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HIBD LAND RECLAMATION SCHEMES SURVEY

It was announced on Monday that the Highlands and Islands Development Board are to carry out preliminary studies into the potential for reclamation of large tracts of estuarial silt and sand flats in five areas in the Highlands and Islands.

The Board Member for agriculture, Mr Prophet Smith, stressed that these surveys were aimed primarily at reclaiming land for agriculture. The areas to be surveyed are the Dornoch, Cromarty, Beaulieu and Inverness Firths, the Kyle of Tongue in North West Sutherland and around Baleshara Island in North Uist. Work has already started on an Engineering Survey to find out the cost of reclaiming over 1,000 acres of sand flats in the Valley Strand in North Uist.

Mr Smith said, "When we published our agricultural policy recently we indicated our inter-

est in land reclamation and regeneration. This is one of our first steps in putting that policy into action. Agriculture has a vital part to play in the development of the Highland economy and we fully intend to see that it is given an opportunity not only to maintain its position, but to expand wherever possible.

The surveys will be carried out on behalf of the Board by engineers of the Department of Agriculture. Their purpose is to find out about the quality of the silt and sand; to give a rough indication of what would be necessary in the way of reclamation; and to indicate whether further detailed work is worthwhile.

The Macaulay Institute have promised their help on soil analysis and the County Councils concerned have indicated their full support and co-operation.

Oilthigh na Gaidhealtachd?

The university is a very powerful instrument for the development of society and development promise cannot be fulfilled if the university does not build creatively on local traditions which have a continuing social and cultural value. Is it now time to start thinking what purpose a Highland University should fulfil?

De an seorsa oilthigh ris an coir duil a bhi againn ma tha i dol a chomhfhachd geallaidhean na linn se a thaobh leasachaidh air a Ghaidhealtachd is anns na h-Eileanan. Chan eil teagamh ma tha i dol a dheanamh feum gun coir dhih bit eadar dhaelachite bho'n fhichead na a againn mar tha. Tha oilthigh sam bith a' teagas, a' rannachadh, agus a' deanamh seirbhis. Ma tha athrachadh a' dol a thiginn bit choir a dh'oilthigh a bhi air thoiseach 'sna cinn sin. Ach 'sann a thaobh colas air calantas agus gnothuichean co-cheangailte ri atharrachadh an doigh beatha is dualchas sluaigh bu mhotha a chuireadh sinn a dh'fheum an ceart uair. Agus chan urrainn de dh'oilthigh sin a dheanamh mur a bith fhios an toiseach air a h-uile ni de ghnathuichean an latha is as na linn na a dh'fhalbh a thaobh aiteachaidh, iasgach, dualchas cultur, riaghailte an t-sluaigh fhein, an doigh oibreach, agus na frumhaichean o bheil iad a' tarraing beus an creidimh, ceol agus gairne. Cha b' e gu feum na Gaidhealtachd mas e doigh na Gall na fheirear a seach a thilgeas cleachdaidhean agus doigh beatha an t-sluaigh gu tur an dara taobh.

Ma nithear so cha bhi oilthigh ach an crochadh ri sgolteireachd air eacdhraidh, canan is oideachadh nach buin do mhuinntir na tìre.

Tha gu leor de thidsearan, minisdearan, agus dotairean againn an ceart uair s' e dh'fheumas sinne ach d'acine lamhach air fearann, 's an tionsganail cinnsanaran, fir ghnathuich (entrepreneur), daoine eolach air a Ghaidhealtachd is gnathuichean eaconomice agus namaidhean (administrators). Feumaidh an oilthigh is na h-oileanaich a bhi an sis a' leasachadh na dithcha chan ann ag amharc air mar chuspair nach buin dhaibh. Tha spiorad ri chruthachadh ann measg an t-sluaigh airson sgheimchean a dhaelth dhaibh fein. Ma tha adhartas 'ga dheanamh ann an cuid de na cuspair an tha chum maith an t-sluaigh feumar eolas is cuideachadh a thoir dhaibh-coriadh a dheanamh eadar eolach.

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SEIRBHISEAN ADHAIR



Tha an Bord ag cur cuideam air seirbhisean adhair air a' Ghaidhealtachd. So agabih am plein aig Logan Air is Coinneach Mac A' Ghobhainn ag cuir pacaid de theaspichean chun a Bh.B.C. an Glaschu.

Air services within the Highlands are regarded with considerable importance by the Highlands and Islands Development Board. This is the Loganair plane to Stormoyar with K. J. Smith sending off a package of tapes for the B.B.C.

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WRITE FOR FREE CATALOGUE

The First Fling

This was the name given to a concert arranged by the Largs Branch of An Comunn in Barrfields Pavilion to open Scottish Week.

Lord Bannerman of Kildonan was Fear an Tighe and he was introduced by Mr William McIvor, President of the local branch, who welcomed a big audience which included Provost and Mrs Donald and the Earl and Countess of Glasgow.

Lord Bannerman said that tremendous work was being done to try to maintain the Gaelic language and culture. Today more than ever they

had to try to get some kind of balance against the terrible materialism which was in the world.

Artists included Alasdair Gillies, the Livingstones, George Clavey, May Kidd, Nina MacCallum, dancers Iain Macdonald with Kathleen and Jeanette. Readings were given by Robert Wallace and the accompanist was Mrs Norma MacDougall.

Mrs Lyle, Chairman of the Chamber of Trade, thanked the local Branch and complimented them on their organisation.

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woman to woman

Salad Days

The third and last salad in this series is perhaps the tastiest and easiest to make—and suitable as a snack at any time of the year, not only summer.

Peel 2 oranges and cut into sections, removing all the skin and pith. Put into a shallow dish and sprinkle with chopped garden mint. Add 1 tablespoon olive oil, 2 teaspoons vinegar and 1 teaspoon lemon juice—mixed first. After adding all these ingredients to the oranges, leave to stand for a short time before serving.

Particularly delicious served with cold roast duck.

Anti-Moth Treatment

About this time of year most people are putting away their warmer winter clothes and at long last bringing their lighter summer ones out of storage. But how many of you are remembering to have all your winter clothes dry cleaned before packing them away? "Why if they aren't dirty," I can hear you ask. But even though you don't think they're dirty they will be. "But why not wait until we're going to wear them again?" you may be wondering.

Well, it may surprise you, but it is dirt which attracts moths. They just love it and indeed thrive on it. A good safeguard against a "moth attack" is to thoroughly clean your wardrobes, chests and cupboards to be used for storage. To be even more sure of fending off the destructive creatures occasionally bring the stored clothes into the fresh air and sunlight to give them a good brush.

Remember that although materials made from natural fibres like wool and fur are the most susceptible, it is the dirt and not the material itself that attracts the moths.

Rainy Day Pastime

A task which all children, without fail, enjoy is baking, but the mess it can cause is more upsetting to mum than the peace it keeps. But here is a good no-mess recipe just right to keep the young ones busy on one of the inevitable wet holidays.

Peppermint Cream

2 eggs (whites)
1 lb. icing sugar
peppermint essence to taste.
Add sugar slowly to eggs (whites) and beat until smooth. Remove from bowl and knead (using icing sugar to prevent sticking) for about 10 minutes. Roll out to about ¼ inch thickness and cut into circles (an ideal cutter for this is the wrong end of an icing nozzle). Place on greaseproof paper and allow to set.

New Strength

There are so many deodorants and anti-perspirants on the market nowadays that it can be a hopeless task choosing just the one for you. The array of sprays, roll-ons, aerosols and sticks is quite baffling, but one which is sure to suit almost everyone is the new Cool Charm Roll-On Deodorant. It is advertised as being four times as strong as the previous product, which enables it to live up to its title.

If you have tried all the well-known brands and still cannot find one that really does the trick, buy a bottle of the new Cool Charm.

Development Of Uig

Mr Russell Johnston, Liberal M.P. for Inverness-shire has been in correspondence with the Minister of State for Scotland, Dr Dickson Mabon, about the proposals for the development of Uig, Skye, announced by him last month.

Mr Johnston commented: "While I am very pleased at the prospect of development work being done in Uig, I think it cannot be stressed too strongly that it is essential that local people be fully consulted, not just after someone somewhere has made up his mind what sort of plans they ought to be. Consultation of local interest ought to take place now, so that local feelings and knowledge can have a proper influence on whatever plans are finally produced."

Mr Johnston has written to Uig Village Council, urging them to get in touch with the County Council and the Scottish Office.

"The Children Of Larbert"

This is the name of a new composition in honour of the children of the district who attend the Saturday morning classes in Piping, Drumming and Highland Dancing. The new tune was composed by Drum-Major Robert Bruce who is the senior drumming instructor at the classes. It was played for the first time in public at the school open-day recital held on 22nd June 1966.

The children gave a colourful display in two teams. The beginners class danced "The Highland Fling" and they were followed by the advanced class who danced "The Reel of Tulloch" in fine style.

The more experienced pupils at the classes have had a very successful season with Colin Kirkpatrick winning the "Daily Record" trophy at Dumries and his brother Iain winning two 1st and one 3rd prize at Lorimer Day competition at Lanark. Miss Rosemary McGuire gained 4 1st prizes at the Selkirk competition and is going on a three-week tour of Russia and Germany in August.

Miss Irene McKechnie and Mr Alex. McGuire are to be congratulated on the high standards attained by their pupils.

The first public performance of Mr Bruce's new tune "The Children of Larbert" was played by Mr Robert Richardson (a young piper from Muirhead & Son P.B.) accompanied by Mr David Bruce (son of the composer) on the side-drum and tenor drummer Gordon Craig. Drum-Major Bruce has written his new tune in full musical score so that both the drumming and piping class can play the tune as the composer wishes it to be played in line with his well-known ideas on "Ensemble Playing."

The drumming class then followed in two groups. The performance was most encouraging for the future.

Drum-Major Robert Bruce thanked everyone who had supported the recital and the County Education Committee for their assistance in making the display possible. Representing Stirling C.C. were County Councillors Messrs R. Hill, Malcolm and Valentin and Mrs Provan from the local District Council.

HOUSES BUILT IN SCOTLAND

During May, 3,703 houses were completed in Scotland bringing the total of completions in the first five months of the year to 15,434 compared with 14,043 in the same period last year, announce the Scottish Development Department.

The number started in May was 3,996—bringing the total of starts in the first five months to 17,288 compared with 17,968 in the corresponding period of last year.

Review Order

Oban High School

School magazines are becoming slicker every year: in presentation, printing, layout. Might one forecast that in a few years time these magazines could well become the media through which the new generation of writers find expression? For the literary magazine front in Scotland is ridiculously small and inadequate.

In any case, it was a pleasure to receive the 1968 magazine of Oban High School. The cover, by Mr Guthrie of the Art Department, is striking and creates the necessary whetting of the appetite. Somehow the cover invites us to read a novel rather than the contents of a school magazine.

As usual, the Foreword is by the Rector, Mr Farquhar MacIntosh. And as usual, he has produced some food for thought about education. It may be significant that too often it is the educationists in schools outwith the maelstrom of society which produces the deep thinkers to produce the ideas necessary and appropriate for the community in which they live.

The contents, as usual, are varied in topic and quality of presentation. One is glad to see the Gaelic content increased. But again, as last year, one would wish for Gaelic to be used to express the more fundamental things of life and living.

As it is, there is good reading here in both Gaelic and English. And one must congratulate the editors and the contributors for going out of the normal school-mag stream of

contents and into the often more interesting laterals.

In particular one must mention (was this an idea of the Geography Department?) the pieces on various parts of Argyll: Jura, Kinlochleven, Barra, Dunstaffnage Marine Research Laboratory. This is the best way to find out about the countryside around the town; to visit, ask questions and record impressions. On the efforts shown in this issue, one might ask the School to conduct one social, economic and industrial survey each year and publish the results in the Magazine. There are many places worthy of such attention, and the effort would contribute to our comparative knowledge of past, present and projected future of a place like, say, Kinlochleven.

Edwin Morgan contributes a useful survey piece on the school's justly-famous author, Iain Crichton Smith.

One must end with praise for the Oban Magazine and one small quote from the notice on "Fencing," a new recreational activity in the school. The contributor ends "... we hope next year will bring new blood and more equipment." Perhaps they don't quite mean it that way!

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IRISH FIGHT FOR FREEDOM — IN LITERATURE

Part 2

LITERATURES OF THE '16 RISING

The Gaelic League, as Pearce said, was the well-spring of the Irish Revolution. Small wonder, therefore, that it should recur time and again in those memoirs or autobiographies which have appeared. Dughlas de hÍde, who recommended the formation of such a body in 1892 at a meeting of the Contemporary Club and who became its first President when it was launched the following

back to League headquarters. Such was the schizophrenia of the times, that in Clifden it was put to him that if he wanted to continue his Irish classes he would have to join the AOH, who owned the only hall in the town. He did, and though his membership was short-lived, his account of this brief sojourn is very interesting as a comment on the often overlooked social structure of the Ireland of the time. He left in disgust eventually, having been charged — in his absence, of course — and sentenced for buying a suit for

by PADRAIG O' SNOAIGH

year, has written a pleasant volume, *Mise agus An Conradh*, published by Oifig an tSolathair in 1937. He does not bring the story far enough to talk about the 1915 IRB takeover bid, when, by packing the Coiste Gnotha, they endeavoured to ensure that the League would be politically "safe". It might seem odd that such a thing was necessary, but the novelty of the League had attracted many dilettantes like George Moore; and big house slumbers like Lord Ashbourne, who in his kilts and as MacGiolla Bride, was a common figure at Feiseanna and functions in the early years of the movement, although he devoted much of his time after the outbreak of the European War to recruiting activities for the British Army. Much earlier than this, Liam O' Mairneáin — Fear na Muintire — had urged the League to cease its political fence sitting, but without result. Unfortunately there is no life of Rooney yet — one of the many regrettable lacunae in our literature.

We are, however, fairly rich in autobiographies or personal memoirs of particular periods — richer, in fact, than in our stock of comparable books in English.

One of my favourites is Colm O' Gaora's *Mise*, published by Oifig an tSolathair in 1943, where, again, the Gaelic League is a central core of the book. It includes many fascinating accounts of the author's travels as organiser and teacher. The question of politics and the League is raised, and his account of the extent to which the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the United Irish League had penetrated even remotest Connemara is an excellent revelation of what real gains the revolution achieved in ridding us of their particular influence. O' Gaora, a member of the IRB himself, had to be careful lest his political activities be reported

Padraig O' O' Coinaire's wedding from a local shop which was not on the AOH approved list.

O' Gaora is also good on the beginnings and spread of the Irish Volunteers in the West, on the results of the split with Redmond's followers in September 1914, and on some aspects of the Rising in East Galway in 1916 — the participants in which were mostly speakers of Irish. From Rosmuc, O' Gaora, unable to move east for news, with Galway city and the Corrib between him and the east, cycled north by Mayo where he found that the Volunteers were sorely confused by the rash of conflicting orders. Trying to make his way towards Liam Mellows' HQ at Athenry, he was arrested and jailed.

Jail reminiscences are some of the most attractive sections in Peadar O' hAnnracháin's books. The first, *Mr Chonnac-na-Eira*, published by Oifig Diolta Foilseacháin Riatais in 1937, is mostly concerned with his activities on the road as a Gaelic League organiser, the various parts of the country he visited, and the friends he made. A later one, *Fé Bhrat an Chonnara*, published in 1944 by Oifig an tSolathair, covers much the same ground but includes the delightful story of his arrest in 1912 for giving his name in Irish to a guard. No less than four court hearings followed before the case was dismissed. Donall O' Buachalla of Mayo-noh, who led his men into the GPO for the Rising in 1916, had just before that been up on a similar charge, which provoked these lines by Brian O'Higgins: Babero! Birrello! what shall we do
The depot is crowded and crimes are but few
With no one to throttle the future is blue
Ochone! for the peelers of Eireann.

Small wonder that, as a result of this 'compulsory'

English, reference to 'compulsory Irish' always disgusted O' hAnnracháin afterwards. Among those who figure in this book of reminiscences are George Clancy, later murdered by the Black and Tans when Lord Mayor of Limerick, and Mary Spring Rice.

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From our Eire Correspondent

Irish Student Emigration Problem

Professor Richard Lynn, of the Institute of Economic and Social Research says that too many of our young people are being trained for "prestige" professions such as doctors, chemists, scientists and solicitors.

As these professions can only absorb a limited number of them it is likely that 75 per cent. of all students will emigrate.

Professor Lynn suggests that the numbers entering these courses should be limited to the present figures and that students should be encouraged to study for managerial positions in business.

Unfortunately, Irish companies are unwilling to pay their top management high salaries because the high surtax rates reduce effort.

By international standards the Irish surtax rates are stiff. Professor Lynn thinks they should be reduced by half.

He also would prefer if the Government gave loans instead of grants to students. This is a common practice on the Continent and the students repay the loans over a 10-year period after graduation.

Macroom Wants Industry

An all-out effort is being made to secure an industry for Macroom which would give employment to people in the town and surrounding countryside.

Businessmen, workers and farmers are organising a parish-to-parish drive. Macra na Feirme, the Irish Countrywomen's Association, Muin'ir na Tire and the other organisations, along with local politicians and churchmen are giving it their full support.

Mr Harry O'Leary president of the Macroom Development Association said: "Our town depends on the rural districts. If the rural countryside declines, the town will also go down."

"This is a drive to save our part of rural Ireland. We are not asking anybody to save us. We will save ourselves if we get a fair chance at establishing an industry."

Mr Joe Moloney, secretary of the Association, says that "surveys have proved that the many thousands of acres of State forests in this area are capable of supplying a chip-board industry that would give large-scale employment in the rural districts, as well as in the town."

STANDARD GAELIC

Last summer Edinburgh University had a short summer course which included training in phonetics and in the contrastive analysis of languages; presumably this sort of course will be held again, perhaps regularly. Is it impossible for An Comunn to subsidise the attendance of

by Nancy C. Doran

some teachers of Gaelic? Or at least to send out notices about the programme to all Gaelic teachers?

Hundreds of people begin Gaelic classes every year in the bigger towns. Why isn't there a simple, middle-level, 2 or 3 page publication for them to subscribe to, so that they can keep up their contact with Gaelic when they've finished the course? The Irish have assembled a Basic Irish Vocabulary to use for similar purposes; it wouldn't be hard to do for Scottish Gaelic. *Gairm* and *Sruith* themselves are too advanced. But the articles in those two publications could be systematically rewritten in simple Gaelic for the learner (and to the benefit of many a native speaker; even they don't always read easily...).

There used to be short summer courses for Gaelic learners, held usually somewhere in the Islands. Even if there were only 10 people attending, it would be worthwhile resuming these, in the Islands or elsewhere. The participants would have to agree to use Gaelic constantly, and teachers would have to agree to do the same (it would be at least as hard on the teachers as on the students). Not many people would be willing or able to do this, but the ones who did would make strides that they couldn't possibly make in any other way; they would be using Gaelic steadily and relatively realistically, and after such an initiation would be well equipped to make independent trips to the Outer Islands or such other Gaelic-speaking communities as they might locate. One stipulation: the participants would need to be adults or seriously inclined young people, not children shipped off willy-nilly by enthusiastic parents. Given genuinely interested participants, these intensive-exposure courses work better and faster than any other method; that's why governments use them for their diplomats and armies for their officers.

With the Scottish Nationalists in the ascendant, there is even a possibility that some day the State will be willing to spend more money on the preparation of Gaelic teaching materials and Gaelic programmes on wireless and television. Meantime, one wonders why Gaelic speakers in exile in the towns haven't long since banded together like the Welsh and started schools in which Gaelic was at least one of the mediums of instruction? Gaelic Scotland has been famous for centuries for intelligence and good education; there's no

reason to imagine that either commodity would diminish in a Gaelic-speaking school. There is also little danger, in an overwhelmingly English environment, that children would be handicapped in English. The Celts are an eloquent people; Gaelic speakers using strongly accented English still often manage to use it better than many native English speakers.

I've been speaking throughout as though 'Gaelic' were a perfectly clear concept, when in fact one of the points of Mr Macpherson's article was that Gaelic quite naturally and properly has many regional varieties. That this is natural and proper is indisputable. But the fact remains that Gaelic is in a weak position, badly needing to recruit speakers, and the work of different dialects doesn't help. Small differences to native speakers loom as large differences to the learner struggling to understand. Probably the only real solution lies in teacher training, once again; teachers need to be made aware of dialect differences in a systematic way, so that they can warn their students at strategic points that differences are likely to turn up, and give some idea of the range of the possible variations. But An Comunn is in a favourable position here. If An Comunn continues to issue teaching materials, especially records and tapes, then surely the best policy is to select one dialect and use it consistently — probably something Hebridean, since Hebridean Gaelic speakers predominate. Individual teachers from other areas would still have the opportunity to comment on what the students were hearing, but they would do well to avoid giving the impression that the record or tape recording was "wrong"; tolerance of dialect differences is definitely called for on the part of the Gaels themselves, as well as the learners.

In one respect the problems of Gaelic learners might seem to be rather unimportant. The truly central problem of Gaelic today, after all, is *keeping* its speakers, not converting them. But actually the two issues — keeping speakers and converting them — are inseparable. Gaelic speakers are a small minority, and to maintain even that small body any distance into the future it will be necessary to have the support of large numbers of people who are not native speakers, but are willing to sanction large public expenditure to foster the language. People who are favourably enough inclined to the Celtic cause to try to learn Gaelic obviously represent the most conspicuous reservoir of potential support. Everything should be done to make their way smooth and rewarding. Some of these enthusiastic learners, though perhaps never able to attain fluency themselves, would probably send their children gladly to bilingual Gaelic-English schools — if there were any.

PUT ECONOMIC ELEMENT FIRST

In the course of his remarks as Chairman at the Oban Provincial Mod concert Mr Farquhar Macintosh, Rector of Oban High School referred to the privileged position which Oban occupied in the history of the Gaelic movement. It was here, he said, that "the first steps were taken that led to the establishment of An Comunn in 1891 to foster the Gaelic language and further the welfare of the Highland people."

Much, he continued, had happened since then throughout the North and West "most of it of a very discouraging, if not demoralising character," and An Comunn had not escaped its share of criticism for the general decline and decay. For his own part, however, he would fault the Association "mainly on the score of having failed to appreciate early enough the supreme importance of the economic element. Man cannot live by bread alone, but he cannot live without it."

This meant, said Mr Macintosh, that "An Comunn must involve itself directly with economic as well as cultural matters, for like so many of our Highland problems, the question of the survival of Gaelic can only be solved on the economic plane when enough work and enough openings are available in the area to absorb all our own people."

This, of course, is where the Highlands and Islands Board

comes in, said Mr Macintosh. "If the region for which the Board is responsible is to be properly developed, two things, it seems to me, are fundamental — *improved communications*, without which the potentialities of the area cannot even begin to be realised, and a *new marketing mechanism* which will reduce the crushing burden of freight charges." The Board, he thought, was moving in the right direction in both respects, "but An Comunn can help to push it quicker in various fields by acting as a pressure-group focussing attention on priorities and on the need for action, not further surveys or enquiries."

The latter, said Mr Macintosh, "were rightly suspect in the Highlands, because Committees of Enquiry and the reports they produced had simply been used by successive Governments as a more effective means of stopping Highlanders in their tracks than the best detachment of Redcoats had ever proved to be." The need now was for action, and while An Comunn should be constructively critical of the Board "it must support it wholeheartedly against the many vested interests which are opposed to it, because the Board, I am convinced, is our best hope for the future."

While economic revival was essential, "the resurgence of the language could itself act as a

source of inspiration to the people" declared Mr Macintosh as the Faroese example clearly showed. There were three reasons, he concluded, why we should learn Gaelic ourselves and support its teaching in the schools. "In the first place, Gaelic today is the most distinctive element in our Scottish culture and no true Scot should be without it. Secondly, it provides the key to understanding the area in which we live—its place-names, beliefs and superstitions, indeed its whole ethos. And finally, we should remember that Gaelic is the language of one of the oldest cultured races of Western Europe, the proud means of expression of a people who were civilised when the English, as Lloyd George remarked, lived on piracy, paganism and periwinkles."

CEREALS DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

1968 Harvest Acreage Claims —

Growers of cereals are reminded that the closing date for the acceptance of claim forms CDP1 in respect of deficiency payments on 1968 sowings of barley, oats and mixed corn, is July 31, 1968.

Growers who intend to claim under the Scheme and have not received form CDP 1/68 should apply at once to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, 11.

FRANCO-SCOTTISH

by a Sruth Reporter

The Chevalier Macpherson, Newtonmore, has the great French family of de Beaumont amongst his ancestors. In conversation with "Sruth" he explained that this, combined with his interest in Scottish history, prompted him to investigate the long series of treaties and of royal decrees which have linked Scotland and France through the many centuries of the Auld Alliance.

He described his investigations and told of the somewhat surprising sequel to a letter which he addressed to General de Gaulle himself and which brought a most encouraging statement from the French Embassy in London, together with much other correspondence.

Nobody can tell just how old the Franco-Scottish Alliance is. Too many State papers have been destroyed in the course of civil and foreign war in France and through the looting of English invaders in Scotland. Records show, however, that there was a close relationship between the two countries even as far back as the days of Charlemagne, when Europe was only beginning to take shape again after the collapse of the Roman Empire.

Sufficient documentary evidence remains, however, to show that the Alliance was maintained and confirmed until comparatively recent days. Notable amongst the surviving papers is a decree made by Louis XIV, in 1646, in which it was stated that there had never been any difference made in France between the subjects of the French monarch and those of Scotland.

It is clear, from the text of Treaties which were exchanged between the two countries, that Frenchmen in Scotland were entitled to full rights of citizenship when in this country, and that Scots in France had the same privileges on the other side of the Channel. The problem was to discover whether any of the ancient rights and privileges were still valid.

A letter from the French Embassy made it clear that France still continued to recognise Scottish rights as late as 1906. In that year, however, all the old rights were abrogated by Westminster whilst negotiating the Entente Cordiale. Something still remains to us in spite of this abrogation. The withdrawal of rights was not made re-

spectively and, as far as French Law is concerned, these rights may still be claimed by any Scotsman who was born before the end of 1906.

A most interesting problem arises from this abrogation of rights, made by Westminster. There is clear ruling made against such happenings by Clause XVIII of the Anglo-Scottish Treaty of Union, which declares that no alteration shall be made in laws affecting rights "save for the evident utility of the subjects within Scotland."

The Chevalier claims that nobody can possibly pretend that the cancellation of the rights of dual-nationality was, in any degree, for the "evident utility" of Scots. It seems, therefore, that no Government of the United Kingdom had the power to take these rights away.

If the terms of the Treaty of Union are still considered to be binding in law, Scottish rights must still hold good — if France is willing to continue them. If, on the other hand, it should be maintained that Westminster was acting within its rights, we can only assume that the Treaty of Union is no longer valid.

And where do we go from that . . . ?

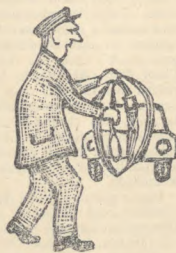


This Auld Alliance Stamp has been produced by the 1320 to commemorate 800 years of Franco-Scottish friendship, which will not, one suspects, be commemorated by the British Post Office. Stamps (3d) can be obtained from Glasgow Stamp Shop, (Wm. Ferris Ltd.), 161 Hope St., Glasgow C2. First-day covers (6th April, 1968), are also available (1s 3d).

LACHLAN BLAIR MACKAY AWARDS

Two awards of £25 each have been made this year by An Comunn Gaidhealach from the Warrant Officer Lachlan Blair MacKay Fund to provide a holiday with a Gaelic speaking family for learners of Gaelic. The successful candidates were Stuart Ross, Oban High School; John Anderson, Woodside Secondary School, Glasgow.

On a dh'fhàilbh na h-eich



Ni seo "Safety Belt" airson na caillich

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SCOTLAND YOUR GAELS OR WIND OF CHANGE AMONG THE HEATHER

by DAIBHIDH MACLAGHMANN (Frieburg)

In the issue of Sruth (18th April) you printed a letter ('No Hope for Gaelic') from one 'Adhamh', who, for reasons best known to himself, chose to remain anonymous. This letter contained many half-truths and some downright untruths, but nevertheless seemed immeasurably preferable to the output of the smug Gaelic 'scholars' who conduct endless controversies in the correspondence columns of the Scotsman on such burning topics as 'The Attitude of the Church to Gaelic in the 18th Century.'

This may be of relevance when the time comes to sign the death certificate of our beloved language — but the patient is not by any means dead yet: surely the pressing need is for remedies to pump new life into her, as she is today.

The striking thing about the letters on the Future of Gaelic is the amazing passivity of what one assumes to be the hard core of the Gaelic revival. 'The Government,' we are told, 'must do this' (and that). Whatever the attitude of Edinburgh and London may have been in the past, there is clearly an atmosphere of benign acquiescence now. Some people at least in the BBC, in all the Churches, and in political circles are rooting for Gaelic.

But one must forgive the Lowlander and the English politician for having reservations about the Gaelic Revival. They believe with some justification, that it consists of a small group of activities, and a fairly large number of luke-warm adherents which are counterbalanced by some pretty solid opposition from among the Top and Middle People especially in the Lowlands. To impose the language and culture of a tiny minority on the other 98.5 per cent. would be moral tyranny and political suicide.

'Progressive' countries like Norway and Switzerland would very soon have civil strife on their hands if Lappish and Romansh were made compulsory for everyone. The strong feelings aroused by the language question in Ireland, despite the indisputable claim of Irish to be the language of the Irish people, should be a warning to Gaelomaniacs to gang warily. The Lowland tradition in Scotland is just as ancient as the Gaelic — it just so happens that its geographical and linguistic proximity to English has made it more subject to external influences. This and Calvinism together meant that much art in Southern Scotland has been lost.

What we need is continual lobbying — by all means, but we must aim to provide the product ourselves. Everyone who is equipped to teach Gaelic should do so — the authorities will provide the classrooms and the grants.

We must have decent textbooks — but no Whitehall official can write them for us. We must continue the good work done by An Comunn and Gairm in the 'Promulgation of Celtic Knowledge.'

For example, a great deal of nonsense has been talked and written about Gaelic dialects and spelling in this paper and outside. But the facts are not secret: since the Gaelic part of the Linguistic Survey of Scotland was completed, it has been known that the Gaelic of Scotland can be divided into 'Central' and 'marginal' dialects.

The Central dialects would comprise all mainland Gaelic (except for the Eastern fringe and Sutherland), also the Hebridean dialects (except Lewis), in one sense the Gaelic languages form a continuum from Lewis to S.W. Ireland, but the influence of the literary standards have created the present position. Any speaker of a Central dialect can quickly make himself understood even to most of the speakers of marginal dialects — though he may not understand the reply.

The situation can be compared with the experiences of my Tevan father-in-law in London, everyone understood him, but he had to communicate in writing with some of the locals! English should not be despised as an aid to communication — without it Celtic Congresses would not be possible. But all the Gaelic dialects CAN be understood with good will and a bit of practice. Literacy on both sides of course helps: I have used my (Hebridean) Gaelic in Connemara with amazing success.

The whole notion of a 'standard language' is widely misunderstood. Gaelic has always had a literary standard — for a thousand years until after the Reformation it was shared with Irish (and Manx?). Since then, political and religious alienation from Ireland have brought a Scottish Gaelic language into being. The appearance of this new writing norm was of course preceded by centuries of growing away from a (Northern) Irish type. Within Scotland, the Bible and the vast oral literature have until recently been a unifying and conservative factor.

Gaelic is now in the throes of death or rebirth, and this, the biggest crisis since the Viking invasions, has brought great changes to the language — not all in the direction of English! If, as now seems possible, Gaelic emerges from this crisis and thrives, at least as a second language, in this age of language laboratories, records and attractive

reading matter, it will of course be a very different Gaelic from the language many Gaels heard on their grandfather's knee.

But if good speaking (as opposed to grammatical pedantry) and good writing are practised by those who have a talent for it, and supported by those who don't, then Scotland can make a contribution to world literature again after centuries of precious little. The Gaelic side of the Scottish Literary Renaissance has not yet had its proper say.

It is probably this long tradition that is meant when Gaelic is described as an 'ancient tongue.' Obviously, Gaelic, in common with all other natural languages on this earth, can trace its ancestry back to Adam (or his anthropoid equivalents). For most languages of the world, a long stay in one area leads to dialect divisions. Among the major languages of the world, Russian and Portuguese are exceptionally uniform; English, French and Spanish only apparently so and German, Greek, Italian or Chinese perfect examples of the principle of divergence in time.

It is typical of these last countries that a Standard Language is used which is remote from the dialects that much of the population have or had as their every-day speech. We can compare the Highlands to German-speaking Switzerland if we take the period just before the emergence of a standardised written Scots Gaelic, where only the word order can have been the same: vocabulary, tenses, endings and above all pronunciation of Mainland Gaelic must have differed considerably from standard Irish.

Up to the present day, nothing has really filled the role that 'Classical Modern Irish' must have played in the Gaelic world. This can be attributed to the fact that the 'rootless middle classes,' which elsewhere have been instrumental in developing a Spoken Standard of sorts, are poorly represented among the Gaelic-speaking islanders — as the census reports have shown.

If Gaelic survives, it seems certain that this Standard will develop, though people will still maintain a certain local bias — and why not? Even the English are beginning to abandon their absurd prejudices about accent, which kept many a good Cockney down. Let us not try to emulate their rigid caste system at a time when we need the good will of everyone. The beginnings of standard

in most dialects; th is a clumsy way of writing hiatus, and in words like ahtair the th has 2 meanings; finally dh is totally superfluous in words like cuirich.

In books for learners it would be good to find full vowels marked in unstressed syllables: brogan can be read 2 ways. But generally one cannot but marvel at the ingenuity and economy of the system. Gaelic would have been much better off with the Cyrillic alphabet, but it is spoken in the Roman sphere of influence, and that would seem to be that. But spare us from English 'phonetic' spelling! What the Manx bishops did to Manx Gaelic is just gruesome!

Finally, on the subject of the popularisation of Gaelic art and culture. Surely this is all to the good, so long as people realise that this pop culture is not the whole story. Isn't anything preferable to the total disappearance of this rich cultural vein? And it certainly enriches popular taste.

P.S. Readers might be interested to know about the interest in Celtic and particularly Gaelic, here in Freiburg. During the last 2 years, more than 40 people have attended classes in Welsh language and literature, Old Irish and Gaelic; a visiting lecture by Professor Pokorny from Zurich was attended by over 100 students and staff. Celtic is an exam subject here, as well as in some other German Universities, and there is a Chair of Celtic in Bonn: na n rabuidh nan Gaidheal air an cainn fein cho mor ris an uidh de na Goidil sin! If only there were more and better books!

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 m . , r | r : - . ||

Tog orm mo phìob 'us théid mi dhachadh,
 Is truaigh lean fhéim mo léir mar thachair;
 Tog orm mo phìob 's mi air mo chrádh,
 Mu Ruairidh Mór, mu Ruairidh Mór.

Tog orm mo phìob—thá mi sgíth,
 'S mar faigh mi i théid mi dhachaidh;
 Tog orm mo phìob thá mi sgíth,
 'S mi air mo chrádh mu Ruairidh Mór.

Tog orm mo phìob—thá mi sgíth,
 'S mar faigh mi i théid mi dhachaidh;
 Clársach no píob cha tog mo chrídh,
 Cha bhéar fad mo ghraidh, Ruairidh Mór.

Rory Mor, XIII of Dunvegan, succeeded to the chieftainship in 1590 and died in 1626. He was called Ruairidh Mor, Big Rory, not so much from his size or stature as from his desire to do everything on a large scale. He was undoubtedly a born leader of men. He led

Co Bha Romhainn?

Bha da rathad gu. Breatann an toiseach ar n-eachdráidh. Aon troimh 'n Roinn Eorpa do cheann a Deas Shasainn agus an fear eile troimh cheann a tuath Alba a Lochlainn. M'í 4000 B.C. thainig sealgairne Mesolithic a lorg bheathichean agus thatar a deannadh dheth nach robh ach mu cheithir cheud duine an Alba gu 2500 B.C.—cha dh'fhuair iad moran! An deidh 2500 B.C. thainig tuathanaich Neolithic le croch is coraich is dh'fhag iad cairn mhóra tiodhlaicadh mar chumhneachan. Air an sailean thainig fir an linn Um ha as an Spain leis a chuibheall. Bha bathair is marsantachd a'dol air adhart feadh na Roinn Eorpa agus 'sann ag na am sin a thoghadh na clachan Tursainn's gach áite. An uair sin thainig na Ceitich is thog iadsan am broch-a cheud tigh le iomadh urlar (multi-storey). Mu 400 A.D. thainig na Piocaich dhán cheann a tuath—dh'fhalbh iadsan 's thainig na h-Albanaich 'sna Lochlainnaich.

the MacLeod contingent in Ireland during the wars that distracted that country in the sixteenth century. He was the first to include a personal piper, a harper, a fiddler and a bard into the retinue kept at Dunvegan. He also made several alterations to Dunvegan Castle in an effort to make it more comfortable to live in. He dispensed unbounded hospitality if we are to believe the bard. Dr O'Connor has thus translated the poem:—

"Six nights I had been in the dun, it was not a fallacious entertainment that I received; plenty of *cairn* was drunk at the board, there was a large wine *brugh* and a numerous host . . . The merriment of the harp and of the full bowls, with which hatred and treachery are not usually associated; the laughter of the fair haired youngsters, we had been inebriating ale and a blazing fire. A prince

from whom a good disposition is acquired, he keeps the fellowship of all ecclesiastics; in his regal court drinking is not a dream, to his numerous company he is plentiful and hospitable. We were twenty times drunk every day, to which we had no more objection than he had; even our food was in abundance, which consisted of four, three, seven, along with six varieties."

No wonder the family piper was broken-hearted when his chief died. For him Dunvegan had lost all its charms, he could no longer remain within its walls, so he shouldered his bagpipes and marched off to his own home at Borreraig, consoling his grief by playing as he went a lament for his chief, which is one of the most melodious and plaintive pipe tunes on record. The above are the Gaelic words associated with the tune. It was Dr Norman MacLeod who first gave them to the public in one of the issues of the Gaelic magazine he conducted.

The piper was Patrick MacCrimmon, son of Iain Odhar, and grandson of Donald MacCrimmon, piper to MacDonnell of County Donegal. The complete history of this race of pipers has been given elsewhere and need not be repeated here.

We append a translation by Henry Whyte.

Give me my pipes, I'll home them carry,
 In these sad halls I dare not tarry;
 My pipes hand o'er, my heart is sore,
 For Rory Mor, my Rory Mór.

Fetch me my pipes, my heart is breaking,
 For Rory Mor his rest is taking;
 He wakes no more, and to its core
 My heart is sore for Rory Mór.

Give me my pipes, I'm sad and weary,
 These halls are silent, dark, and eerie;
 The pipe no more, cheers as of yore—
 Thy race is o'er, brave Rory Mór.

J.E.S.

MEBYON KERNOU

On Thursday, 27th June, 1968 the annual commemoration of Michael Josef an Gof and Tomas Flamank was held at Marble Arch, London near to the site of their execution. They were executed on June 27th 1492 after the defeat of the Cornish army at Blackheath now a suburb of London. The Cornish had risen and marched upon London because the English authorities of the day had attempted to levy taxes in Cornwall in order to finance one of their many wars against Scotland.

At that time, Cornwall was Cornish-speaking and the process of anglicisation now almost complete, had not really started. The revolt was sparked off in the village of St Keverne, when oppressive taxes were levied to pay for an English invasion of Scotland. Although Cornwall had lost its independence before the Norman Conquest, Cornish culture and a Cornish way of life had continued to flourish throughout the mediaeval period.

With the advent of the Tudors came the spread of centralisation and the gradual anglicisation of the Celtic people of Cornwall. At the present time the struggle of An Gof and Flamank continues. Recent years have seen the erosion of Cornish control of Cornish affairs; England having all but destroyed the language of Flamank and An Gof, still allows it no official recognition; at the present Cornwall is threatened with the loss of its present shadow existence by being swallowed up to an English South-Western regional administration.

Cornwall is England's oldest colony. At a time when England has relinquished most of her later acquisitions, Cornwall is scheduled for a new colonisation Bodmin, the home town of Flamank, is earmarked for colonisation by London's over-spill. Other Cornish towns are in a similar danger. In no instance is there any suggestion of a referendum which would enable the Cornish people to express THEIR wishes on the matter.

Mr Seumas Mac A'Ghobhainn laid a wreath on behalf of Mebyon Kernow (the Cornish National Party). He told the attendant gathering of Cornishmen and women and representatives from other Celtic countries present "that the Scots and the Cornish were allies again today just as they had been in 1497 and that quite apart from the obvious cultural similarities Cornwall and Scotland shared along with Wales and Ireland the common experience of being England's last remaining colonies.

PAUL T. HOLMES

Fears Of Board Losses

From our Parliamentary Correspondent

A fear that the Highlands and Islands Development Board might acquire an equity interest in only unprofitable commercial concerns under the terms of the Highlands and Islands Development (Scotland) Bill was voiced in the Lords when the Bill was given an unopposed second reading.

Viscount Massereene and Ferrard (C.) claiming the Bill was "a sort of follow-up to the Industrial Expansion Act," said the first and second clauses seemed to nullify each other. The board could acquire equity with the consent of a company, but also without consent.

The danger was that if the board only acquired equity in companies with consent, they would not acquire it in prosperous companies. "I am frightened that the board will get left with only unprofitable enterprises."

Extension

Lord Mitchison (Lab.), who moved the second reading of the Bill, which enlarges the powers of the board, said it would give them power to promote companies, and enable them to take up equity shares in companies.

He said he hoped to introduce an amendment later to extend this to Preference shares.

At present the Bill provided that the companies had to carry on their business in the board's area, and he hoped to remove this geographical limitation.

The Earl of Dundee (C.) thought the attempts to reverse the tide of depopulation of the Highlands would take a long time, and in the meantime short-term expedients were needed. But he felt the Bill was unlikely to have any effect on big development.

Lord Strathclyde (C.) supporting the Bill, said he wished that the Secretary of State, alone, and not the Treasury, was involved in the operation of the Bill because the Treasury "sometimes spoils the whole thing by holding up matters for too long."

He asked if some inducement could be offered to the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board which had similar duties.

Lord Burton asked if there was any limit on the amount of capital available to any one company. He feared a nominee

company might be set up, financed entirely by the board.

The Bill, a private member's measure, was sponsored in the Commons by Mr Bob MacLennan (Lab., Caithness and Sutherland).

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