

Highland Development Prospects

HIDB's SECOND REPORT REVIVES BELIEFS IN FUTURE

A new spirit and revived belief in prospects for development is evident throughout the Highlands according to the Board's second report for 1967. Grants totalling more than £400,000—a three-fold increase over the 1966 figure of £130,000—were approved, while loan approvals were over £1,000,000, a 25 per cent increase over the total for 1966.

In 1967 the total amount invested by developers in approved projects amounted to £1,330,000. Since November 1965 the total investment from public and private sectors amounts to almost £5,000,000.

New ventures included an optical frames factory, a precision engineering unit and an industrial joinery project. Existing business helped included tweed manufacture, boat-building, heavy contracting, frozen food processing, bacon curing, mink farming, pig fattening, fishing and fish processing, and silica sand mining. Help was provided for extensions and improvements to hotels and guest houses: new restaurants, tearooms and snack-bars; camping and caravan sites; sailing and sea angling enterprises and winter sports development.

The 311 projects which were approved for financial help in 1967 are expected to provide 1,115 jobs. It is not possible to estimate accurately how many additional jobs will result

from the construction and servicing of these enterprises

Industrial Promotion

The Board see it as their clear and primary duty to induce more industrial enterprises to establish themselves and to expand in the region, states the report. In all, 23 new manufacturing enterprises have been helped to set up in the region, some of which were attracted from outside. Assistance has also been approved for the expansion of 28 existing manufacturing firms. Of all the jobs created as a result of Board assistance one in four is in manufacturing.

Area Development Planning

The Board's efforts to promote large scale industrial development in the Moray Firth Area continued in 1967, and it is hoped that 1968 will mark the beginning of a development that will benefit the whole region. In his foreword to the report, the Chairman, Professor Robert Grieve, states that, "Our Moray Firth Development Promotion has brought national consciousness to the point where, as would have been highly improbable two years ago, Invergordon is regarded as an inevitable site for major industrial growth in Britain."

A working party has been set up to report on the development potential of Caithness, particularly the area within daily travelling distance of Wick and Thurso. A wider spread of

industry is needed in Fort William and the Lochaber area to provide jobs for women and the growing number of school-leavers, many of whom come from families who have moved into the area.

Tourism

After consultation with interested organisations the Board prepared their tourism development plan. Extensive research has been carried out and a strategy devised for each market which it is aimed to develop. Studies have also been made of tourism promotion, accommodation requirements, information services and other facilities for visitors. Based on this research the plan has four main objectives—first, a lengthening of the season; second, an increased amount of accommodation and tourist knowledge of where it can be obtained; third, an improvement in hotel and catering standards; and fourth, an extension of tourist facilities and better means of publicising them. The Board have proceeded with their plans to build five hotels in the Highlands and Islands and the West Mainland. It is probable that the first will be built at Craignure in Mull.

Fishing and Agriculture

The Board have continued to take steps to expand the fishing industry in certain coastal areas of the region. Since the Board was set up a total of £420,000 has been approved for the purchase of 46 new and second-hand boats. The fisheries development scheme which provides for the building of 25 new boats by 1971 has proved a great success. "We are very pleasantly surprised by the success of this scheme," Professor Grieve said.

The importance of fish processing plants is not being overlooked and in addition to the units at Westray, Stornoway and Grimsay, Campbeltown is also being investigated as a possible site.

Financial assistance of £117,452 by way of grant and loan for 16 selected agricultural and horticultural projects including a calf marketing scheme for the Uists, intensive pig production units and marketing of store lambs, was approved during the year. The Board feel the wider availability of capital would be the most effective (Continued on Page Twelve)



The radio and TV services provided by the B.B.C. in the Highlands and Islands may be the subject for complaint some of the time. But by and large, without the B.B.C. Highland communities would be socially worse off than they are. For the B.B.C. provides that essential link with events outside. But not only outside, with its local VHF programmes, the B.B.C. offers the chance for communities to create their own common platform on the air. In our picture is a typical B.B.C. correspondent, K. D. Smith of Lewis, in an equally typical setting: fishing craft at Stornoway. See our feature in this issue.

ALEX. CAMERON & CO.

12 - 22 HIGH STREET

INVERNESS

Telephone 30081/82

for

Ladybird

SLEEPER

Button Shoulder	
Age 6 months	19/11
24 months	21/11
2 years	23/6



24/34



DRESSING GOWN

Machine Washable
Red Saxe
Age 2 years - 8 years
Price 29/11 - 47/11

Pringle of Inverness

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURERS

DESIGNERS AND PRODUCERS OF EXCLUSIVE SPORTING AND COUNTRY TWEEDS, HOSIERY AND HAND KNITTING YARNS, TRAVEL RUGS AND TARTANS

FULL RANGE OF HIGH - CLASS KNITWEAR IN STOCK

Kilt and Skirt-making Service . Complete Highland Outfits PATTERNS AND BROCHURE ON REQUEST

CALL AND SEE THE COMPLETE PROCESS AT OUR FACTORIES. WAREHOUSES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8 a.m. to 12.30. 1.30 to 5 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 Noon

JAMES PRINGLE LIMITED

HOLM WOOLLEN MILLS, INVERNESS

SKYE WOOLLEN MILLS, PORTREE, SKYE

Telephone Inverness 31042/3

Telephone Portree 89

WRITE FOR FREE CATALOGUE

BIRTHS

CORMACK—At Dunbar Hospital, Thurso, on 13th June 1968, to Mr and Mrs Duncan Cormack, 2 Sir Archibald Road, Thurso — a daughter.

MACKENZIE—At Oban Maternity Hospital, on the 27th May 1968, to John and Sheila (née Mac-tavish), Laura Howe, Bendersloch, Argyllshire — a son. Both well.

ROBERTSON—At the Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow, on the 29th May 1968, to Callum and Peggy (née Ferguson), 2 Clachan Sands, Lochmaddy, North Uist — a daughter (Ann Marion). Both well.

MARRIAGE

FINLAYSON—MACKAY—At Wellgate Free Church, Dundee, on 11th June 1968, by Rev. E. R. Lee, M.A., assisted by Rev. D. S. Mackenzie, M.A., and Rev. Hector Cameron, M.A., John Sinclair, younger son of the late Mr W. R. Finlayson, Wester Olrig, and of Mrs Finlayson, East Greenland, Castletown, to Elizabeth Anne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. M. Mackay, 73 Clepington Road, Dundee.

DEATHS

HUGHES—At Eastern General Hospital, Edinburgh, on 19th June 1968, Robert Hughes, husband of Mary Redden and father of Roma, Murrayfield Hotel, 18 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh.

MORRISON—At Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on 29th May 1968, Ewen Morrison, beloved husband of Flora Maclean, and dear father of Rury, 5 Satran, Carbost, Isle of Skye. Dearly loved and very sorely missed.

PROVERBS

Cha toir an uaisle goill a phoit.

Genility will not boil the pot.

Text for the Times

Gnathfhocal c. 9, r. 9

Their teagasg do 'n duine ghlic, agus bithidh e fhathast na 's glie.

Proverbs ch. 9, v. 9

Give instructions to a wise man and he will be yet wiser.

Sruth

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

Order from your local newsagent or by Subscription to

The General Editor,
92 Academy Street,
Inverness.

Name
Address

I enclose P.O./M.O./Cheque for for quarter/half-year/one year subscription to SRUTH.

13/- plus 6/6 p. & p. — 1 year
6/6 plus 3/3 p. & p. — 6 months
3/3 plus 1/9 p. & p. — 3 months

Celtic League Conference

The 1968 conference of the Celtic League took place at Bangor, North Wales, last month. It opened with a public meeting. The theme was: "Inter-Celtic Co-operation for National Freedom—Political and Economic." The main speakers were Mr Gwynfor Evans, MP, and Mr Yann Fouere, Breton Nationalist Leader. It was attended by about 200 people.

Mr Evans pointed out that inter-Celtic co-operation had developed in the political field since 1961 when the Celtic League was founded. The demand for self-government was now so strong in Scotland and Wales that he was convinced that these two countries will be free in a few years. He saw that the process could be accomplished peacefully: resort to violence in Wales would be exploited by the enemies of Welsh freedom to scare the people. Freedom would be achieved, he said, as soon as the majority of the Welsh and Scottish people showed that they wanted it. This would encourage the Bretons and the Cornish to press for their own freedom.

Yann Fouere spoke of the different conditions under which national developments are taking place in Brittany on one hand, and in Scotland and Wales on the other. Because the French system was dominated by a strong State ideology, many Bretons felt that constitutional methods were of little avail and were driven to adopt violent means. Y. Fouere saw some hope in a European Federation, which would give recognition to Celtic countries and bring them together as free nations within a wider framework than at present.

Gwynfor Evans stated that that federation within a "British" Commonwealth was not enough for Wales, as it would not give enough freedom to participate in external affairs. The question whether federation in a European framework would be acceptable was not raised. It appears that a confederation would be better from a Welsh viewpoint.

When asked whether, in the event of a majority of Welsh MPs being elected, they would withdraw from Westminster and set up a Welsh legislative assembly in Wales as Sinn Féin had done in 1919 in Ireland, Gwynfor Evans replied that everything would be done in an orderly way, by agreement with England.

After the two main speeches, the chairman, Mr J. E. Jones, called on delegates from the other Celtic countries to comment. The most exciting contribution came from Padraig O Conchúir who regretted that Ireland had done so little to promote her inter-Celtic relations and to help the other Celtic countries in their struggle for a separate exist-

ence. He showed that when Wales and Scotland became free, the Unionists of N.E. Ireland will have to choose between Ireland and Scotland. He had little doubt that Ireland would soon reach its unity.

At the first Celtic League Council meeting it was reported that the League was on a sound organisational and financial basis, but that a greater effort was needed to make it more effective externally.

It was decided that the present editor of the League's quarterly "Celtic News" would continue with the assistance of P. Berresford-Ellis.

The League's 1968 annual volume is due out by July 31, and will be available for sale or distribution to members at summer gatherings. The editor, Mr Frank G. Thompson of Inverness has accepted the editorship of the 1969 Volume.

It was observed that the main object of the Celtic League was to act as a liaison body between the national movements in the Celtic countries. It should increase its memberships, using its publications as its main instrument.

The New Celt

The publication of this monthly magazine would be an event of great importance in the history of the inter-Celtic movement. It was an ambitious project, and all should consider ways of helping to make it viable. It could be a powerful instrument. It would be in the form of the New Statesman and Nation. It would employ an editor and an advertiser full time. It would be for a selective market; but Celts are scattered throughout the world. It would aim chiefly at Celts in America and Australia.

It would present an objective coverage of Celtic matters and demonstrate there is a Celtic case (economic and intellectual). None of our party papers could achieve mass circulation. Contents would be "professional."

There will be an editorial committee, with honorary directors, with control over policy of the magazine. They would have to see that there would be a steady supply of articles. It would be in English and centred in London where close links between a variety of Celts exist. Each issue would contain 1000 words in each of the national languages.

The first issue is planned for November and would cost 1/6 per copy.

The Celtic League will hold a seminar in conjunction with next year's Plaid Cymru Summer School. It draws attention to the Inter-Celtic campaign being organised this Summer by Urdd Gobaith Cymru (for

information write to Mr J. E. Jones, 1 Heol Esgyn, Cyncoed, Cardiff).

The Celtic League has appointed S. O. Héartain to set up a committee to investigate the possibility of developing inter-Celtic sport competition. Anyone interested should write to him, c/o A. Heussaff, 9 Br Cnoc Sion, ath Cliath 9, Eire.

The realisation of other projects such as the publication of a series of booklets as guides to the Celtic countries and their struggles for freedom, a Celtic postcard, paper serviettes with Irish and Breton words, and a badge, will depend on finding practical help among members or officials.

The Celtic League will take an active part in the Fourth World Conference due to take place in London from August 5th to August 9th. London Branch will organise a one-day seminar, with speakers from all Celtic countries, on the subject of the breakdown of power to enable the people and the small nations to take a greater part in running their own affairs. This conference will bring together representatives of small nations, not only in Europe, but from various parts of the world.

AMERICAN VISITORS

In Inverness last week were Mr and Mrs John Haley of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr and Mrs Haley en route for Ireland made a quick tour of Argyll and Inverness-shire (mainland).

Mr Haley studies Celtic at Harvard where he is a colleague of Sister Margaret MacDonell, the Gaelic-speaking, Cape Breton nun, well-known to many in Inverness-shire and elsewhere.

Although this has been the first time they have met the Gael in his native land, the Haleys have been to functions in the States run by Cape Breton exiles with Bill Lamey in the chair. Many who were at the Inverness Mod in 1967 will remember Bill Lamey and his fiddle. Mr and Mrs Haley will be some time in Kerry where Mr Haley hopes to perfect his Irish-Gaelic for his eventual thesis on Irish place names.

In spite of their time in the Highlands being short, the Haleys seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

DUNOON host town to the 1968 MOD

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

Send for accommodation list and fully illustrated guide (postage 1/-) to Publicity Officer, Dept. S.H., Dunoon.



Coinnichibh a Rithist Aig Mod Dhun-onhain

Faitle Do Lybster

THE PORTLAND ARMS

extends a warm welcome
Salmon Fishing, Trout Fishing
Sea Angling

Good Fare and a Fine Cellar

Auctioneer and Appraiser

W. Cunningham

48 John Street
DUNOON
Telephone 102

REMOVER STORER
PACKER SHIPPER

The Highlands & Islands Film Guild

can arrange Private or sponsored shows anywhere in the Crofting Counties. Projectionists and mobile cinemas available. Contact 22 High Street, Inverness. Telephone 3132.

TIGH-OSDA PHENTLAND

INBHIR-THEORSA

Air leth freagarrach airson teaghlaichean air thurus is iasgairean nan lochan 'n nan abhinnichean 'n Taobh-Tuath.

Am adh as fear.
Gabhar gu math ruibh

le

Fear an Tighe 'sa Bhean
SEORAS is FREDA SUTHARLAN

the complete continental holiday service

YOU CAN STILL BOOK FOR JULY, AUGUST & SEPT.
NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR BOOKING AIR OR RAIL

NESS TRAVEL

78 CHURCH STREET, INVERNESS
Telephone 34888

NAIDHEACHDAN A UIBHIST

Sir Seumas Ann An Uibhist

Air an t-seachdainn-na chaidh chuir Sir Seumas MacCaoidh cuairt air Uibhist nan Eilean agus a dh'fhaicinn de an cuideachadh a dh'fhaodadh Bòrd Leasachaidh na Gaidhealtachd a dheanamh a thaobh obraichean uir a chur air chois. Bha coinneamhan aige comhla ris na Comhairlean Ionadail ann an Uibhist-a-Tuath. Beinn nam Faoghla agus Uibhist-a-Deas.

Chunnaic Sir Seumas obair nam bulbaichean ann an Uibhist-a-Tuath agus ann an Gromasagha bha e aig ionad nam gnomach. Thubhairt e gu bheil am Bòrd an t-uid-eachaidh le obair ur ann an Gromasagha a cheannachais crubagan — an drasda tha na h-asgairmean a' faighinn moran dhiubh 's na cleibh ghomach agus chan' eil iad ach 'gan tigheil air ais dhan mhuir.

Madainn Diar-daoin bha Sir Seumas ann am Bearnaigh na Hearadh agus an deidh dha cuairt a chur air an eilean chum e coinneamhan ann an sgòil. Bha cuid mhath de mhuinntir an aite cruinn, agus dh'innis iad na rudan a dheanamh do chor beo-shlaight an eilein.

Bha Mgr. Raibeart Storey, a tha air a shuidheachadh ann an Uibhist, agus a tha a deamann rannsachaidh air na h-eileanan a' cur a Bhuird cuir'e ri Sir Seumas air a thurus.

Am B.B.C.

Bha am B.B.C. ann 's an eilean air a t-seachdainn seo chaidh. Oidhche Di-haoine sheall iad dha dhealbh—"Culloden" agus "A Boy in Harris." Oidhche Di-ar-daoin bha iad a'ricordadh dha cheilidh Ghaidhlig agus oidhche Di-haoine ricord iad dha phrogram "On Tour." Cluinnear cuid dhiubh so air an t-samhradh so.

Geamachan Nan Sgoiltean

Chumadh geamachan Sgoil Cheann-a-bhaigh Di-Mairt an aonamh latha deug aig an sgoil fhein. Bha an t-side anabarrach fhabharach.

Chumadh geamachan sgoiltean Uibhist-a-tuath air macha-ir Hosta Do-ar-daoin an t-reas a tha deug. Bha moran a mach agus bha an t-side anabarrach fhabharach.

Talla Chairinis

Chaidh urlar ur t-s'na talla ann an Cairinis air t-o'neachdainn so chaidh. Chaidh an talla a pheantadh o chionn ghoirid agus tha dochas gu'm faighear solus an dealan innte ann an uine nach bi fada.

Iasgach

Tha am barrachd eisg ri f'aoitinn air taobh an t-s'na eilean o chionn seachdain no dha. Tha luchd iasgach nan gnomach air Eilean Heisgeir o chionn greis agus tha dol dhaibh gu math.

News Bits

INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS

The following pupils represented Croy School at the Inter-School Primary Sports in Inverness — Moira Mackintosh, Timothy Bowles, Susan Bowles and Peter Flockhart. Reserves — Vera Harcus, David Kelly.

The following secondary pupils represented the school at the Inter-School Secondary Sports — Alister Ross, William MacDonald, Margaret Gauld, Christine M. Clark, Ronald J. Mackintosh. Reserves — Kathleen Jack, Ann Gauld.

CROY SCHOOL SPORTS

Brilliant sunshine, summer dresses, lemonade, ice-cream, much shouting and hilarity, especially during the novelty races, were the ingredients which ensured a happy, exciting afternoon, at Croy School Sports on Friday, 14th June.

Once more, the school is grateful to Miss MacDonald, Bydand, for the use of her field. A good number of parents and friends were present to enjoy the fun and the good weather.

STUDENT TEACHER

Miss F. Murray, Inverness, a third year student from Aberdeen College of Education, has completed her rural teaching practice at Croy where she was a welcome member of staff for three weeks. Miss Murray takes up her first teaching appointment in Glasgow in the autumn.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

On Tuesday, 11th June, under ideal weather conditions, pupils of the secondary department and pupils from the top primary classes visited Invergarry Power Station, the Fish Hatcheries, and the dam at Loch Garry, by courtesy of the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board. Apart from the general interest of the specific places mentioned, most of the children were strangers to the Great Glen whose topography is in strong contrast with their own localities. A stop at Fort Augustus, on the return journey added to the pleasures of the afternoon. Mr Campbell, headmaster and Miss MacLeod of the primary department accompanied the pupils.

VISIT TO CULLODEN

Pupils in primary classes 1 and 2 accompanied by Miss Sinclair and Miss Murray visited Culloden Battlefield. They were welcomed by Mr Neil MacDonald, Warden, who has a fund of stories for young and old. Perfect weather made this an enjoyable outing for the youngsters who were also provided with stimulating topics which later found expression in their art, writing and modelling.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

In the choral competition for schools, with less than 100 pupils, Croy School Choir was placed second equal. A choir of pupils learning Gaelic in primary classes 5, 6 and 7, competed in the Gaelic section of the Inverness Music Festival.

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Senior Citizens Entertained

Croy Church Woman's Guild, under their president Mrs Johnston, residents of Whinnieknowe and Balblair Eventide Homes, who were joined by some of the local elderly people. A sumptuous afternoon tea was provided by the ladies of the Guild.

After the tea the musical programme provided was greatly appreciated by the audience. Thirty pupils from Croy School provided a Secondary Girls' Choir; Primary Gaelic Choir and a

Mixed Choir. More items were provided by duettists, Margaret Mackintosh and Christine M. Clark, who were joined by Margaret Gauld for an extra song. Fiona Douglas and Avril Mackintosh danced the Highland Fling and the Milkmaid respectively. M. Campbell sang Gaelic songs while instrumental music was provided by Chapman Lowrie (accordian) and Mr Reid (mouth organ). Proceedings were chaired by Rev. D. Johnston.

All artists were warmly thanked by Mrs Johnston; the sincere appreciation of the visitors was conveyed by Mrs Anderson, Home Mission Convener of the Presbyterial Council who organised this outing. The 23rd psalm, to the accompaniment of the accordian, followed by the benediction brought this homely gathering to a close.

EXCHANGE OF PULPITS

On the first Sunday in June, Rev. D. Johnston, M.A., Croy Parish Church and Rev. Peter Fraser, B.D., Glenmoriston Church of Scotland exchanged pulpits.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING

Culbokie, Ross-shire, was the venue for Croy Parish Church Sunday School outing on Saturday, 15th June. Favourable weather ensured the success of the trip.

NEW HOUSES

During the past two weeks, contractors have commenced the building of eleven new Council houses, on behalf of Inverness-shire County Council. This new housing development is a continuation westwards, behind the school buildings, of the existing Dalcro' road scheme.

FLAG DAY

Proceeds of Flag Day Collection, on behalf of the SSPCA, undertaken by pupils of Croy School amounted to £3 1s 3d. Collectors were — John A. Mackintosh, Gordon Mackay, Norman Cameron, William McKenzie, Pamela McCutcheon, Moira Mackintosh.

Gaelic Important to Scotland

Speaking recently to an International conference of teachers in Edinburgh on "The Unity of Europeans and the role of Scotland in Europe," Mr T. E. M. Landsborough said that while basically there could be assumed to be a Western European culture there were still significantly different national cultural characteristics.

He doubted if this were any longer substantially true of Lowland Scotland. Centuries of peaceful co-existence with the closely related sister culture of England had tended to remove most of the characteristic differences and particularly that of language.

In Highland Scotland, however, there were signs of a resurgence of practical interest in the Gaelic tongue which, lacking linguistic affinity with the English language, was, therefore, an adequate medium for the survival of a separate culture.

Perhaps national aspiration, therefore, should seek a Gaelic ambience. The choice might well be that or continued progressive assimilation into a major culture. Those who chose the former alternative would find it a long and hard way back. As Eire has done.

Note: Mr Landsborough, Director of Education, County of Clackmannan was for four years Assistant Director of Education in Inverness-shire and for seven years Director of Education, Sutherland).

Loganair 'Sna Hearadh

Tha fhios gu cualas iomradh air an t-sòchair ur a fhuair muinntir na Hearadh an car goirteas slubhail. Chaidh traigh mhor an Taobh Thuath ann an Ceann a Deas na Hearadh an fheum a ris mar ionad tuirling do itealan, an turus seo do itealan Loganair. Duine sam bith a tha am beachd falbh no tighinn eadar an Tìrmor agus Na Hearadh, faodaidh e sin a dheanamh a nis gun a dol rathad Steòrnabhagh ma thogas e. Paidhidh e an dearbhadh agus a phaidheadh e aig muinntir a' Bh. E. A. Gun teagamh 's e deirbhios a bhios deiseil dh'innis na tha seo agus 's e ar guidhe gun soirbheachadh leithid.

AN COMMUN GAIDHEALACH

CAR DRAW

National Mod — Dunoon 1968

CASH PRIZES — 22nd JUNE 1968

£20 No. 76 — Mrs F. MacDougall
Tigh-na-cara
John Street
DUNOON

£5 No. 173 — Mr H. I. Mason
Kilfinan Hotel
Kilfinan
TIGHNABRUACH

TIDE IS SLOWLY TURNING

Wiggins Teape Still Convinced That Fort William Will Be A Success

Wiggins Teape hope the tide will turn soon for their pulp and paper mill at Fort William, where last year losses amounted to £1.7 million. The annual report paints a sombre picture of unused capacity and difficulties in achieving full production. But last week Mr Merrick Baggalley, the mill's general manager, emphasised that the group were convinced that the project would be a success in the long term.

Production at the mill amounted to 22,000 tons of paper and 42,000 tons of pulp last year—55 per cent and 52 per cent respectively of design capacity. The report points out that currently the paper machine is steadily improving on this performance but indicates the pulp mill faces two major problems—the rate of production and the cost of wood delivered into the mill.

"Cost of wood, our principal raw material, delivered into the mill is crucial to the success and to the future development of Fort William," said Mr Baggalley.

So far practically all the mill's conferees would have been supplied by the Forestry Commission. In accordance with the supply agreement the company had repeatedly drawn their attention to the fact that an inflation clause in the formula governing the wood price had resulted in an uncompetitive price for the mill relative to Scandinavian mills.

By August, 1967, the Forestry Commission indicated their willingness to negotiate the price of wood at forest road sides. There remained the equally important matter of the cost of transporting the wood to the mill. This cost was also shown to be relatively high because of the greater average distance of the forests from the mill and to the limitations of public and forest roads in the Highlands.

Negotiate

"The whole question was referred to the appropriate Government departments in August last year," the report continues, "but it took nine months before the Government's attitude towards this problem was revealed to us. The commission will be permitted to negotiate a reduction for the roadside prices which together with the effects of sterling devaluation may make our wood cost competitive in 1968 but the principle of a new formula which will maintain the delivered cost of wood on a competitive basis for the future has not yet been accepted."

Without this there could be no question of increasing the quantity of wood taken from Scottish forests above the amount covered by the present agreement with the commission.

Besides competitive delivered wood costs it would probably

need higher average paper prices and another year or two's experience before Fort William which was so important to the Highlands and to the group became reasonably profitable and could prudently be developed as originally planned.

The loss in 1967 was £1.7 million (after depreciation of £460,000), compared with a loss of £1.6 million during the nine months of operation in 1966 (when no depreciation was charged).

Mr Baggalley said: "We shall go on as far as we can see ahead to work the mill up to the highest efficiency and to do everything we can, we hope with the active support of the appropriate authorities, to make the economics of wood pulp production—on a long-term basis—right."

Confirming that talks were taking place with the commission about a reduction in the roadside price, he added: "This is a contract matter."

Questioned about a price agreement with private owners, Mr Baggalley explained: "This is rather a different field. With the commission we have a very major long term agreement which in fact runs up to 1980. On the private side, where at this moment of time quantities are much smaller, most of the private forests are much further away. The same type of long term agreement would not be applicable."

Great Efforts

Dealing with the problems of getting a "major pioneering project—because it is that"—into full gear and running at maximum output, Mr Baggalley conceded: "This has taken longer than we anticipated—too long. But very great efforts are being made to push this ahead, and indeed are succeeding. This increased efficiency we do expect by the end of this year will show its results financially."

The mill requires 12 million hoppus feet of timber a year—eight million of home-grown conifers and the balance of hardwoods, principally from North America. The Forestry Commission guaranteed to supply six million hoppus feet annually for the 15 years. The mill planned to buy the balance from private estates.

Most of the home-grown wood at the moment comes from the Commission, but as productivity rises the mill will have to go out to private estates more and more. So far there has been no agreement on a price structure with the Scottish Woodland Owners' Association and there is no doubt that private growers are beginning to feel a little disenchanted about the situation.

Irritation

One, Mr William John Christie of Lochdorhart, confesses to "a growing sense of

irritation at their continually attempting to explain away poor financial results by blaming too high transport costs and high raw material prices.

"Carefully chosen comparisons with countries which are net exporters of pulp and paper are hardly relevant. If the 6,000,000 hoppus feet of timber used by Corpcach last year had been supplied and delivered free the company would still have lost £4½ million on their year's trading."

The Forestry Commission price-scale has never been disclosed but there are private growers who maintain they could get a better price south of the Border. This is dependent, however, on transportation and the question of return loads to make it economic for them.

There is no doubt therefore that there is willingness—even eagerness—on the part of the woodland owners to negotiate prices. The association have now their own marketing organisation and believe they are in a position to guarantee delivery, and initiated talks last autumn.

These were unsuccessful and further talks are likely to be held in the near future.

There is certainly need for some plain talking all round. As Mr Christie puts it: "Speaking as an individual I think that even now, if the company asked the Scottish forest industry to support it in an approach to the Government for further assistance to the mill at Corpcach, we would do so wholeheartedly."

"If Wiggins Teape spend another year in attempting to brainwash the industry into accepting less than the market price, I cannot believe that this support would be forthcoming in 12 months' time."

From our Eire Correspondent

BIG FUTURE FOR PEAT

The time may soon come when peat will be a major resource in the growing of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and a number of other horticultural crops, says Dr. Tom Walsh, director of An Foras Taluntais.

This is most important when we consider that peat takes up one in every five Irish acres and in many areas it is the only soil source available.

Two research stations, one at Glenamoy, Co. Mayo, and the other at Derrybrennan, Co. Kildare, are studying how to make use of our peat for agriculture.

A lot of new information of international importance is being discovered at Glenamoy in particular. Scientists, who have come to see it from Norway, Sweden, Finland, the USSR, Poland, Newfoundland, Japan and elsewhere have expressed their appreciation of the work being done.

VHF Radio in the Highlands

It is now almost ten years since the BBC introduced VHF sound broadcasting to the Highlands. Now the high quality of reception that this kind of radio gives is available to almost the entire population of the UK. Because VHF transmissions are limited in their range, it also makes possible, the exciting experiments which are now being carried out in local radio and thus enables people living in certain towns to enjoy a service specially designed for them. This kind of local broadcasting deals with issues directly affecting their town and their lives.

"Community broadcasting" is not new to us in the Highlands. A small service has been operating since October 1958. It was then that the VHF transmitter at Rosemarkie in the Black Isle first broadcast within a radius of fifty miles, newsletters, interviews, stories and songs that were specially "made in the Highlands." Since then the coverage has been extended by means of additional transmitters to the outer Islands and many miles of recording tape have flowed through the portable recording machines which the VHF correspondents have taken from "Ardersier to Achiltibuie." It is these correspondents, a team of part-time interviewers placed throughout the area, who record the bulk of the material which reflects the happenings of the Highlands. Keeping the reflection an accurate one is perhaps aided by the fact that the people who are asking the questions are themselves Highlanders and so are more likely to share the values and the problems of the local listener. To ensure an accurate coverage of any particular event, a wide variety of experience is available. Included in the VHF radio team are an hotelier, an NFU Secretary, a youth organiser, a housewife, Film Guild Secretary and a Crofters' Commissioner. The programme to which they mainly contribute is called "Town and Country Magazine." It covers the happenings of the area and its subjects can range from recording the pageant of local history as a Highland regiment disbands, to comment on the issues of Highland development as they are announced. You can hear the arguments for and against each project made by the men responsible. The Highlands have always been extremely interested and concerned about the things which are happening in the community around them and a large number of local newspapers bear witness to this fact. But a newspaper cannot print the human voice—the warmest and most expressive means of communication. VHF radio also sets out to entertain us as well as to inform. It presents the music of the area performed by local artists and where talented story-tellers are found, they're encouraged to search out and record the folklore of the Highlands. Recent projects in broadcasting for the area have included a VHF radio drama festival and a short story competition for which a large number of entries were received. The latter resulted in uncovering a quantity of interesting material and some promising writers.

Wm. Grigor & Son Limited

20 HAMILTON STREET
INVERNESS. TEL 34343



Inverness Cream
SCOTCH WHISKY

IRISH FIGHT FOR FREEDOM — IN LITERATURE

Part 1

The rising of 1916 has provoked the number of books in Irish that one might have expected. There are many reasons for this — not least of them the difficulty of publishing a major work in Irish earlier this century. Another important factor was, of course, the unfortunate Civil War of 1922-23 which cost

better biography, *The Life and Times of James Connolly*, by C. Desmond Greaves (Lawrence and Wishart, London, 1961).

Still on biographies, there are two others that should be mentioned because they are of greatest present interest. Both are by Sean O'Luining, of the Dail Eireann translation staff.

Griffith is one of the key

by PADRAIG O' SNODAIGH

the revolutionary idealism much of its fervour and has made many veterans rather reticent about the period. One result of that is that by far too few biographies, autobiographies or memoirs have been published.

The Breton Le Roux wrote two biographies, one of Pearse (*L'Irlande Militante, La Vie de Patrice Pearse*, Rennes, 1932), the other — and to my mind the better one — of Clarke (Tom Clarke and the Irish Freedom Movement, 1936). There is no biography of Clarke in Irish and the only one of Pearse, done thirty years ago by Seamas O' Seacraigh (Padraig MacPiarais, Oifig an tSolathair, 1938), is not up to Le Roux's standard. While it is good on some aspects of Pearse and the Gaelic movement, the chronology is unsatisfactory, and it fails as a study in depth.

Another biography of an old date is S.S. O'Ceallaigh's *Cathal Brugha* published by Gill in 1942. The book is an illustrative example of the bad effect of the Civil War on writing about the period since the author, himself an important figure in the history of those days, is at all times too conscious of the fight and carries its tensions and hostilities on to the printed page, thus making his study seem at once an apologia as well as a political tract. The sufferer is Brugha, for, while some of his very interesting early writings and speeches in Irish are given, there is no real biography in the strict sense of the early years.

More modern works with a more scholarly approach read much better and are, in fact, better books and better histories than these early two. James Connolly, the Edinburgh-born founder of the Irish Socialist Republican Party, editor of *The Worker's Republic* and leader of the Irish Citizen Army from the outbreak of the 1914-18 war, has been the subject of one useful biography, *Tart na Cora*, by Proinsias Mac an Bheatha published a few years ago by FNT. It takes issue on two major points with what is in many ways a

figures to be evaluated in any attempt at understanding both modern Ireland and the drive of the early 'Sinn Fein' with its then new doctrines of self-reliance and abstention from the British Parliament, its stress on self-conscience, support from home industries and its pride in Irish achievements, all of which are thoroughly documented by O'Luining. The ebb from about 1910 onwards, after the failure of their first Parliamentary contest, the loss of much of the IRB support they had previously enjoyed and the failure of the *Sinn Fein Dail* are similarly dealt with.

'Sinn Fein' was used by the authorities as a derogatory term; their low estimate of the early movement as well as the inaccuracy of their information is marked by their designation of the Irish Volunteers, from September of 1914 onwards, as 'Sinn Fein Volunteers.' The words in this usage were pejorative, but the label had caught the public imagination, and it was the old Sinn Fein that was eventually adapted by the new revolutionaries as they began to organise their political arm in 1917. It was under this label that their doctrine and beliefs received the spectacular assent of the Irish people in the 1918 general election, when 73 of the 105 seats were won by Sinn Fein candidates.

Griffith is, therefore, a key figure in our understanding of this formative period of Irish history, and in O'Luining we have easily his best biographer, whose attraction to Griffith leads perhaps to a slight bias in his handling of the civil war period. By and large this bias is that of most biographers fascinated by their subject, and is a far cry from the passion of Seailg's *Life of Cathal Brugha* noted above.

Another biography by O'Luining is *John Devoy*, published by Clo Morainn in 1961. Devoy was implacable, inflexible and, to many, impossible to work with. Too long a revolutionary, he be-

came perhaps too dedicated to the revolutionary methods of his own organisation, the IRB, or Clan na Gael as the later Fenians in the United States were generally called.

Again, as with most nations emerging from Imperialism, the revolutionary leaders often fell out over means and ends, and Devoy was no exception. But, if again the Civil War is a cloud, in an article written at the end of 1926 he returns to the well springs of the revival when he says:

"But language, nevertheless, is a badge of Nationality. It embodies the ideals and traditions of the people and their poetry and literature are enshrined in it. It is the tie that binds together separated sections of the race and makes them realise that they are one people . . .

"Had the Fenian movement succeeded" (he continues) "it would have taken prompt and effective measures to restore the language, contrary to the prevailing opinion among earlier Gaelic Leaguers, who new nothing of the facts."

This was a characteristic ally but he was not blind to the importance of the Gaelic League:

"The spirit developed and fostered by the Gaelic League found natural vent in work for Ireland along every line of National effort, and changed the country from being a mere province of the British Empire to a living vigorous National Entity."

John Devoy is an interesting book, and the last sections cited from it lead on to an important biography, *An Duinnineach*, by Proinsias O'Conluain and Donncha O'Ceallaigh, published in 1958 by Sairseal agus Dill. 'Funnymann' 'Dansen', as Myles na gCopaleen used to call him, was one of the most interesting figures in the language revival movement. His dictionary remains an essential aid for reader, student and teacher.

More recent publications are *Caitlin Bean Uí Tallamhain's Ros Fiaín Lios an Daill* (Clodhanna Teo., 1967) a good short life of Countess Markievicz which does not, however, measure up to the full length studies by Sean O'Faolain (Constance Markievicz, Cape, London, 1934) and Anne Marroco (*The Rebel Countess*, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, London 1967); *An tAthair Seosamh O'Muirthille's Ireitha Thomais Aghas* (Clodhanna Teo. 1967), the first study at any length of the life and work of Ashe who died as a result of forced feeding in 1917; and my short pamphlet on *The O'Rahilly* (Ua Rathghaill, Foillseachain Poblachtacha, 1957).

(To be continued)

STANDARD GAELIC

J. Harvey Macpherson's article, "Standard Gaelic and Phonetic Spelling," contains one statement with which I whole-heartedly agree: "Gaelic is worth learning." It can also be a pleasure to learn.

But while it is certainly true that there are many languages more difficult for English speakers to learn than Gaelic

by Nancy C. Dorian

(almost any language of Asia, Africa, or the South Seas, for example), I think it is soft-pedaling the situation unacceptably to make Gaelic sound like child's play. This only leads to frustration for people who start in with high enthusiasm and meet obstacles for which they aren't prepared.

By no means all of the obstacles come from the language itself, but the cause of perpetuating Gaelic is ill served by concealing the fact that there are certain purely linguistic difficulties for the learner. I speak here as a descriptive linguist with experience of a dozen or so modern languages other than Gaelic, and as a field worker preparing a full length study of one particular Gaelic dialect; also, finally, as an (American) learner of Gaelic.

Let's get the purely linguistic problem out of the way first. It arises from the fact that the bulk of the learners are native speakers of English or some other non-Celtic language. This means that a language in which a great deal of grammatical information is conveyed by changes at the *beginnings* of words, rather than (or as well as) at their ends, will be something very new to them. The initial consonant mutations alone will be a stumbling block to most learners, then; and the fact that there is an elaborate system of noun-and-adjective agreement, involving *both* initial consonant changes and changes in the endings of words, will mean quite a mental readjustment. (To be fair, for people who like a little spice in life this will also probably be the most interesting aspect of Gaelic, since it's the most different from English.)

Quite aside from the difficulties of the language itself, the books available for use in teaching are not particularly good. The old-style books, still widely used, give a terrific concentration of very dry and ill-presented grammar. The new style books give a lot of lively conversational material, but are skimpy when it comes to explaining the principles of the basic structure of the language.

Then there's the problem of the teachers and their training. Many of the teachers, in night classes for example, are simply native speakers who are pressed into service and agree to try teaching Gaelic out of loyalty to the language and its culture. Often, by the sheer enthusiasm they bring to the job, they have

a good deal of success. But equally often they are unable, as native speakers — to see where the problems of the learner lie, or to extract and emphasise the basic principles which underlie the expressions they are trying to convey to their students. The professional Gaelic teachers, those who have passed through the universities with Celtic as a subject, are well trained in the history of Gaelic, perhaps, and in Celtic literature. But how many of them have been well trained in phonetics, so that they can explain to an English speaker just how the velarized *n* of Gaelic (*Anna* differs from the *n* of English *Anna*)? And how many are trained in contrasting the structure of one language with that of another, so that they can make clear and simple statements about, say word order in Gaelic as opposed to word order in English? (One often hears misleading statements in this connection, e.g., "Gaelic has verb-subject-object, where English has subject-verb-object"—a statement which actually applies only to certain main clauses in the two languages.)

The orthography, for all Mr Macpherson's defence, is difficult for the average learner, who hasn't the training to look for the regular correspondences between sound and symbols. The correspondences are there, and Mr Macpherson is quite right in saying that Gaelic spelling is more reasonable than English spelling in this respect. But the fact remains that not enough is done by the handbooks or the teachers to help learners see the relationships between spelling and pronunciation. After all, the learners are nearly always starting with a deeply ingrained English-language background, and they will inevitably tend to give English values to the combinations of letters they see in front of them.

Finally, Gaelic is harder to learn than most Western European languages because intensive exposure to it is harder to come by. You can't go to Gaelic films, and there's precious little Gaelic to listen to on the wireless; Gaelic publications are still too rare. Gaelic speakers are all bilingual and quite naturally impatient about speaking Gaelic to you when the conversation would go much faster and deeper in English.

Having said all this, I would not like to leave the impression that I think the situation is hopeless. Under the present circumstances it's certainly not good, from the learner's point of view, but there are possibilities.

(To be continued)

NEWSAGENT · STATIONER

Murdoch

Cards Gifts Tobacco

Tel. 638

HILLFOOT STREET, DUNOON

HOLMES REPORT — Imaginative, Sensible and Possible

Professor Robert Grieve, Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, last Tuesday formally received the Report of the Jack Holmes Planning Group on the implications of major industrial investment in the Moray Firth area. Entitled "Moray Firth—A Plan for Growth," the Report is now available to the public.

At a Press conference to mark the occasion Professor Grieve, welcoming the Report, stressed that it did not contain an unchangeable blue-print for the development of the area. "It sets out a series of goals and suggests how these could be reached by the careful application of modern techniques and thinking by all the local planning authorities involved," the Chairman said.

He went on to explain that the Board had asked the planning group to answer the question 'what has to be done to cope with major industrial expansion at Invergordon?' "This they have answered admirably," he said. "The strategy they have produced brings the Highlands right into the foreground of regional planning and development."

"It is imaginative. It is sensible. And, above all, it is possible. This is no pipe-dream but an outline of the real potential of the Moray Firth area."

The Report in no way bound

the hands of the planning authorities within the study area. It would act, in fact, Professor Grieve claimed, as a means of bringing them together to think in a disciplined fashion about future development. "To that end," he continued, "there will be a series of consultations between the Board and the local authorities. By that means we should be able to accomplish a sensible degree of unity about the ways and means by which the strategy can be translated into decisions by the planning authorities."

COSTA ESMERALDA

Ronald Banel's article last week in the 'Scotsman' last on the development of Sardinia has some relevance to our own country. Admittedly the comparison between that island and the Highlands is limited and mainly on the score of scenic beauty.

Development of its unspoiled coast line, the Costa Esmeralda is by a consortium of landowners in "close and detailed partnership" with the Italian authorities. The development plan was prepared with the aid of a team of top architects and planners including urbanists, landscape architects, infrastructure engineers and economic planners, all chosen specially for their proven success in tourist development projects.

Admittedly they aim only to attract wealthy tourists and not the masses, and building is thus limited. Investment to date is £30 million of which one third approximately represents private investment. All buildings have been designed to look as if they have been there for some time and hotels and houses are inconspicuously at ease in their scenic settings. The local building pattern is used.

Can it be said of our recent tourist industry buildings that they look as if they have been here some time? Are our speak easy, chalet, Winnipeg grain elevator designed buildings "inconspicuously at ease in their scenic settings?"

With more development to come it could well be profitable to consider such enlightened projects as that in Costa Esmeralda.

At the same time our developers could well take a look at certain districts in the West Highlands where the local people with limited resources have built modern houses to a local pattern in townships inconspicuously at ease in their scenic setting." Trotternish in Skye is a good example.

SOUTH-WEST ROSS MOD

Principal prize-winners (cups and medals) were:—

Junior literature — Catriona MacLean. Oral delivery — Patricia Matheson; Junior Cup — Cathy O'Kane. Verse speaking — Letterfearn School.

Solo singing — Caroline MacLellan and Ian MacKenzie. Solo singing (over 12) — Pauline McGhee and John MacKenzie. Traditional solo singing — Catriona MacLean

Unison singing — junior choir — Plockton 2nd and 3rd year girls; primary schools — Plockton Primary School.

Solo singing (own choice) — Ena Gordon; (prescribed song) — Mrs Joan MacLellan; male voices — John Healey.

Playing on chanter — Torquil Telsar.

Choral singing — senior choirs — Lochalsh.

First prize-winners — Catriona MacLean, Fiona MacCuish, Donald MacLean, Roddy Nicolson, Patricia Matheson, Cathy MacSween, Peter MacLellan, Dolly MacKenzie, Mhairi Smith, Cathy O'Kane, Catherine MacQueen, William Nicolson, Letterfearn School, Duncairge Castle College, Caroline MacLellan, Jane MacDonald, Roderick Matheson, Ian MacKenzie, John MacKenzie, Pauline MacGhee, Edith Robertson, Craig School, Plockton School.

Plockton 2nd and 3rd year girls, Shiel School, Kyle School, Duncairge 1st year girls, Craig School.

Kathleen Fraser, John D. MacKenzie, Keith Gillies, Torquil Telsar, Edith Robertson, Mhairi Murray, Farquhar MacGregor, Johan MacDonald, Mary Gunn, Connie MacRae, John Healey, Mrs Joan MacLellan, Lochalsh Gaelic Choir Quartet, Lochalsh Gaelic Choir, Donna Nicolson.

SUTHERLAND. CAITHNESS MOD

The following featured in the prize-list at the recent Sutherland/Caithness Provincial Mod:—

JUNIOR SECTION

Oral Delivery

Reading — Fiona MacRae, Durness.

Reciting from memory — Donnie Loutit, Strath.

For excellence in Gaelic conversation (boys and girls) — learners — Lucy Ross, Durness.

Vocal Music

Solo singing (girls under 10) — Mairi MacKay, Invershin.

Solo singing (girls 10-12) — Kathleen MacRae, Golspie.

Solo singing (boys under 10) own choice — Ian MacKay Strath.

Solo singing (boys 10-12) — Robert Cleland, Spittal.

Solo singing (girls 12-16) — Betty MacKay, Invershin.

Solo singing (boys 12-16) — George Murray, Brora.

Duet singing (own choice) — Jennifer McIver and Carol Norris, Brora.

Choral unison — Brora Primary Gaelic Choir.

Singing of a song by a Sutherland bard (boys and girls) — Betty MacKay, Invershin.

SENIOR SECTION

Oral Delivery

Reading at sight unfamiliar piece of prose — Mary MacLachlan, Halkirk.

Recitation of 'Na Mairbh san Raoin' — fluent speakers — Mary MacLachlan. Sgeulachd — Dugald Campbell, Strath.

Vocal Music

Solo singing (female voices) — Mary MacLachlan.

Singing of a song by a Sutherland bard (male and female voices) — Mary MacLachlan.

Solo singing (own choice) former first prize winners — John Porter.

Duet singing — Margaret MacRae and John Porter, Halkirk.

Choral singing in four part harmony — Pentland Gaelic Choir.

Solo singing of 'Puir a Beal' — Caroline MacKenzie, Loch-inver.

Choral singing (ladies voices) — Pentland Ladies Choir.

Instrumental Music

Bagpipes playing of March, Strathspey and Reel — Ian Macleod, Lairg.

Chanter — March (under 16) — John MacPherson, Lairg.

Violin-playing of a Gaelic Air, Strathspey and Reel — Austin MacLeod, Lairg.

Pianoforte-playing of a March, Strathspey and Reel (under 14) — Alison Davies, Thurso.

Border of Celtic art-design for poster — A. Newman, Thurso.

Embroidered cushion cover or try cloth — J. Meyrick, Thurso.

Hand knitted kiln hose — Mrs M. Black, Thurso.

Painting of a Highland scene — Doreen J. Mitchell.

LEWIS MOD

The following were the prize-winners at the recent Lewis Mod:

Orals — 8-10 years

Reading — Donald Iain Smith, Tong.

Recitation — George Murray, North Tolsta and Donald I. Smith, Tong (equal).

Bible Reading — Joan MacKenzie, Aird and Donald I. Smith, Tong (equal).

Learners — Reading

Martin Everett, Leverburgh.

Learners — Recitation

Martin Everett, Leverburgh.

16-13 years

Reading — Marita Macdonald, Leverburgh.

Recitation — Marita Macdonald, Leverburgh.

Bible Reading — Agnes Gillies, Galsion.

Sgeulachd — Norman Matheson, Valtos.

Reading (Learners) — Mary Macsween, Knock.

Recitation (Learners) — Peggy M. Matheson, Nicholson Primary.

13-16 years

Prepared Reading — Murdo Buchannan, Valtos.

Reading at Sight — Kathleen Campbell, Bayble.

Recitation — Murdo Buchannan, Valtos.

Sgeulachd — Murdo Buchannan, Valtos.

Sketch — Leverburgh.

Nicholson Institute Orals Reading — Norma Gillies.

Recitation — Mary J. Kennedy.

Reading — Donald J. Macleod.

Recitation — Donald J. Macleod.

Reading — Alasdair Macleod.

Recitation — Angusina Kennedy.

Junior Mod

Silver Pendant Series — Girls — Prescribed — Joan Kennedy, Nicolson Institute.

Silver Pendant Series — Boys — Prescribed — Hector MacLeod, Nicolson Institute.

Silver Pendant Series — Girls — Own Choice — Mary M. MacKenzie Nicolson Institute and Chrissie J. MacDonald (Tartart).

Silver Pendant Series — Boys — Own Choice — Murdo Buchannan, Valtos.

Silver Pendant Final — Girls — Joan Kennedy, Nicolson Institute.

Silver Pendant Final — Boys — Murdo Buchannan, Valtos.

Boys and Girls Traditional — Own Choice — Margaret Macsween, Tartart.

Learners — Own Choice — Girls — Margaret MacLean, Nicolson Institute.

Boys and Girls — Own Choice — Mary M. MacKenzie, Nicolson Institute, and Donna MacLeod, Nicolson Institute.

Choral Singing — 2 part Harmony — Prescribed — Shawbost.

Choral Unison Prescribed — Rural Schools — Shawbost.

Unison — Own Choice — Leurbost.

Choral — Puir-a-beul — Scalpay.

Boys Choir — Own Choice — Bayble.

Girls Prescribed — Under 13 years — Melina Smith, Bragar.

Boys Prescribed — Under 13 years — Donald Martin, Back.

Girls Own Choice — Under 13 years — Anne M. MacIver, North Tolsta.

Boys Own Choice — Under 13 years — Angus MacLean, Barvas.

Girls and Boys under 9 years — Own Choice — Chrisanna Kennedy, Lemreway.

Learners — Girls Prescribed — Jean Drummond — Laxdale.

Learners — Boys Prescribed — Ronald MacDonald.

Boys Under 13 — Unison — Own Choice — Bayble.

Tourist Railways

In association with the Highlands and Islands Development Board, the Scottish Railway Preservation Society is hopeful that the Aviemore-Grantown line will shortly be reopened as a tourist-com-museum line. The Scottish Railway Development Association has also discussed the Fort William-Mallaig line (one of the most outstanding scenic lines not only in Britain but in Europe) with local users and with Dr Skewis, Transport and Tourist Officer of the Highland Board. It is hoped that the outcome of this will be an autumn Conference in the Fort William area leading to the dropping of the closure threat applying to this route and the development of the route as a combined local tourist route and trunk route to Skye, Barra and the Uists.

The Branch Line Society has arranged a day return trip from Glasgow to Mallaig on Saturday, 24th August — adult tickets £2, children 30s. Bookings will be taken by Mr R. Hamilton, 44 Wardlaw Avenue, Rutherglen, Glasgow. The train will leave at 8.05 and is due back in Glasgow at 22.15. The Association would also appreciate efforts by RDA members to increase publicity for the Mallaig Line. This line is a British national asset and it deserves the fullest possible support.

Landlords in the Highlands

A vexed and difficult subject even to this day, one confused with vague memories of ancient loyalties and recollections of the Clearances. Occasionally too there may be landlord attitudes, hangovers from an autocratic past and conversely crudities of expression not in keeping with the traditional politeness of the Gael. Underlying this there is often a conflict of material interests. To understand what position landlords occupy in the Highlands it is necessary to look to the past. From approximately the year 1770 they became more and more business men, intent in making their estates pay by agriculture. By 1870 most of the original Highland landlords were gone and their places taken by non-Highlanders. Agriculture no longer paid but deer forests and grouse moors brought good rents. Landlords were no longer interested in agriculture and were not concerned to occupy their farms. The last war and the years that followed it changed all this and once again it was profitable for a landlord to farm himself.

It is necessary too to look at the landlords themselves. There are landlords in the Highland and Highland Landlords, the latter being the handful of Highland Chiefs and gentry who have managed to retain their family estates. They often bear evocative titles. Their family names and their history are ours too.

It is their misfortune and ours that they have almost all lost their Gaelic heritage. Rightly or wrongly we probably expect more of these people than of the others and they in turn are probably pained at times by the manifestations of anti-landlordism. It should not be thought however that there is any practical distinction made between them and their non-Highland colleagues. In the latter's case however there can be no emotional hangover from the past and certainly none in the case of the syndicates who own so much of the Western Isles.

The make up of an estate has a bearing on the question. Broadly speaking there are three types. There is the property consisting of large farms, forestry plantations and sporting subjects.

The farms if not in the laird's own hands are nowadays often let to non-Highlanders. The estate and farm servants too are commonly Inverness. The second type is the deer forest and/or grouse moor pure and simple. Here only a few people are employed, stalkers and keepers who are usually Highlanders. The third type is partly or wholly occupied by crofters, the landlord retaining the sporting rights.

This type of estate is predominant in the west mainland of Inverness, Ross and Sutherland and the Hebrides.

Even here distinctions must be made. In the Western Isles all the land is occupied

by crofters and resident landlords are unknown. Neither party makes much demand on the other and the position somewhat resembles that of a feuar paying feu duty to a superior whom he will probably never meet. It has worked there very well to date but in the event of tourist or industrial development the position could yet change. On some of the smaller isles the people are very dependent on the laird for services and for work although there is less and less of this today. On these islands, Skye and on the mainland, the laird plays a bigger part than in the Western Isles. In the first place he is often in residence for long periods, sometimes all year. Generally he has a home farm which until recently he has been anxious to enlarge. Sometimes he can effect this by taking a vacant croft "out of the Act." At least very many would be glad to have no crofters, not necessarily because they dislike them but because they feel they should be able to deal with their property as they wish, to farm, afforest and develop it to their own financial advantage. Most of them are cautious and reticent on the subject, few appear to be enthusiastically in favour. Their factors on the other hand are often overtly critical and on occasion quite ruthless.

It was illuminating to hear some landlords being interviewed on television after a recent conference at Aviemore. They all made it clear that their estates were no longer playing-things and that they were in "business."

This was of course an honest statement of fact and intention. Inevitably therefore as tourism, forestry and industrialisation develop eyes will turn to the crofters' lands. It must be conceded of course some land will have to be resumed from crofters for projects beneficial to their own community and the country.

The Highland Clearances apart from the historical interest are mainly relevant today in so far as we may learn from them. It is important to understand that the lairds of that day were often fine men, generous and humane. As far, however as their estates were concerned they were in business. To make their estates pay they removed their numerous tenantry and let their lands as large farms to Border sheep farmers at huge rents. From their point of view this was sound economic sense, sanctioned always by the Law of Scotland of the time. It was a case of "them or me."

Today viability is the rule again, estates must pay their way but the Crofters Acts have intervened. In the circumstances prevailing since 1939 the question is whether our crofters would still be in possession in the year 1967 were it not for these Acts. The answer would probably be "no." No one should take such a prohibition as being anti-landlord but

rather as an honest acknowledgement of human nature in such matters, matters of business in which the majority adopt the course beneficial to themselves, especially if sanctioned under the law.

The Crofters Acts therefore act as a check on natural cupidity and thus protect people. In turn they prevent irresponsible behaviour amongst the landlords damaging to themselves as well as to their landlords.

The Acts alone are responsible for the state of social stability which prevails where once there was fluidity—a polite modern name for removals.

Gaelic Broadcasts

Thursday, 27th June

- 12 noon News in Gaelic
- 12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
- 3.00 p.m. "An Fhàil Ghidhealtach" (The Royal Highland Show): Effie MacQuorquodale describes some of the interesting features of the Show (recorded).
- 3.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. Colin MacKenzie. Kilwinning (recorded).
- 7.00 p.m. VHF "In the Highlands": An all sorts magazine—Comment, interview, music and song from Gaidmion (recorded).

Friday, 28th June

- 12 noon News in Gaelic
- 12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
- 6.35 p.m. "Gaidhlig Fad As": A selection from the London Mod Concert introduced by Fred Macaulay.

Monday, 1st July

- 12 noon News in Gaelic
- 12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
- Tuesday, 2nd July
- 12 noon News in Gaelic
- 12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn

Wednesday, 3rd July

- 12 noon News in Gaelic
- 6.35 p.m. World Pipe Band Championships 1968: Recorded highlights from the championships held in Grangemouth last Saturday. Introduced by John MacFadyen (recorded).
- 10.50 p.m. TV World Championships: Recorded highlights from the Premier Competition of the Scottish Pipe Band Association held at The Stadium, Grangemouth.

Thursday, 4th July

- 12 noon News in Gaelic
- 12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
- 3.00 p.m. "Na Coigreach" (The Aliens): Short story by Colin N. MacKenzie. (recorded).
- 3.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by the Rev. Duncan MacKenzie. Kinross. (recorded).
- 7.00 p.m. VHF "In the Highlands": An all sorts magazine—Comment, interview, music and song from Gaidmion (recorded).

Friday, 5th July

- 12 noon News in Gaelic
- 12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
- 6.35 p.m. Ceann-Labhairt (Topic)—A look at current events in the Gaelic world with Neil Brown. Edited by Martin Macdonald.

Buidheann Rannsachaidh Roinn An Iar

Caoraich

Cnuimheagan: Ma bhitheas cus chaoran ann am pàirtean bithidh iad a' sìorhabhail cnuimheagan. Tha na cnuimheagan seo ag aobharachadh aintea (inflammation) anns an stamaig agus anns a' mhionach agus theid na caoraich bhuathie. Tha na earbail shalach orra tha e g le choltach gun do ghabh iad an galar seo agus bu choir gabhail aca mus teid iad dha'n mhionadh airson an t-samhraidh.

Tha Bòrd an Fhearainn an deidh rabhaidh a thoirt seachad gu bheil cunnart ann gum bi a'cnuimheagan ris an can iad nematodirus' dona anns na h-uain am bliadhna o'n bha an t-earrach cho fada gun tighinn. Tha uain builteach air a'ghalar seo a ghabhail far a bheil iad air an fheur anns an aon phàirtean bliadhna an deidh bliadhna. Tha na cnuimheagan seo ann m buachan nan uain agus tha na h-uibhean aca (larvae) air an ithe leis na h-uain oga an ath bliadhna. Tha seo ag aobharachadh call mhoir ach a'ghalar seo a leas a bhithean ann bithidh na h-uain air an cur air fheur nach robh gin a'bhlaithna roimhe, eadar meadhan a' Cheitein (May) agus meadhan an fhuair (July), an t-am as cunnartach. Mura urrainn dhuibh seo a dèanamh bu choir dhuibh dos de rudigin a thoirt dhaibh a chuireas bacadh air na cnuimheagan agus dos eile thoirt dhaibh an deidh tri seachdainean.

Comharrachadh: Anns an t-Sultuin (September) thuit rinn gu robh an galar ris an can iad spoig-dhubh a' dol an dràsda air cuid de bhailean fearainn agus faodaidh e tighinn an deidh spoigdh, seachd no rugadh. Dh' fhaodadh galar na glas-ghuib (tanus) a bhithe ann cuideachd. Tha na germs a tha ag aobharachadh nan galair sin a'faghainn a stigh dha'n chorp "roimh an aite far an deachaidh a' chaora a ghearradh agus faodaidh iad faghainn a stigh cuideachd le snaitheadh "halach an uair a thathas a' brecadh nan caoraich. Tha brecadh (vaccination) a' cur bacadh air spoig-dhubh agus air galar na glas-ghuib ach tha e'na chuideachadh m'ogus na galair sin a chumail

air falbh ma tha a h-uile aite cho glan agus is urrainn dha bhithe. Chan e a' mhaigh buidheagan agus innealan-comharrachaidh math a tha air an cumail a dh'ona-ghnothach airson na h-oibre seo, a' deanamh na h-oibre nas fhearr agus a' cur bacadh air galair, ach chan eil na caoraich a' fulang uiread agus a bhithe iad mura bi na h-innealan ceart. Cumaibh peile antiseptic ri ur laimh agus nighibh ur lannan agus na h-innealan a tha sibh a'cleachdadh gu tric ann. An deidh an cleachdadh bu choir sgean agus innealan-comharrachaidh a bhithe air an glanadh, air an tiormachadh agus air an suathadh le 'vaselin'.

Croth

Brucellosis: Deanaibh feum dha'n Brecachadh Saor (Free Calf Vaccination Service), car son laigh bhoireann eadar trì mìosan is sia mìosan a brecadh mus teid an cur a mach air feur.

Plaigh ghartain (Ticks): Tha tort chruidh a'fulang leis a'phlaigh seo an dràsda. Bu choir an suathadh air a' bhoirinn, air a'bhroilleach, air na slaisaidean agus anns an t-òsgaid le dup a tha laidir gu leor airson stad a chur air a' phlaigh.

NO BOTHER

A 1350 ton barge can travel up an inclined plane lift at Ronquiers in Belgium. Built at a cost of over £15m, this lift replaces 38 locks on the Brussels-Charleroi Canal. Its completion demonstrates the negligence of Great Britain in not attempting to reduce transport costs in the face of foreign competition. Opponents of water transport in this country often claim that our terrain is too steep for canals. In fact, there are few places where the landscape is steep enough to have 38 locks of the size of those at Ronquiers. The plan proposed in the booklet "New Waterways" envisages no more than nine such lifts to and from the main ports and rivers, all the remaining 1,500 miles of canal being lock free. If this were built there need be no Hixon disasters; since such loads as heavy transformers would not have to travel by road.

LOCH NESS CRUISES

in m.v. SCOTT II

May to September

Monday to Saturday

SAILINGS from MUIRTOWN TOP LOCK, INVERNESS

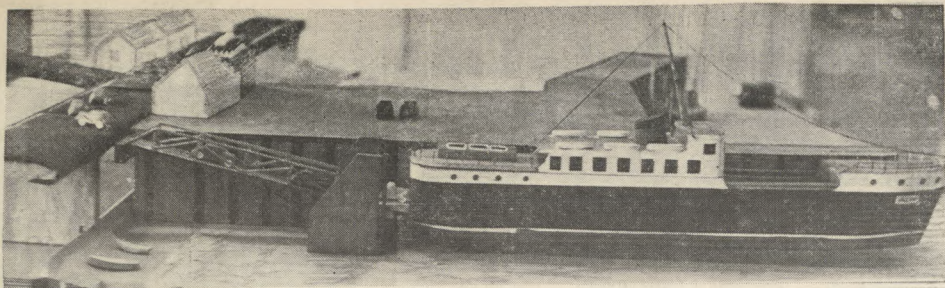
Refreshments on Board

Car Park

Bookings:

CALEDONIAN CANAL OFFICE, CLACHNAHARRY

Phone 33140



The scale model of the "Undine" and Ullapool pier.

Photograph by courtesy of "Stornoway Gazette"

Is This The Answer?

Aberdeen Hold First Provincial Mod

A highly successful two-day Mod was held in Aberdeen on Friday and Saturday 21st and 22nd June.

This is the first time a provincial Mod has been held in the Granite City and the entries for both Junior and Senior Sections were very encouraging.

Promoted as part of Aberdeen Festival Week, the Mod had the full backing of the City Corporation and in fact the idea of holding the Mod as part of the Week's festivities came from the City Fathers.

At the concert on the Saturday evening the prizes were presented by Lord Provost Lennox.

Guest artistes at a very enjoyable concert were the MacDonald Sisters, George Clavey, Ron Gonella, and Alistair Hunter.

Mr Iain MacSweeney and his organising committee are to be congratulated on a very successful first Mod.

quite remarkable but perhaps its greatest contribution is in helping the children to think positively and constructively about the problems that exist in the area and realising that they can be overcome.

on current Hebridean ferry charges are:

Cars not exceeding 11ft. E4	10 -
per additional ft.	10 -
Caravans not exceeding 11 ft.	E4 10 -
per additional ft.	12 6
Commercials, per ton (Gross)	E5
Passengers: Single	E1
Day returns	E1 15 -

The ferry should operate at a profit and here are the figures to prove it:

Income	
Freight	E90,000
Cars, Caravans, etc.	50,000
Passengers	50,000
Total	190,000
Expenditure	
Wages	E52,000
Fuel	30,000
Insurance	40,000
Extras	20,000
Balance	48,000
Total	190,000

Considering the project in depth, the youngsters have suggested a time-table for the service but they have also drawn a plan of a proposed Transport Cafe in Ullapool costing E20,000.

A Necessity

In their summing up the pupils say that "an Ullapool-Stornoway ferry will be a necessity in the 1970s."

The project as a whole is

Mr John Buchanan, headmaster, with members of his staff and the pupils who prepared the project.

Photograph by courtesy of "Stornoway Gazette"

Distances from Stornoway are as follows: Kyle — 68 miles, Gairloch — 39 miles, Aultbea — 35 miles, and Ullapool — 45 miles.

The "Undine"

Not only have the Ullapool children suggested the type of vessel that should be used but they have named it "Undine" after the last boat on the Stornoway-Ullapool service in the 1880s.

A stern loader of 2,500 tons, 250 feet length, 50 feet breadth with a maximum draught of 10 feet and a service speed of 18 knots costing E600,000 would be ideal according to the study.

As the existing facilities on both sides of the Minch are inadequate the project would involve additional costs amounting to E800,000.

Ullapool Pontoon	E12,000
" Anchor Piers & Fenders	15,000
" Ramp	15,000
" Pier Extension	80,000
" Fendering for Extension	20,000
" Shore Works	5,000
Stornoway Pontoon	E12,000
" Anchor Piers & Fenders	15,000
" Ramp	15,000
" Shore Works	5,000
Total	E794,000

Profit or Loss?

The suggested rates, based

have on the existing Kyle-Stornoway steamer service, the increasing emphasis on road traffic all indicate that the time is now ripe for seriously considering the establishment of a service on this route.

The depressing statistics for the Dingwall-Kyle railway tell their own story. In 1963 the freight was 20,737 tons, while in 1965 the figure was 19,329. The weight of parcel freight dropped from 164,261 tons to 160,449 despite the fact that they showed an increase to 181,443 in 1964. The number of passengers using the service dropped from 27,689 in 1963 to 25,085 in 1965. In 1949, 65,000 people used the service and 40,000 tons of freight were carried in it.

Why Ullapool?

Having considered Kyle, Gairloch, Aultbea and Ullapool, the youngsters opted for Ullapool for the following reasons:

- Better pier and manoeuvring facilities.
- Better parking facilities.
- Early prospect of a two-lane trunk road to Inverness.
- Better hotel and boarding-house accommodation.
- More compactness and is nearer Invergordon where major industrial developments are expected in the near future.

Why a Ferry?

The imminent closure of the Dingwall-Kyle railway line, the effect this would



woman to woman

Salad Days

The second in our series of "salads with a difference" is a curried mushroom one: deliciously refreshing on a hot exhausting day.

8 oz. diced mushrooms
8 oz. sweet corn
2 oz. blanched almonds
2 oz. butter
salt and pepper
2 teaspoons of curry powder
16 cubes of chopped pineapple
8 tablespoons French dressing

Melt the butter in a pan and lightly cook the mushrooms. Allow to cool, then season and add curry powder. Mix with sweet corn; add pineapple, almonds and dressing. Mix thoroughly and serve well chilled.

This salad is particularly tasty served with ham.

★ ★ ★

Plant Life

Most people leaving on holiday remember to do the obvious things like cancelling milk and newspapers and switching off the gas and electricity but how many forget the smaller things like seeing that house-plants are cared for?

If you are only away for a week or less, this last problem is easily solved—just leave your plants in a tray of water in a light draught-free place, and they should be perfectly healthy on your return. But if you are away for more than a week your best plan is to ask a neighbour to water them when necessary.

So don't neglect your house-plants for two weeks in the year,

when they give you so much pleasure throughout the rest of the year.

★ ★ ★

Soak It Out

With school holidays looming very close, most of you will be dreading one of your accompaniments: a drastic increase in the size of the family wash. With children out-of-doors making the most of the sunny weather, the pile of dirty shirts and shorts will be twice as high as during term time.

A powder designed to make light of badly stained or soiled material is "Big S." It is most effective and eliminates the need for boiling or scrubbing. In fact, in some cases all you need to do after soaking is to rinse the garment and hang it out to dry.

Although "Big S" has been on the market for some time now and definitely does do all that it purports, few housewives in the North seem to have heard of it, never mind tried it.

But take a tip and save yourself some back-break—buy a packet of "Big S." You won't regret it.

★ ★ ★

In Short

I was amused the other day to see an advertisement for a very mini dress in printed cotton. On the caption it said: "Ideal for those who want to keep it cool, but for the less daring it makes a useful skirt to wear with slacks!"

Review Order

"The Death of an Irish Town" is a social document of rare significance. First published in the Irish Times as a series of articles, "No One Shouted Stop" in October 1967, it was hailed as one of the finest pieces of social comment published by an Irish newspaper in the past forty years.

This is the story of the rise and fall of Charlestown, a typical Irish rural town. Born in anger during the Great Famine it died in the most affluent time in the long and ancient history of Ireland. It shows how layers of indifference, apathy and cynicism were laid down by Church, State and the people.

The author demonstrates the interplay of internal and external forces which today has left the west of Ireland a wasteland. It is done with angry compassion by a man who was born in Charlestown in 1930 and lived there for twenty years.

John Healy, named Mayoman of 1967 for his moral courage and integrity as a journalist, started his career with "The Western People" in 1948, went to Dublin in 1950 and became the youngest national editor in Irish journalism in 1960.

o o o

Anne Devlin

With the exception of Robert Emmet, the most heroic figure in the ill-starred Insurrection of 1803 was Anne Devlin, and no one directly involved in that occurrence has been more perfunctorily treated by historians.

Variously described by them as Emmet's housekeeper his maid-servant or just a menial in his household, she has been given scarcely more than a brief mention in many instances dismissed in a footnote, in their accounts of that stirring period.

Anne Devlin was much more than a housekeeper. She played a prominent role in the Rising, and was in full confidence of its leaders. Brother Luke Cullen, a contemporary of Anne Devlin, befriended her to the best of his very modest means in her later poverty-haunted years.

This book re-discovers Anne Devlin, who in her own words, painstakingly taken down a century ago by Brother Luke Cullen, tells of her sufferings and her cruel

CUAS RI CLAISTEACHD

Chan eil Cuas ri Claiстеachd a sgrìobhadh an turus seo ach bidh Maol-naonaich air ais an ath mhios 'e tuilleadh bheachdan air programan Gaidhlig.

detention in Kilmainham Jail. The story gives a great and selfless Irishwoman the place so long due to her in Irish history. (The Prison Journal of Anne Devlin, 7/6).

o o o

The Hedge Schools

There is an element of romance in the story of the Hedge Schools. They are an example of the spontaneous desire for education of a conquered people, since they resulted from the suppression of legal means of schooling under the Penal Code. Thus they kept alive some fragments of scholarship, and maintained their independence in spite of hardship and danger. Nowhere else can such a mass of interesting material be found in a single volume to show us the hedge school at work.

So much glamour, national history and educational glory during their life accumulated around the institutions that one is tempted almost to re-

Celtic Art Classes

The rafters of the Larbert High School on Saturday morning were jolted for the first time to the disciplined roll of drums when the drumming class under Drum-Majors Bruce and Stevenson had their first practice with real (borrowed from B.B.) drums in preparation for their recital to parents etc. on the 22nd June.

Dancing class tutors—Miss Irene McKechie, Grange-mouth, and Mr McGuire, Banknock, are very pleased on how well the school are coming along. Many of the children have arranged to compete at the Grange-mouth Children's Day on June 22nd and again a week later at either Alva Games or the World Pipe Band Competition at Grangemouth. This early competition experience should be invaluable to the pupils in the future. Miss McKechie has contracted to enlarge her dancing experience by joining "The Jimmy Shand Show" in July. Mr McGuire intends to compete at Lesmahagow on the 22nd June and again at Cowal Games on the 31st of August, so the dancing tutors are keeping themselves in tip-top condition. Their experience and expert tuition should ensure that many pupils from the Highland dancing classes should make the prizes-lists in the future.

Honour

Drum-Major Robert Bruce, the senior drumming tutor at the Saturday morning classes held at Larbert High School has been honoured by being appointed "Ensemble Judge" for the World Pipe-Band Championship contest to be held at Grangemouth on 29th June 1968.

The Hedge Schools of Ireland

by P.J. Dowling



A Mercier Paperback

get their fall. One is tempted . . . to forget the days when there was no sun or the winter months in a sod-walled barn-like structure and the master's frequent penury in the glory of his classical and mathematical attainments. (The Hedge Schools of Ireland, paper back, 128pp.).

The Macdonald Sisters

The TV Times (Grampian), last week featured the Sisters in a whole page to themselves, giving them precedence over Des O'Connor and no less space. This was no more than these talented sisters deserve, especially since they made such good use of the opportunity. In their interview with Dermot Hill, the writer of the article, they showed no concern for their own image, the emphasis was on Gaelic and its song.

Not that they need to worry about their image for in their lively and very professional performances they are their own best advocates.

There are a few who claim to dislike them for obscure reasons, always subjective and sometimes even uncharitable. Perhaps they would be more acceptable if they wore "traditional" rig for Gaelic—white blouse and tartan skirt. Such gear of course would have appeared very fast to Mairi Muir nan Oran who, in turn in her tippet and mutch, would doubtless have seemed quite outré to the cailleachs of her day, born and bred to the earrasaid. Perhaps again what are considered to be traditional songs might be preferred.

This overlooks, of course, that the Sisters generally draw on the songs of their own island in preference to the hoary favourites of the Celtic Lyre and other late 19th century song books.

Be that as it may, the Macdonald Sisters are doing a fine job for our language and song.

SANDEMAN SCOTCH



The King of Whiskies

Lar Uisge
beatha de
chliu
sonraichte

"Rìgh nan Uisge Beatha"

over to you:

FEAR-DEASACHAIDH

A Dhuine Choir,
Gu tric tha "Frank" a' sgrìobhadh rud no dha a tha gile thairail 'na chobhlh "Frank Speaking," ach cha robh an carrann "God is Dead" (Sruth, Di-ardaoin, 13 latha de'n Og-mhios) cart idir, idir.

Thubhairt e, mar eisimpleir: "On present showing God is surely dead in the Church, for it is not a fact that all denominations of religion are experiencing an acute shortage of entrants to carry the torch of the various brands of faith?"
Phreagaine mar seo:
No sir, it is not.

The phrase "God is dead" is not a new coinage or a startling modern discovery. It was first penned by the German philosopher Nietzsche (1844-1900) whose writings were the basis for any pretensions to a philosophical rationale which Nazism possessed. Nietzsche said these words into the mouth of a madman, but it is important to complete the quotation which, if I remember rightly, reads "God is dead . . . and you have killed him."

Secondly, what does your columnist mean by "the Church"? Does he mean Church as used in the phrase "Church and State," or in the phrase the Holy (or Roman) Catholic Church, or the Church of Scotland, or the Free Church? Alternatively, does he mean the body of Christians, or the Moderator of the General Assembly, or the Pope, or any particular individual or individuals professing to be believers? If he means Christians in general, would he include, say Albert Schweitzer, Danilo Dolci, Martin Luther King, Chief Lubudi, Canon Collins, Trevor Huddleston, Alan Paton, Malcolm Muggeridge, Professor C. R. M. Joad and the wee saintly buddy you can meet in almost any community in Scotland and anywhere else?

As for the "acute shortage of entrants" let us take one example alone: that of the Faculty of Divinity and Christ's College, Aberdeen. These institutions now have more students of divinity than at any time in their history. This fact was pointed out recently by Professor MacEwan of Aberdeen's Department of Church History. (The number enrolled there do not, incidentally, include the male and female students studying at Aberdeen's Department of Biblical Studies in the Faculty of Arts).

Nor do these "entrants" comprise persons of only one class or type in society. The booklet giving the list of students enrolled at the Faculty of Divinity and Christ's College in this one city of Aberdeen includes, for Session 1967-68, young lads fresh from the Faculty of Arts following their schooling, mature men and middle-aged "late" entrants. Many trades and professions are represented: the skipper of a Lewis lobster boat, a tanker

driver, also from Lewis, a scrap metal dealer, a haberdasher, an electrician/shop steward, a television engineer, accountants, a male nurse, civil servants, teachers, soldiers, insurance clerks, farm chieftains, factory trainees, an outfitter, an unpaid social worker, a commercial traveller, a former Church of England ordinand, several Africans and a market gardener, to mention only a few.

"Frank" states that "like the Church today politics is a career field . . ."

Few of the above-listed men could, by any stretch of imagination, be regarded as career men. Many of them have given up well-paid jobs to enter the service of the Church and of their fellow-men.

By all means attack the Church (whatever we mean by the word!) but your columnist's fulminations are aimed at the wrong targets. A much better criticism was made by singer Jimmy MacGregor who is reported to have lambasted the Church for not being sufficiently anti-evil. This may well be fair comment; "Frank's" is not.

Is misn, C. MACAEOIDH
GARBHAN L. MACAEOIDH
(G. C. McKAY)
16 Tobairmoire,
'Neig,
Obaircathain.

A Chàraid.—Re a letter in the last issue from Adhamh suggesting that words like laboratory etc. should be in English in italics in a Gaelic column, it is a puzzle to me why the Gaels of Ireland and of Scotland do not get together and standardise the tongue. The Irish have Gaelic words for the sciences and industry and politics,—why should we put English ones, or (an even greater mistake) make new ones that would be different—I found it much easier to understand the farmers in Ireland than my own crofter neighbours, largely I think because they did not slur so much. There was a time when the language was the same in both countries as early Miss. show, and it would give great strengthening to both countries if standardisation took place. I expect I have roused a bees' blyke, but it seems to me to be common-sense.

Is misn le mor meas
WENDY WOOD
31 Howard Place,
Edinburgh, 3.

Sir,—I would be very happy if you would help me find some young people to write to in Scotland or the Highlands. I'm 29 years of age and very interested in old Scottish dirks or "Sgian Dubh" and would be pleased to get one of these items if possible or the name and address of anyone who might be kind enough to help. If anyone over

there wants any items of interest sent from Australia or stamps or any other information please let me know or they can write to me. Yours etc.

(Mr D. G. BLYTH.
40 Pleasant Avenue,
Glandore,
Adelaide,
South Australia.

THE YEAR 2000
Sir, — The article "The Year 2000" reminds me that your previous contribution on this subject had two rather depressing forecasts implied in it. One was that in all the discussion of the state of music in Scotland, no mention was made of piobair eachd, so we have to infer that this greatest branch of Scotland's music is doomed to extinction within the next hundred years.

The other was that by the name "Seamus we can only assume that Mother Ireland has taken over her former colony one again. —Your etc.

SEUMAS MACNEILL
20 Ottago Street
Glasgow W.2.

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

GAME FISHING IN SCOTLAND

The Highlands and Islands Development Board have published the second in their series of game fishing guides to their region. Written by James Coutts, who also wrote the Inverness-shire guide published by the Board last year, it is packed with useful information about the many lochs and streams of Sheland.

The author, who pays particular attention to details such as clear directions on how to get to various stretches, and what sort of flies should be used for the best results, says that what impresses him most about Sheland is the variety of fishing to be obtained.

A Highland Board spokesman said yesterday in Inverness: "The Inverness-shire guide is selling well. Only the other day we had an urgent request for one from Spain. Indeed, there has been so much interest that we are hoping to add to the series, and will be publishing a guide to Argyllshire very shortly."

The Shetland guide, printed in Inverness by the Highland Herald, and well illustrated with photographs and maps, can be obtained direct from the Highlands and Islands Development Board, 6 Castle Wynd, Inverness, price 4s 6d including postage.

HIDB Stornoway Enterprise

The Highlands and Islands Development Board are to take over and expand the Herring Industry Board factory in Stornoway. Announcing the project, which will represent a Board investment of something like £100,000 over a three year period, in Stornoway yesterday, Mr Prophet Smith, Board Member responsible for fishing, said the take-over represented a landmark in that it was the first time the Highland Board had gone into business on their own account.

Professor Grieve pointed out that the principal reason for the take-over was to avert a situation where, with the expansion of the Lewis and Harris fleet, catching capacity would far out-

strip the shore-based facilities for handling the fish. With the Board committed to spending £4m on boosting the West Coast fleet, thus trebling its catching capacity, it was vital to keep the shore balance right.

The factory, built in 1955 and currently employing seven people, had been restricted to processing one species of fish.

That picture would be radically changed. Production would be diversified and, if everything went according to plan, there would be a total of 25 jobs in twelve months' time, and 50 in three years' time.

Scots Record Company Opens New Studios

A modern new recording studio has been opened in the heart of Glasgow by Thistle of Scotland Records, the independent recording company which specialises in recordings of Scottish singers and Highland music.

"With increasing commitments to meet the demands of a growing market, we have felt for some time that a new studio was an essential," said Mr Gavin D. Farquhar, managing-director of Thistle Music.

"The new studio adjoins our business offices in Berkeley Street. In it, in future, we shall be recording our LP albums and EPs by such established artists as Will Starr, Fergie MacDonald and his Scottish Dance Band, Gaelic singers Mary Sannan and Calum Canarion, Dennis Clancy, and many more."

"The demand for Scottish music is still very strong. Records of gay lilting Highland music are always in demand, both in Scotland and for friends and relatives overseas."

"There is also a continuous interest in Gaelic songs and music, in which we specialise."

The completion of the new studio has been supervised by Mr John Cutler, recording-manager for Thistle Records.

"It is completely sound-proof," he said. "The noise of the nearby traffic in the centre of Glasgow is fully eliminated."

Until now Thistle Records made their recording in either the Glasgow Concert Hall (now scheduled for demolition in the city development plan) or the Highlanders' Institute.

An accomplished musician, John Cutler, a native of Wombwell, Yorkshire, came to Scotland 28 years ago. He has played in many professional theatre orchestras and now concentrates on the recording and engineering side of the music business.

Two of Thistle's latest records — Will Starr's LP "Musette Memories" and a new EP by Fergie MacDonald, "Mary Ann MacRae" have recently been recorded in the new studios in Glasgow.

BELLSDYKE PATIENTS ENTERTAINED

The patients, staff and visitors at Bellsdyke Hospital, Larbert were entertained on Wednesday evening (19/6/68) by the Pipes and Drums of the 3rd T.A. Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and members of the Stirling Castle Piping and Dancing School.

At the beginning of the evening the pipe-band marched up the hospital main drive to the recreation field where they began their programme.

While the pipes and drums were "at rest" the company were entertained by the Boy Highland dancers from the Stirling Castle Piping and Dancing Association who presented a colourful spectacle with their excellent dancing and smart turn-out.

After the dancing master, Walter Perry, from Fallin, a former junior champion of Scotland, gave a selection of tunes on his accordion. Walter gave a memorable rendering of that very popular slow air—"The Dark Island."

The drummers then beat "Retreat" after which they joined with the pipes in counter-marching and playing such old favourites as "When the Battle is O'er" and "Dovecote Park."

The boys again entertained by dancing "The Sword Dance" in true military style which was much appreciated by the company.

Before the Pipes and Drums concluded Mr Jas. Shields, the hospital social organiser, thanked everyone connected with the venture for coming along and entertaining the company.

Pipe-Major Larry Georgeson and Mr Jack Oliver who is in charge of the Highland dancers are to be congratulated in presenting such an entertaining and memorable programme to a section of our community who are sometimes forgotten in the bustle of modern-day life.

