

Scruth

SCOTLAND'S BI-LINGUAL NEWSPAPER

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

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THURSDAY, 3rd OCTOBER 1968

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No. 40

DUNOON—SCENE OF THE MOD

by GILBERT T. BELL

The National Mod is being held in Dunoon this year and as it happens this year is also the centenary year of the Burgh of Dunoon. Dunoon is a fine town to visit any year but 1968 is obviously one of its proudest moments.

Dunoon is a thriving, popular holiday resort, and

Burns Country and industrial noisy, yet fascinating, Clyde-side. Dunoon is a great touring centre and coach tours and steamer cruises can take you to some of the most beautiful spots in Scotland. No visit to the Dunoon area would be complete with-



Statue of Burns' Highland Mary, Dunoon

is always busy, and bustling with ample to do for all ages and tastes. Its greatest charm however, is the fact that it is set amidst magnificent scenery. The rugged splendour of Argyll, the sparkling waters of the Firth of Clyde and long, narrow sea lochs, and bays, glens and tarns, are on its doorstep. A pleasant sail takes the visitor to the rolling plains of the

out a visit to Glen Masson, a walk through Puck's Glen and a drive "o'er the hill" to Ardentinn, for excitement its the best car run ever. Inveraray Castle is a well kent showplace and well worth going to see, but on no account miss visiting the Younger Botanic Garden at Benmore. Administered by the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, it is a superb gar-

den and in case it's closed make a point of seeing it next time you are in the area. Argyll is particularly rich in fine gardens though by October all have shut their gates to the public apart from the fine woodland ones at Crarac on Loch Fyneside.

Among the many interesting places nearby are the ruins of St Mun's Church and the fine parish church at Kilmun, Toward Lighthouse, Castle Toward and Hafton House (two private houses, but a wee look up the drive will prove worthwhile) and the recently fire-damaged Glenfinnart House at Ardentinn.

Dunoon itself has not a
(Continued on back page)

NEW JOBS FOR CAMPBELTOWN

Afocal Optical Works Ltd., who last October opened a spectacle frame factory in a former school at Northbay, Barra, are to expand operations in the Highlands and Islands by taking over the Board of Trade's advance factory in Campbeltown, Argyll.

The company are to extend their activities in the optical components field to include specialised lens making and plastic injection moulding. Initially the venture will provide 60 new jobs for Campbeltown and it is hoped, within five years, to expand the staff to 150.

CROFTING DECLINE "DUE TO INDUSTRY" Shetland Problem

Industrial development had been a major cause in the decline of crofting in Shetland, Mr John Jamieson, county organiser for the North of Scotland Agricultural College, said yesterday at the Shetland Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon.

Small factories set up in towns and rural districts naturally induced younger men to work for them, because the wages were high. But if these factories closed down very few men would be able to go back to crofting because of the large amount of capital needed.

Although Mr Jamieson was not against industrial development and those who planned it, he thought that a policy of laissez faire would be more useful to the Shetland crofter.



Drying hanks of wool after dyeing. Our picture shows Marion Campbell of Plocropol, in Harris, finishing one of the many stages in making the old type of tweed, or clo mor. Miss Campbell is widely known for her cloth production, as indeed are a few — though not many — Harriswomen. Their production rarely meets the demand for handmade cloth.

(Photo: Angus MacArthur, Stornoway)

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HIGHLANDS GO TO TOWN

Exhibition Aboard Ship Scheduled For The Thames

"Highland Fling," which promises to be one of the most exciting and enterprising exhibitions ever to be mounted by a Scottish organisation, is scheduled for London at the beginning of January — and its theme will be the Highlands and Islands.

Using the modern MacBrayne steamer the "Clansman" as its base, the ex-

hibition, sponsored by the Highlands and Islands Development Board, will be open from January 9th to January 18th.

Already the idea has caught the imagination of people within and outside the Highland counties and some well-known organisations are expected to co-operate and take part in the venture.

Within the Highland Board a project team has been established under Sir James Mackay to progress the work that must be completed to a very tight series of deadlines.

"Although we are organising it, this will be a Highland effort," said Sir James.

It will be a first-class opportunity to show what life in the Highlands is really like and to demonstrate the range of opportunities that exist for both leisure and work.

The exhibition has been designed by the Edinburgh firm of architects, Henry Wylie and Partners. It is dominated by an environmental treatment which will give visitors a taste and sense of actually being north of the Highland line so that in a very real way, the Highlands will be going to London.

The contractors are Gaskell and Chambers, of Newhouse Industrial Estate, Lanarkshire, who are currently working on the New Cunard liner, Queen Elizabeth II. They begin work on the "Clansman" at Greenock in mid-December. Very experienced in this field, they look upon the design as both a challenge and an opportunity.

"We have to have the bulk of the work done by the end of December," a spokesman explained. "We sail on January 4th and will have to complete the work on the Thames by January 7th."

Mr C. B. Leith, General

Manager of David MacBrayne Ltd., said that his company were pleased to be associated with the Highland Board's 'imaginative project.'

He went on: "Already traffic on MacBrayne car ferries to the Western Isles this summer has reached a new peak, both in vehicles and passengers. The company look forward to increasing development as a result of the exhibition on board RMS "Clansman" and are happy to co-operate with the Highland Board in their enterprise and continuing efforts to boost the Highlands and Islands of Scotland."

During its stay on the Thames the ship will be anchored at Tower Pier. There will be exhibition areas on three decks, including the car deck which, for the period of its display, will be transformed into a colourful and exciting representation of Highland and Island areas.

Air Tur Na Faire

(Continued from Page Two)

ag radh, "tha combaist na h-inntinn air a cur ann an orduigh ceart."

Bha an t-Urr. Anndra Herron, a tha 'na Chleireach air Cleir Ghlaschu, 'na oraidiche am bliadhna. Bhruidhinn e mu bhùil Eaglais fo thrì cinn—1. Mar a tha daoine air an gabhail a stigh mar bhùil; 2. Na deasdanasan a tha co-cheangailte ri bhith 'nar bùil-Eaglais; agus 3. Na sochairean a th' againn mar bhùil.

An deidh gach oraid bha ceistean air an cur agus beachdan air an toirt seachad. Chuala na ministearan iomradh air obair na h-Eaglais air a' Ghaidhealtachd 'sa bhliadhna a chaidh seachad o' n'Oll. Urr. Horace Walker. Ged a tha grunn aiteachan gun ministear, chan 'eil an suidheachadh cho dona agus a bha e ann am bliadhnanach eile. Tha trìuir mhisionaireachd againn sa h-Eileann 'san ionnsachadh. Madainn Dìceudaoin bha na ministearan air an roimh ann an ceithir buidheann airson cuibhriann de'n Bhiobull a rannasachadh, agus bha sin 'na am buannachadh.

Tha na ministearan Gaidhlig fada an comain Bord na Dachadh (Home Board) airson an co-chruinneachadh se a chur air bhonn gach bliadhna, agus is mor an obair a tha 'na chois.

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Flurry—With the Fringe on Top LIBERALS IN CONFERENCE

The Annual Assembly of Liberals, held in Edinburgh, was the scene for thrust, parries, jousting and tilting, sometimes at windmills.

Like the Scottish National Party this year, one expected the Liberals to end their conference with a solid statement of intent. Like the SNP, we are still waiting for a decent policy of liberalism which this country, indeed the world, badly needs.

Rightly, it was pointed out at the conference that there is little to choose between Tory and Labour. Both are Establishment and only the colours are different. On the other hand, a hard line in Liberal policy would have been only too acceptable to the starving British electorate.

One wonders why there was no motion put before the conference on the matter of proportional representation; which would root Labour and give the Tory party only a small foothold in Westminster.

The 'militant action' suggested by Lord Bannerman was a line which one might expect from this GOM of Liberalism. Controlled militancy can work wonders, Jo Grimond's much-publicised article also preached a similar theme.

Militant Characteristics.

The conference was given its own militant characteristic by the Young Liberals. This militancy, however, has not yet been channelled into useful media for the promotion of liberalism. Indeed, if it is not controlled we may yet see a serious split in the Party which could spell

anathema to the Liberal ideals.

The flurries of the "Red Guard" were, however, out-paced and overshadowed by the Celtic fringe interests which are now assuming significant proportions. There is still no indication that the Liberals are fully committed, as a Party, to the setting up of regional government. For the English Liberals see no need for an English Parliament. This view makes a sorry mess of the Home Rule theme which the Party has always held dear. Russell Johnston's activities for regional parliaments may well go for nothing in the end—despite the overwhelming support given to his Resolution by the Conference. So much seems to depend on the view of the English Liberals. This is something which the Party will have to crystallise, and soon, if Scottish Liberal candidates are to present an effective election opposition to the SNP.

There is great potential in the Celtic revival, not only in Scotland, but in the other Celtic countries. The SNP have still not presented the Scottish electorate with fully-developed policies for government. Indeed, the SNP is not particularly Celtic-minded. The Scottish Liberals have these policies, but have not vetted them fully with the present climate of national interest. It is a race to be first — and the Liberals, if they could but recognise it, have the opportunity to win, for it is their idea of a federal British government which the majority of the Scottish electorate seems to want.

Miss Healy

★

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ENGAGEMENT

The engagement has been announced between Wilma, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Cormack, Coalfield, Skipness, Tarbert, Argyll, and Alex., younger son of Mr and Mrs Stewart, 72 Henderland Road, Bearsden, Glasgow.

DUNOON host town to the 1968 MOD

Dunoon is proud to play Host Town to the MOD during the Town's Centenary Year, and assure competitors and visitors of a warm welcome.

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Do You Know?

1. How many native Gaelic speakers are estimated to be in Nova Scotia?
2. What type of Government existed among the Celts of old?
3. Did the Druids keep written records of religious proceedings or events?
4. What place was once known as Eilean Drùinich?
5. Co am Bard a rinn nah-orain, "Tha mi ann chadal na duisgibh mi" agus "Slan gu brath le ceol na Clàrsach."
6. Cuir Gaidhlig air Horoscope?

ANSWERS

1. About 8,000 persons.
2. It was patriarchal. The chief was regarded as the father of the clan.
3. No.
4. Eilean I. Iona Isle.
5. Sliis NicDomhnuill.
6. Fritch.

SECRETARY OF STATE OPENS HOSTEL

The first of a series of eleven residential school hostels in the Highlands and Islands was opened in Dunoon on Friday, September 20, by Mr William Ross, MP, Secretary of State for Scotland.

The initial programme of eleven residential hostels is to meet the needs of secondary school children who live in remote areas and so cannot travel between home and school every day. In the first phase of the programme, two hostels (including Dunoon) are now occupied; three are under way and two are about to start.

To ease the burden on local

SAVE THE ARGYLLS

The organisers of the Save the Argylls Campaign have appointed Charles Barker & Sons Ltd. as public relations consultants.

The agency will advise the campaign committee on publicity techniques which will help the future extension of the campaign.

JOBS FIGURES BEST IN 20 YEARS

Although 865 people, or 16.2 per cent, are unemployed in Lewis and Harris, this is the lowest figure for nearly 20 years, according to a statement issued at the week-end by the Lewis and Harris Local Employment Committee. It shows a 2.1 per cent fall compared with the previous month, and 9.1 per cent on the corresponding month last year.

The committee criticises the recent ten per cent increase in fare and freight charges imposed by McBrayne's, as they consider that it can only hinder industrial development, apart from increasing the cost of living.

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KEEPING IN TOUCH

Members of the Crofters Commission will spend less time in future attending meetings in Inverness and more time in consultation with local officials and with crofters in the areas they are responsible for.

"This change has been made possible because the Secretary of State has authorised us to proceed with proposals we made to him for a system of delegation," said the chairman of the Crofters Commission.

"I do not look for dramatic results from the change but it is a further step in the Commission's policy of improving communications with the crofters and with the local officials who are in direct touch with them. The new arrangement will also enable us to keep in even closer contact with local Assessors and with representatives of the Crofters Unions than we have been able to do in the past. We wish as much of the Commission's work as possible to be carried out in the field but a good deal of our work will still have to be done at formal meetings in Inverness in order to comply with the terms of the Acts under which we operate."

The new system comes into force on October 1st and at their plenary meeting recently the Commission discussed the final details of the changes which will result from the Instrument of Delegation which has now been signed on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The Commission emphasises that these changes do not affect their standard Rules of Procedure. Applications to the Commission and other formal proceedings will continue to be handled as at present.

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Harbour Plan At Lochbervie

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland has approved in principle a grant of £37,500 scheme for deepening to ten feet the entrance channel to Lochbervie Harbour. This will mean that the large fleet of seine-net fishing boats operating out of Kinlochbervie will be able to use Lochbervie at all states of the tide.

Sutherland County Council, who own the harbour as well as the adjoining old harbour at Loch Clash, have been pressing for the channel entrance to be deepened for several years now, for they are backing a substantial development scheme for the area by Pulfords (Scotland), Ltd., the fish salesmen at Kinlochbervie.

With this obstacle out of the way, Pulfords will transfer their installations from the old pier at Loch Clash to Lochbervie. They intend to provide a slipway, engineering works and shipwright facilities, with the object of building up a viable community and attracting the fishermen to make their homes at Kinlochbervie.

The news was given to

Boutique Chaluin



Tha mi 'n dochas nach teid prìos nan seamad suas nist.

Sutherland Harbours Committee yesterday by Mr J. B. Rodgers, County Clerk, who said that he would now get in touch with the county council's engineers so that they could prepare the tender documents. Lochbervie harbour was built a few years ago by the county council at a cost of about £65,000.

Pulfords recently backed a project to form the Kinlochbervie Shellfish Co. Ltd., who are operating a 40-foot boat in an experiment in lobster farming and shellfish marketing. This has attracted new families to the area. They are also interested in backing fishermen in acquiring new boats if this will mean that they will make their homes in the north.

FACE IT

by Keith Murdoch

In the worst of circumstances there's one thing to do. There's a squadron of bombers heading out to sea.

Precaution or practice —

it's all the same.

Burning up money

— thousands a minute.

Public or private

— it's all the same.

In the far north-east

— camping by the sea

— fresh and peaceful.

In the remotest circumstances

there's one thing to do

— enjoy the surroundings.

There's a squadron of bombers

heading out to sea —

with a circling roar —

practising bombing

over the sea.

Wherever you are

there's one thing to do —

there's a roar of jet-engines

heading out to sea —

— circling endlessly —

burning up fuel

in thousands of gallons.

Precaution or practice

— it's all the same.

Face it.

Even when camping

with two children.

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STORNOWAY TRADERS WANT BOYCOTT OF MACBRAYNE'S

Stornoway fishermen may be asked to run a pirate service to the island of Lewis to help boycott Messrs David MacBrayne, the Government-subsidised shipping company, who have recently increased their freight charges by 10 per cent.

The suggestion follows a recent protest meeting called by the Stornoway Chamber of Trade, which unanimously endorsed the chamber's demand for a public inquiry into the financial structure of MacBrayne's.

The meeting, attended by 50 traders and business men, also asked that the inquiry should find out which of the company's routes were profitable and how their Government subsidy of £600,000 was apportioned to their various enterprises.

In addition to a boycott, other suggestions were that the Government should dismiss

MacBrayne's and put the Stornoway service out to tender; that the case should go before the Ombudsman; and that other companies should be approached to provide a service.

Mr Ian Macmillan, skipper of the fishing boat Kathleen, said yesterday: "I think, if the local skippers were approached, they would agree to provide a pirate service to help any boycott of MacBrayne's. There are 26 fishing boats operating out of Stornoway and if each one set aside a day to bring in goods the boycott could be kept going for a while."

Monopoly

Councillor Sandy Matheson, a member of the chamber, said: "A boycott would be ineffective without the co-operation of the fishermen and the 100 per cent support of the whole island community. An approach would have to be made to the local skippers' association by either the town council or the chamber, but acting only on the basis of informed public opinion. The suggestion requires serious consideration."

At the meeting he called for the Government to put the service out to tender. "They should give it to someone who will operate the service profitably and efficiently. We are all agreed that a monopoly is a bad thing because it results in apathy and a lack of progress. This is what has happened to MacBrayne's."

Councillor James Macleannan

HEAVY FINES IMPOSED ON EIGHT PRIESTS

Eight Basque priests in Biscay province have been fined for anti-government sermons.

The summary fines, which local authorities have power to impose without trial, ranged from £220 to £60. Six priests were fined £150.

Many Basque priests are critical of the Franco regime, and sympathise with Basque nationalists who are campaigning for a separate state of their own in northern Spain.

felt that MacBrayne's were breaching their contract agreement with the Scottish Office. The reason for the increase was inefficiency, he claimed. "It is suggested that this is really a Government increase instead of one by MacBrayne's, and I think it should be a case for the Ombudsman."

Following up a statement by Western Ferries Ltd., who are interested in providing a service between Stornoway and the mainland, Mr Sid Kirkness, an hotelier, said: "I believe we have competitors waiting in the wings to do the job much more economically. They should be given a chance to do so."

GROY NEWS

Contribution to Cancer Research

The kind co-operation of parents enabled pupils of Croy School to collect old woollens which were sold for £5 10s. This sum was forwarded to "British Empire Cancer Campaign for Research." In acknowledging the donation the appeals officer made the following request: "Please convey our warmest thanks to your pupils for helping our cause in this way for which we are very grateful."

Collection for National Bible Society

A public collection on behalf of the National Bible Society of Scotland undertaken in the parish by Mr A. Williamson, Westerly, Croy amounted to £24 5 6.

Scottish Children's League of Pity (Heather Day)

Pupils of Croy School collected £6 6s during the recent 'Heather Day' in aid of Scottish Children's League of Pity. Collectors were: Lorna Cameron, Pamela McCutcheon, Avril Mackintosh, Gordon Mackay and Sheila McKenzie.

Director's Visit

Dr J. A. MacLean, C.B.E., Director of Education for Inverness-shire who retires in the near future recently visited the school.

SPEY VALLEY—SKI VALLEY

HDBB Moves to Increase Winter Sports Business

The Highlands and Islands Development Board, in association with interests on Speyside and British Rail, are launching a scheme to attract more winter sports enthusiasts to the area this season. Called "Spey Valley—Ski Valley" and to be widely advertised, the scheme is based on a "Ski Valley Ticket" which will entitle purchasers to 20 per cent savings on a wide range of facilities and services. British Rail, in addition are offering special package terms to visitors travelling to the area by rail.

It will run throughout Speyside's off season from mid-January to mid-March with the exception of weekends. Nearly 40 hotels and 8 ski-schools are co-operating in the venture.

These inclusive rail holidays are being offered in association with British Rail and Ness Travel, an Inverness travel agency.

"This ticket has been planned to develop business at 'off-peak' times, said Sir James Mackay, Board Member for tourism. "It will also lead, we hope, to a more balanced use of the expensive

equipment on the slopes as well as to filling the valley hotels at a time when trade is usually slack."

The Ticket

"The Ski Valley Ticket" will entitle purchasers to savings of about four shillings in the £ on accommodation, transport to the slopes; use of chairlifts and ski tows; hire of boots and skis; instruction; and the Aviemore Centre facilities.

Tickets will be available from the participating hotels and Ness Travel.

PROVISIONAL

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

The number of wholly unemployed people (excluding school leavers) registered at Employment Exchanges and Youth Employment Offices in Scotland at September 9, 1968 was 74,690 (57,318 men, 1,886 boys, 14,439 women and 1,047 girls). Seasonally adjusted the figure was about 82,000 or 3.8 per cent of the estimated number of employees. Four weeks previously on August 12, 1968, the percentage was 3.9 and in September 1967 it was 3.9.

The number of registered unemployed school leavers on September 9, 1968, was 1,398.

The number of temporarily stopped workers registered on September 9, was 2,558 (2,272 men, 46 boys, 221 women and 19 girls). This was 1,006 more than on August 9.

MORE HOUSES

COMPLETED

During the first eight months of 1968, 24,354 houses were completed in Scotland compared with 23,883 in the corresponding period of 1967, announce the Scottish Development Department. The number of houses on which construction started was 28,461 compared with 28,611 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

TWO TRUST CRUISES NEXT MAY

The National Trust for Scotland will be operating two week-long cruises in the motor ship Meteor of the Bergen Line next May. A castles and gardens cruise of Ireland leaves Ardrossan on May 3. It will be led by the Earl of Wemyss and March, president and chairman of the Trust's council.

An islands cruise departs from Oban on May 10 and will visit the Inner and Outer Hebrides, as well as Shetland. Mr J. C. Robertson, adviser on Trust cruises, will be the leader

Headmaster Wins Piping Contest

The supreme award at the Northern Meeting piping competitions held in Inverness has been won by Mr John Macfadyn (42), headmaster of Barrhead Primary School, Glasgow. Two years ago he won the event's gold medal and gold clasp.

The youngest competitor at the meeting was James Davidson (9), of 26 High Street, Stonehaven, and the oldest was Mr David Ross (77), of London.

Results

Results: Piobaireachd (Gold Clasp) — John Macfadyn, Busby, Strathspey and Reel — Iain Macfadyn, Rutherglen, Jig — P.M. Iain McLeod, Edinburgh. Junior (March Strathspey and Reel) — Iain Duncan, Pitlochry. March — Alexander R. Mackenzie, Invergordon

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...Review Order...

TWO OF THE BEST

James Connolly (1868-1916), who was executed by a British firing squad in Dublin for his part in organising and leading the Easter Insurrection, brought a new insight to Ireland's long struggle for national freedom.

He was a nationalist born in Edinburgh of Irish parents. He was a trade unionist and a socialist and for him imperialism and class exploitation were two aspects of the same evil: the oppression of men by other men.

His analysis of the colonial situation in Ireland showed him to be well in advance of his time in understanding the needs of the Irish people.

His work and influences extended far beyond Ireland. In his early years he had been a member of the Scottish Socialist Federation and the ILP, and throughout his life he was in demand as a speaker on trade union and labour platforms in Great Britain.

In the United States he was one of the founders of the Industrial Workers of the World, and he was an outstanding organiser among Irish and Italian immigrants. A pamphlet of his was published in Australia as propaganda for the trade union movement there.

In Ireland in the years immediately prior to 1916 he helped James Larkin to organise the unskilled workers and he became a national figure for the large part he played in organising the workers during the 1913 lock-out.

With Larkin he founded the Labour Party in 1912. In 1916 he was Military Commander of the Republican Forces.

Before his execution he remarked, very justly: "It has been a full life, and isn't this a fitting end?"

The selection of his writings in 'The Best of Connolly,' covers the whole range of topics with which he dealt during a lifetime of writings. They reveal an original, humane and courageous personality, lucid, forceful and humorous in expression, burning with passion to end any injustice which would prevent people from leading a full life.

Perhaps some of Connolly's writings echo the rattling sabres of socialism fifty years ago. But one can at least appreciate today how

'socialism' has changed from being a philosophy deeply concerned with the elevation of the human being to his deserved level of dignity to the present-day egocentricity of 'socialist' leaders who profess nothing but the worship of a political party. One can see also how the original ideals have been so dissipated with the progress of the labour movement to political strength.

Padraic Pearse was a different sort from Connolly. He was an idealist and his determination, his powers of oratory, his enthusiasm and ability as Director of Military Organisations in the Irish Volunteers impressed all who came into contact with him.

The selection from Pearse's writings indicates the development of his thought and the range of his interests. There were three main influences in Pearse's thought. The first was his religion. The second was his reading of the Irish sagas. The third was his study of Irish nationalist literature from the 18th century.

There is much food for thought in the selection made by the editors who have dealt with Pearse in such a way that one is immediately filled with the desire to get to know Pearse better by endeavouring to obtain his full writings.

As a final note, it seems a pity that no Scottish publisher (perhaps there are no Scottish publishers?) sees himself fit enough to associate himself with his own country as the principals of the Mercier Press, who produce such a fair stream of silver of which the following two books are but a small sample:

'The Best of Pearse,' ed. Proinsias Mac Aonghusa and Liam O'Reagain; 'The Best of Connolly,' ed. Proinsias Mac Aonghusa and Liam O'Reagain; both at 10s from Mercier Press, 4 Bridge Street, Cork, Eire.

LIVING HISTORY

If you want to read living history then I suggest that you buy 'Insurrection Fires at Easter Tide,' by M. O. Dubhghail.

This book is a Golden Jubilee Anthology of the Easter Rising. It contains extracts from writings, proclamations, and the like from 1890 to 1916. In the

context of the insurrection, the growth and revolutionary influence of the GAA, the Gaelic League, of Sinn Fein and the Irish Literary Renaissance are carefully documented.

In the pages one begins to live during the events leading up to Easter 1916, and further, to live through the events during the actual course of the Easter Week hostilities. The handful of fighters for freedom who defied the might of the British Empire, deserve this book as a memorial. It has struck the reviewer, on reading through this book, that this is the way in which history should be written. Not the interpretations of the historian but the personal meaning placed on history by the reader is the more important manner in which a nation's youth can appreciate fully what went on in the years of their fathers and forefathers.

The book is one which can be given a worthy place at the bedside. For it is a book for dipping into. Whatever the page turned to, even at random, words spring to the eye which to us in Scotland in these days of national interest, have a real import.

The anthologist has done a grand job for Eire, and the Mercier Press deserve thanks for affording the facility in bringing in a convenient form the written words which give a full picture of the historic forces which coalesced to result in the epoch-making event in Irish history.

In one way, one might be thankful that the Scots never witnessed similar occurrences. In another context, it might perhaps have done our nation a lot of good if England had adopted measures other than the familiar ones against the nationality of Scotland.

The course of history has run otherwise for Scotland. Yet we can still benefit from the experience of Eire and 'Insurrection Fires' is a good starting point.

'Insurrection Fires at Easter Tide' by M. O. Dubhghail; 42s; The Mercier Press, 4 Bridge Street, Cork.

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

CLUAS RI CLAIS-EACHD

Beachdan air Programan Gaidhealach

ORAIN

O am gu am cluinnear programan de laoidhean Gaidhlig air a craobh-sgoilteadh. Bhe chionn ghoidid air "Luchd Seinn nan Oran" dh'innis Crisidh NicLeod duinn mu dhain spioradail as na Hearadh, agus bhà id air an seinn le Seasaidh NicCaoith, Fhuair sinn dealbh air intinn a' bhaird nuair a chuir e na laoidhean ri cheile, agus gu tric tuigidh sinn pios de bhàrdhad na's fhear nuair a chluinneas sinn mu'n t-suidheachadh as an du' th-eirich e. Tha guth binn aig seasaidh NicCaoith, ach shaol-leam gun robh 'a' mhilleadh le bhith a' cur cus spairn air. Math dh' fhaoidte nach tigeadh a' bhàrdhad anns na laoidhean ann an uisge na stiùreachd air na dain a rinn Iain Gobha no Padraig Grand no Eachann MacFhionnghain, ach cordaidh programan mar seo ri moran. Thaig "Luchd Seinn nan Oran" amach aig am feargarrach — mus do thoisich an t-seirbhis Gaidhlig air feasgar Diar-daoin.

OBAIR

Uair 'sa mhios tha sinn a' call "Da Cheathramh agus Fonn" air Di-h-aoin, agus 'na aite tha program croit-eirachd air a chur amach. Ach nuair a tha id cho tlachdmhor ris a' program mu dheireadh chan 'eil an ionndrainn cho nochte. Chuala sinn mu na bulbaichean (no meachdan) a chaidh a chur ann an Uibhist-a-Thuath. Dh'innis Prophet Mac a' Ghobhainn duinn beachd Bord Leasachaidh na Gaidhealtachd agus nan Eilean air an obair, agus e Sheonaidh Dhonnachaidh fhuair sin barrail an eileanach. A reir coltais 's ann a' dol o neart gu neart a tha an obair, agus 's docha gun faic sinn Traigh Bhalgath thathas cho mais-each ri achaidhean na h-Oiland!

OIGRIDH

Grunn bhliadhnanach air ais thug sgoil MhicNeacail barr air gach buidhne eile anns a' cho-fharpais, "Top of the Form." Ach anns 'a' chuartir mu dheireadh 'le "Fregarig seo" ghabh sgoilearan Dealbraig air na Leodhasaich. Bha gach ri' air a stiùradh gu tuigsach le Sheonaidh Ailig Mac a' Phear-sain, agus cha robh dail sam bith eadar na ceistean. (Air programan mar "Round Britain Quiz," bidh na co-fharpaisich a' faighinn uine smointinneach airson na ceistean a fhreagairt, agus faodaidh sin a bhith ge sgith air an luchd-eisdeachd). Ann am Beurla tha "Top of the Form" air toiseachadh as ur, agus an turus seo 'le sgoilear a' bhuing an duais b'airde ann am bliadhnanach eile a tha a' gabhail co-pairt, agus

mar sin math dh'fhaodte gun faigh sgoil MhicNeacail cothrom eile air ceistean a fhreagairt air an reidid.

ORDUGH

Tha mi a smaoineachadh gun biodh uidh aig moran Gaidheal ann a bhith a' faighinn amach de na deich orain Gaidhlig as taitneiche leis an t-sluagh, agus de an t-ordugh anns am bheil iad a' tighinn. Tha sin againn 'sa Bheurla mar tha, agus bidh beachdan dhaoine, a thaobh nan oran agus nan seinnead-airrean ag atharrachadh o mhios gu mìos, no eadhon o sheachdain gu sheachdain. Dh' fhaodadh muinntir a' Bh' B.C. cail nan Gaidheal a mheas o na h-iarrratasan a gheibh iad airson "Seinn an Duan Seo," agus dh'fhaodadh iad innse Guinn uair 'sair raithe co a' th'ann an "Hit Parade" na Gaidhlig. Air mo shon-sa cheth, nam biodh agam ri deichead — a thaghadh o'u luchd-seinn a chluinneas sinn ais, meadhon-latha, a' measg nam fear is for thigh leam Donnhal MacAonghusa, Uisdean MacMhathain, Iain Og Mac Ghille-na-Brataich, Iain Moireasdan, a Uibhist-a-Deas, agus Hoddan Dhonnachaidh. De na boireannachd chan fhasainn sg'ed a' n' ghuth aig Floridaidh NicNeill, Crisidh Dhonnachaidh, Maire Nic a' Ghobhainn, Alma Kerr agus Caitlin Dhonnachaidh. Ach bidh a' bheachd fein aig a' h-uile duine — carson na cuir thu an taghadh agad-sa gu "Sruth."

MAOLDONAICH

TIGH-OSDA

PHENLAND

INBHIR-TEORSA

Air leth freagarrach airson teaghlachan air thurus is iasgairan nan lochan 's an aibhnichean 's an Taobh-Tuath.

Am biadh a' fear. Gabhar gu math ruith 'le Fear an Tighe 's a Bhean

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Fish Consumption Decreasing

Chunnaic moran againn program mu iasgach air telebhisean an oidhche roimhe is gear a bha abhar misnich ann air doigh do na bataichean sgrìobhaidh is do na h-Eileanan air fha bharrachd ann cuid-eachd. Cha d' thug e ach 10 bliadhna airson iasgach nan tralairan a chuir a bhith—agus moran dhiùb a chuir air aith—nan eil iad a cosnadh barrachd air 6 per cent air calp airgid agus na iomadh companaidh eile san faigh fear barrachd an diugh. Tha corr air luach £1,000,000, not a bh'iasg a tighinn a steach o chein agus se na companaidh nan mora mar Birds Eye a feith a da tha goit a steach agus bhithidh iad san a deamh is a reic cutagan eisg, mar fish fingers' sgun fhios de georsa iasg a th' ann. Mairidh a mhaigaid dhaibh sin. Ach tha nargaid an eisg chomhlonta a dh'hol sios agus chaneit m'ach ann an coig bliadhna eile ach bh' barrachd eisg ga chuir air trì sna h-eileanan air fha bharrachd reic. C'aite bheil na nargaiden ura is na sanasan reic a bheir air daoine barrachd eisg ithe — gu faigher barrachd airgid air—agus an bh' iuilleadh obair ann? So an n' iad bh' fheumas sinn 'schan e a bh' iuilleadh air puirt gu iasg o chein. Thun saoghal is gach tionsgal dol air adhart. Feumaidh an iasgach meudachadh—agus a' bharrachd eisg sin a dheanamh barrachd air sin a bhi ga ithe. Bann air cho ur 's cho glan 's a tha e a tha na Farach a reic eisg air "quality." Tha cheart n' againn fhein.

In the TV programme "The Great Fish Muddle" it was revealed that it has only taken 10 years to run down the trawler fishing industry and that there is a crying need for rationalisation. The most worrying feature was the steady decline in the amount of fish being eaten in Britain—the only commodity increasing its share of the market being fish fingers—and nobody can confirm what these contain British fish or indeed what kind of fish they comprise in view of the important value of fish from foreign countries, almost £1,000,000 worth. This would be worth investigating. Apart from rationalisation of

the industry itself which only earns about 6 per cent on invested capital mention was made of curbing imports of fish from foreign countries. This seems to be a negative solution in the face of the appalling muddle this film revealed although import controls may be necessary to protect markets for our own fishermen.

One encouraging aspect was the promise of a boom for the coastal fishermen and seine-netters such as operate in the Western Isles and the Minches. But here also there is an unuttered warning—it took only 10 years for the trawler industry to run down. Unless there is an increase in the consumption of fresh fish it will only take five years to run down the inshore fishing the way the market operates now.

Fish sausages and the recipes produced by the government sponsored agencies are having little impression on sales for the fresh fish market. A national advertising campaign to promote the consumption of fish must be undertaken—and if it is done by Gaelish so much the better—but it must be started now and backed by market research as are meat products. Fish—a cat's favourite food, is now being replaced by 'Kattomeat.' Presumably marketing on this scale is one of the jobs for which the Highlands and Islands Development Board now have a marketing officer.

SMELTER MEETING ON VHF

The meeting which the British Aluminium Company recently held at the Invergordon Town Hall to explain their plans, attracted so many people that a large number were unable to gain admittance. An opportunity to hear what was said is again presented to the Highlands on VHF in "Town and Country Magazine" tonight (Thursday) at 6.35 p.m. In this programme an edited recording of Mr Ronnie Utiger's (British Aluminium's Managing Director) speech and the questions that he and his executives answered will be broadcast.

LEABHARAN GAIDHEALACH

- Gaelic Without Grams. 8/6, postage 1/-. Gaelic Self Taught, 6/6, postage 1/-. Both essential to the scholar.
- Clan Histories. 4/-, postage 1d. The following available—Cameron, Campbell, Donald, Ferguson, Fraser of Lovat, Gordon, Graham, Grant, Kennedy, Macgregor, Mackay, Maclean, Macintosh, Maclean, Macleod, Morrison, Munro, Robertson, Ross, Scott and Stewart.
- Scotland of Old—Map, Showing Clan, Family Arms and Coats of Arms, etc., 7/6, postage 1/-. Historical Map of Scotland, Showing Battlefields, Castles and other points of interest, 6/-, postage 1/-. Highlands and Islands, Fraser Darling and Morton Boyd, Natural History, 30/-, postage 3/-. Highlands and their Legends. Otta Swire, 30/-, postage 3/-. Gaelic Ghosts, Tales of the Supernatural, 21/-, postage 2/-. Ancient Stories of Scotland, 30/-, postage 2/6. The Regiments of Scotland, 7/6, postage 2/6.

Also any books reviewed in this newspaper sent by return. Send for our complete Scottish Book List.

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Gairm 64 LAND OF THE SEVEN MEN

Thainig "Gairm" an Fhoghair gun duil ris an atha roimhe, agus chan 'eil e idir air deireadh air an fheadhainn eile a thug toileachadh cho mor do luchd-leughaidh na Gaidhlig anns a h-uile raithe o 1952. Chan 'eil na piosan de bhardach 'san nos air, no na sgeulachdan goirid, cho lionnhor an turus seo, ach tha iomadh sgrìobhadh tlachmhor anns an aireamh seo de'n raitheachan. Tha seo de'n raitheachan "Polatic agus Duthchas san a Eorpa Mheadhonach" a d'leigeadh ri cpsairnean a th' air aire an t-sluaigh anns na lathaichean; tha "Eideadh an Inntse Gall, 1840-1920" 'gar tuil air ais gu linn eile. Is ionnholta an obair a tha Am Bard Bochd a' deanamh ann a bhith a' crunneachadh bardachd. Leadhas, agus chòrd "Abhachdais nam Bard Niseach" glan rium. Tha sgrudhadh feumail air Iain Mac a' Chobhainn air bardachd W. B. Yeats, agus na sgrìobhadh eirmseach o Ailean Frisael fo'n ainm, "Ag Ionnsachadh na Gaidhlig" Eadar "Air an Spris" air t.d. 299 agus "Duaisean anns an Rafail" air t.d. 383 tha suas ri fichead ail—agus 'se for bhargan a tha sin air tasdain.

EILEANACH

Not to be confused by the caption in thinking almost immediately of the origin of the dance tune, Seven Men of Moirdart. The would-be tourist is well advised to go by sea, rather than to climb in by Invergarty to Loch Houris, hence by bridle path over Mam Barrisaidhe into the rough bounds of Knoydart.

On arriving at the bustling, fishing port of Mallaig, I would recommend a meal at the Marine Hotel owned by Mr Robertson, who also runs a boat service to the Isle of Skye, and the mail passenger service to Inverie in the parish of Knoydart.

The seven mile crossing on a lovely summer's afternoon is both pleasant and invigorating, sailing into the approaches of Loch Nevis is reminiscent of the Norwegian Fiords. Inverie Bay is a natural harbour, with high majestic mountains, the lower slopes are partly wooded and the village nestles at the foot. Photogenic scenery I would say against a blue sea in the waters are silhouetted in the bay.

Dominating the landscape the towering peak of the moss mountain as it is called, will almost immediately catch the

camera's eye. The Highland Clearances took its toll of the population as can easily be proved by the ruins of homesteads throughout the glens, though to-day most of the houses are occupied.

In more recent years trouble between crofter and laird resulted in further depopulation. It was during this period that the remote hamlet of Knoydart appeared in the national Press and became known to many people as the Land of the Seven Men. Under the present ownership of Braithwaite Ayres life is much more secure, the inhabitants are employed by the laird who has done a lot to help the people. Houses have been built and a new road constructed through the estate. Road construction of another age is still visible, where part of the General Wade road came through, and a small island off the coast known as Prince Charlie's Isle gave refuge to the fugitive prince after Culloden. The gulf stream touches the coast and proof of this can be found if you were to walk in the portions of the estate where among other lovely hardy trees and shrubs a giant eucalyptus flourishes. For the bird watcher, the climber or photographer there is plenty of interesting subjects in the Land of the Seven Men.

A. KENNEDY

Prophecy of the Brahan Seer

"Thig crìoch air an saoghal, ach mairidh gaol is eòl." The world will pass away, but love and music last for aye.

- I hear funeral music throbbing in my mind
- With an eternal sadness
- For millions lost in the battles of mankind.
- I hear the defiant pipes summon to doom
- The pride of human hearts;
- Sounding guides that lure to the silent tomb.
- I hear the jargon of conquest; shrieks and cries
- From a fathomless well
- Of blood and pain at a nation dies.
- I hear the muffled drumbeats for a brave leader slain.
- The worship of his men —
- Now stark and ghostly after his honoured pain.
- I hear shells hum their short-lived songs of strife
- Piercing and cleaving,
- Preparing a meal for death — the fruits of life.
- I hear the ominous drone of the missiles' spiteful flight
- Earth-bound mortals freed
- As moral madness floods the day with night.
- I hear the fray ferment with reverberating roar:
- My surging tide
- Breaking in boisterous waves on every peaceful shore.
- I hear the sobbing women dazed by loss
- Mourning and dying
- Alone and forsaken, like Jesus on the cross.

A. G. H. (Montreal)

BATA AISEAG UR

Nuair a thig am bata ur a Nìrribhidh cha toir e ach 2 1/2 uairean a thidhe bho'n Tairbearn gu Ile. Tha an t-aiseag ur a toiseachadh san t-samhradh agus tha mi tuigsinn gu bheil duil ri contract guilain an uisge bheatha.

IN FAIREST CALEDONIA

by James C. Morrison
available from
Cowie, 18 High St., Fort William
and
Melvin's Bookshop, Union Street, Inverness
Price 6/-

PLAID CYMRU:

Big Increase Claimed

Membership of Plaid Cymru (Welsh Nationalist Party) has risen to 40,000—an increase of 10,000 in last year, according to their annual report. The total had passed the number of paid-up members claimed by the Labour Party in Wales.

The Government, the report states, had proved their inability to govern Wales and totally failed to devise a development plan for the country.

It describes the White Paper dealing with Wales as "a complete flop" and says that although the Government cannot or would not act, they refused to allow the Welsh people any power to act for themselves.

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The new Gaelic

An interview with Donald W. Mackay, MA Director of An Comunn Gàidhealach

Q.1 — Mr Mackay, first a question about yourself. With your background of modern industry, why did you take on the task of steering An Comunn Gàidhealach? The figures are concerned, is representative of a steadily-declining number of native Gaelic speakers.

A. — Well, I have been rather critical about what was not being done for the Highlands and Gaelic. So, when the opportunity did arise I applied for a job and got it. Now I have to prove that what I preached can be translated into practical terms for the benefit of Gaelic. Gaelic culture has always suffered from superimposed patterns. We are now heading out of this wood into the clearing where more relevant patterns, generated from within the area, can emerge. The decline in the number of Gaelic speakers is due to the loss of population. This in turn is the result of depressing economic and social conditions. There is a definite imbalance between population and this area. This is a demographic problem, which I hope the Highland Local Authorities, and development Board will be dealing with.

Q.2 — We are approaching Mod-time again. At present An Comunn relies heavily on a surprising amount of money to pay for the organisation. Is this method of fund-raising not rather out-dated?

A. — Yes it is. But we have received official aid this year. The Scottish Education Department are giving £4,000 and the HID are giving £10,000. We must look for more official assistance as is given in other countries. Having said that, I do not think it is possible for involvement, by getting people active and working together in a field of common interest. The Welsh Eisteddfod is the same. Half the finances are raised by the concerted efforts of individuals. The rest is raised largely from Local Authorities, but also from industry, banks, commercial concerns, Women's Institutes, Rotary Clubs, Youth Clubs, schools, individual donations, and church organisations.

But we need more support from outside. National Assistance, if you like, because we do have a national heritage aspect. To get this fact over is difficult. For instance, the Arts Council could give grants to organisations which can make to national culture in all its forms and yet it is confined to supporting professionals. It is a national education of the community, few of them are interested in, for instance, classical music. I wonder if we really appreciate that development of a national culture means.

Q.3 — In recent years some headway has been made in obtaining recognition of the Gaelic language in education and to a certain extent in law (the Scottish Land Court). I feel that this is not enough. What are the reasons for this? How do you see the economic pursuits of the Highlands and Islands Development Board?

A. — It is rather difficult to give you an answer to that one at the moment, until we see what developments are proposed. You need a bold plan. The language is necessary before large scale economic development really gets under way. The Faroes prospered from a tourism which the language has died because of tourism. The injection of a different culture and a different language into the area would encourage the Gaelic language must be encouraged in an atmosphere of constant and consistent encouragement. I see that there should not be a Gaelic administrative unit, with an administrative centre in the Islands nor should the HID be run by a high proportion of Gaelic-speaking staff. These are some of the things that would be effective in halting and reversing the present denuding of the Islands of their skills, abilities and people.

Gaelic speaker hears Gaelic being spoken in new significant places, that then is the starting point for the resurgence of the language. Then if full economic plans can be put into action, without endangering social and cultural fabric, if you have the money to invest, you will have most to gain — but Highlanders in general have considerable thinking to do in view of the long term plans for the area.

Q.4 — To create a more extensive and intensive interest in Gaelic it is necessary to be in a position to influence political thought on matters affecting the Highlands area. An Comunn is non-political. Have you any ideas on this aspect of public involvement? It seems to me that An Comunn could do with some vigorous political representation.

A. — It could indeed. Without becoming involved as a political force, we would try to relate present political thought and action in this country to what is happening in other countries with minority cultures. We must, I feel, comment on political issues where they affect the Highlands. Minority languages are becoming important politically. The activity of the UN and UNESCO point to this trend.

Apart from the effects of depopulation resulting from the depressed economic condition of the Gaelic-speaking areas of the Highlands, have you been able to discover any apathy to the Gaelic language which would account for the decline in the number of Gaelic-speakers?

A. — There is little official recognition of Gaelic as an essential prerequisite for employment in the Gaelic-speaking areas to give people an incentive. There are mass media pressures are the most important factors we have to contend with. The BBC, which has been a leader in going behind in providing Gaelic broadcasts, and with colour and CD2 coming along we need more TV time. The use of Gaelic may well encourage Gaelic speakers to use their language more frequently. I must emphasise to parents and teachers in the Gaelic areas are doing a really good job. An increasing number of English-speakers are learning the language, so there was apathy in the past. Now the interest is on the upward trend.

Q.6 Your appointment, for better or worse, coincided with the establishment of the Highlands and Islands Development Board. What liaison have you had with the Board on cultural matters? And what do you foresee will be the effect on the Gaelic language of the new injecting of life into the area, bearing in mind that new industry requires skills not provided by the existing local education facilities in the Highlands?

A. — We have had a number of discussions on a few matters. The Board, for instance, financed the Gaelic Information Centre, Culloden. As I said earlier, the language needs to be bolstered through any large-scale development takes place. I have expressed our concern to the Board about the Gaelic-speaking areas.

Consider the impact that Dounreay has had on a one-strong rural community, this has been beneficial. Contrast Lochaber, where the same has not been diluted. Some have gone, but this is naturally worrying us. There has as yet been no statement from the Highlands Development Board about the retention of rural populations. Professor Grieve has given an assurance, that this is the substance of an statement made on record as saying that the retention of Gaelic will be difficult but we will need assistance for this. Technical and business edu-

cation facilities are required to be set up in the Islands. With the established fisheries and textiles there is no reason why a class of Gaelic-speaking technocrats should not be created. This has been done in the Faroes in North Norway with the minority groups.

Q.7 — How do you compare the British Government's treatment of the minority Gaelic culture with the recognition given to minority cultures by the Governments of other countries?

A. — There are some 70,000 Welsh who have equal status in Eastern Germany. They are supported by the East Germans and by the Russians. They have even got their own state subsidised weekly newspaper. Twenty thousand Lapps get financial support, have bi-lingual notices and Lapp has equal status with Norwegian. Fifty thousand Rhaeto-Romans in Italy have equal financial support and equal status. Twenty-six per cent of Wales is Welsh-speaking. The language is used as a medium of instruction in schools. It has official status, and £7,000 per annum is available for Welsh books. The Welsh have a cultural institution established by the New Zealand Government.

But Gaelic has no official recognition. There was only one receipt, an official document in Gaelic. It was a summary of a Census Report issued at the beginning of 1978. It was sent to me as a Gaelic-speaking member and the Crofters Commission a majority. There are no Gaelic speakers on the Highlands and Islands Development Board. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland passed a resolution calling for one this year. The Federal Union of European Nationalities makes it a precondition that minority language groups should be represented on an administrative body within the area. Sociologists and others maintain that there can be no true understanding of the aspirations of a people unless they are properly represented.

What does the Board itself propose to do about Gaelic culture in the Highlands? What action requires to be clearly stated as a policy — we await that policy hopefully.

Q.8 Some time ago, a paper in the 'Scottish Journal of Political Economy' stated that there was ample evidence to suggest that there is no economic case for the development of the Highland area; that the economic solution to the 'Highland problem' is to induce the population to get out of, and not the movement of capital into, the area. This cuts right across any cultural and economic case which the authors of these papers? If you do not, why not? And is there not the evidence now that the influx of people could become a significant contributor to the national economy?

A. — The Highlands already contribute to the national economy in the form of forestry, agriculture, aluminium, etc. but I would say to the authors that there's more to life than money. The Highlanders already think that economics cannot be considered in isolation. There is a purely economic case for slum clearance in the Highlands. Edinburgh Festival. Nor for centralising administration in London, in fact an article on Scotland last year stated that it could not afford London when you consider the hidden subsidies. There is a case for the best of you do not accept intelligible as art, culture, moral and social welfare.

It all depends on what you want. Imagine universities without Departments of English, Fine Arts, Archaeology, Extra Mural Studies. Education would be in

a parlous state if we reduced everything to a scale of economic well-being. It's getting pretty near that stage now.

I have yet to see the evidence that the Highlands are not contributing to the national economy as much as they are allowed. Whisky, wool, fish, timber, Harris Tweed, etc. are all Highland industries. And whisky and Harris Tweed are earning dollars on an unequalled scale. No, I think the authors have looked at one part of the picture to the exclusion of other equally relevant parts.

Q.9 — Getting back to the subject of the National Mod, how does it compare with (a) the Welsh Eisteddfod and (b) the Irish Oireachtas?

A. — The Welsh Eisteddfod concentrates on classical music. Native folk music tends to be less favoured. Our Mod give much more encouragement to native culture. There are only 76,000 Welsh speakers for novels and art. This possibly has been a drawback to the Oireachtas. But it is being developed to make it more relevant to the Irish scene. I'm looking forward to see what emerges. In literature, the Eisteddfod is well ahead with prizes for the best cultural institution established by the New Zealand Government.

Q.10 The National Mod seems unduly overloaded with music. There is also a danger of losing traditional music. And the literary entries are hardly given the same prominence as the boards to intensify the interest in Gaelic literature? It seems to me that a suitable measure of novels and art fields would increase the literacy of the Gaelic.

A. — Yes, we have definite plans for literature. We have to, with the increasing number of truly bilingual school leavers. We propose to commission literary prizes for novels and short stories. We now have £5000 of support from the Secretary of State for general literary publications by Gaelic Books Council, and we have drama at the Mod. There are competitions for literature at present, but the scope needs broadening, as writers begin to appear.

The future of 'A. Gaidheal', we've examined monthly magazine was reviewed and subsequently replaced by our fortnightly bilingual 'Sruth'. And there's the possibility of a Gaelic Book Club. We have to ensure that we have a literate population, which will come, as witness the indication in the Gaelic Book Club school magazine.

Q.11 — What pattern do you see in the future of the language regarding the decline in the number of Gaelic speakers and the increase in the number of learners, taking the language at schools and evening classes?

A. — The pattern at the moment is encouraging. And will be more so if the population is allowed to grow. This is a bilingual area and any Aberdeen into educational methods must, I feel, be carried out with this in mind. The Universities should be concerned in research and development so far that they're willing to emerge from rarified atmospheres. If language teaching is to be successful in research and development and Glasgow in particular, must become involved, and not become centres of academic study. The practical side of bringing academic life among the people is the new level of Gaelic level paper, which qualifies for university entrance, is a step in the right direction. The language is being taught in West Lothian where there is an excellent opportunity for people to learn it. We hear a lot about programmed

learning language laboratories and a great deal of what is happening in this field in relation to Gaelic? This would be a wonderful research project for a University which do the same proportion of its student population from the Gaelic areas.

Q.12 — Are you doing anything in the way of fostering industrial patronage?

A. — The short answer to that is that we hope to contact firms as well as individuals. Industrial patronage for Gaelic is not traditional. But it can be developed. For instance, I don't see any reason why Scholarships should not be sponsored by industry for the study of Gaelic music, or the classification of Gaelic folktales, or major prizes for literature. There's plenty of scope here, if we can develop on the Welsh pattern.

Q.13 — Much of the activities carried on by An Comunn, apart from a secretarial and finance-accounting facility, are voluntary. Are you aware of the professionalism, of modernisation. You are yourself both modern and professional. How much can you do in the way of professional work? And could not their tasks be better performed by professionals who are salaried employees of An Comunn?

A. — We must not forget that as with all charities, much of the work requires to be done by volunteers. We need professional advice and guidance, now more necessary than ever before. The age of voluntary effort is not past. It is the age of the professional. Here I would praise all those who are devoting their spare time to An Comunn and to Gaelic. From an artistic and professional view we cannot employ all the professionals we need. So we use as many as we can. As you say, this is definitely the age of the professional. And we would be backward-looking if we did not take advantage of it, there are how-ever few professionals left.

Q.14 — The almost inhibiting, academic interest in the minutiae of Gaelic grammar at the national Mod has been criticised. Far better, it has been said, to inject into the language verbal vehicles to convey a mutual understanding between the Gaelic technical subject-matter. How far do you agree with this criticism? And how do you think the language is broadening, as writers begin to appear?

A. — Any language can cope with the demands of a modern technological society. The mod and authorities give it half a chance, witness Faroese, Finnish, Norwegian and the USA minority languages which have been revived. Gaelic cannot stand alongside, ignoring the requirements for technical language and understanding between the Gaelic technical subject-matter. How far do you agree with this criticism? And how do you think the language is broadening, as writers begin to appear.

Q.15 — Many Highlanders are not Gaelic speakers. How do they fit in with your plans? Or do they?

A. — All Scots and Highlanders have a common culture, which does not belong to Gaelic speakers alone. We have a common interest in it there will be little of it left. And once that happens there is the real danger of losing the Gaelic language. We don't mean a regional identity. I mean a cultural one. Gaelic was one of the original languages of Europe. It is the language of Gaelic and Celtic in origin. You remove an individual's cultural background and you are effectively destroying it. Gaelic associations are in his own society. This cultural aspect now has to be developed quickly because of the present-day influences tend to (Continued on Page Twelve)

As na Sgoiltean

SGOIL AN TAIRBEIRT

Tadhail Tlachdmhor

B'ann air latha brègha samhraidh a sheòl an sgoil luingeach rioghail, an "Bloodhound," a steach do'n acarsaid-a-deas ann an Scalpaich, Air bòrd bha a' bhana-phrionnsa Anna, ann prionnsa Tearlach agus Dìuc Dhun-cidinn. Air tighinn air tìr dhaibh ghabh am fear-tìon agus a' bhana-phrionnsa cuairt troimh 'n bhaile. Gu dearb is e latha mòr a bh' ann dhuinne. Thàinig an Dìuc agus am Prionnsa air tìr a dh' iarraidh uisge gu aon de na tighen. Di-luain bha na daoine eile anns an luing air tìr ag iarraidh bidh anns na bùthan. Bha am Prionnsa a rithis air tìr aig a' chladach. Bha mòran de'n chloinn am mùth aig an luing ach fèasgar Di-luain dh' fhalbh an fèasgar air. Is e sud an dara uair aig a' Phrionnsa Tearlach a bhith an Scalpaich agus gu dearb tha mi 'n dòchas nach e an uair mu dh' eireadh.

MAIREAD NICSUAIN

Da-riribh

Bha duine a' fuireach anns an Taobh-Tuath agus is e Donnchadh Mac Illeathain an t-ainm a bha air. Chan eil e fuireach anns an Taobh Tuath a nis idir ach air Cnoc Shamhdhaigh faisg air baile Steòrna-bhaigh.

Ann a' bhliadhna 1902 bha e a' tilleadh dhachaidh le cairt agus làir mhòir fhiaidhaich.

Chunnaic e Da-riribh 'na sheamsamh ann an dornas an tighie aige fhèin agus fhalt geal a' falbh leis a' ghaoith agus tapaid mhòr dhubh air.

Dh' èigh Da-riribh ri Donnchadh, "Fuairich gus am faigh mi suas am baile conhlath riut anns a' chairt."

"Chan urrainn dhomh stad," thubhairt Da-riribh. Stad an làir agus chuir i a ceann sìos ris an talamh.

Thàinig Da-riribh agus shreap e suas air cloch cuibheall na cartach agus shuidh

e gu comhurlant innte. Dh' fhalbh an làir an uair sin 'na leth-rùith a mas an Aoidh agus thubhairt Da-riribh, "Leigidh tu mise aiste aigh tigh Eoghann Mhic Ille-mhoire."

"Cha stad an làir," arsa Donnchadh, "gus an ruig i an stàbùil aise fhèin agus feumaidh sibh a leantainn gus an ruig i an stàbùil."

"Cha charaich i," thubhairt Da-riribh.

"Nuair a ràinig an làir tigh Eoghann Mhic Ille-mhoire air a ceann sìos gus an talamh agus chrom. Da-riribh a nuas as a' chairt. 'Nuair a bha Da-riribh sàbhailt air an rathad mhòr rinn an làir as 'na leth-rùith agus cha do stad i gus an do ràinig i an stàbùil aise fhèin.

ALICE NIC ILLEATHAIN

An Clobair Dona

Bha a' fuireach ann am baile beag anns na Hearadh a' chionn fhada clobair a bha math air comhaid as déidh chruach ach cuideachd bha e math air mùrt. Aon latha gearmhraidh chaidh coraich air chall air fear de na croitearan agus chuir e a' choire air a' chlobair ach ma chuir theich esan do'n Eilean.

Thuig muinntir a' bhaile gur e so a thachair agus chaidh na fir as a' dheidh agus thill iad air ais do na Hearadh leis far an deach a chrochadh ann an Ròghadal air craoibh. Chaidh an corp aige fhàgail ann an sin gus an do thuit e chun an talaimh. Gus an latha 'n diugh chithear leth de'n craoibh so 'na seasamh air cnocan a' lannn gorm.

ANNA NIC DHOMHNAILL

Sgoil an lochdair

UIBHIST-A-DEAS

Iasgair na h-airce

Aon latha bha da dhille ag iasgach aig a' locha. Bha slat aca le chèile. Bha aon fhear

de na gillean na b' oige na 'm fear eile agus an uair a chaidh iasg air an dubhan agus a chaidh an arc fodha dh-ebb e dha'n ghille eile "Thoir ugamasa àrc eile chaidh an arc agam fhin fodha."

EACHANN MAC IAIN

Loch a Chàrnain,

Uibhist a Deas.

Am Baile agus Fhìn

Tha mise fuireach ann an Gèirinis.

Ann's 'a bhliadhna 1906 bha e air a' dhanamh 'na chrìoitean. Tha corr is ceithir fichead duine agus fichead-tigh ann. 'Se croitearan a' tha anns a' chuid as motha de na daoine. Tha coraich agus beathaichean aca. Tha Rocket Range ann cuideachd far a' bheil m'athair ag obair o' chionn seachd bliadhna. An uiridh dh' fhalbh Rocket is claidh i cèarr agus land i ann an Loch Druidibèag ann an Staoligearraidh.

Chan e baile ro mhòr a' th' ann ach tha e còrdadh ruimsa co dhùil.

ANGUSINA

NIC AN T-SAOIR

Gèirinis

Uibhist a Deas

Tha mise fuireach gle fhaisg air a' chladach. Aon latha chaidh mi sìos a shnamh. Shnamh mi a mach gu creig mhoir a bha anns a' mhùir.

An uair a bha mi a' tighina a stigh gu tìr, chuala mi fuaim neònach air mo chùilabh. Sheall mi agus dé bha sin ach ròn mòr dubh piòs bhuan. Rinn mise air tìr cho luath is a' b'urrainn dhomh uire eireadh cleas Ionah dhomh.

MORAG NIC CARMAIG

Griomanais

Beinn a' Bhaoghla

A' Chearc Oidheche

Aon latha dh'farr mo mhathair air mo phuithair bhig a' dol a thigh nan cearc a dh' iarraidh uighean. Dh' fhalbh i agus cha b' fhada gus an do thill i agus i ag aig eighchean. "A Mhamai, a' Mhamai, tha cailleadh oidheche an tigh nan cearc." Dh' fhalbh mi fhìn sìos fadh am faicinn a' chailleadh-oidheche, ach de bh'ann romhainn ach cearc ruadh is i a' coimhead a mach troimh tholl a bha anns a' bhoosa.

FLORAG NIC AONGHAIS

Aird-na-Mòna

EEL FOR EATING

by Keith Murdoch

The seven fat pieces of eel are still writhing. Ready on the plate for eating. — after the catch. The muscular system makes an interesting observation during preparation. Far from town-delicacies (jellied-eel in jars) the seven chunks of eel still jerk.

SCOTTISH PHILATELIC SECRETARIAT

The Scottish Philatelic was formed to promote and create interest in historical and cultural events which are important aspects of the history and tradition of the national life and heritage of Scotland.

The vignettes, or unofficial stamps, are not valid for postal use, but they have a real philatelic interest and are collectors' items. Because they bear a face value, at which they sell, they cannot be classified as mere stickers. In time they will acquire value.

The secretariat is a non-profit making group of Scots who seek to foster the above aims and, by selling these vignettes, to create greater resources with which to improve the quality and colour rendering of future issues.

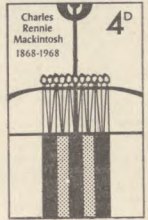
The secretariat has already issued a stamp to commemorate the Auld Alliance 800th Anniversary (April, 1968).

The new issue commemorates the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Century.

The secretary is Mr M. Ferries, 5 Ashton Road, Glasgow W.2.

cal of design work by Charles Rennie Mackintosh who became the leader of the Art Nouveau movement. He based his designs on natural objects and then stylised them almost to the point of abstraction. Thus we can see a bird shape, the inside of an orange, etc.

The design is by Mr Gordon Rennie, Glasgow.



The design was taken from the railings running along the front of the Glasgow School of Art. This wrought-iron work is typical of Mackintosh's Art Nouveau work, and is at its best in the school building. The stamp design shows one unit or several incorporated in the railings.

The design is by Mr J. Stewart Campbell, Dumbarton.

NEW NORTH COMPANY

Among the 20 new companies registered in Scotland last week was Hebridean Hotels Ltd., Riggs Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, hotelkeepers, etc. Capital, £100,000 in £1 shares. Directors—James MacLennan and Margaret MacLennan, both of 8 Smith Avenue, Stornoway.

The stamp design is based on the wrought-iron motif which is situated on top of the Art School Building, Glasgow. This motif is typi-



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Gaelic Broadcasts

- Thursday, 3rd October
12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.
- 7.00 p.m. "In the Highlands": An old sorts magazine — comment, interview, music and song from Gaeldom (recorded).
- 6.25 p.m. TV. Se Ur Beatha says Kathleen MacDonal — with Norman Webb (harp); John McNulty (cello); George McIlwham (flute); Charlie Cowie (violin); Alex Moore (guitar); Alasdair Vann (bass); Musical Associate: Colin Wyllie (recorded).
- Friday, 4th October
12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.
- 6.35 p.m. "Seinn an Duan So": Concert of Gaelic songs requested by listeners (recorded).
- Sunday, 6th October
11.00 a.m. Cuimhneachadh (Memories). Rev. Wm. J. MacLeod, Church of Scotland, Tiree, recalls the old days in his community and the character of the people (recorded).
- 3.15 p.m. Gaelic Service from the Old Parish Church, Dunoon, to mark the opening of the National Mod. Minister: Rev. Kenneth M. MacMillan, Appin. Precentor: Hugh MacIntyre.
- Monday, 7th October
12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn — from Dunoon.
- Tuesday, 8th October
12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn — from Dunoon.
3.45 p.m. Gaelic Mid-week Service conducted by Rev. Duncan MacCallum, Connel (recorded).
- 5.25 p.m. "The Answer": A general knowledge competition for Highland schools. Final round: Inverness Royal Academy v. Oban High School. Quizmaster: John A. Macdonald (recorded).
- 9.30 p.m. The National Mod: Recordings from the Mod Junior Concert introduced by Douglas E. Stewart.
- 9.30 p.m. TV. Mod Report introduced by Magnus Magnusson.
- Wednesday, 9th October
12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
6.35 p.m. Pibrochs: MacLeod of Colbreck and The Sound of the Waves against the Castle of Dunroon, played by Seumas MacNeill (recorded).
- 10.30 p.m. The Celtichs from the National Mod. Fear-nagaidhe: Calum Robertson.
- 6.40 p.m. Mod Report introduced by Magnus Magnusson.
- Thursday, 10th October
12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn — from Mod: Excerpts from the Gold Medal finals introduced by John A. Macpherson.
- 7.00 p.m. VHF. Air Ghàidhealach (In the Highlands): Songs and interviews from the Mod at Dunoon.
- 10.30 p.m. The Rural Choirs Concert of The National Mod: Introduced by Neil Fraser.
- 6.25 p.m. TV. Se Ur Beatha says Kathleen MacDonal, with Norman Webb (harp); John McNulty (cello); Charlie Cowie (violin); Margaret Moncrieff (oboe). Frank Henry (guitar); Alasdair Vann (bass). Musical associate — Colin Wyllie (recorded).
- 10.45 p.m. TV. Mod Report by Magnus Magnusson.

Dunoon—Scene Of The Mod



Dunoon Pier

(Continued from Page One)

great deal of interesting corners. Castle House was one of the first 'holiday homes' in the area and was built by a provost of Glasgow as his home 'doon the watter.' A rickie of stone marks what once the mediaeval fortress of Dunoon Castle and sharing Castlehill with the once Royal Castle is a fine statue of Robert Burns' Highland Mary, looking forlornly towards Rabbie's homeland across the Firth. Mary was born in a cottage at Auchamore Farm and a plaque marks the spot. A monument near the castle recalls the massacre of the Lamonts by the Campbells.

Among the other interesting buildings are a very fine Episcopal church, an impressive and historic Old Parish Church built in 1816 to designs by the Edinburgh architect Gillespie Graham, a few interesting old houses and hotel buildings, and in one of the old cottages in Castle Street is housed a small pictorial museum. Castle Street was a rather fine stretch of early 19th century houses but stupidity and meanness has robbed most of them but thankfully this one block remains.

The New Face of Gaelic

(Continued from page ten)

produce blandness and conformism. A healthy society cannot afford this to happen — the disappearance of Lallans is a symptom of what could happen to a Scottish identity.

The need now is to marry both Gaelic and English. They've been divorced for too long. In the Highlands we have influences conflicting with the Gaelic and local because of a lack of knowledge and understanding. This is why we are losing certain values. Indeed, some people of Gaelic origin have been so conditioned that they fail to recognise hereditary influences.

As to non Gaelic speakers fitting into the scheme of things, they certainly do. They are from a bilingual people of the Celtic race. We cannot ignore that little more than a century ago all the area north of Perth was Gaelic-speaking. We cannot deny the Gaelic background of our forebears. In fact we should be proud of them. Proud of theirs and our culture. Our task today, and part of my task today is to disseminate this widely, quickly, and effectively so that we do not become a rootless, industrialised society racked on the economic treadmill called progress.

In a short article it is not possible to mention all that can be seen in and around Dunoon, but visitors should buy a copy of the DUNOON VISITOR (4d) and it gives a full account of all that can be seen and is wonderful value. I am sure visitors will enjoy their jaunt to Dunoon and if you do not manage to see very much of Dunoon and district this week come again next year and see it properly. There are houses, hotels and boarding houses, glorie, caravan sites and good roads. Cowal is worth getting to know. An Comunn Gàidhealach have chosen wisely. I am sure you will enjoy the 1968 National Mod; I know you will enjoy Dunoon.

ON VHF FOR THE HIGHLANDS

The VHF programme "Town and Country Magazine" returned to the air after its summer break on Monday, at 6.35 p.m.

The programmes are broadcast twice weekly and the Thursday evening magazine is now five minutes longer (6.35/7.00 p.m.).

New items planned for the coming session include regular reviews of Scottish records and Highland books.

Ten years of Broadcasting in the Highlands

"Town and Country Magazine" was first broadcast on the 12th October, 1958. Two forthcoming programmes dealing with the development of area broadcasting in the north are:—(1) The VHF "Town and Country Magazine" on Thursday, 10th October at 6.35 p.m. will include, in addition to Highland recordings, interviews recorded at Ràidì Bhràthar the latest of the BBC's experimental local radio stations. (2) "A Voice in the Highlands" on BBC Scotland, Radio 4 on Friday, 11th October at 6.35 p.m., features ten years of VHF broadcasting in the Highland edition of "Town and Country Magazine." Among those taking part will be Alison Wilkie, Hugh Ross, Duncan MacLennan and Donald Macaulay. The programme is introduced by Alistair Gardner and produced by Aileen Rogers.

Aoradh Ceilteach

S'e sgeul caran anasach a tha ann. A rìr an iomraidh o' r' Fhraing s'ann a chaidh seorsa de mhanachan a chur air bonn o chionn ghoidic le "ceathrar mhanach Cholum Chille" faig air a' bhaile Vieux Marché ann am Breatainn na Frainge.

Ann s' a' chabail thòisich na manach a' cumail sheirbheis "anns a' chaimt Ceilteich." Bha na seirbheis an f'as 'nan slugh-thaitneachd, ach thurr an t-Easbuig So Briec nan robh na manach sin an comh-chomunn ri an Ròimh, ged a bha suaip eadar na seirbheis aca-san agus an t-Aifirionn

Romanach. Dh'òrduich 'an t-Easbuig an cabail a bhith air a' ghlasadh. Cha do chur sin bac air an Ard-mhanach, "Am Prior Cholum Chille" mar a' chur "The Times" air-san. Thug e an cèill gum biodh e a' cumail seirbhis air an 22mh Iatha de'n t-Sultuinn a-mhuigh fo'n speur ge b'e aimsir a bhiodh ann, agus ge b'e cail a bhiodh aige aig làimh. Air an là, dìreach an uair a bha fear de na manach a's treapadh suas gu mullach a' chabail gus an clag a bhualadh, chunnacas gu robh an duòir-bèil fosgailte; agus do rìr an iomraidh b'ann a ghabh deich th' fheadh ead a-steach, 'm mheag-san boirneach a' caitheamh churraicean Amhorach.

Tha namanach ris a bhrèa-bheirachd-lìn air son an teacdan-air. Tha munntir a' bhaile air an roinn 'nam beachdan. Their cuid gu robh iad air am mealladh ann a bhith creidsian na manach sin a bhith 'nan Caitiligh ceart-chreidmeach. Air an làimh eile tha feadhainn a'meas gur ni tainneach c' aoradh a dhèanann anns a' chànain ris am beil dils-cheud mhòr aca.

Cò iad, agus cia às a thàinig iad, 'na manach Cholum Chille' bha sin. Chan ann à I a shuibhail iad fo Iul Mhorair MacLeod!

'S ann do'n "Bhràithreachd Naomh Cholumban" a bhuaiceas na ceithir manach. (Uime sin chan ann ri Colum Cille idir a tha an gnòthach a' bun-tuinn ach ri Columbanus, duine còir tur eile). Thurr an t-Urr Seraphim a Glastonbury gu bhèil teacdaireachd na h-Eaglais air a steidheachadh air ath-bheòthachadh na sean Eaglais Ceilteach, agus mar sin gu bheil i a' brosnachadh cleachdadh chànanach dithchasach ann an Aoradh Dhè.

Ge b'e creud a tha aca-san, is ann ri strì a tha iad 'nan dòigh fhèin an cànan a chumail beò.

W.V.S

UISGE BEATHA

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TIORMACHD

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CEARTAS

Fhuair Mgr. Ian Moireasdan an sac bho Chomunn Biobhail Alba an deich 32 bliadhna a chur seachad ag obair dhàibh. Tha buidheann de mhòrtearan, moderatòran, is mhinistear a feuchainn ri ceartas fhaighinn dha.

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