

SEICOSLOVACIA

Bho dheasaich sinn an earrain a leanas chualas gu bheil an t-arm Ruiseanach an deidh leum air Seicoslovacia. Chaneil cinn fhathast air de thachair ach tha Ruisia a' cumail a mach gur ann air iarrtas na luchd-rioghlaidh a bh' ann mun tug Dubchek buaidh a tha na saighdearan a' air talamh Seicoslovacia.

Aig deireadh 1967 thoisich brùndail am measg nan oileanach an Seicoslovacia mu'n t-seorsa dol a mach a bha an riaghlaltas Comuineach a' brosnachadh. Bha an dealan 'ga chuir dheth gun rabhadh agus cha tigeadh luchd ciùird 'ga chuir air doigh, bha obrichean eile air an aon ramh — bha luchd oibreach coma co dhiubh. Cha b'urrain duit fear ciùird

earbsa is nan gearanadh thu air agus gur e deagh Chomuineach a bh'ann bha thu 'na namhaid do'n Stait. Co dhiubh thainig gach gearain gu ceann 'nuair a bha na h-oileanaich, gun dealan, gun bhlaths, gun solus agus gun daoine ag coimhead ris, fad seachdainn. Thoisich iad ag eigheach 'sa cruinneachadh. Chuir na riaghladairean am polais nan aghaidh agus chaidh an oigridh a laimh-seachadh gu bruidheil salach, cuid dhiubh a chaidh a mhill-leadh gu dona. Chaidh so 'na thann' ach thog guth nu saoirse a ceann ann an aite eile. Bha ughdaran is luchd litreachais ag cruinneachadh gach bliadhna airson comhdhail agus bha am beachdan mun stait a faighinn eis-

deachd. Bha iad shein ag cuir a mach paiper a bha gu guineuch mu fheadhainn de'n Phraesidium. Cha robh an comhdhail ceart air toiseachadh 'nuair a ghabh an stait thairis am paiper. Chaidh an ceol air feadh na fìdhle! Bha moran feadh an t-sluaigh a bha nis gu h-obann ag gearain gu ruige fheadhainn sa Phraesidium shein. Gu h-araidh iadsan aig an robh clann san oilthigh sa fhuair droch ionnsuidh a thoirt orra. Thug iad an aghaidh air Novotny an Ceann Suidhe gum feumaidh e an dara fear de aitean, Runaire nan Comuineach no an Ceann Suidhe a leigil dheth. Raghnaich e obair an Runaire a leigil dheth agus san taghadh 'se Dubjek a fhuair a steach. Cha robh e air ainm mor a chuir dheth roimh so ach bha amharus aig a mhor chuid nach robh e colichte cho cruaidh 'sa bha na riaghlaithean fo'n robh iad beo. Nuair fhuair e an t-inbhe 'ar chruinneich e mun cuairt dha luchd cuideachaidh agus chuala sibh mar a thachair nuair a dh'fhuair e ri bean saoirse a nochdadh Bho am gu am còi sibh 'sna duilleagan so iomradh air Profeasair Drozen. Tha e dol a sgrìobhadh earrannan dhuinn mar a tha gnòthuichean a'dol agus mar a bhuin an saoghal ris shein. Nuair a sguir an cogadh mu dheireadh bha e ag obair aig Reuter agus chaidh a chuir as gach obair chionn nach e fìor Chomuineach a bh'ann. Bha bean is dithis chloinne aige agus sann ri seinn a choisinn e bheo shlaight agus an d'fhuair e aite air ais ann an Roinn Mathematics san oilthigh. Cha mheadh againn a chosnadh sgìllinn ris an obair?

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The front of Lews Castle, now used as a technical College offering tuition for post-school students in navigation, textiles, and the building trades. It was as far back as 1902 that a special report urged that a tertiary education facility be provided in Lewis. It took almost fifty years for this suggestion to be realised in the present College. But what of the future? With adequate development and the provision of a suitable infrastructure by the Development Board, the College could well play a new kind of role in the island community.

BARRA FISHERMEN BELIEVED LOST

The intensive air and sea search for the missing lobster boat Mairi Dhonn was called off last Monday.

The 35 ft. vessel with skipper Angus John MacNeil, Castlebay, left Mallaig at 1 p.m. on Saturday, 18th August and was due to berth in Castlebay at 8 p.m. When the Mairi Dhonn failed to land the Barra lifeboat was called out.

Along with Skipper MacNeil were his 10 year old son Angus, his 12 year old nephew Calum McDougal from Renfrew, Jonathan Gillies, Castlebay and merchant seaman James MacNeil, Vatersay.

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BIRTHS

BAIN — At Dunbar Hospital Thurso, on 10th August, 1968, to Andrew and Betty (nee Barneson) 37 Durness Street, Thurso, a son. Both well.

BLAKE — At Oban Maternity Hospital on 13th August 1968, to Andrew and Marie (nee Mitchell) "Mo Dhachaidh," Connell, a son. Gavin James. Both well.

GILLIES — Ian and Lona wish to announce the arrival of a son (L.M.H.), on 7th August, 1968, 21 Achnamara, by Lochgilphead.

MARRIAGES

LILEY-CALDER—At the Methodist Church, Inverness, on 27th July, 1968, by Rev. T. Powley Addison: B.A., M.Th., Roger Neville, younger son of Mrs B. Liley, Ruislip Road, Greenford Middlesex, to Ella Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr and Mrs G. D. Calder, Claglan, Dunvegan, Skye.

WILLIAMSON-FERGUSON — At Oban, on 12th August, 1968, Hugh MacDonald Williamson, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs Donald Williamson, Fort Augustus, to Robina Ferguson, twin daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Lyon Ferguson, Alexandria.

DEATHS

MACINNIS—At Belford Hospital, Fort William, on August 11, 1968, after a long illness patiently borne, Alexander Macinnes, dearly beloved husband of Jean Cameron and devoted father of Joan, 31 Alma Road, Fort William.

FINLAYSON — At MacKinnon Memorial Hospital, Broadford, Murdo, of 5 Park Road, Portree, and formerly of Borvie, Skeabost Bridge, Inverness by his sisters: sadly missed.

PROVERB

Eiridh tonn air uisge balbh
Waves will rise on silent water

Text for the Times

Fa chomhair an duine thuigheas
tha glicias; ach tha suilean amadain
ann an iomall na talmhainn.

Gnath-thocail 17 r. 24.

Wisdom is before him that hath
understanding, but the eyes of a
fool are in the ends of the earth.
Proverbs c. 17 v. 24.

Fruth

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On the other hand MOY '68

We earlier bemoaned the fact that Sruth did not send us to cover Expo 67. We felt certain, however, to get an assignment to the Clan Gathening and Highland Industries Exhibition at Moy. But alas, no press releases, no free tickets, nothing. Nevertheless we went along.

We visited the Exhibition on the Friday; it was gloriously sunny and the setting was idyllic. It all seemed more like a garden-party than a trade-fair and this impression was heightened by the stately home setting and the kilted gentry.

Our first impression was favourable — entry fee was only 3/-. We were then somewhat disappointed at the scale of the event, particularly when we discovered that two of the five longest marquees were tea tents. Things however began to look up when we discovered a young lady in a mink bikini in the first exhibition tent we entered.

The most enterprising stands were those of the smaller firms. Messrs McKay and McLeod Engineering Ltd. were displaying metal prawn baskets made in Evanton, at what was probably the smallest separate stand. We commended Mr McLeod on their enterprise and he told us that the number of inquiries they had received had been most encouraging.

British Aluminium (the largest employer of labour in the Highlands) had, if we recollect correctly, a small model of a factory, some photographs and a table of leaflets to do with prefabricated chalets. The North of Scotland Hydro Electric

Board, progenitor of hydro schemes and electrification of the Highlands had a display of equal impact — rows of cookers and deep-freezers. The Board apparently sold over £1000 of electrical goods. Business is business, but as a shop window for Highland crafts and industries, their display seemed hardly in the spirit of things.

Inverness is justly proud of the achievements of Al Welders, but once again we found only prosaic photographs. Obviously the firm cannot display their giant welding machines, but projected colour transparencies, as shown by the Logan Group, would have at least focussed visitors attention on this firm's major contribution in the field of Highland engineering.

Scottish Pulp and Paper Mills had a working model and a small display but in retrospect the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Dounreay Experimental Reactor Establishment's stand must be deemed the most unimpressive as we simply cannot recollect anything about it.

In contrast the craft displays were comprehensive and interesting, with good ranges of jewellery, horn products, woodwork, stone-craft, silver and metal ware. The Caithness Development and Tourist Association display was well organised and enthusiastically staffed and visitors could admire among other exhibits several peices of Caithness Glass ware. Earlier this year at the Ideal Home Exhibition at Earls Court we stood on tip-toe in

the crowd to watch a demonstration of glass-blowing by the firm; a similar demonstration would have been greatly appreciated by visitors to Moy.

The Milk Marketing Board, some cheese producing firms, and Baxters of Focnabers, were handing out free cheese, soup and jam and in the Tomatin Distillery tent the representatives smiled wanly as successive wits enquired if they too were giving free samples.

There were apparently Navy, Army and Department of Agriculture stands, ponies, and a museum, all of which we missed seeing and on our way out of the car park there were signs indicating other exhibits which time prevented us visiting. This would seem to indicate a need for better signposting, fuller information, maps, etc., and it perhaps also reveals the fact that we shy off buying expensive-looking glossy programmes.

We did however see the sheep dog display. The effortlessness of Mr Ferguson and his collies made it all seem so easy. We enquired of an agricultural friend if perhaps it was all a bluff with the sheep being trained to go into the pen, through the gates and into the float. We then learned a great deal about sheep dog trials, the considerable weight loss suffered by the sheep so worked, the difficulties that arise if the sheep break and the high degree of skill necessary to control dogs so that they move by distances of only one foot, as Mr Ferguson's collies had done. Much of this knowledge on the expertise of sheep handling would doubtlessly have been appreciated by the spectators had they been informed as to what to watch out for prior to the demonstration.

We discussed that image of the Industries Exhibition with two acquaintances. One felt the tartan and heather impression was just right, "It was what people expect," he said. The other, an engineer, favoured a less parochial approach with more emphasis on showing that the Highlands is an area of skill, enterprise, and drive rather than simply a land of kilts and ceilidhs. We agree with the engineer and would favour the industrial aspect being stressed with a great deal more drum-beating and pride in achievement.

On the approach road to Moy, repetitive signs read—Have your change ready—We would like to have read signs saying — Highland Whisky — Britain's top dollar export — Almost every British car wheel is made on Inverness welding machines — Baxters export to 60 countries — Fort William paper mill cuts import bill by £8 million each year.

R. M. M.

PUBLIC NOTICES

RENFREW COUNTY COUNCIL

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Resident Matron (S.R.N. or R.G.N.) required for Kempock House, Gourcock, and Old People's Home for 34 residents in pleasant surroundings overlooking the Clyde Estuary and convenient to frequent public transport.

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RENFREW COUNTY COUNCIL

The following staff is required for the operation of a Sewage Purification Works to be commissioned in the near future at Linwood, near Paisley.

- (a) Foreman — Wages £18 12s 7d per week.
- (b) Attendants (4) — Wages £13 3s 4d per week

For post (a) men should be time served plumbers or have had considerable experience of Sewage Purification.

For post (b) no special qualifications are required but previous experience as a Sewage Works Attendant will be an advantage.

Initial training will be given to successful applicants.

Overtime will be payable for evening and week-end work as required.

Applications, stating details of present and past employment, should be submitted to the Director of Planning and Engineering, 16 Back Sneddon Street, Paisley.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Gaelic Male Trainee. Gym and office worker. Send photograph. Replies to Box No. 99.

TIGH-OSDA PHENTLAND

INBHIR-TEORSA

Air leth freagarrach airson
teaghlaichean air thurus is
laighean nan lachan 'n nan
aigheanach 'n an Taobh-Tuath.

Am bladh as fearr.

Gabhar gu math ruith

le

Fear an Tighe 'sa Bhean

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ing goods, etc. Industrial concerns already holding Awards may apply for and receive further Awards during the currency.

The Awards are made by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. In making his recommendations, he is assisted by a committee which includes representatives of industry, the trade unions and the engineering institutions.

Application forms, together with notes of guidance on completing the form and on presenting statements of case for the Award, may be obtained from the Office of The Queen's Award to Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

D'ITH UISGE 'SNA H-EILEANAN

Tha teas an t-samhraidh a'leantainn cho fada nis gun faochadh idir 's gu bheil cuid de h-Eileanan an Iar a'fas gann de bhuinn.

Cha robh boinne an Tìrìodha o chionn faisg air ceud latha agus tha carraim mhòr de'n eilean gu bhith cho tioram ris an spian.

'Sann an ceann a deas an eilein a mha'n a tha buirne phobas 's tha chuis cho doirbh an ceart uair 's gu bheil a'cuir a chruidh gu coiseachd na mìltean gu ruig iad am burn sin.

Chan eil fuach nach fheum aon fhear, Lachlan Macfaidhean a bhitheanach 500 galan gach latha airson da na. 'Sann a'fas tomatas a tha e.

Tha an teas 'sann tiorramachd air a leithid a chall a dheanadh 's gu bheil eugal nach bi greum feoir air fhagail nach bi air a losgadh.

Do You Know?

- What connection has ex-premier John Diefenbaker with the Highlands?
- Where and how high is Ben More?
- Who inherited the wealth of the great Seaford Estates after the last Lord Seaford's death?
- Is John Knox's name Highland?
- De a' Bheurla a tha air breidhean.
- Co bhuath tha freumh an fhocail 'fuasgail' a' tighinn?

ANSWERS

- His mother came from a Sutherland family named Bannerman.
- In Mull; 3000 feet.
- Earl Seaford's eldest surviving daughter, the Honourable M. F. E. MacKenzie, wife of Admiral Hood.
- Yes. It comes from the Gaelic "cnoc," meaning Hill.
- Nappies.
- Bho'n Eirinn 'fuaslaicim.'

CLUAS RI CLASNEACHD

Beachdan air Programan Gaidhealach

Luchd - Seinn

Bha iomadh rud 's a' ceilidh a Paibil ann an Uibhist-a-tuath a chòrd rium. Bha Domhnall MacRath fìr mhat mhar fhear an taighe—cha tuit e moran eadar na h-orain, ach bha na rudan a thuit e lan brìgh. Chuala sinn fear de dh'orain Mhic Codruim, agus saoilidh mi gum biodh lain Mac Fhear-chair air a dhoigh nan biodh hys aige gum bheil muinntir eilean a bhreith fhathast ri bardachd — chuala s'inn seul eibhinn mun chaillich iongantach a bhios 'ga nochdadh fein nu Chairinnis. Bha nithean sean agus nuadh 's a phrogram seo — seinneadair an chuala sinn tric mu thuath, agus feadhainn a chuala sinn airson a' cheud uair; orain a bha ainmeil bho chionn iomadh linn, agus orain a bhuineas do'n latha againn fhèin.

Luchd - Adhraidh

Feumaidh mi aicheadh nach do dh'fhaic mi na ro eumhor riamh mu na h-oidhirpean a tha daoine a' deanamh an diugh airson Aon Eaglais a chur air chois. Ach dh'ei's mi le uidh ris an iomradh a thug an t-Urr. Ruairidh Mac 'Ghobhainn dhùinn mu'n chuiart a ghabh gu Uppala, 's an t-Suain, far an robh cruinneachadh morail, eaglaisean an t-saoghail. Chan 'eil fhathast ach cairteal na h-uarach aig an duine a th'air ceann na seirbhis air Dior-daoin. Ach tha an t-Urr, Tormod Domhnallach air 'mhiòs seo s' a deanamh feum de na mionaidean a th' aige agus theid aige air moran a radh ann an uine ghoirid.

Luchd - Turuis

Chuala sinn iomadh beachd air obair an luchd-turuis air ceann-labhairt 'Di-h-aoine. Dh'iondrainn mi beachd na h-Eaglais air a' chuspair chudthromachd, ged a thug barrachd air aon duine tarrainn air an t-Sabaid. Agus cha chuala sinn guth o na boireanaich ged a tha iadsan 'nan ceudan an sàs an obair seo. 'Se program air leth feumail a bha seo, agus chaidh na sochair-ean agus na cunnartan a tha

an cois na h-obrach seo an toirt am follais gu soilleir.

Aig deireadh a sheanchais thubhairt Martainn Domhnallach gun robh e ag iarraidh beachd an luchd-eiseachd air a' chuis, agus gum biodh na litrichean aca air an leughadh air program VHF. Tha mi'n dochas gun gabh moran de leughadair ean "Sruth" ris a' chuireadh seo agus gum faigh Martainn lathair litrichean 'on phost a h-uile latha. Anns a' Bheurla tha "Listening Post" againn, program air am bi litrichean a sgrìobh an luchd-eiseachd air iomadh puig air an leughadh. Dh' fhadhadh program goirid a bhith air a chur a mach an dràsda agus a rithist ann an Gaidhlig

Luchd - Breitheachaidh
Air a' Ghaidhealtachd am bliadhna fhuaire sinn samh-radh grianaich ged a bha side fhliuch ann am iomadh cearn de shasan. Bha farmad aig muinntir breitheachaidh na side iad fein ruian. Aon oidhche air an telebheisan thuit fear dhiubh nach biodh an aimsir an ath latha ach grumach. "mura" h-eil thu fortanach gu leor a bhith a' fuireach 's na h-Eileanan an Iar"

MAOLDONAICH

RAIDIO IONADAIL

Tha e coltach nach do dh' iarr comhairle baile no siorramachd a' Alba raidio ionadail mar a tha ann an Sasainn agus tha so ag cur iongnadh air cuid de'n luchd parlamaid. Nach saoleadh sibh gum bu mhathe leotha so fhaicinn am badeigin air a Gaidhealtachd. Nach biodh e iom-chuidh an ceart uair nam biodh steisium raidio againn ann an Steornabhagh a chraoladh feadh na h-Eileanan an Iar. Chuala sinn bho chionn beagan sheachdainnean gu robh muinntir nan eileanan Farach ag cumail an raidio fein a' dol le 800 uair a thide nan canan fein sa bhliadhna — agus iad a deanamh aigrid ag cur a mach taghadh oran canan mar a tha. Seinn an Duan 'So' aig a Bh. C. aig 8 uair an t-Iarrais. Cha bhiodh duilgheadas sam bith san steisium a thaobh eiseachd — chaneil garbh chriochn eadar na h-Eileanan na eadar iad fein is taobh an iar tir mor.

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SRUTH

Di-ardaoin, 22 latha de'n Lúnasdal 1968
Thursday, 22nd August 1968

Islands

Islands form both a particular and peculiar element in the topographical and geographical character of Scotland. Though an accurate count has never been made, estimates arrive at some 790 islands of which a little over 600 are uninhabited. Most of these islands are found in Scotland's three archipelago-groups: Orkney, Shetland and the Hebrides. In the 18th century, some 8 per cent. of Scots lived on islands. Today the figure is less than 2 per cent. Even so, this population living on islands in the Highlands and Islands region of Scotland is some 30 per cent.

Thus, island-living is significant to many people today and is not so much the anachronism it is often made out to be by economists who think in terms of the minimum cost of services per head of population. To underline this, one need only look to the populated satellite islands of Scandinavia, to those scattered throughout the North Atlantic, and to the Baltic Sea to appreciate how much islands can be made a significant part of a national whole — and developed as such.

From a social viewpoint it can be argued that the provision of adequate social services is the right of an urban community. Though the economists would say the opposite.

As an example of the economist kind of thinking, one recalls the political agitation which was necessary to obtain the insertion of 'and islands' into the title of the present Highlands and Islands Development Board. There has never been any national explanation why central government 'central?' — who's kidding who? — preferred to make the Board's task of development in the Highlands area that much easier by leaving out the islands of the region. And this even though some of the islands concerned supported populations numbering many thousands and who had the potential to contribute significantly to the national purse and character.

It is depressing to think, in this day and age of enlightenment, that it is the economist who has the last say in the future of islands. This, while in other countries the decisions of the political economist is tempered with a realisation that social and moral obligations are part and parcel of government and that the wishes and aspirations of remote island communities must be respected.

Now that the grand slam has been played in the Moray Firth area, might we expect a 'double' from the Board in respect of the island communities in its charge?

"Bha i ac' an Garadh Eden"

Bho chionn ghoidid bha sinn a' leughadh mu'n chuid-eachdhaid a' fhuair An Comunn Gaidhealach bho Roinn an Fhoghlum agus bho'n Bhord. Chan eil teagamh sam bith nach d'rinn An Comunn obair a thaobh na Gaidhlig a chumail a' bhaile agus bha innse an so, ach 's fìor bhruidhinn na Gaidhlig fhathast teagmhach mu'n bhuaidh a' bhith a' saothair a' Chomunn.

Chan urrainn nàg a dhòl as aiceadh nach ann idir gun aobhar a tha iad anns an intinn sin. Tha daoine tha an duigh a' cleachdadh na Gaidhlig mar chaint na gluine, a' tuigsinn gun ann orrasan 's air an ginealach a tha cor a' chanain an crochadh. 'S an latha 'n duigh 'sann air slughan nan Eileanan an lar a dh' fheumas uallach na Gaidhlig a bhith ma bhaireas i beo.

Agus de rinn An Comunn Gaidhealach 'na h-Eileann gu ruige so, no de a bhuaidh a' bhith ann na rinn iad muinntir nan Eilean — muinntir na Gaidhlig? Feumar aiceadhach nach eil eadhon an duigh cus uidh aig na h-Eileanach 's Chomunn. Is iongantach mura h-eil tomhas mhòr de chòir aig A' Chomunn fhein ri so. Chan eil na croitearan 's na h-aisgairean 's na breabadair ann eadar am Buidheall agus Ceann Bhanraigh eadar Stafaigh 's na Roinnean leachdail bho chaidh marb a thaobh suidheachd na Gaidhlig 's nach gabhadh iad ri tagraidhean bho bhuideallan a bha deannam fèin.

Ach 'i chiest c'aite am biodh am buidheann so air a suidheachadh? Nach biodh e ro-ionmhach a suidheachadh 'na h-Eileanan? Bhiodh na h-Eileanan mòran na bu deiseil 'gu gabhail ri eud an fheadhainn tha 'gu obair airson na Gaidhlig nam biodh iad sin deonach air an cuibhrioin a ghabhail am measg an t-sluaigh na bhruidhinn na Gaidhlig. Agus chan eil teagamh sam bith nach cuireadh iad an taic riutha cuideachd.

Carson a nìs nach suidhich An Comunn Gaidhealach oifs an Steornabhagh, agus chan e oifs ach ard-oifs. An e nach eil an t-airgid ac? Tha deagh-ghean an Rìaghaltais (nach cum ann beo l) aca, suidheachadh a nìs an cum chul-ta a bheir fìor-dhòchas dhaibhsan aig a bheil uidh 's a chanain.

Faicinn Bhuam

SEANN LEABHAR

Seachdain no dhà air ais thuir mi beagan mu leabhar a bha an uair uidh glé ùr, leabhar bàrdach — Sporan Dhomhnaill. Goirid an dèidh sin thuing leabhar eile nam rathad, fìor sheann leabhar. Cha robh fhios agam an toiseach dè an leabhar a bh'ann. Bha fìor dhreach na h-aoise air, agus, a rèir coltais, bha e luachmhor acasan do 'm buineadh e, oir thàinig e gam ionnsaidh-sa, cha b' ann suaint ann am pàipear, ach air a phasgadh gu cùramach ann an cèis bheilbhidh. Dh'earbhadh rium gun a leigil as mo shealladh, rud, faodaidh sibh a thuigsinn, a bha mi deònach gu leòr a dèanamh.

Se leabhar bàrdachd a tha seo cuideachd. Gu mi fhoirnach ach tha na duilleagan-toisich a dhith air, ach tha ainm an leabhair air a' cheud taobh-duilleig far a bheil a' bhàrdachd a' toiseachadh. Tha na facalan "Comhchrinneachd do dh'òrain thaghta Ghaidhealach" a' sealltainn gur e seo leth-bhrac de na cruinneachadh a rinn Pàdraig Tuairnear agus a thàinig a' n' chlo an 1813.

S' ainneamh duine nach dèan othail ri seann leabhar, co dhù a tha luach aigeadach air a chur air no nach eil mu tèid fhoghladh idir cuiridh laimh-seachdhaid leithid leabhar an Tuairnearach, is e còrr is ceud gu leth bliadhna a' dh' aois, intinn neach air ais agus na h-amannan fad as, le iognadh a' dh'fhaicinn a leithid de bhàrdachd agus dearbhadh gu robh fear ann a ghabhadh a' t-saothair cruinneachadh agus deasachadh a dèanamh airson e chur an leabhar. Bheir e sealladh nuadh dhur air beatha slough an lath uidh, agus dàinsh naoraichte riuthasan aig a robh a' Ghàidhlig mar chaint mhàthaireil.

Cuinnear uaireannan gearan mu lionmhòrachd leabhairchean, gu h-àraidh leabhairchean Beurla. Chualas mu 'n fhear z thuir, a h-uile uair a thigheadh leabhar ùr am mach, gu robh ean a' leughadh seannfhear. Ge bith de tha tachairt an canaichean eile, se gearan de sheòrsa eile a th'ann a thaobh leabhairchean Gaidhlig. Bidh fad mum bi sinn an cunnart tuilleadh sa' chòir a bhith againn de leabhairchean ùr no sean.

Se 382 àireamh an taobh-duilleig mu dhreachd anns a' leabhar seo agamsa. S dòcha gu bheil barrachd anns a' leabhar shlan, oir dh'fhaoidte gu bheil duilleagan a dhith air an deirdeadh a' barrachd air an toiseach. Tha duilleagan 117-124 agus 163-172 air chiall co dhù agus fheadhainn eile fuaigilte. Tha coltas air a' leabhar gun deachaidh chradh a dèanamh air, 's dòcha barrachd is an uair.

Air cuid dhe na duilleagan tha facalan ann an Beurla as nach gabh mòran brìgh a thoirt aig nacheil, a rèir coltais, buntanas sa bith ris a' bhàrd-

achd. An corra àite tha 1843, agus bliadhnaichean eile faisg air sin, sgriobhta. Tha cuid dhe na duilleagan air an gearradh, mar gum b'ann airson an sgriobhadh choimheach seo a chur as.

Se cruinneachadh Phàdraig Thuairneir aon dhe na stòras luachmhor a bhitheas na sgol-earan a' sgrùdadh airson nan rann, nan sreith, agus na facalan as fhearr leotha. Faodaidh nach aontaich iad gur ann aigean a tha na h-carrannan ceart. Theagamh gu feumear creideas a thoirt do ughdar a bha beò faisg air an àm agus na daoine air a robh e bruidhinn, ach chanell am fear sin ceart a h-uile uair.

Thàinig Sàr Obair nam Bàrd (chan tairnach an t-tinn sin seach an t-ainm leibideach "The Beauties of Gaelic Poetry")! an mach ann an 1841, còd bliadhna fheadh a' dèidh "Comhchrinneachd" ach tha MacCoinnich a' faotain mearchdan anns an t-seann leabhar. Tha leabhar an Tuairnearach a' toiseachadh le cèith dàin a sgriobh Ban-Mhùileach. "Mairiada Nì: Luchuin" Gean leantainn tha an t-òran iomraichteach "Moladh Cabar Fèidh" leis a' bhard Mac Mhathain a' rèir an Tuairnearach. Se seo a' cheud fhear dhe na h-"òrain Thaghta" a th' aig Mac Coinnich aig deirdeadh Sàr-Obair agus tha e ga thoirt do Thormod Bha MacLeod agus ag ràdh gu robh cuid le mearachd a' toirt an urraid do Mac Mhathain, bàrd Iarla Shìpior. Tha mi cinnteach gur e Mac Coinnich a bha coart an turas seo, ged nach d'rachamaid an comaidh leis anns n' bharail a' th' aig fìrinn agus a tha e a' sealltainn leis na facalan, "seo an aon leth-bhrac cheart a thàinig am follais thuige seo."

As dèidh "Moladh Cabar Fèidh" tha an Tuairnearach a' toirt dhuinn "Diomoladh Chab- air fèidh" le Alasdair Mac-Dhonnail. Am b' e seo Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair? Is iongantach nach eil Mac Coinnich ag ainneachadh Diomoladh idir, nuair a tha a leithid aige ri sealladh mu 'n òran eile. Tha e sìodhar gu robh Mac Coinnich eòlach gu leor air a' Chomhchrinneachd. Tha e ag ràdh mu 'n òran eile.

"Gu ma slàn a chi mi
Mo chailin dileas donn"

"Bha droch leth-bhrac dhe 'n òran seo an cruinneachadh an Tuairnearach agus bha rann aige a' toiseachadh.

"Tha Caimbeulach mar chairdeas
Ga t-andachaidh le strìth"

Nach bu chòir a bhith ann idir." Seo, gu crìochnachadh, rann a fear a' "Moladh" is "Diomoladh" Chabairfèidh:—

Moladh

Dh'èireadh leat an còir sa 'n ceart
Le trian do neart gu bagarach,
Na bh'èidear Asinnt a' fa dheas,
Gu ruig Scalpa—Chragnach;
Gach fear a ghlaichd gunna-snaip,

Claidhe glas no dagachan;
Bu leat S'ir Donnall Shleibhte,
Nuair dh'èireadh do chabar ort.
Diomoladh
Cha 'n èireadh leat f'ir Shleibhte,
'S nan èireadh b'e'm breamas e,
Le 'n aigne uasal uabhrich
Gu tuairpear nuair chreanachaid iad.
Le 'n girdigh sgairteil ghriannach,
Co math ri an dealanais;
Gu 'n sgolteaidh iad Triath
Shìpior
An latha strìort no fionnachais.

Michael Spauld

THE IRISH
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE BILL

From our Eire Correspondent

Some of the provision of the Criminal Justice Bill, 1967, which has been published recently, are completely reprehensible. Sin Féin wishes to draw the attention of the public and particularly of all minority groups to the flagrant denial of the rights of public protest envisaged by the Fianna Fáil government which proposes this bill.

Among the proposals are the following:

It will be necessary for organisers of meetings or demonstrations to give 24 hours' notice to the police. The only exceptions will be funerals, religious services and election meetings. Spontaneous protest meetings of any kind will be illegal.

A Garda Superintendent will have power to prohibit any meeting or place restrictions on it.

Encouragement of the non-payment of taxes, rates, local authority rents, etc. will be illegal.

July verdicts will no longer be unanimous, but will be decided by a weighted majority, even in the case of a death sentence.

These are but a few examples of the serious inroads being made on civil liberties in Ireland. We already have the notorious Offences Against the State Acts, 1939 and 1940, in this part of our country. It would appear that recent agitations like those of the farmers and the homelss have frightened Mr Lynch's government. So arrogant are they now that even mild criticism on an R.T.E. religious programme brings forth a tirade of abuse from Mr Haughey and Mr Buland. Lest the criticism is inefficient and indifferent administration by both central and local government gets too strong a new bill is now proposed. The rights of protest, criticism and free speech will be placed in the hands of the government and the police.

The provisions of this Bill are obviously aimed at Republicans, Trade Unionists, Farmers' Organisations, Tenants' Associations, Housing Action Committees and such groups.

THE MAN IN CHARGE

The man in charge of the complex job of co-ordinating the project to build the new British Aluminium smelter at Invergordon is the newly appointed managing director of the company, 42-year-old R. E. (Ronny) Utiger.

Deputy managing director since January, Mr Utiger became managing director on 16th July, succeeding Mr G. B. (Gus) Margraf, who has returned to Reynolds Metals Company at Richmond, Virginia, after nearly four years with B.A. Earlier, Mr Utiger was commercial director, a post to which he was appointed in March 1965.

As commercial director, Mr Utiger was responsible for the company's long-term planning, for the commercial assessment and financial justification of investment projects, estimates of the B.A. group's long-term financial requirements and resources, and for ensuring adequate co-ordination on commercial policy between different divisions of the group.

Ronny Utiger joined B.A. in 1961 as commercial and economic analyst, but early

in 1962 this position was merged with that of financial controller.

He went to Shrewsbury School and later read philosophy, politics and economics, with economics as a special subject, at Oxford. He joined Courtaulds in 1950 as a junior economist at their head office economics section. He spent the next 11 years within the group with various appointments in Canada and the United Kingdom, dealing with sales forecasting, general economics, financial and marketing problems, and diversification projects. His final appointment before leaving Courtaulds for B.A. was as chairman and general manager of two subsidiary companies operating in the garment and retail trade.

Mr Utiger is married with two children — a boy aged 11 and a girl 7½. People close to him describe him as pretty much of an all-rounder, interested in country life as well as in the world of finance and commerce; a hurdler and keen squash and rugby player during his Oxford days as

well as being above average academically. He still manages to find time to read widely, and both he and his wife are deeply fond of music.

Gaelic Broadcasts

Thursday, 22nd August

12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

3.00 p.m. A Conversation with Duncan Campbell who was mate and then Captain of the SS Hebrides (recorded).

3.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. Norman MacDonald, Aberdeen.

7.00 p.m. "In the Highlands": An all sorts magazine — comment, interview, music and song from Gaidem (recorded).

Friday, 23rd August

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).

Monday, 26th August

12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

Tuesday, 27th August

12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

Wednesday, 28th August

12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.

6.35 p.m. "The Silver Chanter": Highlights of the 1968 MacCrann Memorial Pìobaireachd Competition held in Dunvegan Castle. Introduced by John MacFadyen (recorded).

Thursday, 29th August

12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

3.00 p.m. Aingean gun fhios dhaibh (Angels in Disguise): Short story by Mary Maclean (recorded).

3.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. Norman MacDonald, Aberdeen (recorded).

7.00 p.m. VHF "In the Highlands": An all sorts magazine — comment, interview, music and song from Gaidem (recorded).

Friday, 30th August

12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.

12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.

6.35 p.m. House Ceilidh from Hamilton House, Prestonpans. Introduced by Fred Macaulay (recorded).

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CLAN MACLEOD PARLIAMENT

The fifth Clan MacLeod "Parliament" was held at Dunvegan, Isle of Skye from July 28th to August 2nd, when members of the Clan Societies came from all over the world. The MacLeod Clan with an immense membership is one of the most highly organised Highland Clans, in fact, some refer to it as "the most organised Clan" in Scotland. If this is so, the honour of such a statement is entirely the result of the hard work of the present Chief, Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod D.B.E.

The Gathering began with divine service in Dunvegan village (Duninish Church of Scotland) on Sunday 28th; after the service members were invited to lunch at the Castle and dinner in the evening.

The first session of Parliament began on Monday morning when the Chief welcomed all clansfolk to attend proceedings. On the afternoon coaches and cars were laid on to visit Borralera and MacCrann Memorial Cairn; the piping school of the MacLeods for many generations, where the Chief addressed the gathering and a piper played a lament. In the evening there was an expedition by cars to Neist lighthouse.

On Tuesday after Parliament assembled the interested members went on tour to the North end of Skye via Dunlin Castle ruin and Flora MacDonald's grave. In the late evening there was a special showing of the colour film en-

titled, "The Highland Jaunt," in which Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod, takes part acting the Lady MacLeod who met Dr Johnson and Boswell.

A visit to the Outer Isles of Harris and Lewis was undertaken on Wednesday, for which occasion the Ferry was booked for 180 people. Upon arrival at Tarbert the party split into two groups; one to tour the Isle of Lewis.

Expeditions to Raasay Isle was arranged for Thursday and in the evening Parliament was again in session.

The parting day was Friday and the final sessions of Clan Parliament were brought to a close at four o'clock. The Chief welcomed all the Clan to a farewell dinner, and then a ceilidh to end a very eventful week.

The scattered family of MacLeods are linked together with one aim of fulfilling the demands of their well known motto:—"Hold fast."

HEATH VISITS INVERNESS

The leader of the Conservative Party, Mr Edward Heath, is to tour the North of Scotland between September 9th and 12th.

Mr Heath will speak at a meeting in Inverness, on September 12th.

The views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the publishers: A n Comann Gàidhealach.

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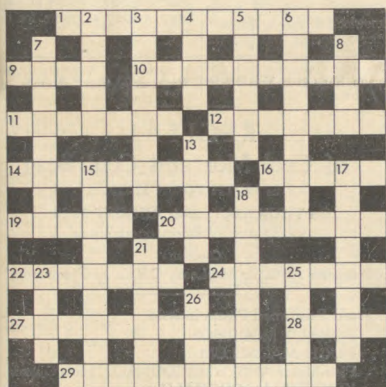
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TOIMHSEACHAN TARSUINN



Tarsuinn

Sies

- Gheibh duine ainmell e. (4,7)
- An fhaighe — agus lion a chuireas tu innte. (4)
- "Far am bheil an nacidhean creuchdach ri — gu bhlas." Somhairle MacGhillieathain. (10)
- Cuiridh na creidmheach seo ann an Dia. (2,5)
- Cha bhi am buntàta ceart as do ìis. (6)
- A rèir an t-seanfhacail is amhlair e. (3,6)
- Uamhas. (5)
- Lorg feasgar air an fheur e. (5)
- Tha iad air na daoine glice. (4,5)
- Chuir deisciobail Chrìost cùl riutha. (7)
- Canar riutha luchd nan speur ris. (4,3)
- Bidh do ghluinean a' dèanamh seo a' dol do 'n fhiacclair! (10)
- "— gu amhainn"—somhairle do 'n tasgair.
- Cridheil. (11)
- "S na Sasannaich air am fuadach a eilean uain" —Màiri Mhòr. (1,4)
- Is goirt air t'amaich i. (8)
- Ma tha iad agad fuasgaidh tu seo i (4)
- Cumaidh iad do chasan blàth. (5)
- Dèan seo 'cha bhi do ghuth socair. (9)
- Is ceòlmhor an duine. (8)
- "Ged tha mi 'n diugh ri — a' bhatail chan ann seo mo shac 's mo dhiachainn." — Somhairle MacGhillieathain. (4)
- Tha corrag theth mar seo, ars an seanfhacail. (5)
- Ged is fada am facal chan 'eil ann ach mirean beaga. (9)
- Imich air a thoir. (8)
- "A Mhaighistir, cia i — as mo 'san lagh!' (2,6)
- Ni e an talamh batarach — ach tha a chòlaibh riut. (6)
- "Bìdh an — ruighinn gu leòr gu am brist i." — seanfhacail. (4)
- "Neach cosmhull — an duine." Daniel vii. (2,3)
- Cumaidh seo ann an òrdugh thu. (4)

CROFTER'S CAN LOSE OUT IN CHANGES

Tremendous changes have taken place in the social and economic conditions of the Highlands and Islands since the last war and the pace of change is accelerating. Statutory protection was granted to the crofter in the Crofters' Act of 1886 and it is now necessary to examine whether this protection which was adequate in 1886 is valid and adequate for the changing times.

Before 1886 crofting landlords, even those with their family roots in the Highlands, were, with few exceptions, ready to take full advantage of their legal rights when it came to a question of securing the maximum economic return from their estates, and the Clearances were ample evidence that landlords were more than ready to exchange a meagre rent roll of small tenants for the high rents offered by sheep farmers from the South. There is no reason to believe that the modern crofting landlord comprising many syndicates, trusts and limited companies as well as individuals with no Highland connections, would be slow to turn rising land values to profitable advantage.

Does the crofter realise how his security has been eroded by changing circumstances? The signs are that he does not — and small wonder when for generations it has been an article of faith that crofting tenure is the one sure guarantee against expropriation.

The position today is that the crofter is wide open to lose his land for non-agricultural development, such as forestry, tourism and industrial development, and he is not entitled to claim any share of the enhanced value of the land as a result of development. The more the Highlands and Islands Development Board succeed in realising the potential for development the greater the pressure for the release of land from agriculture.

In the early days of the Crofters' Act there was plenty of manpower to extract from poor land the maximum return and people had to be content with a bare subsistence. But as it became possible to sell their labour more profitably elsewhere and so share in the rising standard of living, the large population pressing on agricultural resources gradually thinned away and as the standard

of living has risen the contribution that the croft as an agricultural unit can make to provide a living for a family has become proportionally less and less. The average croft is now of prime significance as the family home and a base from which to earn a living rather than as an agricultural source of income.

The advent of the Highlands and Islands Development Board brings the hope and prospect of further development to the crofting area the croft has thus assumed a new importance as a base on or from which the crofters and members of his family can earn an adequate living.

Crofting tenure was introduced in 1886 to meet a very real need—to confer on the occupiers of small agricultural holdings in the seven crofting counties, who enjoyed the minimum of protection from the law of the time and who had suffered from this lack of protection, a large measure of security of tenure, the right to a fair rent, the right to compensation for their own improvements on termination of tenancy, and the right to bequeath the croft to a member of the family.

There was reserved for the landlord the right, subject to the approval of the first Crofters' Commission until 1912 and after 1912 of the Scottish Land Court, to resume land for non-agricultural development. At a time when the use to which the land could be put was almost exclusively agricultural, the landlord's right of resumption had little effect in practice on the crofter's security of tenure. It was confined mainly to the occasional resumption of a bit of land for such purposes as the building of a school or house or the making of a road. The crofter was compensated for this agricultural loss.

The statutory protection in the land which was devised for an agricultural economy is not adequate to protect the crofter in the new conditions or to secure for him the benefits of the new land uses opened up by the prospects of non-agricultural development. Protection in 1886 was confined to agricultural use simply because that was the only use at that time. Is there any reason to doubt that if there had been any

other uses the protection would have extended to these?

A crofter was given the right to claim compensation at the end of his tenancy for such permanent improvements (house, steading, fences, drains, etc.) as were suitable to the croft at their value to an incoming tenant. In 1886 this was no doubt an adequate measure of compensation, when the croft house, the principal improvement, was usually a thatched cottage.

In the Small Landholders (Scotland) Act of 1911 there was some recognition of the need to recognise other uses when the crofter was given the express right to make such use of his croft for non-agricultural purposes as was reasonable and not inconsistent with the cultivation of the croft. It was not until 1961, however, that this was extended to include a right to claim compensation at the end of his tenancy for permanent improvements for non-agricultural purposes.

The change in conditions has exposed not only how vulnerable the crofter is vis-à-vis the landlord, but also how inadequate his tenure is to allow him to take advantage of the new opportunities. Although he has the right to make use of his croft for non-agricultural purposes his tenure of the land in which he sinks his capital is still only that of an agricultural tenant. The property right is in the landlord. If he puts his money into a tearoom or a shop or a chalet on his croft or converts the croft house into a boarding-house he cannot realise his investment by sale on the open market because he cannot give a title to the property. Neither can he raise a loan on the security of the property for the same reason (apart from a limited loan from the Secretary of State or a loan from the Highlands and Islands Development Board). To get a property title to the site of a building he has to turn to his landlord for a feu of the ground, and the landlord may refuse a feu or grant it at such rate of feu duty as he wishes to impose and in some recent instances this has been very high.

The fact of the matter is that the crofting tenure which was devised in 1886 to bring relief to the crofter is today as inadequate and outmoded as the cruise in an age of electricity.

It has these two great defects (1) that the landlord and those to whom he may sell a title are in position by legal process to gain possession of croft land for development with no more compensation to the crofter than his loss measured in agricultural terms, and (2) that the extent to which the crofter himself may develop other than agriculturally is severely restricted by the nature of his tenure.

Although the crofter does not appreciate how vulnerable is his position in relation to the land which he regards as his own, there are signs that

those to whom the crofter is entitled to look for guidance are alive to the situation.

The Annual Report of the Crofters' Commission issued recently gives the subject prominence. The Commission refer to a resolution passed by the Federation of Crofters' Union in August of last year which asked that crofters should be given the right, if they so desire, to become owner/occupiers of their crofts in exchange for a payment to the landlord of a capitalisation of the rent at a sum and over a period determinable by the Scottish Land Court.

The following November the Annual Conference of the Crofters' Commission's Panel of Assessors was held in Inverness. The Conference consists almost exclusively of the elected representatives of crofters in the seven crofting counties and as such may quite fairly be regarded as a Crofters Parliament. The main item of business at this Conference was crofting tenure and an examination of the terms of the Federation's resolution. The Assessors' deliberations resulted in a unanimous Resolution which identified the serious difficulties which confront crofters under the present system of tenure, acknowledged that a change to owner-occupation was one way

of resolving these difficulties, but postponed further consideration until the Commission had considered the matter and consulted with them at Area Conferences in the Spring.

These Conferences have now taken place but as the Commission's Report is for the year ending 31st December, 1967, no further information is available as to what conclusions they may be forming or as to what the further consultation with Assessors may have produced. It is evident, however, that the issue is not being allowed to go by default.

In commenting on these developments in their Report the Commission state that they share the Assessors view that where non-agricultural developments are taking place the crofter suffers a number of serious disabilities. The crucial question, they say, is whether a change to owner/occupation would be to the advantage of the crofter and what safeguards may be required to ensure that there would be no serious disadvantages. Would a change to owner-occupation be an appropriate culmination of the reform begun with the first Crofters' Act in 1886, and a final stage on the road to complete security of tenure for the crofter?

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In LEITH TOWN HALL

On THURSDAY, 29th AUGUST 1968

at 7.30 p.m. Doors open 7 p.m.

Chairman:

Brigadier A. G. L. MacLean, C.B.E., of Pennycross

World Renowned Pipers include

RONALD MORRISON

HUGH MACALLUM

Pipe-Major ANGUS HACDONALD, Scots Guards

KENNETH MACDONALD

Lieut. JOHN A. MACLELLAN, M.B.E.

Tickets available from Highland House, Lawnmarket; Hugh Macpherson (Scotland) Ltd., West Mainland Street; J. & R. Glen, Lawnmarket; West End Hotel, Palmerston Place; E. W. Ross, 166 Bruntsfield Place, and the Secretary, E. H. Malcolm, 12 Raelston House Park, Limited to 400. Price 5/- Unsold tickets available at door.

Folk Song Competition

Entries are invited for the Gaelic Folk Song Competition to be held on THURSDAY, 10th OCTOBER 1968, at 4.15 p.m., in the QUEENS HALL, DUNOON.

Groups, with or without instrumental accompaniment, will consist of not fewer than three and not more than six members.

Groups will sing Two Songs of their own choice.

No Gaelic Test. Closing date for entries 27th September 1968.

Entries to: The Public Relations Officer, An Comunn Gaidhealach, Abertarf House, Inverness.

Little Islands with Large Stamps

All round the coasts of Britain there are numerous small islands for which the G.P.O. does not provide a regular postal service. Scotland has her fair share of these islands, most of which are inhabited only by lighthouse keepers and their families for whom the lighthouse authorities make arrangements to collect and deliver mail.

During the summer months, the islands are often visited by holiday-makers, either to visit the lighthouse or to watch the seabirds or seals. And, like tourists in any other part of the world, they want some tangible evidence

of running a mail boat from Huna to Stroma, visitors who send letters must affix the Stroma issues. Mail for Stroma is carried free of charge from the Huna Post Office, Wick, where it awaits collection from Stroma.

Pabay

The island of Pabay, two miles off Broadford in Skye, is just under one mile square. The island set of issues are excellent and portray the natural history interest which offers much to the tourist. It was purchased after the last war by A. L. Whitley and now produces Cattle, poultry, knitwear

island) is separated from Skye by a channel less than a mile wide, near Loch Savaig, and the Loch Coruisk which is in the news headlines. The island was described by Dean Monro as a very rough 'isle' where deer used to be and hunting game." Before 1823, Soay was the domain of one family. Soon after, however, it began to be populated by families evicted from nearby districts of Skye. Because the island was infertile, attempts were made to build up a fishing industry.

There is mention in the Reports of the Highland Distitution Relief Society of two east-coast fishing boats based on Soay in 1849. Six native boats were subsequently provided with fishing line, each boat having a crew of four. The fishing activity was followed with vigour. In 1861 the population of Soay was 129. Early in 1953 there were only nine families left (29 people).

At their own request, these families were evacuated and settled in Mull. Since the evacuation the island has become the home for non-Gaelic-speaking incomers who have been most enterprising in their attempts to develop the island's resources.

Readers may recall the purchase of Soay by Gavin Maxwell who has written about his shark-fishing ventures in the Minch. These large fish are common offshore in Highland waters. A hundred years ago the fish were caught for their livers, which yielded an important source of oil. The sharks grow to some 40 feet in length.

There is no G.P.O. collection from Soay. And there is an official delivery only once each month.

6 consists of the lighthouse staff. Mail is conveyed by boatmen, privately hired by the occupiers, weekly, weather permitting.

Davaar is a bold rocky island. Its 'island' status, however, depends on the status of the tide. At low water it is joined to the mainland by a spit of gravel and shingle about a half-mile long, called the Dhorlin. On the south-east side of Davaar there is a cave with a modern painting of the

Highland waters from the Clyde to Stormoray and return.

It was those stormy Highland waters, made turbulent by the hard shores of Sanda that brought the 'Clansman' to grief, a sad end to a sturdy ship which served the communities on the Western Highland seaboard so well and so faithfully.

(Illustrations of stamps by courtesy of J. Sanders Ltd., Southampton.)

SCOTTISH FISHERIES

The prospect for the 1968-69 late-autumn and winter herring fishery in the Minch is of a level of productivity close to that achieved in 1967-68 when landings were at a high level. The average drift-net catch over the season will be about 33 crabs per drift-net shot with 3-year-old and 5-year-old fish being the major components.

There seems little prospect of a successful fishery in this area over the June to September period since 3 and 4-year-old fish always form a major part of the catch during the summer and each of these age groups derives from moderate or poor year classes.

On the Shetland grounds the prospects are that catches will be lower than in 1967 with higher catches in August than the average earlier in the season of 20 crabs per shot. The herring will be predominantly large fish of good quality. The catch from the Buchan grounds which fell sharply last year is again expected to be poor. An Average of about 12 crabs per shot of small to medium-sized herring is expected. In the Clyde no marked improvement in catches can be expected until September when the 1967 year class will join the fishable stocks in increasing numbers.

HIGHLAND FOLKLORE

We have had a request from the Folklore Society for help in bringing their Central Register of Folklore Research up to date. The Register contains names and addresses of those who are engaged on work connected with folklore.

If you know of anyone with this interest please get in touch with: Katherine M. Briggs, President, The Folklore Society, c/o University College, London, Gower Street, London, W.C.1. Please mark your envelope 'Central Register.'

Also if any reader has had published an article or paper on a folklore topic, the Register would be glad to hear about it.



of their visit. They get their memories in the stamps.

These stamps have come onto the scene in recent years. Island-owners, and tenants, have been making special arrangements for any picture postcards or letters posted on the island to be collected by a local boatman, and then taken to the nearest post office on the mainland for posting in the ordinary way.

Of course, the boatman must be paid for his trouble and to raise money for this the holiday-makers buy special labels which resemble postage stamps.

The G.P.O. does not, in fact, recognise these labels to be proper postage stamps. The official name for them is 'local carriage labels', and they must be stuck on the back, not the front, of envelopes. Each postcard or letter sent from the mainland post office must, of course, bear the proper postage stamp.

These labels are particularly attractive. Most of them show the natural history on the islands, either birds, plant life or marine life, such as seals.

Stroma

Stroma lies off the Cathness coast and is a popular item on the tourists' visiting-lists during the summer. To defray the cost

and pottery. The usual population is eight.

Apart from the owner's farm, there is one cottage and one bungalow, each available for holiday rentals during the summer months. The G.P.O. does not collect mail from Pabay. But in 1962 it offered a weekly delivery, providing a local boatman could be found to make it. The owner runs a daily boat service which carries mail to Broadford for the visitors in the summertime and three times weekly in winter for the residents.

Dean Monro, who wrote in 1549, described Pabay as full of woods, good for fishing and a main shelter for thieves and cut-throats. At the end of the 18th century it was used as a wintering place for cattle and could support some 80 beasts. Martin Martin, who wrote about 100 years later, mentioned that the milk yield from Pabay cows was double that from Skye Cows. In 1861 there was a resident population of 6, in 1881 it rose to 10; in 1961 it was again 6. Seven years later the native population had left. The island is of interest to the geologist, with the Pabay Shales and a fine basal dyke with 30 ft. vertical sides.

Soay

The island of Soay (Sheep



The Soay stamp issues are used mainly for local despatch between the island and Broadford, in Skye.

Davaar and Sanda

These two small islands lie off Argyllshire. Davaar is at the mouth of Campbelltown Loch and has a lighthouse on the north-east side. The permanent population of

(IV) is on the Mallaigh-Armadale ferry service.

The first 'Clansman' was on the Glasgow, Oban, Skye and Stornoway run from 1855 to 1869. She was a popular ship and an account of a journey in her is contained in Alexander Smith's 'A Summer in Skye'. This ship was the first of a long line to trek through rough

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

FAILTE Highland Ceilidh

In LEITH TOWN HALL

FRIDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER, at 7.30 p.m.

A WEALTH OF SCOTTISH ENTERTAINMENT

- ★ Scots Guards Pipers
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- ★ Folk Group
- ★ Luadh Party
- ★ Choirs
- ★ Clarsachs
- ★ Gaelic Soloists

Tickets 12/6, 10/6, 7/6 (from Edinburgh Book Shop, 57 George Street, Edinburgh; Saltire Society, Gladstone's Land, Edinburgh; Hugh MacPherson, 17 West Maitland Street, Edinburgh 12).

LOCAL ISLANDS STAMPS

Our latest list now available free of charge includes:

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Famhair Chamusladail

le IAIN MACAONGHUIS

Cha robh air a bhaile a' cur lan earbsa ann an iomradh a thug na balaich air neart agus comas an reubaire, ach ann mhadaoin, rinn Ruairidh Ban agus Fionnadh MacPhail mocheirigh agus rinn iad cuairt air a mhonadh air son suil a chumail air an stoc. Shuidh iad treiseag ann am fasgadh creige agus ann an tìotan bha a' phìob a' dol aig an dithis. Suil a thug iad, de a chunnaic iad mu cheithir ceud slat air falbh ach an ceathnach bu mhuga a chuir cas riann air an fhearnan aca. Bha feileadh luideach dubh-glas a' ruigh-eachd sìos mu 'iosgadan agus cota gearr de leathar no de sheice mairt na feidh mu a chom. Bha boireid leathan mu cheann agus gach nì eile dìreach mar a dh'innis na balaich. Cha do ghluais iad agus ann a' mionaid chunnaic iad cleas a dhearbhaidh dhaibh sgil agus comas an fhir mhoir. Bha doblhadhach daimh a' cnamh a chirein air leanag ghorm, beagan a mach o'n spreidh eile. Stad an sealgair. Ghlac e an slachdan daraich ans a laimh dheas. Thilg e an urchair cho dìreach ri saighdear. Fhuair an slachdan an damh mu chul na cluaise. Choisich an gaduiche air a shocair fhein a null do'n chlosaich. Ghlac e an cabar agus thug e buille eile do'n dach ach cha robh feum air sin. Chrom e agus ghlac e ceithir chasan an daimh na dha laimh agus le tulgadh beag thog e a chlo-sach mu' amhaich, dìreach mar gu'm biodh coilear. Thionndaidh e agus rinn e air an rathad dhachaigh. Chuir na chunnaic iad fur uamhas air an dithis aca. De a b'ur-rinn dhaibh a dhanamh an aghaidh, a lethid seo de nambaid? Cha robh dad idir. Ann am prìobhad na sula, dh'aithnich iad nach robh ach truaighe agus bochdainn a' feitheamh air teaghlach ean a' bhaile.

Thill iad dhachaigh agus dh'innis iad de a chunnaic iad. Chruinnich na fir air son comhairle. Bha ceistean lìonmhòr, ach co a' fheargradh iad? Co e, no cia as a thainig e? Bha cuid de na mnathan ag eisdeachd ri armagaiden na Parlamaid. "Se Eirionnach a tha ann," arsa ann te. "Tha mise am beachd gur e Sasunnach a tha ann agus e teicheadh o'n phress-gang" arsa te eile. "Thea-gamh gur e mortair agus e a teicheadh o'n chroich," arsa cailleach. "Tha mise a leth-bheachd," arsa bodach liath, "gur e a tha againn an seo fear de sheann churaidhean na Feinne. Tha e anns an fhaiseachd, gur d'uisgear laoiach na Fheinne a tha fo gheasaibh agus gu'n tig iad air an ais am measg dhaoine beo. Seo fear dhiubh, tha mi a lan cheisinn."

"Chan 'eil an sin ach rolaistean gun cheill," thubhairt fear og agus coltas sgiobalta

air. Bha e da bhliadhna a frithealadh sgòil na paraiside ficeadh mìle air falbh. Sgrìobhadh e agus leughadh e beagan Beurla, agus mar sin bha e an dearbhaidh beachd gun robh glicias aige nach deachaidh a bhùleachadh air cagh. Mu dheireadh, thubhairt Murdoch Breatadair, dune stolda smaointeachail, "Bheirinn-sa am mart as fhearr anns a' bhathaich do'n duine a chuireadh croich air a' chonnasachadh air son tìotan, agus arsa Domhnall Eachain a bha seasamh ri a thaobh: "Cha bhithinn-sa air dheireadh air Murdoch na'm biomaid uile deonach air duais mhath a thoirt do'n laoch a shabhaileas sinn o'n teanntachd seo." Dh'ionntaich iad uile. Chaidh an naidheachd troimh 'n bhaile. Bha triuir laoch aga sgairteil a bha lan dheonach air an t-oidhirp a dheanamh. Ann oide chiorcha, rinn iad air an uaimhe, cuaille trom uinseann aig gach fear, agus da rop math laidir air son an ceathnach a cheangal, na'm faigheadh iad lamh an uachdair air. Chaidh leotha gu gasda gu beul na h-uaimhe. Bha srann farumach aig an dithis a bha a stigh. Bha ar triuir laoch ullamh air son gluasad gu samhach air adhart, nuair a chual iad comiart nimeil o chul dorcha na h-uamha. Na gloicean. Dhi-chuimhnich iad an cu mor searg. Dhuisg na cadaleic. Leum an ceathnach mor air a chasan. Ghlac e an slachdan daraich, agus dh'èigh e, "Co tha sud." Thionndaidh na tri laoiach. Chaidh iad buapra gach cudthrom a bha orra. Sgàp iad agus rinn iad air a' mhonadh. Rinn an fear mor aoin ionnsaigh leas an t-slachdan. Chaidh an uir-chair seachad air cluais fear dhe na balaich. Bha e fortanach, oir b'ainneamh an t-am a chail an ceathnach mor a mas. Fhuair na balaich dhachaigh. Bha an anail na'n uchd ach bha iad sabhailte. Chuir an sgeul migh-eann air muinntir a' bhaile.

Ach thoisich an da ghille a fhuair a' cheud sealladh air an fhear mhor air smaoin.

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD
Mr and Mrs Angus MacTavish, Dunoon, were delegates from the National Mod to the Welsh National Eisteddfod which took place at Barry, South Wales, during the week 5th to 10th August. On Tuesday afternoon, before a crowd of 8000 in the Eisteddfod Pavilion, the spectacular ceremony of the crowning of the Bard was followed by the pre-empting of the Scottish and Cornish delegates to the Arch-druid. After this Mr MacTavish in Gaelic and Dr Chesterfield in Cornish conveyed greetings from their respective Celtic races to the Eisteddfod. The proceedings were televised by B.B.C. Wales.

neachadh. Cha deanadh neart a mhaoin an gnothach. Bha feum air seoltachd agus innleachd. "Nach b'e na bum-alraean an triuir ud nach gò chumhnich air a chul?" Mar sin, gach feasgar mu chiorach an latha, thug iad orra gu curamach air rathad na h-uaimhe agus chum iad an duine mor agus a bhean ro aire. Agus an cu. Mhothaich iad gu'm b'abhaist do'n chu deanadh air a' mhonadh leis fhein gach darnacha h-oidhe. Ann oide chunnaic iad a tileadh le gearr agus oidhe eile a' slaodadh othaigh mharb as a dheidh. Bha soirbheas a' dol a bha orra, dh'fheumadh iad an t-oidhirp a dheanamh air oidhe a' bhithheadh am madadh air a mhonadh.

Highland Board Want Shetland Branch Office

Last Thursday, Shetland Chamber of Commerce asked the Scottish Secretary to turn down a recommendation from Shetland County Council that the local Civil Defence Building be given over to the Red Cross and WRVS.

The Highland Development Board had put in a claim for the building, which would be used as a branch office, and while the Chamber respected the needs of the voluntary organisations, they felt that the Board had a better claim in respect of the economic development of the islands.

If the Highland Board arc

turned down, they have no other immediate plans, but they have expressed a definite interest in having a Shetland office in the near future.

Auctioneer and Appraiser

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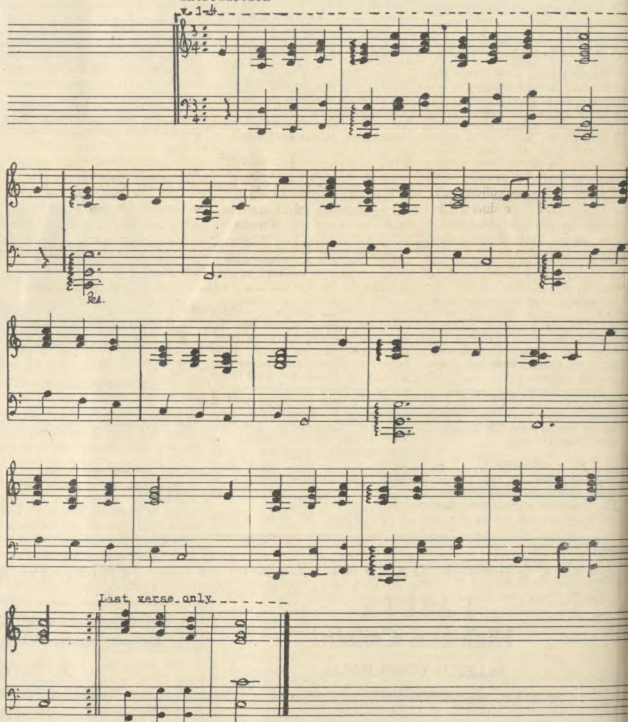
Telephone 102

REMOVER STORER
PACKER SHIPPER

LOCH OBHA

This song was composed by Thomas Ewart, Oban. The Gaelic translation is by John MacLean, Oban.

Introduction



'S mi ceumadh na slighe as dùth dhomh bhith triall
Air latha geal samhraidh 'n trath leagas a' ghrian
A gathan air luasganaich uisgeachan air.

'S e 'n loch ud a mheallas mo cheòl.
Mu Loch mheallas Obha 's mi gabhail an rìod
Srean sìte mo rogha chur pùball air dòigh
Fo do gharbh-bheannaibh àrda 's mu d'bhurn domhainn reids
Far an tric dh'fhàis casgair ri bradan nan lean.

Loch Obha an linne tha boidheach thar chlàir.
Agus 's breac i le innsan ion-dealbhach air clàr.
'Nam measg-san gu sonraichte glacadh nan sol
Sheasas uairbreach is aosd' air a laralach Caol Chòirn.

Air allseach an loch, 's e mar reul air faich 'oidhch.
Is air cumhadh do dhealain as dealraiche solais.
Ar solus 's ar dòchas aig ciaradh an là.
O, togamaid iolach le binneas is bàidh!

Is iomadh fear sgrìobhaidh a deonach a thèid
Troimh 'n ghiuthas a dhreiss cuimr ri speur,
Troimh Eldrinn ghlennach 's nall chun an Ach,
Ro-annas gach seallaidh 'gan tarraing a ghnàth.

POLITICAL ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE

There is an old Manx saying 'Gyn glare Gyn Cheer'—No language no country, and it is very true to say that the backbone of the Manx nationalist movement is composed in the main of those devoted to our language.

On the other hand however there also exists a considerable section of public opinion increasingly in favour of greater

by J. F. IRVING

independence in the political field, but not as yet alive to the need of independence in the cultural field also.

At the moment Mee Vannin (the political movement) has approached Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh (Manx Language Society) with the view of making joint effort to bring what pressure they can on the Education Authority to get Manx taught in our schools, and we hope in the near future to be able to make an announcement about progress in this matter.

At the present time our youth are being educated almost entirely within the limits of the British School curriculum, no serious attempt is made to teach Manx history let alone Manx Gaelic. This is a hang-over from Victorian times when Lock, with the Governors powers of those days, steamrollered all opposition and introduced the present system which by the 80 or so years of its duration has become established in the minds of many as the only possible one.

However much this present system is to be deplored in its effects on our community as a whole, it must be admitted that for an ambitious individual with no great sense of responsibility to this community it provides an excellent avenue of advancement as the standard of instruction in our schools is generally accepted as being superior to that obtaining in many other parts of the British Isles, and the proportion of students attending Universities is higher than that of Great Britain.

The attitude of the Manx teaching profession to Manx Culture is more favourable than it has been, but they are hampered by lack of suitable text books.

The old attitude of mind which led to the depression or suspension of the national language has largely disappeared.

Our Education Authority have provided Manx Classes at Night Schools (for adults) but this while encouraging is not enough in itself to place the language in the position it should occupy.

The political situation at present favours the promotion of all forms of Nationalism and it is hoped that the seed we are sowing will fall on good ground.

(Reprinted from the 1964 Annual of Celtic League—10/- from 9 Br Caoc Sion, Dublin)

Naidheachdan Mu Na h-Eaglaisean Air A' Ghaidhealtachd

Le "FEAR-FAIRE"

EAGLAIS NA H-ALBA

Ministear ìr

Bho chionn ghoirid chaidh an t-Urr. Daibhidh MacGhille-dhuibh a phòsadh ri Eaglais Cheann Loch Liobhann. Buinidh ann ministear òg seo do Chelso, agus chaidh oileanachadh ann an Dùn-éideann, far an tug e amach B.Sc., agus anns a' Chòlaisde Nuaidh 's a' bhaile sin.

Ban-ghàidheal an Israel

Tha a' Mhaighdeann Uasal Eona Nic Cuinn, 'a Inbhirnis, gu bhith air a sudheachadh ann an Taberna, an Israel, far am bheil sgoil ag an Eaglais. Tha i 'a' cur roimhe a bhith tri bliadhna thall. Tha i air a bhith 'a' teagas ann an Cinn 'a' Ghuthsaich.

Féilltean

Chum Comunn nam Ban féill bho chionn ghoirid. Chaidh £216 a thoirt a stigh. Ann an coimhthionalan eile tha na boireannaich air a bhith trang a' cruinneachadh, agus seo mar a chaidh dhaibh anns na h-aithean a leanas—A' Choincheall, £115; Muile, £130; Taigh an Uillt, £210.

Ann an Cas-cheuman Athar

Bidh Mgr. Donnchadh Dòmhnallach, a tha 'a' fuireach 's an Oban, a' toiseachadh ann cùst na diadhaireachd ann an Oban-dheadhain a's t-fhoghar. Bha athair, an t-Urr. Uilleam Dòmhnallach, nach maireann, 'ne ministear 's an Oban, agus Albannach.

bha meas mòr air ann an iomadh àite.

Ministear Gàidhlig

Tha Eaglais Thobar-mhoire a nis b'ann agus bidh an coimhthional toilithe ma gheibh iad ministear a bhruidhneas a' Gàidhlig. Tha Tobar-mhoire air fear de na coimhthionalan a tha "Gaelic-desirable," ach ro thrìth tha Goill air an sudheachadh ann an àiteachan mar sin.

AN EAGLAIS SHAOR

Aiteachan-adhraidh

Anns a' mhiosachan tha iomradh air eaglais air leth anns gach àireamh, le dealbh an taigh-adhraidh agus cunntas air eachdraidh a' choimhthional. Anns an Lùnasdal tha sgrìobhadh air a thoirt ann follais mu eaglais ann an Cinn a' ghùrthsaich agus Bail' Urr an t-Slèibh, far am bheil an t-Urr. Dòmhnall MacLeòid 'na mhinistear.

AN EAGLAIS CHAITLIGEACH

Inbhe Urr

Tha am Fìor Urr. Steaphan MacGhille, Easbaig Earra-ghàidheal agus nam Eilean gu bhith air a shuidheachadh mar Easbaig ann an Pàislig. Tha e air a bhith omdh bliadhna 's au dreuchd seo mar easbaig, agus nuair a chaidh a choisigeadh ann an 1960 b'esan am fear a b' òige de na h-easbaigean Albannach.



'Se toil-inntinn

dhuinne 'bhith

saoithreachail dhuibhse

BANK OF SCOTLAND

AM BANCA BHUINNEAS DO ALBA MHAIN

AIR TUR NA FAIRE



AN EAGLAIS EASBAIGEACH

Seirbhis Shònraichte

Tha eachdraidh mhòr cheangailte ris an Teampall Mhòr ann an Eorabaidh ann an Leòdhas, agus uair 'sa bhliadhna bidh ministear na h-Eaglais Easbaigich ann an Steòrnabhagh a' cumail seirbhis 's an togalach sin anns an robh iomadh ginealach ag adhradh. Chumadh an t-seirbhis bliadhnaidh bho chionn ghoirid agus bha grunnan math de luchd-turais an làthair.

SOP AS GACH SEID . . . BHA BUIDHEANN de nighnean a tha 'nam buill anns a' chomunn Girls' Crusaders' Union aig camp faisg air Caol Loch Aillse. Bha ochd air fhichead dhiubh ann, a iomadh cearn de Bhrèatainn, agus bha iad ceithir latha deug air a' t-

Ghàidhealtachd.

BHA AN CO-CHRUINN-EACHADH bliadhnaidh aig buidhinn de'n Faith Mission 's an Oban air an 21mh latha de'n Lùnasdal. Bha an t-Urr. Donnchadh Caimbeul as an Oban a' labhairt.

BHEIL NA RUDAN a tha a' tachairt 's an Eaglais agad-sa a' faighinn àite air an duilleig seo Mura h-eil faodaidh tu sin a leasachadh le bhith a' cur naideachdan o am gu am chun an Fhìr-dheasachaidh.

COMHARAN NA H-AIMSIR

"To-day we are at least at the beginning of the Gaelic renaissance and the appearance of "Sruth" is one of the signs of the times."

Thomas M. Donn, "The Scotsman," 14/8/68

Gheibh Thu Faighte Chridheil Aig Buth A' Cho-op

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COMPTE RENDU, CON AMORE

There are some subjects which cannot be written about unless one has a first-hand knowledge of them. Whisky is one of these. But — like fine works of art, good music and rare literature, one must approach them with intelligence and an ability to appreciate the aesthetic character of the object of reverence.

Iain Cameron Taylor has approached the subject of Highland Whisky in this frame of mind. No whimsy, no attempt to clothe the subject with a false mystique, nor glossing of facts are in the recent pamphlet issued by An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Instead, we have a factual approach to a subject which has all too often been over-glamourised in the past. One might call this a whisky-drinker's guide through the Highlands; or 'the Complete Imbiber's Guide to Whisky.' Whatever the name, for it will serve all purposes to all men, it is a

timely publication.

It puts whisky in perspective. It places the product in that very niche which has been denied it for so long — alongside the places occupied by the superior wines and distillations of foreign shores.

There is a great learning apparent in the author's easily-read prose, and this is enhanced by the obvious first-hand knowledge which the author has accumulated during his lifetime. Not that one needs become an alcoholic in the tracking down and sampling these creams of the grain which abound in Scotland. For it is only the fool who ever allows himself to become besotted and drunk with whisky.

The author's emphasis is on single malt whiskies. Not only do the more familiar of these find a place here, but also, deservedly, those products from small stills which do not so often find their way to the discriminating connoisseur for him to apply his subjective tests of

appreciation in these creations of fine art.

Fine art they are. For only dedication and strict adherence to the laws of the creative Muses can yield such fine gifts for those who appreciate them.

Might one call this devotion to the single malt a religion? For surely it is perfection which is the goal of the distiller and it is the taste of perfection to which the sensitive and, more sentient, worshipper strives during his lifetime of second-class blends and disappointments at finding a favourite product out of stock or — worse — that the still has been closed down to satisfy the evil machinations of economists. Beatae memoriae!

One finds little on which to fault the author. Perhaps one point. He says: "Why the Long Island (the Outer Hebrides) never had its own distilleries I find hard to understand."

Well, Lewis once had two distilleries, one at Gress and

(Continued on next page)



Only one in 10,000 is this different—may we tell you why?

Because Glenfiddich is a Straight Malt. Of the many millions of gallons of whisky sold, far and away the majority are blends. Only a small fraction are malts. Among these one of the most distinguished is Grant's Glenfiddich. Every drop comes from the Glenfiddich Distillery in Dufftown—and what makes it even more a rarity, it is bottled there too. It may be that you have never tasted a Straight Malt. In that case you cannot know the difference in taste and texture between a Straight Malt and a 'blend'. If you are a man who enjoys a glass of whisky, we think you will be doing yourself a kindness in rectifying the omission.

The Making of a Straight Malt

Soft Highland water which has been filtered through peat, and runs over the impervious Scottish granite is a first essential: the other raw ingredient is fine plump barley. The barley must be allowed to start germinating and then dried. This is known as malting. The maltster turns the grain to aid the germination with a flat wooden shovel which is a

replica of the one before and the one before that way back to the first malt shovel. Then the barley is dried over peat fires which not only give the right kind of slow, even glowing heat but also infuse the barley with that famed reek considered essential to the final flavour of a rare whisky.

The pot stills used are old and small—dull gleaming copper studded with rivets. They are run very slowly—the old sure way, so as to give a steady uniform flow of the spirit. From such stills comes Glenfiddich Straight Malt Whisky with a uniqueness of character and taste which is all its own.

The Importance of Age

The spirit is finally run from the still and then starts its last stage. For over eight years it is left in old oak casks. Time takes over and matures Glenfiddich into a still, pale liquid, smooth to

drink with no burning sensation. Just a gentle after-glow. And to ensure that there is no loss of quality whatsoever, Grant's bottle Glenfiddich at the distillery.

Is it easy to find?

Not always. There is a limit to the amount that can be distilled at any one time and the extended maturation period further restricts supply. An increasing number of selective bars and hotels have it in stock as do most really good Off Licences. If you do not find it in stock, a request will often ensure that it will be kept available. But if you do experience any difficulty in finding it we should be only too happy to supply you with the name of your nearest stockist if you write to us at the Glenfiddich Distillery, Dufftown, Banffshire.

GLENFIDDICH Straight Malt Scotch Whisky

MALT WHISKY

the other at Coll. This was in the early part of the 19th century. Their fame was widespread and their quality, unfortunately, is now a snippet in the folklore and legend of Lewis.

There was, at a later date, a small still in the grounds of Lews Castle near Stornoway. This was the Shoeburn still. Only recently in Stornoway were some — empty — bottles of distinctive shape found to remind us that a former generation had the good fortune to be contemporaries with that excellent product.

So there it is: Highland Whisky, a tale of wonders written in the genre of the old seannachies who had the ability to bring alive the very essence of tradition.

F. G. T.
'Highland Whisky' by Iain Cameron Taylor; from An Comunn Gàidhealach, Abertarf House, Inverness, price 1/6d.

Build Your Own Distillery

by IAIN CAMERON TAYLOR

Stung perhaps by the fact that it was costing me the equivalent of a round of drinks to Mr Jenkins and his senior minions every time I wanted a dram, I decided to build my own distillery at home. Now, lest my humble dwelling is invaded by a gaggle of gaugers, let me warn HM Customs and Excise, not from any sense of duty — far less whisky duty — that they'll be hard put to it to find my cauldron and worm, for my distillery is built to a scale of 3½ mm. to one foot. It is a model one, in every sense, and I don't want their tackety boots all over it — or do they

wear soft-soled "creepers" nowadays?

Please, dear thirsty reader, don't laugh. After all, what's wrong with beauty in the home. Some folks find it in furniture and some in the pictures they hang, but being a three-dimensional sort of a chap, I've found that rare essence in this model of one of the founts of Scotland's noblest gifts to mankind.

My distillery, like "the cratur" itself, took some time to mature, as I had never seen one modelled before. I have, however, been familiar with distilleries from a dis-

(Continued on Page Twelve)



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IAIN CAMERON TAYLOR WITH HIS MODEL DISTILLERY



tance (and their excellent products more closely for a number of years, but familiarity, or the smell of a cork, form an inadequate basis for building a scale model and I soon had to seek expert advice.

The managing director of a firm controlling a number of distilleries throughout the

Highlands readily gave his help when approached on the subject. He produced photographs and plans of a typical small Highland malt distillery and I set to work on my drawing board.

About this period I was fast becoming a kenspeckle (and slightly suspicious) figure as I sat and sketched odd details

outside various distilleries in the north, including, of course, my selected prototype.

Only the simplest of tools and materials were required — a craft knife, straight-edge, cardboard of various thicknesses, scraps of wood, hardboard, a selection of modellers' building papers

and a good stout half-inch board for the base — and, of course, plenty of glue and patience. Only the malt kiln, with pagoda roof and cupola presented any difficulty in building and a good deal of trial and error occurred before I was satisfied.

Mash room, tun room, engine room and still house followed in easy stages and then the receiving room and manager's office. The final job was of assembling all the buildings together, in the right order. The Aberdeen-Angus herd feeding on 'draff' from the mash seemed a logical accessory.

Let me warn any Glencoe bodaich who may have been deceived (or had their hopes raised) by the sight of the local mountains behind the distillery in the photograph; it is only an old railway poster which I used for scenic effect and background. Still, mind you, it could be the second sight — again!

I'll bet you are saying: "Why a' this work and no' a drappie whisky at the end o't?" But hae ye nae imagination? Wheest, there's some limmer chappin' at the door... Aye, that was the manager with some 10-year-old 'Kilmorie-Glenlivet' ready now for sampling. Slainte... Man, she's chust sublime.

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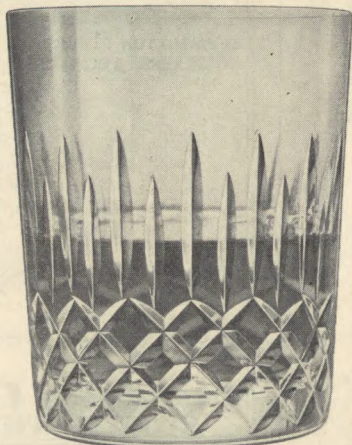
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