasg 'sa Ghearasdain muus taing e gu Dun-bheagain.

Comanachadh Sgalpaigh

Aig na h-Orduingeann ann an Sgalpaigh na Hearadh bha an t-Urr. MacGumaraid air a chuideachadh leis na h-Urr. Aonghas Fionnlaghastan, a Tolastagh, agus Murachadh A. MacLeod, a Glaschu. Bha an t-side math agus bha grunnan choirbheisan an lath-air aig na seirbheisan.

Tiodhlac-speis

Tha an t-Urr. Iain MacCoinnich, a bha da bhliadhna thar fhichead 'na ministear 'san Tob anns na Hearadh, a nis air uallach coimhthional a leigeil dheth, agus bh'chionn ghoirid fhuair e tiodhlac o' choinmhtional a bha a' dearbhadh cho measal agus a bha iad air mar shearmonaiche agus mar aoghaire. Thugadh tiodhlac d'a mhnaoi aig a' choinneamh cuideachd. Mus taing e dh'ann na Hearadh bha Mgr. MacCoinnich 'na ministear ann am Plochd Loch Aillse.

Misionaraidh ann am Peru

Tha an t-Urr Raghall C. Christie, B.D., M.Th., agus a bhean a nis air an suidheachadh ann an Lima, prìomh bhaile Peru, far am b' Mgr. Christie 'na mhisionaraidh. Bha e air a chur air leth airson na dreuchd sin aig seirbhis ann an Inbhirnis. Bha an t-Urr. Domhnall MacLeod, Cinn a' Ghiuthsaich, air seann na seirbhis.

AN ENGLAIS SHAOR CHLEIREIL

Comanachadh a' Ghearasdain

Air a' cheud Sabaid de'n Damhar bha Sacramaid Suipeir an Tighearna air a frithhealachd 'sa Ghearasdain. Bha ministear a' coimhthional, an t-Urr. I. A. Domhnallach, air a chuideachadh leis na h-Urr. D. I. MacAsgail, a Uige Leodhas, agus Alasdair Moir-easdan, Uibhist-a-Tuath.

An t-Urr. D. M. Domhnallach

Chaochail an t-Urr. D. M. Domhnallach air a' cheud latha de'n t-Sultuin agus tha iomradh air a bheatha agus air an obair a rinn e anns an air-eamh seo de mhiosachan na h-Eaglais. Bha Mgr. Domhnallach ceithir fichead agus a h-ochd, agus bha e da bhliadhna 'na ministear ann an Uibhist-a-Tuath agus naodh bhliadhna fìched ann am Port-rìgh, a' leigeil dheth uallach coimhthional ann an 1948.

Orduingeann

Air a' cheathramh Sabaid de'n Damhar bidh Sacramaid Suipeir an Tighearna air a frithhealachd ann an Loch-an-



AIR TUR NA FAIRE

Inbhir agus Inbhir Uig. Ann an Loch-an-Inbhir tha an t-Urr. Alasdair MacAsgail 'na ministear, agus tha an t-Urr. Raibeart R. Mac-na-Ueardaidh air ceann coimhthional Inbhir Uig.

Comanachadh na Comraich

Air an t-Sabaid mu dheireadh de'n t-Sultuin chumhadh na h-Orduingeann air a' Chomraich. A' searmonachadh aig na seirbheisan bha an t-Urr. Alasdair Mac a' Phearsain, (Sra'fharraraig) agus an t-Urr. Fhlaclairn MacLeod (Grianaig).

Seirbhis Ghaidhlig an Astrailia

Fhuair sinn litir o' fhear de lughdair-eann "Sruth" ann an Astrailia, ag innse mu seirbheisan Ghaidhlig a tha air a cumail gach Sabaid ann an Sydney. B'ann o Mgr. J. Locker Clugston a thainn ann litir ghlasa agus thubhairt e gun do thoisech na seirbheisan 'san Lunasdal. Roimhe sin cha robh seirbhis Ghaidhlig air a cumail bh'chionn coig bliadhna deug, nuair a bha an t-Urr. Coinneach MacRath nach maireann, ministear na h-Eaglaise Saoire ann an Steornabhagh, air chuairt ann an Astrailia. Tha corr is ceud bliadhna bho'n chumhadh a' cheud seirbhis Ghaidhlig ann an Sydney, agus is ann co-cheangailte ri Eaglais Shaor Chleireil na h-Alba a tha na seirbheisan air an tug Mgr. Clugston iomradh. Tha sinn fada 'na chomrain airson a litreach, agus bidh sinn toilichte naidheachdan eaglais fhaighinn o' Ghaidheil ann an ceann sam bith de'n t-saoghal.

AN ENGLAIS CHAITLEGACH

Naidheachdan a Beinn-nam-fagha

Tha an t-Ath. Urr. A. D. MacBhaighstir a nis air Beinn-nam-fagha fhagail an deidh dha bhith da bhliadhna mar shagart air an eilean. Bidh e 'na shagart ann am Baile Bhoird. 'Se an t-Ath. Urr. Iain MacNeill a tha air aite a' ghabhail ann am Beinn-nam-fagha. Buinidh e san do 'na Bhagh-a-Tuath ann am Barraigh, agus tha e air a bhith beagan bliadhnaich na fhear-cuideachaidh ann an Dalabrog.

AN ENGLAIS CHAITLEGACH

Naidheachdan a Beinn-nam-fagha

Tha an t-Ath. Urr. A. D. MacBhaighstir a nis air Beinn-nam-fagha fhagail an deidh dha bhith da bhliadhna mar shagart air an eilean. Bidh e 'na shagart ann am Baile Bhoird. 'Se an t-Ath. Urr. Iain MacNeill a tha air aite a' ghabhail ann am Beinn-nam-fagha. Buinidh e san do 'na Bhagh-a-Tuath ann am Barraigh, agus tha e air a bhith beagan bliadhnaich na fhear-cuideachaidh ann an Dalabrog.

Easbhaig MacGhill

Tha an t-Easbhaig Stephen MacGhill a nis air a shuid-

eachd mar Easbhaig ann am Paisig an deidh dha bhith ocdh bliadhna mar Easbhaig Earra-Ghaidheal agus nan Eilean far an robh 11, 409 Caitlìg air a' churam. Aig an Aifricinn mu dheireadh a fhrithheil e 'san Oban sheinn namn -sgoil leachd ann an fuinn Ghaidhealach air an robh an t-Easbaig cho measail. Nuair a bha e air a' Ghaidhealtachd chuir an t-Easbhaig MacGhill amach leabhraicheist ann an Gaidhlig, airson cloinne, agus chlobhuail e as ur an leabhar-uirnigh Ghaidhlig.

Tiodhlac-speis

Aig coinneamh ann an Eaglais Mhoir an Obain — Eaglais Chalùim, Chille — thugadh tiodhlac do'n Chanachan Mgr. Eoghainn MacAonghais agus do'n Ath. Urr. John MacShane. Tha an Canachan air a bhith 35 bliadhna 'na shagart agus bidh e a nis a' saothrachadh ann am Morar Labhair e aig a' chionneamh mu na bliadhnanach sona a chuir e seachad 'san Oban. Bidh an t-Urr. MacShane ag obair ann an Gleann-fhionain.

SOP AS GACH SEID . . .

UAIR 'SAN RAITHE tha seirbhis Ghaidhlig air a cumail ann an Eaglais Cuirt a' Chruinn ann an Lunnainn. Air an dara Sabaid de'n Damhar 'se an t-Urr. Uilleam MacLeod, ministear nan Ceanann ann an Leodhas a bh'air ceann na seirbhis.

GUTH O' NA LINNTEAN A' DHREIFALBH: "Bi laidir 'sa chheumaidh, agus bidh mòran gairdeachas agus bha air bheag creidimh agus cha bh'ann a' bheag de ghairdeachas agad. Ach mur a creid thu idir, cha bh' e idir agad." — Raibeart M. MacCheyne (1813-43).

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THE 65th NATIONAL MOD

Medallists and Mod Results

Vocal (Men)

Learners Silver Pendant: first qualifying round—1 David Solley, Edinburgh; 2 Jack Watt, Inver-gordon; 3 William Blacklaw, Aber-deen. Second qualifying round—1 David Solley; 2 Seumas Gallacher, Tobar-mory; 3 John N. Findlay, Stirling. Final—1 David Solley; runner-up, Seumas Gallacher.

Lochlan MacLean Watt Memorial competition—1 Calum Ross, Glasgow; 2 eq. Calum MacArthur, Ayr and Angus Ruthven, Edin-burgh.

Oran Mor: Cameron-Head Memorial Trophy—1 Seumas Campbell, Skye; 2 Calum Ross; 3 George Gunn, Stornoway.

Women

Learners Silver Pendant: first qualifying round—1 Constance A. MacRae, Kyle of Lochalsh; 2 Alexandra M. Thompson, Orping-ton; 3 Morna Leckie, Campbel-ton. Second qualifying round—1 Alma Coull, Aberfeldy; 2 Cona MacLean, Glasgow; 3 Alexandra M. Thompson. Final—Alexandra Thompson; runner-up Morna Leckie.

James Grant Memorial Prize—1 Margaret Crockett, Stornoway; 2 Anne C. MacQuarrie, Prestwick; 3 Morag M. Murray, Dunning.

Oran Mor: Archibald MacDonal Memorial trophy—1 Marg-aret Crockett; 2 Anne C. MacQuarrie; 3 Mary MacLean, Glas-gow. Quintin MacLennan prize—1 Jamesina Mackenzie, Crinan.

Mixed

Kennedy Fraser Cup—1 Seumas Gallacher; 2 Morag M. Mackay, Clarkston; 3 Alexandra M. Thomp-son.

Sarah Weir Memorial trophy—1 Margaret M. McVicar, Ardrish-arg; 2 Constance A. MacRae; 3 Hugh Lamont, Bunnisan.

Scotia trophy—1 Seumas Camp-bell; 2 eq. Etta MacDonald, Clyde-bank and Margaret I. M. Mac-Leod, Glasgow.

Duncan Johnston Memorial trophy—1 Seumas Campbell; 2 Ethel MacCallum, Inverjary; 3 Duncan MacCalman, Port Ellen.

Oban and Lorne gold medal—1 Mary MacTaggart, Glasgow; 2 Calum MacArthur; 3 Mary Mac-Lean.

THIS YEAR'S BARD

Barra Man Chosen

Mr D. J. Macdougall, Glas-gow, is this year's Bard of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

A Barra man and forty-six years of age, he was runner-up last year, and has often entered for the Mod competitions.

Solo Singing—A'Chuairt Shanh-raidh (Girls under 13) Ishbel M. Lamont (Bellahouston Academy), 1; Catherine Graham (Inverness), 2. **Foriadh** (Boys 13 to 16): An Comunn Gaidhealach Silver Medal—Duncan McFadyen (Oban H.S.), 1; Aleck Stewart (Portree H.S.), 2; Hector Macleod (Brue) and Dun-can J. McRae (Lochalsh), 3. **Maol-ruanaidh** (Girls under 10): Mairi Mackay (Invershin), 1; Lorna L. Black (Oban), 2; Gwynne Hopkin (Ardbeg), 3.

Reading the Prose—Diseachd (Children 13 to 16) Chrissie Macaskill (Nicolson Institute), 1; Marina Maclean (Oban H.S.), 2; Joan Kennedy (Nicolson Institute) and Christina MacLennan (Inver-ness), 3.

Solo Singing—Eilean Uaine fo cheo (Boys 13 to 16): James C. MacPhee Memorial Medal—David J. Hastie (Campbelltown), 1; John Macdonald (Broxa Branch), 2; James Stoddart (Pais-ley), 3. **Reading the Prose—An Sgiobair Fliuch** (Children 13 to

16): Lorna I. MacDougall (Bainsford), 1; Katrina A. MacDonald (Forres), 2; Mairi C. Douglas (Glasgow) and Morag F. A. Robertson (Kiltarity), 3.

Reading the Prose—Combalste a' Mharithe (Children under 13): Ewen Macdonald (Dunoon), 1. **Reciting the Poem—Aoir an Oiseigin** (Children under 13): Janice MacIntosh (Dunoon), 1; Ewen Macdonald (Dunoon), 2; Neil Macdonald (Dunoon), 3. **Cuairt Mhaidne a' Bhuaicaille** (Children 13 to 16): Chrissie Macaskill (Nicolson Institute), 1; Christina MacLennan (Inverness), 2; Marina Maclean (Oban H.S.), 3.

Reciting the Poem—Do Neoin-ean (Children 13 to 16): Mairi C. Douglas (Glasgow), 1; Lorna I. MacDougall (Bainsford), 2; Kat-

MOD MEDALS

Winners at Dunoon

The winners of the gold medal competitions for solo singing at the annual Mod of An Comunn Gaidhealach at Dunoon last week were Marg-aret Crockett, Stornoway, and Calum Ross, Glasgow. This year a gold knit pin is being awarded for the men's competition in-stead of a medal.

Calum Ross, who is 34 is a Glasgow school teacher. His parents come from Skye. Marg-aret Crockett has been a finalist on four occasions.

Inverness Royal Academy won the schools' Gaelic quiz competition at the Mod earlier in the week. They beat Oban High School, last year's win-ners, by 30 points to 24.

rina A. MacDonald (Forres) and Pauline M. MacGhee (Kyle of Lochalsh), 3.

Solo Singing—Muile nan Fuar-bheann Mor (Girls 13 to 16): An Comunn Gaidhealach Silver Medal—Mary M. Mackenzie (Nicolson Institute), 1; Joan Ken-nedy (Nicolson Institute); 2; Donna Macleod (Nicolson Institute), 3. **Reading the Prose—Na Cearcan** (Children under 13)—Ishbel M. Lamont (Bellahouston Academy).

Playing a slow Gaelic Air and March on piano (Children 13 to 16)—Janet MacDonald Clark (Greenock), 1; John L. Frasar

INVERNESS ARE QUIZ CHAMPS

Winners of the Gaelic schools quiz at the Dunoon Mod were Inverness Royal Academy, who made up for their disappointment in the choir competitions by knock-ing out Oban High School in the final.

Captained by 16-year-old Christine MacDougall, the team of Murdo MacLeod (17) and Donald MacLennan (17), won by 30 points to 24.

To reach the final they beat Portree High School and Lochaber High School in the preliminary rounds.

The defeated team, Oban, was led by 16-year-old Iain Kennedy, who was in the team when they won the con-test last year.

With the others, Kenneth MacQuarrie (16) and Marina Maclean (16), they got into the semi-finals this year by beating Daliburgh Junior Secondary, from South Uist.

(Golspie) and Norman Johnston (Clarkston) 2 equal.

Reciting from Memory (Child-ren 13 to 16)—Morag F. A. Rob-ertson (Kiltarity), 1; Katrina A. MacDonald (Forres) and Lorna I. MacDougall (Bainsford), 2 equal.

Solo Singing—Faitte do Dhar-raidh (Boys under 13)—Thomas Lowe (Glasgow), 1. **Traditional Singing of unpublished Songs** (Children 13 to 16)—Mary M. Mackenzie (Nicolson Institute); 1; Morag Macintyre (Bellahouston Academy); 2; Christine E. Mac-leod (Nicolson Institute), 3.

Solo singing, Bothan an Fhuar-in (boys under 13)—James Frasar Jack (Fort Augustus), 1; Duncan Mackay (Bellshill), 2; George Murray (Broxa Branch), 3. **Duet singing** (children 13-16)—Mary M. Mackenzie (Nicolson Institute) and Donna Macleod (Nicolson Insti-tute); 1; Joan Kennedy (Nicolson Institute) and Chrissie Macaskill (Nicolson Institute), 2; Christine Maciver (Nicolson Insti-tute) and Christine E. Macleod (Nicolson Institute), 3.

Solo singing, competitor's choice—Janet D. MacDonald (Grantown-on-Spey), 1; Betty Mackay (Inver-shin) and Isobel Fraser (Kiltarity), 2 equal.

Traditional singing of unpub-lished songs (Children under 13); Ishbel M. Lamont (Bellahouston Academy), 1; Catherine Graham (Inverness), 2. **Duet singing** (Child-ren under 13): Catherine Brooks (Ardrossan) and Sandra Hair (Ardrossan), 1; Margaret A. Mills (Largs) and Sheena Gordon (Largs), 2; Rosemary Paterson (Saltcoats) and Janessa Armstrong (Ardrossan), 3.

Conversation (Children 13-16): Joan Kennedy (Nicolson Institute), 1; Agnes Mackenzie (Nicolson Institute), 2; Chrissie Macaskill (Nicolson Institute) and Christina M. Maciver (Nicolson Institute), equal 3. **Solo singing—An t-Oighr-**

MOD RESULTS CONTINUED ON PAGE NINE



The all-conquering choir from Nicolson Institute, Stornoway. On the left is their conductor, Mr Robert Scott, and their Gaelic tutor, Miss MacLeod, is on extreme right.

[Photo by courtesy "People's Journal"]

SRUTH

Di-ardaoin, 17 Iatha de'n Damhar 1968
Thursdays, 17th October 1968

Am Mod

Tha mod eile seachad.

Ann's na dealbhan a chunnaic sinn air an telebhisean agus a chuala sinn air an radio chunnaic sinn dealbhan de bheatha na Gaidhealtachd agus nan Gaidheal mar a tha agus mar a bha iad. Ach am mod na?

Tha fhios againn uile gu bheil da dhealbhan ann. Ann's a' cheud bhàrachd ch'inn coisr, anns nach eil ach ghe bheag de sheinneadairan aig a bheil Gaidhlig 'a' seinn air a chaidh a dheasachadh leis a' Bhean-uisail Cheanadaich-Frìsel, anns an dealbh eile ch'inn bodach aig an tigh a' toirt a' crìth usghe na Sàbaid. De an ceangal a tha eadar an da dhealbhan? Ged a bheas e seachad a' Gaidhlig eil fios nach d'rachadh am Mod o neart gu neart?

Sin aguis ceist a chuala sinn tric gu leor ach cha d'fhuair sinn freagairt cheart dh'fhathast.

Air doigh buinidh an coisr agus am bodach do dha shaoghal. 'S e aon shaoghal a bha anna aig Bairein, ach chaidh eadar-sgaradh a dheanamh eatorra aig Brà Chulodair — eadar-sgaradh a thoisich fada romhe sin. Tha sinn fada, fada bho'n Iatha anns an bhruidheanach na h-eòla agus na h-uachdaran Gaidhlig, ach air doigh buinidh am Mod agus an coisr fhathast do shaoghal nan uachdaran ged nach fhaic thu moran uachdaran a' tadhal air a nis. Seo shaoghal far an do sguir an doigh-beatha aca a bhith ceangailte ann an seadh far sam bith ri beatha na Gaidhealtachd, ach tha samhlaidean na beatha sin mar a bha i aon uair — an fheileadh, a' phìob-mhor, feidh, bràisean is breacan air an cumail beo air an sgath fein.

Buinidh am bodach do bheatha na Gaidhealtachd mar a tha i da-rireach an diugh — bailtean anns nach eil ach seann daoine air fhagail, cion-obrach, cion-oirigh, cion-ghreasan, cion duine a' ri oran nuadh.

Tha an fheadhainn nach eil ag iarraidh gun gabhadh An Comunn Gaidhealtachd gnòthach ri nithean polaiticeach ag iarraidh a' Mhoid a chumail anns an t-saoghal eile ach a' dh'aindeoin de seorsa "prestige" a' bheir am Mod dha'n Gaidhlig (agus chan eil teagamh ann gum bheil e feumail san doigh seo) cha bhi a h-uile saothair a tharhas a' deanamh gu feum sam bith mura bi beatha anns na samhlaidean. Bhitheadh e uamhasach mura bitheadh a h-uile oidhirp agus diceall agus cogsaig a' tha luchd-obrach A'Chomuinn a' deanamh ach airson samhlaidean no samhlan a chumail beo air an sgath fein.

The Road to the Isles

After some eight decades, expatriate Gaels have finally decided that the best position from which to fight for recognition of Gaelic and its culture is the Western Isles. One of the many announcements made at last week's Mod was that the Director of An Comunn was to become a missionary among the islanders, charged with preaching an as yet undefined gospel and building for himself a cell from which he will sallay forth at suitable times to (a) convert the islanders and (b) to conduct his general operations from his official base near Brude's Fort in Inverness.

While this is a good move, one might ask if it is not made too late in the day to have any appreciable effect on a people whose whole life-bases were, are, and always will be, centred on the use of Gaelic as an effective means of communication between themselves.

It seems strange that an organisation composed almost wholly of expatriate Gaels should take it upon themselves to persuade invertebrate Gaelic speakers that membership of An Comunn, or support of it, will be of immense benefit to the latter.

For instance, only a couple of years ago did An Comunn see fit to extend its Constitution to embrace social and economic aspects of the Highlands and Islands — while there have been deeply-entrenched problems in these areas ever since the 1880s. Is An Comunn therefore a Johnny-come-lately in the Islands? In this respect one is reminded of the militancy shown in the past by the Inverness Gaelic Society when matters of Highland import were involved — while the contemporary An Comunn sang gaily at its Mods 'Tha'n samhraidh air tighinn' ignoring the fact that the position of Gaelic and the Gaelic people was steadily worsening; that it was rather a winter of discontent that was approaching.

The fault lay in An Comunn's refusal to become involved in politics. Even now, its involvement in political areas only extends to a purely personal commitment by immediate past President, Donald Grant. This is not enough. Unless An Comunn can influence — and be seen to influence — politicians, the exile of its Director to Stormovay will yield little fruit.

One last point. Is it not now the time for the creation of three new organisations? 1. An Comunn as a general, politically-involved, militant body fighting for the Gaelic cause. 2. An Cruinne as, again, a militant body with aggressively-proud members providing Gaelic as a spoken language. And a new body solely responsible for staging the Mod and presenting the best face for Gaelic on the entertainment and publicity fronts. There is ample room for all three.

Forestry In 1967

In October 1967 the Prime Minister announced that the Commission's planting programme in Scotland will be substantially increased from 1969 onwards.* It was announced in January 1966 that the programme was to be increased to 36,000 acres a year from 1969 onwards. The additional increase will be by stages to reach 50,000 acres a year by 1976. This additional planting would be arranged so that neither private afforestation nor the general land of agriculture would be adversely affected.

Whilst the emphasis on increased planting will remain in the crofting counties, there will be further expansion in the areas conveniently situated to



A tool instructor shows a forest worker the right way to use a power saw for felling, that is, trimming off side branches, from a felled spruce tree. Both wear protective helmets.

wood using industries.

The area planted in 1967 was 33,166 acres, 1200 acres more than 1966.

44,500 acres of plantable land were acquired in 1967—an increase of over 14,500 in 1966.

At the end of the year the Commission whose estate totalled 2,802,818 acres of which 1,960,978 were forest land; the remainder included forest nurseries, agricultural and grazing land, forest workers' holdings and unplanted and miscellaneous land such as mountain tops.

The weight of timber produced from Commission forests increased from about 1,000,000 tons in 1966 to 1,120,000 tons in 1967—an increase of 9.4 per cent (about the same rate as in 1966).

In harvesting there were two major developments which should lead to considerable economies. First, the mileage of forest roads which have to be built for wood extraction purposes is being greatly reduced due to the longer ranges of modern cable cranes and winches, which enable these to reach further into the forest, and to other improvements in extraction equipment and techniques. Second, young trees are now being planted at wider spacings; this will do away with the need for the costly, and relatively less profitable, early thinning operations.

It was a difficult year for marketing due to world over-production of pulp, teething

troubles in new pulp mills at home (now overcome) and a depression in the chipboard industry. Despite these difficulties the Commission sold its increased production at slightly enhanced prices (0.6 per cent. above 1966).

The Commission estimates that the potential production of softwood from Britain's forests will double by 1980 to reach 4,000,000 tons. An increased amount of work was done on second rotation crops and the hazards of disease and insect damage associated with the old crop. The tree breeding programme continued with a change of emphasis to Sitka spruce. Seed orchards of Scots pine yielded significant quantities for the first time.

The accounts presented in the 1967 Annual Report of the Forestry Commission indicates that it is necessary to take into account, when examining the financial results of the Commission's trading the factors peculiar to public investment in afforestation. These include the intangible returns from social services rendered which cannot be regarded as relevant to a commercial undertaking; the high proportion of expenditure attributable to compound interest on Exchequer advances and the immaturity of most of the Commission plantations at this time. The social services rendered include provision of work in areas subject to depopulation and diversification of industry in development areas.

On roads, 485 miles were completed to final standard and 80 miles to initial standard during the year, giving a total mileage of 9,076 within the Commission's forests.

The Scottish Countryside Act 1967 gave the Commission specific power to provide facilities for recreation and is an important land-mark in progress towards the realisation of the modern concept of the multiple-use of forests in Great Britain.

(to be continued)

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

L. Wynne

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DRUM AN T-SAOGHAIL

Bho anart marbha na h-iar-mailt, fuar, gun gouth. Tha 'n fhaig marbh-ghlas sinne. Crom os cionn A' chuin a' bheinn mar chail-leach aosda' gal: Tha 'n cruinne-cè a'deanamh faire. Bron

gach nàch a thainig riamh air talamh, bron nàch treig sinn gus an treig nàch air sinn, bron a' bhaiss a' sgoaileadh tamhag-gal mar cneo, mu'n cuairt. O fuar air m' aodann bron a' bhaiss, ceo uaigneach tha na mara. Am feasgar seo tha mi 'nam shuidh air creig aig bial a laid, ag amharc teanga 'cheo' air rannachadh feadh farsuin-neach m' uamhasach a chuain,

'sag imlich sgrìobh chaol mhealltach chuir na sunn.

Am mach air cul a' chearcail uidh ghrian a' dearsadh sìos air achadh cubhraidh bliath, far bheil trì fichead mìle dealan-de a' cliis-leum, agus failleadh glan an fheoir mar cheol ag eiridh suas. Tha sìth an sud, O, sìth nach d'fhaicridh cridhe duine riamh

Tha mise 'feitheamh aiseag. Tha mi sgìth.

Aon Iatha nochdaid' siuil air fàin a chuain, A' lung' tha dol cam' thoirt gum' dhachaidh bhuan.

THE RIM

Under the sky's grey winding sheet,
the sea
Lies dead. The hill, a stooped old woman,
weeps
Above the water, Quietly the earth
keeps wack.

The grey thought comes, a spectre
from the sea.
The thought that seeps into each
human heart,
The thought we clutch when we
can no more clutch.

Child, dip upon my face the touch
of death,
Grey thought condensed from this
broad pensive stretch
Of sea, My eyes go out across the
miles
And miles and miles of leaden
water to

The very rim, the faint deceptive
line
That circumscribes our outstretched
stretched acreage
Of woe. Long searching tongues
of mist reach out
And lick the line, erase the pencil
work.

There is no line. Beyond, beyond
their lies
A sun-warmed land where colours
flicker from
A million wings, where music
softly bears
The lingering smell of grass. And
peace is there,
A peace the heart of man has
never known.

I'm old and tired. A ship will one
day come
For me. White visionary sails will
fill the air
Across that rim, and stiffen to the
breed,
And bear down swiftly towards
me. I shall say
Goodbye to all my friends and sep
arabound.

The original and translated version of the prize-winning entries in the Bardic Crown competition 1968 by Donald J. MacDowell.

over to you:

Mo charaid. — Tha mi a cur gach deagh dhurachd gur n-ionnuidh aig an am seo. Tha mod na bliadhna seo a tighinn faisg oirbh agus tha mi 'n dochas gu soirbheais leis agus leibh fàin a' nns gach oidhpar an sgath ar canan. Bithidh an t-side car fuar aig deireadh an Fhoghair an ath bhliadhna ann an Abhaidh mor (an e sin e Ghaidhlig ri?) agus bhiodh e iomchuidh dhùbhal teas de Chòtaichean mora, innealan teis (heaters) agus steamharccean (skis) a bhì deiseil air son nan daoine a bhitheas a' lathair. Bha grain riann agam air rann brosnachadh a Chomunn viz:

Togaibh i, togaibh i etc. o chionn gu e bardachd shuarach gur bhriag a th'ann. Uime sin tha mi a' cur thug-aibh sreathan ura air an aon fhonn, agus tha mi a' toirt cead dha 'n Chomunn agus dha na coisrean Chiull a seinn an aite Togaibh i togaibh i. Tha cead agabh cuideachd na sreathan agamsa a' chur an clo anns an t-Sruth, agus tha mi a' toirt rabhadh gun bith mi gu math croda mur a leugh iad anns a phai-per sin!

Leagaibh i, leagaibh i, a' luineag nach fhuil leam, leagaibh i, leagaibh i, sios chun an urlair, 'S beag orm, 's beag orm, bardachd gun aille, Co dhùibh tha i' sgrìobht' ann am Beurla no Gaidhlig, UISDEAN LAING 19 Abhainn nan Eala Ashairlla-an-lar

Sir,—Scotland is one of the last reputedly civilised countries to tolerate the obscene practice of corporal punishment in schools. Even the English teachers and parents have formed an association—The Society of Teachers opposed to Physical Punishment — to ban the cane.

And this is the time you choose to insert an advertisement for 'Punishment Straps' (anonymous of course) knowing, as you should do, that this particular form of brutality and repression is in a large measure responsible for the chronic subservience which has cost the Highlanders their culture and their language.

It is regrettable that Sruth should countenance the continuance of a form of perversion, however long established. Yours etc. — D. J. MACINTYRE 54 Stainburn Crescent Leeds 17 Yorks

Sir,—The reproduction of an original pipe tune in 'Sruth', 19/9/68, prompts me to inquire whether there is in Scotland an organisation or a society which is interested in new pipe tunes to the extent of trying them out and, where merited, of giving them some publicity. Since 1939 I have composed 28 tunes (ceol beag agus ceol meadhanach) and one piobrach. Not one of these tunes has ever been published, though, of course, I have my own original manuscripts.

Ge'd tha mi cho deidheil an air a' phioibearachd (agus air Ghaidhlig cuideachd) cia Ghaidhlighe mise. Rugadh mi ann an t-tìoraimachd York, shire, agus tha mi an bhì a' gabhail uidh ann an ceol agus canain na Gaidhealtachd bho chionn fhada. Cha n' eil mi fileanta anns a' Ghaidhlig idir agus cha n'eil mi 'ga bruidhinn gu math. Co-dhùibh tha mi ghe thoilichte gu'm bheil beagan dhi agam— is fear sin na bhì gun Gaidhlig sam bith.

The "Sruth" a' cordadh rium gle m'haig e b'fhearr lean robh sibh a' clo-bhualladh na's mo de'n Ghaidhlig agus na's lugha de'n Bheurla ann.

Leis gach deagh dhuirachd. Is mise

HARRY H. FOERS 4 Preston Road Oxbridge Lane Stockton-on-Tees Teesside

Sir,—Mr Donald Grant, the President of An Comunn, was recently reported as having said that Gaelic could only be saved by people speaking it; in the same speech he disapproved of people using the few words of Gaelic they knew. The incomplete "Cia mar a tha thu?" the incomplete "Tha fluch!" did the cause of Gaelic more harm than good.

Rubbish, Mr Grant. It is the only people allowed to speak English were those who spoke it properly, there would probably only be you and I talking to one another in the length and breadth of Britain. The man in the pub who says "Slansh" as he downs his umpteenth dram is recognising the existence of Gaelic, and by using it, no matter how, is linking himself with it and thus paying allegiance to it. The language needs this kind of allegiance — living English is found, not in Oxbridge or the BBC, but in Yorkshire, Dorset and Carnaby Street. Equally,

pedantry will not breathe life into Gaelic, but the allegiance of the man in the pub, and all his mates, might well.

The schoolboy learning French will essay his first "Comment Allez vous?" without knowing or caring how to continue if someone answers him. It is a perfectly natural thing to do; it is proper and polite to use the language of the country one is in, even if one's knowledge of it is limited to half a dozen badly pronounced phrases. People of all nationalities are indulgent and well-disposed towards foreigners who attempt to communicate, however haltingly, in their own language. Mr Grant, it seems, does not share these sentiments. He would not, I feel have said what he did were it not for the fact that he, and indeed the majority of Gaels, is at least as fluent in English as he is in his native tongue.

I have been a learner of the language in a very sporadic way, for a number of years and I know that encouragement (not merely the lack of discouragement) and active contact with the language are two of the most important factors in its successful study. The badge scheme, if successful, should provide both incentive and contact, and I welcome it as a positive step in the right direction. Let a vigorous publicity campaign now be mounted to enlist every Gaelic speaker everywhere, and to ensure that everybody in Scotland knows what the badge means.

As a learner, my own first thoughts on the subject centre on the standards of fluency to be expected from the wearers of the different kinds of badge. Presumably fluency is what ADHAMH would call "kitchen Gaelic" is the least to be expected from the wearer of a gold badge. What about the silver? Is it sufficient to be able to say "Cha n'eil mi a' tuigsinn de'n a tha thu ag radh?" intelligibly to qualify, or what? What will a

(Continued on Page Twelve)

CLUAS RI CLAISNEACHD

Beachdan air Programan Gaidhealach

MAIREAD

Tha cuimhne mhath agam air an oidhche a thainig am program mu Mhàiread Òb an Doill amach an toiseach. Cha mhise sgeul math aithris da ura, agus bha e taitneach a bhith ag eisdeachd a rithist ri a seanchas agus a h-orain. Tha mi 'n dochas nach 'eil an sin ach toiseach toiseachaidh, agus gun chluinn sinn as ur cuid de na h-oraiden agus na sgeulachdan a bha 'nan tiachd cho mor do'n luchd-eisdeachd ann am bliadhnanach eile.

MODAN

Mus do thoisich Mod Naisanta na bliadhna seo bha Freac MacAmhlaigh a' toirt suil eile air ais, agus thug e duhinn orain agus luchd-seinn a chualas aig MODAN eile. Mar is abhaist thug am BBC duhinn dealbh innntinnach air na thachair fad seachdain a' Mhoid, air an reidh agus air telebhisean. Chord "Da Cheathramh" agus Fonn" gu sonaichte rium — fhuair feadhainn a bh' aig a Mhoid cothrom na clair a thaineadh riutha fhein a thaghadh. An cluinn sinn tuilleadh phro-

graman mar sin aig meadhan-latha?

MOLADH

Chuala mi luchd-teagaisg a' moladh nam programan a chuireadh amach airson na cloinne air V.H.F. Dhuisg a' cheud program gu h-àraidh comhradh am measg nan sgoilearan — mar sin 'se programan le seanchas is sgeulachdan, a reir coltais, a tha freagarrach airson clann-sgoile. Anns an "Radio Times" chaidh innse gur e orain Mhurchaidh a' Cheisdeir a bhiodh air an seinn air an dara program, ach chualas a' bhardsachd aig Murchaidh a' bhraithair agus aig Murchaidh Mac a' Ghobhainn cuideachd.

MAISE

Bha sinn a' fas cleachdte ri guthan Leodhasach agus Fearach a chluinntinn air "Deanamaid Aoradh" agus bha e 'na urachdan a bhith ag eisdeachd ri Gaidhlig Earra-Ghaidheal o'n Urr. Donnchadh MacCaluim. Bha na seirbheisean ciatach, agus bha deich mionaidean a bharrachd againn air a' mhios seo. MAOLDONAICH



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AG IONNSACHADH NA BRUIDHEAMAID GAIDHLIG

(Let us speak Gaelic)

Leasan 1



1 Seo cù
Dé tha seo?
Tha cù
An e seo cù?
'S e
An e seo cat? Chan e
Tha an cù dubh
A bheil an cù dubh? Tha
A bheil an cù bàn? Chan eil



2 Seo cat
Dé tha seo?
Tha cat
An e seo cat?
'S e
An e seo cù? Chan e
Tha an cat bàn
A bheil an cat bàn? Tha
A bheil an cat dubh? Chan eil



3 Seo gille
Dé tha seo?
Tha gille
An e seo gille?
'S e
An e seo caileag?
Chan e
Tha an gille mór
A bheil an gille mór? Tha
A bheil an gille beag? Chan eil



4 Seo cupa
Dé tha seo?
Tha cupa
An e seo cupa?
'S e
Tha an cupa mór
A bheil an cupa mór? Tha
A bheil an cupa beag?
Chan eil



Tha na leasan seo air an ullachadh gu cuideachadh le luchd-teagaisg is luchd-ionnsachaidh.

6 Seo spàin
Dé tha seo?
Tha spàin
An e seo spàin?
'S e
An e seo fear?
Chan e
Tha an spàin mór
A bheil an spàin mór? Tha
A bheil an spàin beag? Chan eil



B

LEUGADH

Tha an cù mór. Tha an cat beag. Tha an cù mór ach tha an cat beag. Tha an cù dubh. Tha an cù dubh ach tha an cat bàn. Tha 'a' chailleag beag ach tha an gille mór. Tha an cupa mór. Tha an spàin mór. Seo an cù dubh. Seo an cat bàn. Seo an spàin. Seo an cupa.

C

CEISTEAN

An e seo cù?
An e seo cat?
An e seo caileag?
A bheil an cù mór?
A bheil an cù dubh?
A bheil an cù bàn?
A bheil an cat ban?
An e seo an gille?

A bheil an gille mór?
A bheil 'a' chailleag mór?
A bheil 'a' chailleag beag?
Dé tha seo?
An e seo an cupa?
A bheil an cupa mór?
An e seo an spàin?
A bheil an spàin mór?

D

FACLAN (Vocabulary)

seo, this
an e, is it? this is a dog
de, what?
tha, am, is or are in statements
an e, is it? or is he?
an e seo, is this?
's e or is e, it is (affirmative answer to "an e?")
chan e, it is not (negative answer to "an e?")
cat, (a) cat
dubh, black
an, the
a bheil, am, is or are? (In questions and indirect speech)
chan eil, no (negative answer to "a bheil?")
gille, (a) lad, (a) boy
caileag, (a) girl
mór, big
beag, small
'a', the
cupa, (a) cup
spàin, (a) spoon
leughadh, reading
ceistean, questions

EOIN NAN EILEAN

Le C. MacCoinnich
Sàlaire, Amhasag, Amhasan, Asan
—Gannet, Sòlan Goose.
Eun Bàn an Sgadain, Eun Glas an Sgadain an Sgadam, Sòlan Goose.
Lòraeg, Luireag, Luireagan — Storm Petrel.
Famblag, Amhlag Mhara—Storm Petrel.
An Gòbhan Mara—Leach's Fork-tailed Petrel.
Sragb, Sragbairre—Manx Shearwater.
Gòbhachan—Little Grebe.
Fulmar, Fulmaire—Fulmar.
Learg—Lidge, Learg, Learg Mhór—Black Throated Diver.
An Learg Dhubb, Learg Fairge—Black Throated Diver.
An Learg Chaol, An Learg Ruadh, Learg—Red Throated Diver.
Calman Coille—Wood Pigeon.
Calman, Calmann Gorm, Calman Creige—Rock Dove.
Eun Beathunn—Whimbrel, May Fowl.
Guilbhean, Sguilbhean—Curlew.
Coilleach Coille, Creothar, Fudagag—Woodcock.
Neose, Gobhan Aithair—Snipe.
Gòbhachan Dearg—Red Necked Phalarope.
Tarmachan Tràghad, Pollaran, Gràllag—Dunlin.
Cam Glas, An Camalubach, Bogaloin—Sand Piper.
Mòr Cladaich—Redshank.
Bothag—Ringed Plover.
Feadag, Feadag Bhuidhe—Golden Plover.
Glas Fheadag—Grey Plover.
Amadan Mòintich—Dotterel.
Curacag, Adharcag Luachrach—Lapwing, Green Plover, Peewit.
Trilleachan, Gillebride, Bridesan—Oyster Catcher.
Cearda-gob, Gob Cèrr—Avocet.
Sternal, Slearnain—Tern.
Faoileag 'a' Chinn Ruibh, Ceann Dubhan—Black Headed Gull.
Faoilinn, Faoileag, Crann Fhaoileag—Common Gull.
Faoileag Bheag, Glas Fhaoileag—Common Gull.
Farspag (Fhòr) an Sgadain—Herring Gull.
Farspag, Farspug, Farspac, Farspraig—(Great) Black Backed Gull.
Sgìtreach (in first year's plumage) (Great) Black Backed Gull.
Buna Bhuaichaille—Great Northern Diver.
Sgothag, Sgàireag, Séigire—Kittiwake.
Fàsagadair—Arctic Skua, Richardson's Skua.
Eun Dubh an Sgadain, Duibheach—Razorbill.
Lamhaidh—Langach, Eun an Sgadain—Guillemot.
Callag, Calltag, An Gearra Breac Black Guillemot.
Colgach, Colgair, Coltrachan—Puffin.
Contrachan, Comhdachan—Puffin.
An Treun, Treona. Dronn, Treubha—Cormorant.
Treun—Treat—Cormorant.
Snàgair nan Allt, Gearra Dubh nan Allt—Water Rail.
Ceare Uisge—Moor Hen.
Lach Lár, Lach Bhlar—Coot.
Charr Coille, Cabrach—Capercaillie, Wood Grouse.
Liath Cearc, Cearc Liath—Black Grouse (Female).
Coilleach Dubh—Black Cock, Black Grouse (Male).
Cearc Fhroaich—Red Grouse (Female).
Coilleach Ruadh, Coilleach Fhaoileag—Red Grouse (Male).
Cearc Thomain, Cearc Chruathach—Partridge.
Easag—Pheasant.
Tarmachan, Gealag Beinne, Eun Ban an t-Sneachd—Ptarmigan.

Great Men for Gaelic

by the Rev. Dr. T. M. MURCHISON

2. Neglect and Decay

Let me begin by recalling certain basic facts. Scottish and Irish Gaelic along with Manx, go back to a common ancestor called by the scholars "Common Gaelic." For centuries the same language was spoken in Ireland and Scotland (but, no doubt, with local and dialectal variations), a common literary heritage of prose tales and classical poetry was shared, and a common literary style and orthography was in use among the learned classes in both countries. In course of time the spoken languages grew apart, to some extent, but for a long time the literary tradition remained common to both Ireland and Scotland. Eventually, however, for historic and other reasons which need not concern us now, the Irish literary tradition lost ground in Scotland and the knowledge and practice of the traditional Gaelic orthograph gradually died out. And so, when we come to the 18th century, we find that Scottish Gaelic while still vigorous and widely used as a spoken language, had lost touch with the older literary tradition, and, as far as spelling was concerned, every man asserted the right to spell as he pleased.

In 1778, in the introduction to his "Analysis of the Gaelic Language," the Rev. William Shaw (1749-1831), a native of Arran, declared that, although one-third of the ministers of the Church of Scotland (that is, about 300 out of over 900) then preached regularly in Gaelic, he doubted whether "there be four men in Scotland that would spell one page the same way, for it has hitherto been left to the caprice and judgment of every speaker, without the steadiness of analogy or the direction of rules." In 1801 the Rev. Dr. Alexander Stewart wrote: "Although the Gaelic was once a copious and well-cultivated tongue, it has been degenerating into a rude and irregular state, since it became the speech only of ignorant and illiterate people." In 1803 the Rev. Dr. Daniel Dewar wrote: "In consequence of the neglect into which the Gaelic has fallen, many of its etymons are lost, whilst their derivatives are retained; many of its genuine idioms are becoming obsolete, while modern corruptions are daily admitted."

GÀIDHLIG

Gaelic Lesson

Lesson 1

The Definite Article

Although learners of Gaelic make early contact with the Definite Article, they probably don't hear the end of it in their first series of lessons. Here then, by way of revision, are some hints and examples which may help to clarify the position.

Let us first deal with the Plural and the Genitive Singular Feminine.

(a) Plural Forms

Nominative and Dative: na (na h- before vowels)
e.g. na dorsan; na h-uinneagan.
Genitive: nan (nam before b, f, m, p)
e.g. Cuachag nan Craobh; Cascheum nam Bàrd.

(b) Genitive Singular Feminine: na (na h- before vowels);
e.g. ceòl na pìoba; Eaglais na h-Alba.
The other forms are as follows:—

1. An is used before nouns beginning with d, t, l, n, r, sg, sm, sp, st (except, of course, in (a) and (b) above):

Nominative	Genitive	Dative
an doras	iuchair an dorais	aig an doras
an sgarbh	nead an sgarbh	aig an sgarbh
an sgoil	(Bòrd na Sgoile)	aig an sgoil

2. For ease in pronunciation an becomes am before b, f, m, p (masculine nouns in the Nom.)
e.g. am bhàr, am fiadh, am mac, am pìobaire.
(Cf. Dumbarton for Dunbarton).

3. a' is used before bh, ch, gh, mh, ph; i.e., Fem. nouns in Nom. and Dat. and Masc. nouns in Gen. and Dat.

e.g. Feminine Nouns —

Nominative	Dative
a' bhanaid	aig a' bhanaid
a' chaille	aig a' chaille
a' ghloine	aig a' ghloine
a' mhachair	aig a' mhachair
a' phìob	aig a' phìob

Masculine Nouns —

Genitive	Dative
ceann a' bhalach	aig a' bhalach
ceann a' chait	aig a' chait
ceann a' ghille	aig a' ghille
ceann a' mhaide	aig a' mhaide
ceann a' phìobaire	aig a' phìobaire

N.B.—After prepositions ending in a vowel (or vowel sound) 'n' is used instead of 'a' (when vowels clash one goes out).
e.g. fo'n bhòid; do'n bhùth; mu'n teine; troimh'n bhàile;
roimh'n uair.

Leughadh

An Niseach's a Bhiast-dhubh

Chaidh fear à Nis Iatha chun na mòintich agus chunnac e biast-dhubh (no dòbhran mar a their cuid) ann am bun aibhne. Cha robh gunna no cù aige ach bhual e i le cloich agus 'na bheacadh fhéin mharbh e i. Chuir e ann am pòca i, agus a mach leatha dhachaidh air a mhùn.

Bha còig mìle aige ri dhò, agus bha e glé sgèth a' ruighinn a' bhàile an beul na h-oidhche. Ach an uair a bha e dìreach gu bhith aig an tigh, nach ann a bheothach a' bhiast-dhubh (cha robh oirre ach peirigill), agus rug i air chòl amhaich air. Tha cuid ag ràdh nach b' ann air amhaich a rug i air ach air thòin, ach 's ann tha sin a réir ciamar a chuir e ann a' phòca i!

Co-dhùibh, bha an duine an droch chà. Cha robh guth air sgìos a nis. Ach bha e smaoinseachail. Bha gàrradh-cloiche air gach taobh de'n rathad air an robh e (agus tha fhathast). Leum a leis an rathad agus dhìth e an pòca eadar e 's na clachan le dhruim, gun a guth e air a' bheist a gréim a leigil as.

Chan eil an duine beò an diugh, ach tha an sgeul fìor gu leòr.

Oran

An téid thu leam, a Mháiri?

(Sung by Joan MacKenzie on Gaelfonn Record GLB 1703)

Seist:

An téid thu leam, a Mháiri?
An téid thu leam, a Mháiri?
An téid thu leam, a Mháiri Dhonn,
Gu tìr nam beanntan àrda?

1. Tha crodh againn air àirigh:
Tha laogh an cois ann m'athar:
Tha sin againn 's caorach mhaol'
Air sodann nam beanntan àrda.
2. Cha téid mi leat, a Ghàidheil!
Mo dhùrachaid chaidh chan fhàg mi:
Gur bochd am fonn 's tha'n t-aran gann
An tìr nan glèann 's nan àrd-bheann.
3. Dh' aithnichinn fhìn do bhàta
Nuas ma Ruedha na h-Airde:
Brèidann geala air an t-seòl,
'S bidh Clann tì Leòid 'gan càradh.

Gaelic Singing, Traditional Style

Steps are being taken by An Comunn Gàidhealach to preserve the art of traditional Gaelic singing, which has been lost to some extent in the formalised repertoire of today's singers.

It was announced last week that at next year's National Mod in Aviemore entrants for the gold medal competitions will have to sing a song in this traditional style as well as the four arranged songs they offer in the present form of the contest.

Unlike "arranged" Gaelic songs, the traditional style is virtually impossible to represent with musical notation.

Recordings can be made only on tape and it will be tape-recordings of traditional songs, made throughout the Highlands and Islands by the High and Islands by the High of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh which will give gold-medal contestants their Guide.

Mr Donald Grant, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach said: "There was a feeling that, through written arrangements, Gaelic singing has become too formal. We want to preserve its character as much as possible."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SCOTLAND

Figures relating to unemployment in Scotland on September 9, 1968, were issued in provisional form on September 19, 1968. The final figures are given below (table 1). An analysis of the total figure by main industry group is given in table 2 and an analysis of the wholly unemployed by duration of unemployment in table 3.

Table 1

Wholly Unemployed

Total (including casual workers — 76,074; School Leavers — 1,402; Excluding School Leavers — 74,672).
Temporary stopped — 2,559;
Total Registered — 78,633.

Table 2

Primary industries—6,387; Manufacturing industries — 22,503; Service industries — 40,938; Ex-Service personnel not classified by industry — 149; Other people not classified by industry — 8,656.

Table 3

Analysis of Wholly Unemployed (excluding casual workers by duration of unemployment —
Unemployed up to 2 weeks — 11,774; Unemployed over 2 and up to 8 weeks — 16,130; Unemployed more than 8 weeks — 47,904; Number of casual workers unemployed — 266. Total wholly unemployed — 76,074.

Testing Goods Vehicles

INVERNESS STATION OPENED

The Ministry of Transport Goods Vehicle Testing Station at Scafield Road on the Longman Industrial Estate, Inverness, one of six main and 15 auxiliary stations being built in Scotland by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works for the purpose of testing goods vehicles over 30 cwt., had an open day on Friday. Some 100 specially invited guests were shown round the testing station by Mr R. Gray, technical officer and station master, who is responsible for the standards of vehicles in Inverness. Also on hand were Mr F. Weatherill, area mechanical engineer and Mr E. Stein, senior vehicle examiner.

The scheme, which is due to start in Scotland on 1st December, and which is now open for voluntary testing of goods vehicles so that operators can see for themselves the standards which the vehicles will be expected to reach in the compulsory tests, has been introduced by the Ministry of Transport to ensure that lorries etc., on the road are in a mechanically sound condition, and is one of the major steps being taken by the Ministry in the interests of road safety. Between 1st December and 31st January 1969, all operators in Scotland with vehicles over 3 tons which were registered before 1st January 1958, must have them tested and "plated"—the Plating Certificate is the official document showing the loading weight permissible and also draws attention to the kinds of alterations to a vehicle or to its equipment which must be notified to the Ministry—at one of the Ministry's testing stations.

The station at Inverness, which was completed seven weeks ago, will be able to test up to 3,000 vehicles a year, and the tests, which are in four

main stages each taking about ten minutes, will include an inspection at ground level of the outside and easily accessible features of the vehicle; an inspection over a 45 feet long pit which is equipped with a 5.5 ton capacity hydraulic jack for raising front axles to check steering joints, king pins etc.; a check on the aim of headlights with a head lamp tester and brake test by a roller type brake tester. Any vehicle which is found faulty in any one of 70 specific points, will be taken off the road until it meets with the testing requirements.

TEACHERS TAKE COUNSEL

The Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association is taking legal advice with the view to taking legal action against Lanarkshire Education Authority. Education authorities are now bound by law to report, as soon as is practicable, to reference panels set up by the Secretary of State the appointments of unqualified persons to teaching posts in secondary schools. The Association believes from evidence at its disposal that the authority is not complying with the law and has instructed its general secretary to take Senior Counsel's Opinion on the methods by which it may be compelled to do so.

The Association has also written to the Secretary of State for Scotland urging him to compel the Lanarkshire Education Authority to comply with the law.

BRIDGES AT KYLE AND KESSOCK

At last week's meeting of the Inverness-shire Roads Committee, presided over by Mr Robert E. Simon, vice-chairman, a letter was read advocating the erection of a bridge across the narrows linking Skye with the mainland between Kyleakin and Kyle of Lochalsh. Skye District Council claim that the ferry service this summer had been most unsatisfactory with innumerable lengthy delays. They also suggested that the introduction of a 24-hour ferry service and a bridge would be the only real solution.

The question of a bridge across the Beauly Firth, linking Inverness and the Black Isle at Kessock, was also brought up. Both proposals were to be discussed at the meeting between members of Inverness County Council and the Highlands and Islands Development Board, it was stated.

an cruinne

Ma tha Gàidhlig agad
Nochd e, 's cleachd do chanan.

are

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fluent in Gaelic?
learning in Gaelic?
interested in Gaelic?

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AN CRUINNE

Badges and Membership Forms from An Cruinne, Abertarf House, Inverness.

Review Order

CLAN MAGAZINES

The SCOTSMAN recently carried some correspondence on a matter of clan societies and their place in the present-day age of ours. So far as the reviewer is concerned, each clan society performs a function similar to that which existed when the clans themselves were reasonably compact in their own territories. In any case, anything which creates a firm bond between people, no matter how far apart they are physically, deserves support.

We have two publications for review. One is from the New Zealand MacLeods; the other is from the Clan Donald, wherever they are.

The New Zealand Clan MacLeod Annual Newsletter is like what it should be: a family letter. It shows the essential elements which go to make up a family and details minutiae which are full of interest, even to one not a clan member.

The Clan Donald Magazine, edited by that stalwart, Dr R. M. Gorrie, is altogether a much more substantial affair. It contains, naturally, MacDonald-biased material but is none-the-less interesting to, again, a non-MacDonald.

First there are the small chinks of new light on the history of the clan and its families; of value because they fill in the all too many tiny gaps in the Clan Donald picture.

Then there is a piece called "The '08" by Dr Jean Munro. Here we have another gap filled by a historian with an obvious deep interest in her chosen subject, particularly where it touches on the Highlands of Scotland. The Rising of 1708 was a poor spirited affair. For all that, it perhaps heralded the later manifestations of revolt against an imposed system of administration not of native birth.

Iain Cameron Taylor writes about "Relics of the MacDonalds of Glenalladale". Again, here is a writer who feels for his subject and deals with it adequately and in a way which makes the reader identify himself very quickly with sympathy and understanding. Iain Taylor rightly mentions Rory MacKay's (Inverness) little booklet on the 'MacDonalds of Glenalladale', written in 1965. This is available from the Glenfinnan Information Centre, Glenfinnan. We make no apology giving another 'plug' for Rory's book.

Perhaps inevitably, a contribution on Flora MacDonald makes an appearance in the Clan Donald Magazine. In a recent visit to Milton, the reviewer felt that perhaps something more should be done to keep her birthplace a little brighter. Indeed, one hopes eventually that somebody or consortium of bodies will take on the task of erecting plaques, cairns or what have you at the myriad of

places in the Highlands and Islands which have had associations with people and events in the past.

One might almost ask the Highland Board to take this matter up — seeing they are so interested in tourism. But perhaps such an activity might result in too many non-Scots being confronted with the startling revelation that their countries have owed so much to the Highland Scot and have given so little in return!

'Can Donald Magazine', 7s, from R. M. Gorrie, 15 Murrayfield Drive, Edinburgh 12. The address for the New Zealand Clan MacLeod Newsletter is: Mrs Alison MacLeod MacGibbon, 19 Naseby Street, Christchurch 1, NZ.

IN FAIREST CALEDONIA

In these days of fast-moving living and the hustle of an imposed urban mentality, it is good to see that a few people are content to take things easier, though this does not mean that life is soft. In many places in the Highlands the life is hard. But the hardness tends to be blunted by the appreciation and understanding of natural things and events. These occur in God's own time, in the slow-moving seasons and rhythms imposed on us by nature.

One of those rare people appreciative of the Highland scene and the peace of mind it brings is James C. Morrison, of Rhiocnich, by Lairg. He has recently produced a booklet of verse, small, but full of the thoughts that one would expect from one who has spent his life so close to the hills and heaths of his native land.

The high hills, the low sweeping glens, the vacant clachans, the loch, lochans and seashore are all contained within his verses. But not only the inanimate. Birds and animals bring the landscapes to life.

The verse is evocative and full of the emotive stimuli which one can easily appreciate without effort. For anyone, whether he be a native of Sutherland or not, this booklet is recommended.

'In Fairest Caledonia', by James C. Morrison. Obtainable from the author at 87 Achlyness, Rhiocnich, by Lairg, Sutherland.

SCOTLAND'S '98' RISING

Opportunistically, this book has been published at a time when Scottish national feeling is very much on the increase. This last year or so the Scottish National Party has been the fastest-growing political party in Europe. The book will be assured of a wide sale in Scotland and will arouse a great deal of interest in a dark chapter of Scottish history.

For the majority of people, Scots as much as the rest of us, it will be a matter of no little surprise to find that the forty-

Five was not the last armed insurrection on Scottish soil. Irish readers will be struck by the similarity between this Scottish rebellion of 1820¹ and our own '98 rebellion. Although it never acquired the momentum of '98 it was far more widespread than Emmet's rising.

The question naturally arises 'How did we fail to hear of this 1820 rising until now?' English historians (who also include the majority of those who are nominally Scottish) write of Peterloo and the Chartists, but not a word of 1820. There seems little doubt that there has been a conspiracy of silence in the hope that in the absence of a tradition of non-constitutional rebellion Scottish national consciousness would gradually wither away. Even so, despite the professional historians, it is surprising that the tradition did not linger in the minds of the people themselves. Perhaps the answer can be found in the very vehement affirmations made by the three who were executed that they were convinced Christians. Just as in Ireland, the authorities did their utmost to discredit the rebels as being atheistic and determined to introduce a state of anarchy. The inference is that the ministers of the Kirk gave their authority to this tactic, so that anyone connected with the insurgents would feel obliged to keep it quiet. Again, as in Ireland, spying and informing were flourishing trades, so the less said the less danger was to be feared. It all becomes more comprehensible if we consider that the republicanism of Antrim and Down Presbyterians was replaced by Orangism in a relatively short time.

James Wilson, one of the three executed, was a weaver in the authentic Jemmy Hope tradition and like Jemmy a self-educated man. His speech from the dock is reminiscent of Emmet's, although it lacks the rhetoric that would have come naturally to Emmet the barrister. It is likely that Wilson was acquainted with Emmet's speech. He must almost certainly have been acquainted with some of the United Irishmen. During the proceedings of the trial it was brought out that Wilson, then aged 63, had been implicated in 'Seditious and Democratic' movements all his life. Indeed, as early as 1792 he had been a delegate at a Reform Convention held in Edinburgh. Tone in Europe, mentions Scots, presumably with intentions similar to his own. It is clear that Mr Sherry's book is only the outcrop of a rich vein of material in the story of Nationalist and Revolutionary Scotland.

There are other '98 links with Scotland that would be worth study. In the Eighteenth Century Ulster Dissenters, though better off than their Catholic fellow countrymen, were second-class citizens. With no suitable facilities at home it

was usual for prospective ministers to go to Scotland for their divinity studies. It will be recalled that '98 was presaged by the hanging of several ministers outside their chapel doors. . . . Thomas Russell, the Man-from-God-Know's-Where, was not "out" in '98. The simple explanation for this was that he was being detained during this period, at His Majesty's pleasure—in Scotland. At that time, it will be recalled 'gentlemen' were privileged and Russell would certainly have disaffected any Scots with whom he made contact. Another victim of the Emmet rising, along with Russell, was a man named John Macintosh. . . . On refusing to turn King's evidence he was beheaded. The name does not indicate an Ulsterman, as might be surmised. He was a native-born Scot, as opposed to English rule in Ireland as in Scotland.

All in all one can sense that there must have been definite links between the Irish and Scots who wished to break their connection with England. Mr Sherry's book should help to remedy the neglect to the memory of brave men who, in dark and evil days, were willing to sacrifice their lives for Scotland. As a by-product, I hope it will inspire some of our historians towards research that will trace the contact that undoubtedly existed between the Irish and Scottish Republicans.

"The Rising of 1820," by Frank Sherry, publisher MacLellan, 240 Hope Street, Glasgow.

FONN — '67

While the 1968 Dunoon Mod is still in our minds, it is good to hear again echoes of the 1967 Mod in Glasgow. An Communn Productions — Toradh — have produced a mono lp of selected items. All the items are of excellent quality. The recording of some of the choral items, however, could have been better. Part-songs, to be heard effectively, must be heard in choral unity. Perhaps the fault lies, not in the choirs themselves, but in the placing of the recording microphones and in the acoustics of some Mod halls which often leaves so much to be desired.

The solo items cannot be faulted and it would be unfair to single out names. The first side covers the junior competition winners; the second side gives credit to the winners in the senior section.

One must also congratulate Donald MacLeod, of Inverness, for the excellent design of the record sleeve. It is good that An Communn have seen the light of day to give Highland artists with genuine gifts the opportunity to participate in the Art section of the Mod which for too long has neglected the chance it has to give impetus to

the interests of artists of the calibre of Donald MacLeod.

As another point of interest, though this is no fault of the choirs, it must be said that the reviewer was again convinced that the spectra of Marjory Kennedy-Fraser still haunts the choral arrangements. It is about time that new arrangements were made available for Gaelic choirs. These arrangements must reflect the melodic and rhythmic characteristics of Gaelic music. Bartok and Kodaly did wonders with their national folk music. Spanish, Breton and other national folk music have also been enhanced by characteristic arrangements. Cannot the same be done with Gaelic music. We have listened for too long to arrangements from Ciosir a' Mhoid and Choisir a' Chuill.

May one ask what happens to the winning entries for the Calum Robertson prizes for harmony arrangements? Presumably they are collecting dust in 65 West Regent Street, Glasgow?

But these quibbles do not detract from pleasures which this welcome disc gives. It is available from An Communn Productions, Aberlath House, Inverness. The retail price is 31s 6d.

HARRIS AND LEWIS

When so much that is fanciful is written about the Isles of the West and their people, a book with a high factual content is doubly welcome. Such is the volume "Harris and Lewis" by Francis Thompson, newly published by David and Charles, Newton Abbot (price 45s 0d). It is the first of what the publishers describe as 'a new definitive series of books on islands', starting with volumes on islands around the British coast.

The opening chapters are recommended reading for enquiring visitors who now come in ever increasing numbers of the car ferry at Tarbert in Harris and spread all over the island from the Butt of Lewis in the North to Rodel in the South. They inevitably miss so much if they depend, as so many of them do, on their own observation and casual questioning of the passer-by who is so often "a stranger here myself." These chapters provide them with a simple, readable explanation of the geographical layout and of the geological origins and composition of the scenery they have come to admire and the ecology and physical environment in general. They will get an idea of the wealth of known prehistoric remains to be found in the Island, from the Callernish stones to the recent excavations in Northton, Harris. The botanist and the entomologist will find a concise description of flora and fauna.

There is a chapter on the recorded history of the island (Continued on Page Twelve)

MOD RESULTS

(Continued from Page Three)
 'Og (Girls 13-16): Fiona MacRae (Durness), 1; Lorna I. MacDougall (Bainford), 2; Moria Campbell (Carradale), and Katrina A. MacDonald (Forres), equal 3.

Conversation—(Children over 16)—Kathleen A. Macleod (Nicolson Institute), 1; Jane Ann MacKenzie (Nicolson Institute), 2; Marion M. MacIver (Nicolson Institute), 3. **Reciting from memory prose or poetry** (Children 13-16)—Joan Kennedy (Nicolson Institute), 1; Marina Maclean (Oban High School), 2; Kenneth MacQuarrie (Oban High School), 3. (Children under 13)—Ishbel M. Lamont (Bellahouston Academy), 1. (Children over 16)—Angusina Kennedy (Nicolson Institute), 1; Kathleen A. Macleod (Nicolson Institute), 2; Marion M. MacIver (Nicolson Institute), 3.

Conversation (Children 13 to 16)—Egnes MacKenzie (Nicolson Institute), 1; Donald M. Cameron (Inverness) and Anne M. Campbell (Inverness), equal 2; Rita J. MacKay (Inverness), 3. (Children under 13)—Catherine Graham (Inverness). **Reciting the poem—Elean on h-Oice** (Children under 13): Ishbel M. Lamont (Bellahouston Academy).

Reading at sight (Children 13-16)—Christie Macaskill (Nicolson Institute), 1; Catherine M. Morrison (Inverness), 2; Joan Kennly (Nicolson Institute) and Kenneth MacQuarrie (Oban High School), equal 3.

Reading at sight (Children 13-16)—Katrina A. MacDonald (Forres), 1; Morag F. A. Robertson (Kittarlie), 2; Catherine Cotes (Inverness), 3. **Reciting from memory** (Children under 13)—Neil J. MacLean (Minard Primary School) 1; Verse speaking—An Euan Shubhall (Children 13-16)—The Nicolson Institute Group B, 2. **Solo singing** (Girls 10-13)—Eileen Docherty (Camelon), 1; Ann Mitchell (Stenhousemuir), 2; Christina Macmillan (Inverness), 3.

Solo singing, competitor's choice (Boys and girls 16-18)—Kathleen A. Macleod (Nicolson Institute), 1; Elizabeth Crockett (Dunfermline), 2; Margaret Gray (Portree High School), 3.

Duet singing (children 13-16)—Ailsa MacLeod (Brightons) and Lorna I. MacDougall (Bainford), 1; Fiona Macdonald (West Kilbride) and Lyn Robertson (Saltcoats), 2; Sheena Walker (Camelon) and Fiona Heron (Stenhousemuir), 3. **Unison singing—Carradale Junior Choir**, 1; Minard Pri-

mary School Choir, 2; Tighnabruich School Choir, 3. **Story** (Children 13-16)—Christina MacLennan (Inverness), 1; Joan Kennedy (Nicolson Institute), 2; Christie Macaskill (Nicolson Institute) and Isabel Matheson (Nicolson Institute) 3 equal.

Playing a slow Gaelic air and march on the piano (Children under 13)—Fiona Johnston (Clarkston), 1; Catherine Brooks (Ardrossan), 2; Linda McCann (Stevenson), 3. **Unison singing Chi mi na Morbheanna and Mairi Dhona**—The Nicolson Institute Junior Choir, 1; Oban High School Gaelic Choir, 2; Inverness Royal Academy Gaelic Choir, 3. **Playing (a) slow Gaelic air and march (b) strathpey and reel, on the reed** (Children under 16)—John Murray (Cambuslang), 1; Alastair Garin (Prestwick), 2.

Playing a march on the bagpipes (Children under 18)—Ian Duncan (Pitlochry), 1; Kenneth J. MacVicar (Ardriahga), 2; Donald MacDonald (Glasgow), 3.

Playing a strathpey and reel on the bagpipes (Children under 18)—Ian Duncan (Pitlochry), 1; Kenneth J. MacVicar (Ardriahga), 2; George F. Crawford (Oban High School), 3. **Unison singing—Tarbert (loch Fyne) School Gaelic Choir**, 1; Bowmore Junior Gaelic Choir, 2; Ardberg Junior Gaelic Choir, 3.

Unison singing, Birlinn Choraidh Chroibtain and A'Bhanarach Chaoin—Breadalbane Academy Girls Choir, 1; Knightwood Junior Gaelic Choir, 2; Ruthrieston Boys Junior Choir, 3. **Choral singing, An t-Eilean Muir-each and Breacan Mairi Usdein**—The Nicolson Institute Junior Choir, 1; Inverness Royal Academy Gaelic Choir and Oban High School Gaelic Choir, 2.

Choral singing, Mo Chubhrachan and Creag Ghuanach—Breadalbane Academy Girls Choir, 1; Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir, 2; Largs and District Junior Gaelic Choir, 3.

Unison singing, Gille Calum, An t-èid na bhàin bhàineach? Fac thu na fèidh?—Largs and District Junior Gaelic Choir, 1; Dunoon Junior Gaelic Choir, 2; Knightwood Junior Gaelic Choir, 3. **Action songs** (Children under 17)—Carradale Junior Choir, 1; Bowmore Junior Gaelic Choir and the Nicolson Institute Group B, equal 2.

Unison singing, An Coltach a Bhuil Ceannar, Ruilidh na Coilich dubha—Nicolson Institute

(Continued at foot of next column)

SMELTER CONTRACTOR

British Aluminium has appointed Taywood Wrightson Ltd. as main contractor for the aluminium smelter to be built at Invergordy, with responsibility for providing management, engineering, procurement and construction services.

Taywood Wrightson is jointly owned by Taylor Woodrow and Head Wrightson, and was established to combine the engineering resources of the two groups.

Construction of the smelter will take approximately two-and-a-half years. The total cost will be £37,000,000 and the capacity will be 100,000 tons a year. The first metal will be produced early in 1971.

CELTIC ART CLASSES

Saturday morning was the first tutorial morning at Larbert High School for the young potential pipers, Highland dancers and drummers of the district.

Twenty-one pupils have so far enrolled for the piping class and thirty-seven for the Highland dancing with thirteen students signed up for the drumming class.

Gaelic Choir, 1; Oban High School Gaelic Choir and Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, equal 2. **Art and Industry** (Senior Section, Class F): Section 1—M. Munro. Largs, 1; Isobel Gordon, Kim, 2. Section 2—Sandra Cairns, Dumoon, Section 3—Sandra Cairns, Section 7—Sandra Cairns. Section 8—Sandra Cairns. Section 9—J. B. F. Carrick, Uplawmoor.

Class G (Section 1)—Mrs Lowe, Connel. Section 2—Mrs Lowe, Section 3—Mrs Griffin. Section 8—Margaret MacLean, Newtonmore. Section 9—S. H. Mantou, Strachur.

Class H—Winner's special prize; Alison Kinnaird, Edinburgh. Section 1—Mary Munro, Inverness. Section 2—Alison Kinnaird, Section 3—Donald A. MacLeod, Inverness.

EDINBURGH LOCAL MOD

Prize List Junior Section

Literary: Recitation of Psalm, Patricia McClements, Gaelic conversation, Morag C. MacIntyre. Recitation of "Do Neoinn," Ishbel Lamont. Reading at sight, Morag C. MacIntyre. Written Story, Ishbel Lamont.

Vocal Music: Solo singing of own choice (boys and girls under 12) 1 Christine Macleod; 2 Eileen Docherty; 3 Lilian Fairly. Solo singing of prescribed song "Mull na Fuar-bhean Mor"—1 Ishbel Lamont. Solo singing of own choice (under 16) 1 Angela Rose, 2 (equal) Margaret Wilson, Lorna MacDougall and Irene Clark, Ishbel Lamont; 3 Ann McAteer. Solo singing of Puirt-a-Beul (Strathpey and reel) 1 Lorna MacDougall. Solo singing of Gaelic Psalm—Morag C. MacIntyre. Singing of unpublished song—Morag C. MacIntyre. Solo singing of Puirt-a-Beul of own choice—Patricia McClements.

Choral: (a) Unison singing of a song of own choice (b) Two-part harmony of own choice—1 Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir (Lothians Celtic Choir Trophy); 2 Stirling Junior Gaelic Choir "A." Singing a Duet of own choice—Fiona Heron and Sheena Walker.

Instrumental: Playing of a slow Gaelic air and march on the piano—Jan MacGillivray.

Senior Section

Literary: Reciting at sight, Catriona M. McClements. Recitation of "Na Mairbh's na raon", Catriona M. McClements. Reading a passage of Gaelic prose (learners), Helen Lockhart. Gaelic prose, John A. Macleod, Gaelic poem, John A. Macleod.

Vocal Music: Solo singing of "A Ghraidh an tig thu," Pauline MacGillivray. Solo singing of "Fuir a dhreasa an beachd" and a song of own choice, 1 Morag M. Murray; 2 Etta MacDonald. Solo singing of "A Fhleasgaich oig is Ceannalta," 1 Maureen I. MacDougall; 2 Elizabeth Crockett; 3 Helen Lockhart. Solo singing of "A Chaillean mhaiseach Donn," Donald Murray. Solo singing of "O' Righ nan Dal" and song of own choice, Donald Murray (Kilt Pin presented by Edinburgh Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach).

Solo singing of "O Luaidh" (learners) James Sinclair; 2 George Brown. Solo singing of a song from The Kennedy Fraser and Kenneth Macleod Collection, 1 Morag M. Murray; 2 William Blacklaw; 3 Donald Murray. Will-

singing of "O teannaibh dluth is togaibh Fhonn" or "Bruthachain Ghlinn Bhrann," 1 Donald Murray; 2 Rhoda M. Maclean (prizes presented by Edinburgh Gaelic Choir).

Solo singing of a song sung in traditional manner, 1 Ethna Nicholson; 2 Catriona MacInosh; 3 Etta Macdonald. Solo singing of Puirt-a-Beul, Maureen I. MacDougall. Solo singing of song of own choice for Comunn Tir nam Beann Trophay, 1 Pauline MacGillivray; 2 James Sinclair; 3 Albert More.

Duets: 1 Robert Aitken and William Blacklaw; 2 James Sinclair and Peter Soutar.

Choral: singing of 2 songs in contrasting mood (for the Margaret Stewart Durward Memorial Trophy), 1 Lothians Celtic Choir; 2 Aberdeen Gaelic Choir; 3 Dundee Gaelic Musical Association.

Quartet: The Stirling Quartet. The John Mackay Trophy for the highest single mark in Gaelic, Ethna Nicholson.

The Euan MacDiarmid Ros-Bowl for the highest single mark in Music, Morag M. Murray.

Instrumental: Clarsach Solo of two contrasting airs (own choice), seniors—1 Mary C. Lockhead, juniors—1 Diane Ward; 2 Robert Watt; 3 Leah McGuiness. Self accompaniment on Clarsach of two contrasting songs of own choice, 1 Mary C. Lockhead. Ensemble playing on Clarsach of two contrasting airs of own choice, 1 Diane Ward, Robt. Watt and Leah McGuiness; 2 Diarmid Trio.

Note: The prizes for the Clarsach competitions donated by Miss Jean Campbell.

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 High Quality Meat combined with Personal Service and Courtesy

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Faillte gu M. L. M. GORDON HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM

Claran—Records
 Cuir Seachad—Sports Caraichean Beaga—Dinkie Cars



This choir from Bredalbane Academy, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, were conducted by music teacher Mr Scott in the Mrs Miller Trophy.

[Photo: courtesy "People's Journal"]

Road to the Isles

by MARY H. S. GOSSMAN

Round by Glen Coe, through large red rowans, heavy with mist, past the road to Loch Goil. Then cling to Loch Fyne-side, by Inverary, to the deer country of Dalmaily, the setting of Loch Awe for the picturesque ruins of Kilchurn Castle, by Taynult to Connel Ferry, on Loch Etive. Benderloch as a background, where the bridge, the largest single span cantilever type in Europe, swirls in the waters meeting there. Dripping, long-haired, Highland cattle are our reception committee, as we enter this touring centre of the Highlands. Oban, with its hilltop stone tower, a piece of uncompleted history. Oban, where in 1773, Boswell approved of the accommodation offered to himself, and where Dr Johnson spent a night in the little clachan. Oban, where my Highland doll "Morag," was purchased by my parents, when I was three years old.

We were eager to join our ship to cross the Firth of Lorne, to Craignure Pier, Island of Mull (after I had made my first sketch of Oban Bay from the hotel window). On board, from the ship's rail I could see humans on the pier, being blown round corners in laughter of the winds, yet, our steady ship's mastery brought a pleasure to us, as my mind recalled thoughts of my earlier written words, from which I now quote the section of my life, "My Duart Days."

"When 24-5 years old I was the first child to sleep in Duart Castle, Isle of Mull, then the residence of Col. Sir Fitzroy Donald MacLean, the oldest Highland Chief, who died in 1949, aged 101 years. Yes! I was the first child to dwell within its walls, since the 12th century, this 700 year old castle of wonderful history.

"For three months we lived in Loch Don village before going to the castle. Then, during the First World War in September 1914, curlews welcomed us circling and screaming above.

"My father and mother lived in Duart Castle, as foreman joiner and caretakers during the last nine months of its restoration. I still have the silver Iona cigarette case given to my father by Colonel Sir Fitzroy Donald MacLean, when we also met Lady MacLean. Mother recalls seeing, in the year 1915, the torpedo boats passing the castle, also from the stone battlements of the castle, seeing a sailing ship on the Sunday, which passed on Monday, as P.O.W. We heard later it had been supplying oil to the German submarines. Mother remembered seeing the old well, also cannon balls, embedded in the walls, and she liked listening to the wind, but, one night, we got a scare, a storm lamp had to be taken to go down to see what the noise was, and we found one of the large top windows in one of the rooms had blown in. The next thing we had to be on the lookout for was rats, and of course there were cages sent to watch for any at the workmen's time. It

was our job to go round the castle after the workmen left for the night, to see that no lights were left burning. Later, dark coverings were sent, and fitted to the windows. Mother also remembered the part in the castle, called the Winter Garden, and also one part of the outside wall being treated with waterproofing, as a test at the time.

"The first part we stayed in was above the engine room, but no cooking could be done for soot coming down the chimney. Then, written permission was given to get one of the top rooms. At that time they were trying out different chimneys best for the winds.

"We had a curlew's nest to watch on the shore, and we also saw the old headstones at the gate. When we were going to the castle we were told there was a ghost there, but we never saw one. Mother used to say 'the only ghost that troubled her was the soot coming down the chimney.' At Christmas and in July, we were three times going, winter and summer from Oban, the boat rolling from side to side called 'the Tub' in 1914. I had to change into a small boat to go ashore, and I was handed down, aged 3, by the sailors to the old jetty. We took the butterflies from their winter sleep and put them upstairs on the window panes where they began to flutter in the sunshine.

This was the same slipway, at Craignure, Mull, at which the Royal Barge managed to make a landing for H.M. The Queen, and the Duke of Edinburgh in a 60 m.p.h. gale in the worst August storm for many years in Argyll, on the occasion of the visit of Royalty to Mull, in the year 1956. It was not till April 1957, that the new pier was made. There is a town of Duarte in Portugal. Apart from the fact, that in the bay, to this day, lies one of the Spanish Galleons, sunk in the Armada, commanded by my father's ancestor in history, in 1588, Don Alonso Perez de Guzman, Captain General of Mull, Commander of the Armada.

Yes! I felt a stirring in those thoughts, keen air perhaps, salt tang, more than that, as Lismore Point Light and surface craft joined in the magic of a sketch note; then on to my first adult sight of nearby Duart Castle, no photograph could capture its beauty, dignity and ancient grace. I got satisfaction in a little drawing and quotation "Duart Castle commands one of the grandest prospects in our Western Highlands." There certainly was something inspiring as, on our way, to Tobermory, by "bays, lochs, ancient keep," through Salen, N.E. village of Mull, from where (my mother would say) the fishmonger, with pony and

van, would bring the fish to Duart Castle, to us, in 1914; leading to Tobermory Bay, where I could certainly make a drawing of the surface, and think of the ship, "Duc di Florencia," or dream of romance, and treasures of which we know not. I like the Gaelic translation of Tobermory, as "Mary's Well" from a fountain dedicated to the Virgin (which lies to the north of the town). Fresh winds, and a warm meal before returning to Craignure, to the ship in calm, in soft evening mazes, to see a light in Duart Castle window, started my blood. I had been in that room in 1914. My footsteps had covered ground, as my mother could tell me I got very good at the winding stairway. Evening: fairy lights in Oban, fresh and majestic; to sleep to the soot to be familiar ship sounds on R.M.S. Columbia, and awake to the ever watchful sailors' footsteps, and the thought, "early in the morning my song shall rise to thee." Yes! at 6.45 a.m. we set sail from Oban That rainbow again, how lovely! Two seagulls, real large handsome ones, on board, and a half, ice-clear moon still clinging to the morning skies. As our ship sailed into Craignure Pier I noted a vessel, the "Shapinsay," from Kirkwall.

Onward now past Ardnurchan Point, most westerly point of the mainland of Scotland, on to Coll, where changes in mist blue greys show now as blue greens in the very air, where the sea turns from blue, to turquoise green, and the cottage gives way to the cove.

We soon find ourselves on ocean spray, where the sea rolls in from the broad Atlantic. I am no longer sure this is 1966, as I think of St Dominic, born in 1170, in the Castilian village of Calarnaga, Spain, of the Ancient House of Guzman, of a learning and wisdom, in those days, which was the essence of the Friars: a duty to study, and to portray in intellectual labour, his Monastic habits.

The roar of God's winds return me to my century, and as the noble ship plunges onward, I shall, I feel, never be nearer feeling like a little rainbow fish, in an aquarium, and my fellow voyagers, in the same picture. Perhaps I dulled the velocity of the storm in my mind, thinking back in spirit, from the present living Guzmans of Garcia, to those of Mexico, Venezuela, Paraguay, Costa Rico, Toledo, Seville, Granada, Madrid, and to dwell on Don Alonso Enriquez de Guzman, who navigated the four seas of the world.

"The tides fast flowing, our boats Are struggling to be free, The sky is clear, a stiff breeze blowing."

I awake to the activity of Barra. I even make my drawing of Barra Castle. From Tiree to Barra, I was neither earth-bound or seabound, I was spiritually in space, but 'tis nice to be back to our century, to see Barra Church. To see one leaving the ship to train as a lighthouse-keeper; 8 miles out to the Barra Light, he goes on a little craft. Best of all, never to forget his rousing true knowledge of a snatch of lighthouse history. "Off Cape Wrath, Durness, Sutherlandshire 1828, the clock in the lightroom there so dated and ticking away. Mull of Galloway, Drumore (1828, and again a living block) and Corsewall point lighthouse 1815, 135 years old with yet again an ancient clock.

The walls of Flora MacDonald's home stand sentinel against the sky, torn by the sea, haunt of the wild swan, rugged East Coast, then Machair land of the west side, white sandy bays, sea over road. "The sea here is all islands, and the land, all lochs."

Howbig, is the birthplace of Neil MacDonald, who returned with the Prince to France. His son became a marshal in the army, and was created Duke of Tarantum, and to this day, there is MacDonald Boulevard in Paris. Whilst the miles are going by, if one concentrates one can see through the rays of gloaming, count twinkling stars glisten on the water, near the causeway link with Benbecula; partly described as "no man's land" but not so, 'tis the land of the crofter family, and each owns his own precious part.

The causeway takes us to North Uist, to Lochmaddy, and, of course, as night follows evening, plus the "Northern Lights," here, land and sky merge forming amazing pictures. Not rays of light, but delicate tracery of delightful woods and paths, in this sky canvas, in the mystery of gloaming seem to merge. R.M.S. Hebrides, our slumber ship, keeps turning onward toward Uig, characteristic bay and pier, across the Minch, in the Isle of Skye.

In bygone days, always I was told of the rain in Skye, known as the Isle of Mist, but I have never seen such glorious sunshine spotlighting calm lime green, wonderful landscapes in this largest island of the Inner Hebrides, as on to Portree, the settlement in Skye, crofters, sheep, where in 1850 the woollen industry started, tweeds and plaids still worn, onward, past green young trees of the forestry, heading more for the rugged heart of Skye.

Through the pass, towards the sea again, offshore, the cone-shaped extinct volcano, in the long shaped Raasay Island, and Scalpay with many sheep,

and very few people. Now near to the shores of the Sound of Sleat, on to Knock Bay, setting for Teangue and ruins of Knock Castle; the 1876, Old Sleat Church, and graveyard, burial ground of the MacDonalds of Sleat. Legends cling to us, folk tales of Skye, where Loch Dubhrachan here, is said to be the home of a kelpie, the water horse. No wonder! 'Tis precious heritage where "The Londoner feels it more remotely foreign, than Holland, or Italy, in antiquity of Scandinavian, Norwegian, Celtic foundations." Land where a Norwegian Princess is buried in the mountains, and lochs which were once darkened by the banner of King Haco.

On to Armadale Castle, seat of Lord MacDonald, Isle of Skye, it contains an elegant portrait of Somerset, Lord of the Isles, then nearby Armadale Pier, and on the ship to Mallaig.

As from the land, from this terminus of the West Highland railway, we look seaward to the Islands of Canna (home of the wild goat), Rhum, Eigg, and the little Isle of Muck. Beauty still clings, in the view of the white sands of Morar, Arisaig, to Glenfinnan, head of Loch Shiel, Prince Charles Monument. Many parts of this area associated with the raising of the Stuart Standard 1745; on through scenery, and history by the River Lochy, where under the mighty bulk of mist-topped Ben Nevis, we find Fort William and note the pile of wood pulp at the mill there. Rugged country here, from where some of the old roads of Scotland are conquered, on our way, to passing Ballachulish, where a ferry service cuts the road, round the head of Loch Leven by 15 miles.

Mastery of the Highlands either way, brings us to the shadows, and sun rays of Glen-coe, where "Grey falls the mist on the crest of the mountain, deep fall the shadows, on moorland and lea." Where tradition of history and clan fights of old, leave a scar on this section of "Man's inhumanity to man." In this Highland Valley, in these not so unkind days of the Clans, "By heather tracks w' Heaven in their wiles," the seasons come and go, in pleasure and moods, till more silent Winter, time of thought, when "Chill blows the blast, round the lonely old shieling," and "Hark! how it moans 'mid the leaves on the tree." Natures homage.

On through Dalmaily and Tyndrum, yet a struggle ensues at this valley, which passes under the massive Buchaille Etive Mhor gorges, lovely falls, the clinging beauty of the Highlands, seems to be loath to leave us, where once vast forests reigned. Even Crianlarich, and Glen Falloch, though lifting in name, are the first introduction to homeward bound Loch Lomond. Past Tarbet, Ben Lomond gracefully beckons our return and little islands in Loch Lomond mark off our miles towards Ballach.

THE WELSH

by MARY DENOVA

Those who have the little programme with the above heading are likely to remember for a long time the events of August 20th - 25th.

The "Congress" - International Celtic Congress - are written in Breton since the event took place at Fougères in Brittany.

On the evening of Tuesday 21st, those attending the conference were officially welcomed in the Hotel de Ville by the mayor and other municipal dignitaries of Fougères.

On Wednesday reports were heard from delegates of each Celtic country as to the present state of affairs. These were taped and are also to be published at a later date.

The first speaker from Wales told of a situation and aspects of which we are all well acquainted in Scotland: the attitude of the establishment to recent political developments as merely "protests" which are a nuisance in a financial and economic world (unfortunately tending to centre in Cardiff at the expense of other parts). There is also a possibility that a Bank of Wales will be established soon and already there is an insurance company with Welsh assets.

It is possible that by driving car and wireless licences all printed in Welsh. In education there have been some innovations. Welsh schools are run by Welsh-speaking teachers where young children can go to acquire some Welsh before starting school. However, Welsh still has no status and progress in primary and secondary schools is very slow. At University level progress is even more slow because staff and students are predominantly English speaking. However after a determined struggle, a residence for Welsh speaking students is to be established. Slowly the situation improves. The training colleges turn out many more Welsh speaking teachers than are required in Wales so they must leave eventually for England. As in Scotland, it seems education is seen not as an end in itself but in many cases as a ladder for climbing out of a dying Community.

The Cornish speaker said his country was a warning and a challenge. The situation in Cornwall is very grave. But even at its lowest ebb there is hope. Much determination and efforts are small in the face of ever more attempts at Cornish obliteration: the closing of branch railway lines, the amalgamation of the police force with that of Devon, the carving up of Cornwall into areas (the N.E. with Devon; the S.E. with Plymouth, and the rest in the west left to its own devices). Finally, an attempt has been made, so far successfully resisted, to remove the famous mining villages to the old Cornish Cornish in mines and making them part of Plymouth Technical College.

The speaker rejected the universal panacea of "overspill" for their problems. They want their existing industries, farming and horticulture, tourism, and exploitation of still extra china clay deposits, to be developed for the Cornish people. But now, people are beginning to be aware of being Cornish again. The language is being revived and put into general use even if it is only for car stickers at the moment. Mefyn Kennow continues to grow and hope is alive again.

The Manx speaker brought with him the enthusiasm which only youth can, and gave as a succinct picture of the situation in Man at present. The ostensibly "free" little island is still the absurd trappings of colonialism such as the Governor and Government House, and the imperial under-

tones of their ties with the Home Office. To many, the island seems a paradise with such things as its low income tax and, though it does have greater friction than the Stormont Government, to many this is no longer enough. In fact in the first five years the organization Mic Vannin has played an important part in trying to rouse the islanders from the rather apathetic state of accepting every step of anglicization as it comes along. Only one native Gaelic speaker is left and from this dramatic situation the language is being revived with many young people interested. They have copied the Irish system of awarding rings (gold, silver and coloured) to mark stages of attainment in learning the language. They have their own radio as a medium to promote Manx.

The Scottish speaker's account will no doubt be more readily available so I will confine myself to a few comments. Firstly it seemed quite unnecessary to recount the tale of Mrs Ewing and the "Welsh telegram" - if an educated Scot with the well-being of her country so much at stake does not know what Scottish Gaelic looks like then the laughter, albeit hollow, should possibly be directed towards another quarter. Secondly, and possibly leading on from that, the efforts of the BBC to help the language are hardly to be praised. The news rushed through at breakneck speed daily - a few talks and a weekly service - the very variable programmes of songs - but nowhere at no time any encouragement for anyone trying to learn the language. Perhaps of course there is a policy to make it the esoteric preserve of an ageing elite. Finally, Mr Ross is sympathetic to the language. Well he has certainly fooled a considerable number of people for quite a time.

The speaker from Ireland had two main themes of great interest to us today, in particular the great need for collaboration between the Celtic peoples. Ireland herself is now free - or at least mostly so - but she has still now been rather inward looking and has not realised what help could be given to others. Things are looking better now.

However, gaining political freedom does not mean an automatic improvement in the language situation. Passing legislation is evidently not enough and great efforts are required at all levels to see that the spirit as well as the letter of the law is practised. No amount of economic progress (which undoubtedly has taken place) will compensate for a loss.

Thursday and Friday mornings were given over to lectures on 'History and Nation' from each country and dealt with quite differently. From Scotland a "brief" history ranging from 200 BC to the present day; from Ireland a philosophical account of Ireland and her relations with other European countries. This, incidentally, was given first in Breton and then in English by the speaker, Father O'Leary, who has at his call the six Celtic languages and impressed all by his scholastic range of knowledge across time and place. From the Isle of Man the speaker, the learned Count enlarking on the era when Man came into the possession of the British Government - sold to them incidentally by the same debt-ridden Duke of Atholl in 1765.

On Friday morning there occurred an interesting interlude regarding telegrams. A telegram had previously been read from the Mayor of Nantes, inviting the Congress to be held in France next it is in Brittany. For those like myself who would have missed the significance of this it was explained that Nantes had

been removed by the French Government from the "region" of Brittany. On the Friday morning it was suggested that the various branches send a request to the French Government that they rescind this and thus led to quite a lengthy debate. It was finally decided that the Congress itself should send the telegram and that the writing should contain any idea of accepting Brittany as a French "region." A letter had also been read to the congress from the Rev. T. A. Murchison, the president, asking them not to indulge in political activities unless for some cultural end. That matter rests for one can not help wondering who is going to draw up the rules for mastering this tightrope.

The political temperature in Brittany today is such that I imagine they are long past bothering about such niceties!

Concurrently with the foregoing lectures were a series in French and Breton on Brittany itself and details were given for anyone able to attend.

In the afternoon there were outings to St Malo and Rennes and the tour of Fougères itself. In the evenings there were concerts, some given in the open air against the dramatic background of the old castle of Fougères. The concerts usually opened with a Breton pipe band, followed by singers and dancers from all the Celtic countries. Fougères, moreover, must be mentioned on his own. He is the "poet of the resistance" and one did not need to understand the lyrics to be moved by his singing and to share in the support he had from his audience.

The Welsh had, of course, singers par excellence, sometimes it sounded as if the whole Welsh delegation (and there were more than 100) had been chosen for that.

The Irish contribution was, of course, wide ranging; singers, harpists, an excellent pipe band and really superb dancing.

The Scottish Gaelic singer was billed as "traditional" which misled a few as the songs seemed to be vintage Kennedy Fraser. Or was it just the unnecessary piano accompaniment which made them seem so?

In the entrance of the conference hall were displays of literature and music. The Irish, one was most impressed, and had a charming lady to help with queries. Paradoxically though, the organization who made most of this "window" were the Tourist Board of Northern Ireland who had there a vast supply of pamphlets and maps. Again, as the residents, the Bretons, constituted a great deal of interest including records of the singers. If the exhibition was a cross section then there would seem to be great activity in literature, particularly poetry.

The Welsh display was also quite extensive but a young Welsh friend told me that a lot of it was not of great literary merit. Perhaps, however, she was only being kind against the rather minute Scottish contribution (on the end of the Welsh table) one volume of poetry by the Gaelic Texts Society - Allan Campbell MacLean's adventure story 'Ribbon of Time' translated into Gaelic some countries. There were last Christmas, and some papers and periodicals - a copy of 'Scyth' and an ancient number of Gaelic poetry.

No account of this event could end without an appreciation of the presiding genius of this gathering, the late Breton poet and scholar Per Denez. His charm and kindness were matched by his statesmanlike calm and serenity in the face of what must have been for him an exhausting week. Events in Brittany can no longer seem remote to those who were at Fougères.

If they are in danger of becoming so, one can recall the rows of horror which went through the audience at the "Son et Lumiere" on the Saturday evening when the "Duchess Anne" and unification with France, were mentioned.

HALF-MILLION SIGN PETITION FOR ARGYLL'S

A stop to the destruction of the Scottish infantry regiments was demanded by General Sir Gordon MacMillan, chairman of the Save the Argylls Campaign, at a Press conference in Glasgow on Thursday, September 26th, at which he announced that the petition to save the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from disbandment had topped the half-million signature mark in eight weeks.

Sir Gordon told newsmen gathered in the Cruachan Room of the Lorne Hotel that he was fighting not only for his own regiment but for the other Scottish regiments threatened with the "axe."

"This is the time when a firm stand must be made," he declared. "It has got to be made absolutely clear to the Ministry of Defence and Army Board that this destruction so far as Scotland is concerned has got to stop. It can be stopped—by a constructive approach of conversion or opposed to abolition."

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and other Scottish regiments under threat of disbandment could be given a new role as parachute troops while retaining their name, or allowed to run divisional training. Skilled men would be needed to operate new weapons under consideration for the Army and threatened battalions, including the Argylls, could also be used in this role.

Mr George Younger, M.P. for Ayr, who will present the petition to Parliament, said that the petition forms would be put into kirbags and taken to London by van. "I am considering whether I would be allowed to wheel them into the House of Commons on a specially constructed wheelbarrow," he added. "I will have to consult the authorities of the House on this."

Faillte Do Lybster

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Review Order

(Continued from page 8)

which takes the reader on a rapid sweep from the Icelandic sagas through the period of inter-clan rivalries to the intervention of the Scottish Crown and the eventual stabilising of civil government. The interpretation of the past is always a difficult task and it is still more difficult to compress the essence of a thousand years into a few pages. Was the Norse invasion "the biggest event in Harris and Lewis history"? Was it comparable in importance to the arrival of the Gaels whose language and institutions prevailed through the Norse occupation to this very day? Is such survival consistent with the picture of a native population, their language suppressed, in thraldom to ruthless Norse masters?

Certain episodes such as the expeditions of the Fife Adventurers and the garrisoning of Lewis by English Commonwealth forces in 1653 are picked out for fuller treatment and there are brief surveys of religious history, the progress of education and the remarkable record of Island regiments, as well as of the history of land use and the crofting system.

The chapters on communications, agriculture and fishing, trade and industry are based on an extremely wide range of material, illumined by trenchant observation. When there is some prospect of a further and possibly a final effort to tackle the problem of ensuring a future for the Island, it is salutary to be reminded of the efforts of the past, the failures and the successes.

The chapter on the people, their characteristics, dress and mode of living, is an absorbing one. But both here and in the earlier passage on education the author has surprisingly little to say about the native language and the generations of neglect and 'brainwashing' which have robbed the people of a proper pride in their own language and culture. There is little to indicate that the Island is the last major Gaelic stronghold, that the defences have already been seriously breached and that it is here, if anywhere, that the last great battle for the language will be won or lost.

The book as a whole is a comprehensive factual study by an author with a wide knowledge of his subject whose personal connections with the people of whom he writes has not been allowed to stand in the way of dispassionate assessment. It is heartening that his study should have led him to the conclusion that:

"All in all, the island is going through a period of re-stocking, to recover from the inhibiting influences of centuries-old history, economic isolation, and the ravages of two world wars. The emergent community, though smaller, will be as rich in quality and personal identity as it has ever been. To say that of an island, of any

(Continued at foot of next column)

over to you

(Continued from page 5)

blue badge signify? A simple wish to learn, or "Cha n'eill mi ach ag ionnaschadh Ghaidhlig"? A few well publicised guide lines would be a great help towards the success of the venture. Yours etc.,

W. F. M. DEAN'S

HUNT TO LEARN GAELIC

Sir,—According to the University of Glasgow, Gaelic is a foreign language! In their booklet "University Courses for Adults" under foreign languages and culture, sandwiched between French and German courses, page 17, is to be found "Gaelic Language and Culture."

Welsh language fares no better, for on page 23 it will be found just after Russian, Serbo-Croat and Spanish, and followed immediately by Chinese.

The arrangement of this booklet leaves much to be desired and is no credit to a university.

Glasgow Corporation Education Department does a little better, but the student must study three booklets before he finds a class to suit. Booklet No. 4 on evening courses in commercial subjects and languages shows, page 19 Gaelic classes I and II in Knightswood and in Woodside schools. Booklet No. 5 page 8, shows evening classes in Gaelic (Higher) and (Ordinary) at Langside College, for the Scottish Certificate of Education, and page 9, also at Langside College, an evening class for the General Certificate of Education (advanced level). Another booklet, issued by the Corporation in co-operation with the University on a Course for adults in Modern Languages tells about two classes for beginners held in Hillhead High School.

What a waste! The student of Gaelic must look through four booklets, comprising in all about 120 pages before he will be able to select a suitable class, and unless he knows beforehand, he will not know where to look. If modern university education cannot do better than this they should shut up shop.

ADHAMH

island, indicates that its community is more than worthy of support in its endeavours to remain true to itself and its long-standing heritage of island life and living."

The production of the book is of high quality and a notable feature is the excellent illustration, some of which was contributed by the author's wife. The extensive bibliography shows that the author has drawn on an impressive list of sources, including private publications and unpublished manuscripts, as well as standard works of reference and Government reports and items which are out of print and available only in public and university libraries and private collections. The wording of the title will

New "Circle's"

Boost to Gaelic

A new organisation has been set up to promote the use of spoken Gaelic. Called An Cruinne—The Circle—its formation was announced here today by the president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, Mr Donald Grant, of Glasgow.

Members will be divided into three grades, according to their proficiency in the language. Blue lapel badges, a small circle divided by a horizontal bar, will be worn by those who know a little Gaelic and are willing to help its promotion. There will be silver badges for those more proficient, who sign a declaration that they will speak Gaelic on all possible occasions, and gold badges for fluent speakers.

The aim behind the movement was encouragement, said Mr Grant. There would be no inhibiting tests for members. It was hoped to gain 500 members in three years.

Mr Grant said: "Even learners make the excuse that they do not speak Gaelic often enough in case they face ridicule. Those who join will be openly declaring their support for the language in wearing the badge, and will have a greater sense of identity."

At one time it had been official Government policy to discourage the use of Gaelic. "It was not allowed to be used, even in school playgrounds," he said, "because it was thought that this would prevent children from speaking good English." Only since 1958 had Gaelic been in use in schools in native-speaking areas.

Application Forms can be had from Abertarff House, Inverness.

Gaelic Broadcasts

- Monday, 21st October
 - 12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
 - 12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.
- Tuesday, 22nd October
 - 12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
 - 12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.
 - 3.30 p.m. "An Roghainn": Short story written by Kenneth Finlayson. Readers: Neil Brown (recorded).
 - 3.45 p.m.—Gaelic Mid-week Service conducted by Rev. Duncan MacGallum. Cornel (recorded).
 - 6.35 p.m. "Clair asach ceann": Gaelic Magazine introduced by Neil Fraser (recorded).
- Wednesday, 23rd October
 - 12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
 - 6.35 p.m. Pipes and Drums by Shorts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band—Pipe-Major John K. MacAllister (recorded).
- Thursday, 24th October
 - 12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
 - 12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

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SITUATION WANTED

Male Student (18) seeks winter job (14th Dec.-4th Jan.) in Gaidhealtach to improve Gaelic. Apply Box 65, Sruth.

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SRUTH — Printed by The Highland Herald Ltd., Inverness, and published by An Comunn Gaidhealach, Abertarff House, Inverness. Editorial Offices, to which all correspondence and advertising material should be sent: 92 Academy Street, Inverness. Phone IN5 31226. Ext. 6.

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