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the Islands and in Scotland

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THURSDAY, 13th JUNE 1968

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No. 32

NA FAROES

"Economic expansion and resurgence of interest in language are more closely related than the superficial observer would suspect. There is an inspiration in culture that gives people self-respect." Dr Peter Reinhardt.

So a chanas a mhòr chuid de mhuinnir na Faroes 'nuair a dh'fhoighneachas thu dhaibh de as coireach gu bheil iad a'deanamh cho math ann an gnothuichean eòin.

Tha na Faroes tuath air Sealtainn is Arcaibh—òchd cileannan deug mu trì cheid agus deich mheiltean bho tuath gu deas, ann fearann 'san dealbh caran coltach ris an Eilean Sgitheanach eadar an t-Ath Leathainn agus Sligeachan gun uidhir de dheur. Ann an 1800 cha robh ann de shluagh ach 5,000; ann an 1900—15,000; 1964—34,000 agus an duigh 37,000. B'abhaist do na daoine a bhi fuireach ann am bailtean beaga taobh na mara ach tha iad a nis a'tarruing a steach gu bailtean mar a tha Morshavn, ann prìomh bhaile—coltach ri Steornabhagh, Klakksvik man aon mhead ri Bagh a'Chasteil, agus bailtean beaga eile. Tha mu 13,000 air eilean Streymay, 7,500 air Eysturay, 2,700 air Vagar, 5,000 air Sunduray agus mu mhille ann an cuid de na h-eileannan eile.

Tha an canan fhein aca, Farais a chaidh a sgrìobhadh an gramair ann 1846 agus 'sann ann 1928 a thainig a cheud fàclair a mach. "Se Danais a bha iad a'cleachdadh mar chanan oifigeil gun ann a chogaidh mu dheireadh ach thoisich iad a'ceagais troimh 'n canan fhein ann an 1937. An duigh 'si Farais a cheud chanan ged a

thathar a'ceagais 'sna sgòiltean troimh Danais airson a mhòr chuid de'n tìde le con leabhraichean.

'Se sìorramachd de Denmark a bha 'sna Faroes gu 1948 ach bhathar ag iarraidh comhairle bho'n Lagting (comhairle de na daoine fhein) bho am bu ann. 'Sann aig rìoghachd Denmark a bha cothrom bathair gu 1856 'nuair a shaoaradh cothrom marsantachd. Thoisicheadh an uair sin air iasgach ceart agus an sin a mach thainig gluasad ann measg nan daoine fhein airson an canan 'san dualchas a ghlèidheadh gus mu dheireadh ann an 1948 chaidh Achd a chur am mach a thug dhaibh fein riaghladh. Bho 1948 tha iad air adhartas mor a dheanamh air an ceann fhein agus cumaidh iad am mach mura biodh iad air an cothrom so a ghabhail nach robh iad ach aid dhòl air ais agus an sluagh air fagal 's air dhòl gu Denmark. Chuir iad rompa nach biodh cosgais air tioclacan pobuill (social benefits) gus am biodh beòshaint air a bhuan-nachd do na h-uile duine a bha 'ga iarraidh. Mar sin an t-airgid a rachadh air rathaidan agus dol—sa leithid chaidh chur a steach ris an iasgach. Chaidh bataichean a cheannach, factoraidhean sgoltaidh a thogail, seomairean reoitidh, tralaircan iarainn, laimhrigan, tionnsgalan agus a leithid a thogail gus mu dheireadh an robh airgid 'ga sheachnadh airson tioclacan pobuill (social benefits).

Tha parlamaid aca fhein ris an can iad an Lagting le naoi thar fhichead buill a'coinneachadh an Morshavn ann prìomh bhaile. Tha Comhairle Parla-

maid aca trìuir fhear. 'Se ceithir mìosan de dh'obair a tha'n Lagting a'deanamh air gnothuichean nan eilean agus tha na Faroes a'paigheadh a' chosgais ach tha cumhannan aca airson gnothuichean an co-phairt ri Denmark agus tha Denmark a'paigheadh an dara leith. Tha an Lagting a'coimhead thairis air tionnsgalan, marsantachd, rathaidean, dealain, laimhrigan etc. Tha gach duine a'togail a thighe fhein, gach fear a' cosnadh eadar £1,000-£2,000 gach bliadana. Tha cosgais Slainte, Peannsin, Foghlum, An Eaglais 'ga roinn leth thar leth. Polais, Cuirtean, Tighean Soluis is gearad an iasgaich a'tighinn gu h-iomlan bho Denmark.

Tha da cheud commune 'sna Faroes agus an cromadh riutha sin tha cruinneachadh nan cisean, 19 per cent an deidh cìs tuarasdail (income tax) a' phaigheadh. Tha so a'ruith bho

(Continued on Page Twelve)

A CHANGING SCENE?



INVERGORDON — Still awaiting an announcement on large scale industrial development, in quiet holiday mood. What changes by the end of this year?

Wealth of Sutherland

A commercial assessment of the minerals of West and North-West Sutherland is to be carried out for the Highlands and Islands Development Board by the Robertson Research Company, Ltd. Work is starting immediately and will take nine months.

A spokesman for the Board said yesterday "The Board have selected Sutherland for this investigation for two reasons. The first is that the area has known mineral potential. Secondly, this part of the Board's area presents development problems and, should the exploitation of one or more minerals be shown to be feasible, this would complement the employment provided by the West Coast fishing industry and tourism.

"This is the first attempt by a public body to make a commercial assessment of minerals in a sub-region of the Highlands, and landowners have been very co-operative. The study will embrace consideration of the latest mineral processing techniques, market requirements and economic potential.

"Although the type of study now to be undertaken has produced valuable development in other countries it must be emphasised that no prediction of success can be made."

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BIRTHS

MACLEOD—At the Lewis Hospital, Stornoway, on 1st June 1968, to Rev. and Mrs. A. M. Macleod, Free Manse, Kinloch—a daughter, Both well.

MACMILLAN—At Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on 1st June 1968, to Neil and Isabel (née O'Brien), 20 Gorse Place, Caol, Fort William—a son, Both well, (Brother for Jane).

DEATHS

MACLEOD—At Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on the 1st June 1968, Roderick Macleod (headmaster, Rothiemurchus School, Aviemore), dearly loved husband of Mary and dear father of Marion and Rory.

MARTIN—At London, Ontario, Canada, on 25th April 1968, Isobel Carson, beloved wife of the late John Martin, dear mother of Ian, and youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Donald Carswell, Lorn Furnace, Taynult, Argyll.

PROVERB

Cha do chuir a ghuallain ris
Nadh do chuir tur thairis.
None ever set his shoulder to
That did not what he sought to
do.

Text for the Times

Co gheibh bean shubhalceach air
tha a luchas os ceann neamhnuidean.
Gn.-fh. c. 31 r. 10.

Who can find a virtuous woman
for her price is far above rubies.
Prov. ch. 31 v. 10.

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TIGH-OSDA PHENTLAND INHIR-TEORSA

Air leth freagarrach airson
teaghlachan air thurus is
laignearan nan lochan 's nan
aibhnichean 's an Taobh-Tuath.
Am biadh as fearr.
Gabhgar gu math ruibh
le
Fear an Tighe 's Bhean
SEORAS IS FREDA SUTHLAN

CLUAS RI CLAISNEACHD

Beachdan air Programan Gaidhealach

Naidheachd Mhath

Chleachd program Gaidhlig a bhith a' tighinn a mach feasgar Di-màirt, ach tha greis bho'n sguir sin. Tha e coltach gun do sgròibh cuid de'n luchd-fèiseachd chun a' Bh. B. C. ag ràdh gu robh iad 'ga ionndrainn. Chaidh innse dhuinn air "Dà Cheathramh agus Fonn" air an t-seachdain seo chaidh gun bi na programan sin a' toiseachadh as ùr mu dheireadh an Fhoghair. Is math da-rèirach an naidheachd sin—tha mòran ann aig nach 'eil an cothrom programan a thig a mach aig meadhan-latha no tràth air an fheasgar a chluinntinn a chionn gu bheil iad a muigh air ceann an cosnaidh.

Luchd-ionnsachaidh

Chan 'eil mòran rudan ann cho oileilte ann an cluasan a' Ghaidheil na Gall no Sasunach a' seinn òran Gaidhlig 's gun e air a dhol gu dragh sam bith airson ar cànan a thogail. Ach 'se rud taitneach a th'ann a bhith ag fèiseachd ri òran math Gaidhlig air a sheinn le cuid-eigin aig a bheil speis cho mòr do'n chànan 's gun do thog iad i agus theid aca air a labhairt gu fìleana'. Mar sin nuair a bhios Seòras Clavey agus Màiri Sandeman a' seinn tha iad a' dearbhadh gu bheil uidh aca, chan ann a mhaìin 'nar coil, ach 'nar cànan cuid-eachd. (Ro thrì chan 'eil an dà ni a' dhol còmhla—cia meud de na gaisgich a sheinneas "Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig" gu sgairteil ann an còisir aig a' Mhòd a tha comasach air seachas a dhèanamh anns a' Ghaidhlig?)

Math dh'fhaoidte nach biodh e 'na uallach ro throm air beachd òran Gaidhlig ionnsachadh a sheinn, ach chan 'eil e cho furasda do dhuine a dh'ionnsach a' chaimnt òraid a thoirt seachad air a bheil ann blas ceart. Tha Anna Ros air a' Ghaidhlig ionnsachadh agus tha i ri moladh airson cho sìubhlach agus a bhruidheas i. Thug i iomradh tlachdmhor dhuinn air an dà chaisleat dheug aig Fionn ann an Gleann Liobhann.

Naidheachdan Gaidhealach

'Se naidheachdan an t-saoghail mhòr a tha sinn a' faighinn aig meadhan latha agus is ann ainmeamh a bhios cuspairean Gaidhealach air an togail. Uair-cannan cluinidh sinn naidheachdan Gaidhealach air program nan tuathanach a dh'fhaodadh a bhith craobh-sgaolite air na Naidheachdan Gaidhlig—cha robh guth aig meadhan-latha air fèiltean a' chruidh anns na h-Eileanan, an Iar a chumadh aig toiseach a' Chèitein ged a dh'innis Alasdair Dunnett mu'n dèidhinn. Tha naidheachdan Gaidhealach

ach a' tighinn a mach uair 'san t-seachdain air a phrogram "Air Ghaidhealtachd." 'S ann air V.H.F. a tha iad sin air an craobh-sgaoliteach, agus 'se call a th'ann nach 'eil iad a' tighinn a mach a rithist air Réidio 4—can air Di-h-aonnc—ach ann faigh Gaidheil air feadh na dùthcha cothrom air an cluinntinn.

Guthan a' Eirinn

Cluinidh sinn corra uair air "Dà Cheathramh agus Fonn" òran Gaidhlig a' Eirinn agus is còmhlor ciatach iad. Nuair a tha còmhlan a' seinn chan 'eil e cho furasda na faclan a thuinginn, agus 's dòcha gun cuidicheadh e an luchd-fèiseachd nan cluinneadh a' cheud cheathramh air a leughadh mus bi an t-òran air a chraobh-sgaoliteach. Gu dearbha tha na h-òran Eireannach mòran na's taitneach na drannadan Acker Bilk agus sgalar-taich Carl Denver!

Tuilleadh!

Chuala sinn bho chionn ghoirid "Dà Cheathramh agus Fonn," air nach robh ach seann òran air an seinn ann an t-seann nos. Is fhadha bho nach cuala mi phragh cho taitneach — ro thrì cluinneadh sin òran mar a tha nìdh sinn òran mar a tha "Soraidh leis a' Bheacan Ur," air an seinn le fuinn 'ura' nach 'eil cho blasta no cho Gaidhealach ris an t-seann doigh. Nuair a thainig cairteal as deidh meadhan latha dh'fhaic mi coltach ri balachan beag mu'n cuala mi. Latha bha seo bha e fein 's a mhathair a muigh air chuairt nuair a thachair coigreach orra agus thug e cno do'n ghille. "De a tha ag radh ris an duin' uasal, a Dhomhnaill?" ars a mhat-rair. Shin mo laghachan amach a lamh agus thubhairt e, "Tuilleadh!"

Aibidil Ur

Tha muinntir nan Naidheachdan Gaidhlig ri'm moladh airson a bhith a' toirt dhùnnail faclan agus eadar-theangachan ura. Ach tha e a' cur gaoir 'nam fheoil nuair a chluinneas mi iad gu bragail a' tighinn amach le litrichean nach 'eil iad 'san aibidil Gaidhlig. Chuala sinn seo aig am an Ardsheanaidh. Chaidh innse dhuinn air na Naidheachdan gur e J. R. Aitken an t-ainm a' th'air Moderator na h-Eaglais Shaoir. Nis, chan 'eil j anns a aibidil Gaidhlig a dh'ionnsaich mise — agus co dhiubh, 'se Jain as ainm do'n duine choir. Chaidh iomradh a dheanamh cuideachd air J. B. Longmuir, Moderator Eaglais na h-Alba. 'Se Seumas an t-ainm a' th'air, agus mar sin ann an Gaidhlig 'se S. B. Longmuir a chanadh tu. Ann an "Gairm" chan e idir Callean N. MacCoinnich ach Callean T. a chi sinn!

Programan Tha?

Gle thrì nuair a chluinneas mi program ann am Beurla a chodas rium their mi rium fhein gur e call a th' ann nach 'eil a leth-bhreac 'sa Gaidhlig. Cha bhiòd e doirbh program mar a tha "Any Questions?" a chur air doigh ann an Gaidhlig, agus dh'fhaodadh na coimheamhan a bhith air an rìocor-dadh ann an aiteachan mar a tha Steornabhagh, an Tair-bearr, Cairnris, Port-rìgh, agus mar sin air adhart. Bhiòd e furasda gu leor Gaidheil a lorg a bheachdaichead air na ceistean gu comasach — tha luchd na Gaidheil an diugh ann an Taigh nan Cumantan agus ann an Taigh nan Mòrairean! Chuala mi program laghach air garradaireachd a Inbhir Uig agus thubhairt mi rium fhein, "Tha fhios gu bheil Gaidheil ann a dheanadh a dearbh rud ann an Gaidhlig."

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Public Notice

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

NATIONAL MOD, DUNOON 1968

The Quintin MacLennan Prizes

As a sufficient number of candidates has not come forward from the prescribed area for Competition 96 (Vocal Solo) and Competition 105 (Violin), these Competitions are now open to natives of the County of Inverness, excluding burghs of 2,000 or more.

Entries for these Competitions, only, with fees, will be accepted up to Friday, 14th June 1968. Intending competitors in these classes, if not already entered for other competitions, must be members of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

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INVERGORDON PROPOSAL APPROVED

A proposal by Ross and Cromarty County Council to zone land at Invergordon for industry and at Alesness for housing has been approved by Mr William Ross, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland.

The Secretary of State has accepted the recommendation of Mr W. Munro, O.C., who conducted a public inquiry into objections, that the council's proposals be approved.

Mr Munro decided that the land proposed for industry was suitable and immediately available and in demand for that purpose. Heavy industry in Easter Ross would be helpful to the economy of the Highlands. The productive value of the land and the number of job opportunities would be "greatly increased" by the establishment of heavy industry.

Other reasons were that the proportion of good agricultural land was comparatively small; any industrial effluent

would be under efficient control, and manual effects, if any, would be only occasional and limited. Areas proposed for housing seemed well suited for that purpose.

The county council's plans envisage the use for industry of about 736 acres of land at Invergordon comprising Inverbreakie and Ord farms and adjacent land. For housing 163 acres at Alesness, comprising sites at Teaninich Farm, Couhill and Shillinghill, will be used.

The Secretary of State says he has had to balance the loss of good agricultural land against the need of the Highland economy for manufacturing industry. He has "noted with satisfaction" assurances given by the County Council that at Invergordon only industry which "requires all the facilities available" will be allowed to develop. This is a reference to large areas of flat land served by good communications and adjacent to a deep water harbour, which are available.

At Teaninich Farm the proposing zoning largely avoids best quality land. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland will consider any application for grant to add topsoil from the site to soil on neighbouring farms.

In his decision letter to the County Council, the Secretary of State states: "Inver-

gordon's situation with its presently untapped deep-water harbour potential is probably unique in the United Kingdom." He says he is impressed by long-term possibilities of extending the area of land available for major industry by reclamation of Nigg Bay.

The County Council's attention is drawn to Mr Munro's recommendation that a survey of development possibilities should be undertaken at Nigg Bay, the area put forward by the principal objectors as an alternative to Inverbreakie and Ord for heavy industry.

Mr Munro found that it had not been established whether it would be feasible to reclaim Nigg Bay or whether the pier proposed at Nigg would be usable in certain conditions. Even if these doubts were resolved, the Reporter decided, Inverbreakie and Ord had clear advantages of both cost and time over Nigg Bay.

HIDB to Study Agriculture in Caithness

The Highlands and Islands Development Board is to commission a comprehensive study of agriculture in Caithness, Orkney and Shetland. Announcing this in Orkney, on Monday, the Board Member for Agriculture, Mr Prophet Smith, said: "The Board has been conscious for some time of the need for a thorough examination of many of the problems associated with agriculture in the north. Comprehensive surveys of Mull and Kildonan are already being carried out as are rural forestry and agricultural surveys over much of the mainland of the Highlands."

Mr Smith pointed out that the increasing efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture nowadays might well make survival dependent on fundamental changes in tenure, structure, husbandry, marketing, Government support and finance. A properly balanced investigation into these fac-

tors should help to reveal what was required to improve farming in the three northern counties.

In Caithness, the industry already had a fair balance of choice in production in mutton, beef, pork and cereals. Minor changes would suffice to carry it on into the 70s, but one had to look further.

The need to look at Orkney was equally pressing. For over half a century, the Islands had been relatively prosperous, raising cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. Recently, however, rising transport costs had resulted in drastically reduced production of both pigs and poultry and forced the Orkney farmer to concentrate on beef and mutton. Feeding stuffs had to be imported. Farming units were becoming bigger and employing fewer people.

In Shetland, mainly a crofting county, the transport costs problem was even more acute. The modern agricultural use of croft land, the crops, if any, which should be grown and harvested, the stock which should be carried and the relation of the croft income to other income, especially tourist income in the future — all these were important factors to be studied.

Mr Smith concluded: "The three northern counties have much in common. To take but one instance, land cannot be switched in any quantity from agriculture to forestry. What we want — and the Department of Agriculture is fully in support — is a stock-taking, so that the Board can assess how best to use its influence, powers and finance to secure the most efficient agricultural development."

The survey team will be Mr W. H. Senior, who retired in 1966 as Deputy Secretary (Agriculture) of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland where he was concerned with Highland agriculture, and Mr W. B. Swan, who farms in the Borders, an ex-president of the NFU and is currently president of the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society. The Board will be entering into discussion with the North of Scotland College of Agriculture about their participation in the work of the survey.

aitheachadh. Gu dé is ainm dhuibh?"

"O," ars esan, "is e Sir Madadh an t-ainm a th'ormas, agus tha mise 's do mhathair nar d'each chaidrean. Tha i gle colach orm."

"Tha mi toilichte ur faicinn, a Shir Madadh," ars am páisde, "ach cha'n gràinn mi feitheamh ri bruidhinn; tha cabhag orm."

Ra leannainn

NIONAG A' CHINN DEIRG

Ann an duthaich araid air thall thall a chuain, bha a fuireach o chionn fada, nìghean bheag a bha anabarrach math agus coibhneil. A chionn gu'n robh i cho math agus cho coibhneil, rinn a mathair curadh boidheach dhi a churach i mu ceann an uair a rachadh i mach. Bha an curadh cho dearg ris a' ghrèin an uair a bhios i dol fodha air chul nan nial latha briagha samhraidh.

Bha e cho boidheach agus a' coimeadh cho math air an nighinn bhig 's gu'm biodh a cardean ag radh Nionag a' Chinn Deirg rith, mar gu'm b' sin a h-ainm. Bha cu'd duibh ag innse gu'm bu churach sìdhich a bha ann, agus gu'n cumadh e o chall 's o chunnart i; ach ma bha sin fìor, cha'n eil fios agamsa co thùr dhaibh an t-eòlas. Ma dh'fhaoidte nach d'thug neach sam bith.

Latha dhe na bh'ann thuit a mathair rith; "Saoil am b'fuirinn duit air radhad a dheanadh a null gu tigh do sheanmhair?" Tha toil agam bonnach a chuir g'a h-ionnsuidh a bhios aice air a dinnir Di-domhnaich."

Thuit a' chailleag bheag gun dàil: "Tha mi' duil gu'm b'fuirinn; cha'n eil an radhad doirbh. Chaidh mi null cuide rìbh fein ionad uair, agns tha mi smaoineachadh gu'm bheil mi nìse orm gu leòir gu dhòl ann na m'anòar."

"Greas ort, ma ta" ars a mathair, "cuir umad do churachd thoir leat b' bhasag do 's b' faibh Faighnich dhe do sheanmhair ciarar a tha, do agus innis dhi gu'm bheil thu 'n deidh bonnach math a thoirt g'a h-ionnsuidh a bhios aice air dinnir na Dòmhnach."

"Agus am faod mi fuireach

thall tacan beag?" ars a chailleag. "Faodaidh, uine bheag a leigheil t'analach, ach dean cinnteach gu'm bi thu dhachaidh roimh bheil na h-oidhche," fheargair a mhatair.

Thog Nionag a' Chinn Deirg oirre, 's i cho sònra 's smòraich. Mar bha i gabhail an radhad, bha i sìor smaoineachadh gu'm bu ghnòthuch mor, mor, ise bhi dol a null a dh'air a sheanmhair leatha fhein. Bha i chuintinn na ian a' seinn am barraich nan craobh, agus a' faicinn nan neoinan a' gogadh cheann rith na dol seachad. Shaoil leithe gu'n robh iad uile g' radh: "Nach i Nionag a' Chinn Deirg a tha air fàs mor! Tha i air a turas a dh'air a sheanmhair fatha fein!"

Air an radhad bha aice ri dhol troimh choille, far an robh e car dorcha, 's far an robh e craobhan gle arad. Ach cha robh eagal sam bith oirre: a chionn cha robh fios aice gu'n robh nì no neach air an t-saoghal a, dheanadh cron air nighinn bhig sheimh mar bha ise. Bu mhat a b' aithne dhi an radhad. Cha robh ann chùram gu'n rachadh i air chall am measg nan craobhan mora.

Ach bha madadh-allaidh a' fuireach anns a' choille: chunnaic e Nionag a' Chinn Deirg, agus thuit e ris fein gu'm bu mhat a' chuis breith oirre 's a toirt leis do gharaidh aice. Is e rinn e ruith na coinneamh air an radhad, 's fàille chur airre. "Madaunn mhat dhut, a Nìghean a Chinn Deirg!"

Thug an nìghean suil choibheil air, agus thuit i ris: "Madaunn mhat dhuibh fein, a dhuin-usaill! Ach cha'n eil mi cinnteach gu'm bheil mi ga'

(Continued at foot of next column)

4,000 Less Scots in 1966

The population of Scotland at June 30 1967, was estimated at 5,186,600. This figure is 4,200 less than the estimate for June 30, 1966 (5,190,800).

Since mid-1966 the number of people aged 65 and over increased by an estimated 12,500 to 597,900. The number of children under 15 increased by a smaller margin of 7,900 to a total of 1,350,300.

The four counties of cities together accounted for 35 per cent of the population of Scotland. Their populations were: Glasgow 960,527; Edinburgh 467,986; Dundee 182,284; and Aberdeen 182,117.

The four cities together lost 22,900 of population in the year to June 1967, a movement counterbalancing the drift from country to town which is evidenced by the increase of population for the large burghs (6,300) and small burghs (13,300). This movement from the cities is due to a number of factors such as the suburban overspill into neighbouring counties, movement to new towns and the planned overspill from Glasgow. The

landward areas as a whole lost no more than their expected share of the total Scottish population loss.

The largest of the large burghs was Paisley with an estimated population of 95,527. Second largest was Motherwell and Wishaw with 75,609, and Greenock was third with 71,876. East Kilbride became a large burgh in 1967 with a population of 53,453.

Small burghs with a population of over 20,000 were Kirtlington (23,534), Bearsden (22,308), Johnstone (21,821), Grangemouth (21,337) and Irvine (20,421) which passed 20,000 for the first time.

Approaching the 20,000 mark was Buchhaven and Methil with 19,441.

The small burghs with the smallest population in 1967 were New Galloway (331), Inveraray (482) and Culross (506).

The population of the seven crofting counties was estimated to be 276,303, the four border counties (Berwick, Peebles, Roxburgh and Selkirk) 97,765, and the Central Clydeside Conurbation, 1,764,428.

SRUTH

Di-ardaoin, 13 latha de'n Og-mhios 1968

Thursday, 13th June 1968

Raibart Ceanaideach

Cha chreid mi gun teid an dealbh a chunnaic mi anns na paipéaran-naidheachd agus air a telebhisean an t-seachdain seo chaidh as mo chiumhne gu bráth—Raibart Ceanaideach 'na laighe air an lar agus a bheatha a' sruthadh as.

Ghabh mi uamhas mar a rinn an saoghal uile, roimh 'n ghniomh oilteil, mhi-nadurach seo, ach 's e an smaoin a b' fhaide mhair 'nam intinn-sa agus tha mi creidsinn ann an intinnean dhaoine eile an call eagalach a bha ann dha Na Staitéan Aonaichte agus dha 'n t-saoghal gun deachaidh a leithid de dhúine a thoirt air falbh ann an treun fear a bhodhaig agus 'inntinn.

Seo fear ga-rìreabh air an do bhuilicheadh deich talantan agus chuir e gu buil iad. Rinn e feum dhe 'n h-uile cothrom a fhuair e airson an cur gu feum. Tha a bhas a' toirt oirnn faireachadh, as ur nadur da-fhillte an duine —a' bhodhaig a tha cho lag agus soirbh a bristeachd agus an spiorad do-chaisgte neo-bhasmhor nach urrainn ballachan no astar a chuingeachadh.

Bha cuid ag radh gu robh Raibart Ceanaideach nas cruaidhe na 'bhrathair. Ach bha e tuigsinn gu feumadh e bhith cruaidh airson an t-seorsa oirne a bha e deanadh.

Bha e creidsinn mar a bha an t-Eireannach, Seumas poitichean an toiseach chan eil teagmhas nach do ghabh cridhe, nas motha agus nas motha, an staid anns an robh na daoine a bu' bhodha agus a b' isle anns an duthaich aige. Bha e creidsinn mar a bha an t-Eireannach, Seumas Connolly, gur ann leis an tomhas de shòrsa a tha aig an fheadhainn as bochda ann an duthaich san bith is urrainn dhuinn morachd na duthaich sin a thomhas.

Os cionn a h-uile cail eile bithidh cuimhne air Raibart Ceanaideach airson an dochais a thug e dha na daoine bochda, dubh is geal, anns na Staitéan Aonaichte gum bithidh buaidh aig an gearan air an riaghalas agus gu faighheadh an cor leasachadh. Ma gheibh iad bristeachd uil' a nis bithidh an rud a thachair ann an Los Angeles o chionn corr is seachdain nas miosa na bha duil againn.

Second-Class Citizens

At last the truth is out. We now know in what light the politicians in St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, regard the Gaelic language. While all credit is due to Malcolm K. MacMillan, Labour Member for the Western Isles, for writing to ask Mr Ross for action to raise the status of Gaelic, the reply to his letter is disappointing.

Mr Ross's decision is obviously a politician's decision. And it must give Mr MacMillan more than a sense of regret to know that even jumping obediently to the crack of a Party Whip will merit special attention from his political bosses. Mr Ross's devious thinking is typical of the Southron approach to the language. Is it based on a long-standing fear? Fear that the Gaels, not quite put down after two and a half centuries of political, social and economic repression, might present a potential thorn in Southern flesh?

Mr Ross's strange approach to the problem is that there are only 1,000 in Scotland who speak Gaelic only.

What is meant by this decision? There are, in fact, 1,000 second-class citizens in Scotland. And Mr Ross, the Government's Secretary of State, has made them so.

As for the 80,000 people who are bilingual, Mr Ross has also offered them second-class citizenship, but in a minor key. It will be interesting to see what reaction Mr Ross's decision will have on both Gaelic-only speakers and bilinguals.

It is just as well that the SNP annual conference accepted by an overwhelming majority that Gaelic will be officially recognised in the New Scotland. Though this promised status has yet to be fulfilled, we shall not have long to wait, if the present progress of the National Party is anything to go by.

Mr Ross has promised financial aid to Gaelic. This, to our mind, is the vinegared sop. Financial aid should be given to Gaelic in any case, whatever its status. It has been depressed for too long to be given anything else but, first, massive financial support, and second, equality of status with English. Mr Ross, it seems, is content to ignore the fact that thousands of Scots in these islands and overseas, are anxious to learn Gaelic. Equality of status will be like a shot in the arm for the language.

What Mr Ross must realise is the resilience of Gaelic. Without support it has survived these past few centuries of repression. And it is still with us. More and more people are taking it up as a key to a door which leads into a room full of cultural treasures. If a motto were ever needed for Gaelic it would be 'Non omnis moriar' — I shall not wholly die.

Faicinn Bhuam

SIUBHAL IS STREIP

"Anail a' Ghàidheal am mullach"

(Seanfhacal)

Is tric a chluinnear gearan mu rathaidean na Gàidhealtachd agus chan ann gun aobhar. Ged a tha adhartas mall ri fhaicinn tha inòran ri dheanadh riutha fhathast, gu h-àraidh ann an h-eileanan. Nuair a tha seo mar seo seo is e iongantach a tha ann gum bithidh feadnainn, an àite a bhith a' gearan air gainne rathaidean, a' cur an aghaidh rathad ùr fhaotainn. Tha dìreach seo a' tachairt an-dràsta anns an Eilean Sgiathnach, far a bheil comhlan as an arm air an fasdadh airson beagan mhìltean de rathad ùr a dheanadh eadar Camasunairi agus Loch Coruisg.

Tha a' gheatan neònach seo a' tighinn bho chomhainn is phearsachd a bhitheas a gabhail orra fhéin bhithe a' gleidheadh àiteachan àrithidh nan staid nadarra. Tha a' chuid seo dhe 'n Eilean Sgiathnach air aon dhe na cearnaidean anns a bheil ùidh aig a leithid seo, a chionn gu bheil maise ri fhaicinn ann a tha a' còrdadh air leth riutha. Tha e a' còrdadh an dòigh shònraichte riuthas a bhitheas ri streip ri aghaidh nam beann. Mar as àirde 's as caise na beannan as se fhearr leotha agus tha gu leòr dhe 'n t-seòrsa sin aca anns a' Chulthlìonn.

S dòcha nach tufg mòran duine ann mar sin a tha aig na doine cruadail ud air a bhith gan sàrachadh fhéin anns an dòigh seo. Faodaidh nàdar de fharmaid a bhith againn riutha cuideachd is rinn cho deiseil a bhith ag ràdh nach eil ann ach obair gun seagh agus nach smaoineachamaid fhin air fhaicinn airson an t-saoghail. Farnad, no leigs, no cion lùths, ce air bith a tha oirne, an urrainn dhuinn coire a chur air na streipean? Cha bhi ris an t-sreip ach, daoine òga a' sìreadh neirt is fallaineachd dhaibh fhéin am measgan beann. Tha sinn ro eòlach air an eimlis a dh' fhaodas èirigh far am bi òigridh cruinn an àiteachan eile.

Chèileil na streipean, mar sin, a' deanamh coire do dhùin eile. Chan aontaich na h-uile ris a sin oir tha oifigich a' phòilis a' cur am mach rabhaidh gach bliadhna, ag iarraidh orrasan a tha a' togail ris na mullaich a bhith cinnteach gun d' rinn iad gach ullachaidh a thaobh aodaich is goireas eile fo chomhair gach cruadail a dh' fhaodas a bhith air thoiseach orra. Tha e air innse dhaibh, mur dean iad sin, chan e mhaigh gun cuir iad am beatha fhéin ann an cunnart, ach gum faod iad luchd teasaiginn a chur gu saothair agus s dòcha gu dochann. B' e si naon dhe na puntean a thog Ard Chonastabal Inbhirnis nuair a chuir e a thaic riuthas a tha ag iarraidh an rathaid ùir gu Loch Coruisg. Dheanadh e,

na bharail-san, obair an teas-airginn na b' fhasa.

Cha chum rabhaidhean daoine o bhithe a' sìreadh mullaich nam beann. Tha iadsan a ghabhas an rathad as duilghe gu na sgorran as àirde mar as tric air an uidheamachadh gu cumach airson a' ghnòthaich. Tha fhios aca airson sin nacheil doigh air a bhith deiseil mu choinneamh a h-uile duilgheadais agus gu fad starradh tighinn a chuireas crìoch obann air an oidhirp.

De cho cruaidh sa ghleachd na Gàidheil fhéin gu bith air na mullaich. Mhol Donnachadh Bàrd an t-uisge glan san t-àite a bha e fhéin is iomadh gearman, gobair, is forsair roimhe is as a dhéidh comasach air astair mhòra a chur air an cùl am measg nam monaidhean. Tha cuimhn againn a bhith aon fheasgar foghair comhla ri fear a bha air a' chuid mhór dhe a bheatha a chur seachad na gheamhair air tìrmòr. Bha sinn ag amharc a nunn thairis air a' Linne Shleiteach gu beannan Chnòidèir, a' gabhail orra fhéin, an solus lèinreach an fheasgair, gach snuadh o dhearg gu purpùir, glais is donn, a' seasamh an siud cho allail 's gu saodailt tu gum buineadh iad do shaoghal eile. Cha b' èid sin an aon uair a chunnaic mi iad san dìreach cheudna ach 's e a chum mi air chiumhne gu h-àraidh air a thuirte mo charaid, "Bha mi air mullaich a h-uile gin dhù."

Cha robh uidheam aca siud a' dìreach ach brògan làidir is cruailte bata. Bheirheadh an deasanas làitheil iad earrnann mhathe dhe 'n astar suas na bruthaichean, ach thairmeadh iarriatas air chuireigin anna fhéin an t-astar beag mu dheireadh iad gu 'n fhior

mullaich. Ullaichidh feadhainn eile iad fhéin le ròpan is pìocaidean is brògan biorrach. Seo an fheadhainn aig a bheil rudeigin a bharrachd air na mullaich anns an amharc. Tha iad gan slòadhadh fhéin mean air mhean suas cliaithach nam biodan as caise, mar gum bithidh iad a' gabhail tladh anns a' pheanas a tha iad a' deam-amh orra fhéin.

Tha còrr is aon rathad suas Beinn Nibheis. Bha mise uair air aon de cheathrar a thug ceithir ionnsaidhean (mureil an facal "ionnsaidhean" ro làidir) air Beinn Nibheis. Rinn sinn seo gach bliadhna air latha rèis na beinne. Ach na saodailt duine gu robh sinne a' ruith. Bha na rèiseirean a' fàgail a' Ghearrasdan aig da uair. Gu bith shuas rompa dh' fhàg sinne aig a naoi sa' mhadainn. Bha iad air ais romhainn oir chum sinne gu cùramach ris a' cheum. A' chhiad uair gu dearbha cha d' thug sinn a mach am mullaich iad. Bha aon latha air a' mhullach sonraichte le tairnearach is dealanach. Ach tha siud gu leòr dhe na ramanasanais.

Se an gnòthach gu bheil an ceum ud air Beinn Nibheis a' toirt cothrom do mhòran coltach nasach nach ruigeadh am mullaich gu sìorraidh as aon-àite. Cò a thairheadh nach e rud math a tha sin? Chanèil mòran co-àireachaidh, againn riuthas a their gun toir an ceum ùr a Camasunairi cothrom do mhòran a bharrachd Loch Coruisg a ruigheadh.

Cha chadeachaidh do'neach sa bith suil a leagal air a h-uile àite a bu mhathe leithid fhéin. Ma chuireas oidhirpean mar seo àitear ùra na chomas, is math. Se an glocas an àiteigin (ged a their mòran nacheil e pailt) a chuir an t-arm ri obraichean feumail dhe 'n t-seòrsa. Feuch nach bi sinn suarach mu na chuideachd sinn.

Donnall MacNeill

SUNDAY TOURS IN HARRIS

David MacBryne Ltd.'s application to operate Sunday tours in Harris has been granted by the Traffic Commissioners.

Harris District Council, the L.D.O.S. and churches in the area objected to the proposals but were over-ruled in favour of the tourists.

The secretary of the Lewis and Harris Branch of the L.D.O.S. Mr D. J. Mackay, commented, "It seems pretty unfair that the commissioners prefer the views of a few tourists to those of a whole community."

FAIR DEAL FOR BOARD

If the new sport — baiting of the Highlands and Islands Development Board — continues, the reputation of the Board might be such that at the end of the present members' five year period, men at the height of their careers who could be of service to the Highlands and Islands, may not be prepared to join the Board. This was the warning sounded by Mr John Rollo, deputy chairman of the HIDB on Tuesday, at Golspie. It was most important for the future of the Highlands that the Board be given a fair deal, he said.

Miss Healy

★

SCOTTISH TWEEDS and TARTANS

SCOTTISH KNITWEAR

SKIRTS Tailored to Measure

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Faroese "Miracle" Points Way For The Highlands

No part of the Highlands or islands is too remote to be viable. This is the conclusion of three Scots who have just returned from an independent fact finding mission to the Faroe Islands.

They are Mr Ian Noble, an executive with the Scottish Council (Development and Industry), Mr Donald John MacKay, director of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and Mr Rory Macpherson, an economics writer. During their week's visit to the Faroes they met the President of the Faroes Parliament, Mr K. Djurhus, industrialists, administrators, scholars, and writers.

In a statement on the results of the trip Mr Noble said: "We went because we thought there might be some lessons to be learned which could be applied to the non industrial areas of Scotland. It was an eye-opening visit in every way. With a population of 36,000 (barely more than the Outer Hebrides), a barren and inhospitable environment consisting of about 20 islands, they have managed to create a flourishing community culturally and economically. There is little emigration.

"The Faroes are dependent on fishing. Three quarters of the fish are caught off Greenland and are brought back for processing. The bigger villages and all the towns have plants for freezing, filleting, drying, and salting. There are two herring oil factories, one recently established at a cost of £3m.

"The processing industry

provides a great deal of employment and Faroese fish is sold directly to many countries.

"Although fishing represents about a third of gross national product, there are other industrial concerns — including a small woollen industry, rope-works, brewing, and printing. There is also a modern ship-building yard.

"The Faroes are part of Denmark, but enjoy a large degree of autonomy. They have their own Parliament, their own currency, their own language, and their own institutions. The population is growing rapidly, the average income of the Faroe is high by Scottish standards, and the islands have modern well equipped houses, hospitals, and schools. There are five newspapers, a local radio station, cinemas, several hotels and a theatre. About 70 books were published in Faroese last year.

"No superlatives would be enough to describe the dedication and the enthusiasm of the local community.

"Their success lies first in a strong cultural and spiritual belief in the Faroes, reflected in their enthusiasm for their own language, literature, and art; and second, in extensive self-administration which means that the best graduates have local careers available to them.

Mr Mackay said in Inverness last Thursday: "For too long people have been accustomed to believe that the Western Highlands and the Isles are bound to decay. A visit to the Faroes

would demonstrate that this need not be so.

"There is no reason why the Highlands could not be even more prosperous than the Faroes. Our islands are far less remote and more fertile. They already have tweed, seaweed and whisky industries, and like the Faroes there is a local culture and language which is an important springboard for community revival."

The three members of the mission are agreed that the Atlantic islands, including the Faroes, have much in common. "Greater contact between them could do a lot of good," Mr Noble said.

THE ARTS IN THE NORTH

'Rostrum,' the Scottish Arts Council Calendar for June and July contains full details of information about cultural events throughout Scotland and in the Highlands.

During June and July, the Mull Little Theatre, Dervaig, presents, with the support of the Scottish Arts Council, plays by Shakespeare, Strindberg, Chekhov and Cocteau. Of particular interest is a "Quadruple Bill" of short plays by Cocteau, Chekhov and Jules Renard, with a new monologue by Lewis writer and SRUTH contributor, Iain Crichton Smith. The piece by Iain is entitled 'Phone'; it is significant that he rubs shoulders with such eminent co-authors.

The Mull Little Theatre is the smallest professional theatre in Britain and is run by Mr and Mrs Barrie Hesketh, Druimard, Dervaig, Isle of Mull (phone Dervaig 267). They well deserve the support of any of our readers who might be holidaying in Mull.

Tomorrow, Friday, Bertha Waddell's Children's Theatre is on a north of Scotland tour by appearing in Dalneigh School, Inverness at 2 p.m. and 3.15 p.m.

SHETLAND BID FOR 'FAIR DEAL'

Delegates at the recent Scottish National Party conference in Aberdeen backed a call for a form of Home Rule for the most northerly part of the British Isles—Shetland. They approved a demand from Shetland branch of the SNP for the establishment of an elected assembly in Shetland with legislative powers in local affairs.

The assembly would also have the right to remodel or reject any national legislation which would have an adverse effect on Shetland.

The resolution was carried by a small majority.

Proposing the resolution on behalf of the Shetland branch, Mr Roy Grunneberg, Lerwick, a student in Aberdeen, said a fair deal for Shetland was long overdue.

This could be achieved only by giving the islanders more autonomy over their own local affairs and by the appointment of a commissioner to administer matters between the central Government and the legislative assembly in Shetland.

Mr Grunneberg instanced the injurious effects on Shetland of decisions like the introduction of SET and the recommendation by the Prices and Incomes Board that Shetland ratepayers should be asked to subsidise the cost of shipping services to the islands.

Own Problems

Mr David Birch, Birsay, seconded the resolution.

"We have a lot to contribute to Scotland but we are asking for special consideration," he said. "We have our special problems and we are the only people who know them."

Mr Birch said the onus would be on Shetlanders to

NEW BBC STUDIO

The new VHF broadcasting studio at Raining Stairs was opened last week by Provost W. A. Smith who took part in a recorded programme.

The Parish Council Hall, Bank Street, which lodged the old studio is scheduled for demolition.

prove that any legislation would have a harmful effect on them.

Mr Archie Munro, Dingwall branch, and Mr Peter McLeod, East Renfrewshire association, both criticised the demand for the elected local assembly to have the right to interfere with national legislation affecting Shetland.

TOO MANY HIGHLAND PLANNERS

The Highlands and Islands suffered from too many planning bodies and insufficient opportunity for the people of the region to make their views known, claimed Mr Frank G. Thompson, secretary of the S.N.P.'s Highland Area Council, at the Party's recent conference. He proposed a resolution on representation on the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

Referring to the planning bodies, Mr Thompson declared: "They may know sincerely what is good for us, but we question the way they go about things, particularly when we, the people of the Highlands, have no machinery available to us to lodge our complaints and feelings at the place where it matters — the polling booth."

He added that all the bodies concerned with planning in the Highlands were set up by political appointment. Speaking specifically about the Highlands and Islands Development Board, he said "We have got the kind of board which militates against any attempt to develop the Highlands in the way they should be developed with the full consent and active support of the people concerned."

By an overwhelming majority, the conference approved the resolution urging the present Government to ensure that representation on the Highlands and Islands Development Board is characteristic of the area they serve.

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Spáinneach gu bheif sinn an seo. 'Rugadh e fhein an seo, thubhairt e. Bha a mbathair a Malta agus athair a Manchester. B'e seo a dhachaigh agus cha robh esan neo duine eile de shluagh na

ar drabhear. "An seo — tha an R.S.P.C.A. againe."

Stad sinn greis, mar a dh'fheumid, aig na moncaidhean. Dh'aindeoin tuil, bha na daoine beaga son biadh thoir dhaibh agus bha na beathaichean deas gu lorg gach criomag a bha aca nam pòcaid, aon spog dubh a sìreadh agus aon ag cumail greim teann air mullach na pòcaid. Shuas an seo mhothaich sinn gu robh am burn a ruith sìos aodann na creige gu aite far an robh pìoban a falbh leis. Feumaidh gach oirleach uisge a bhi air a chumhadh thubhairt fear an taxi. Cheannach sinn caritean bho bodach aig an robh seada shìos faisg air far a bheil na saighdearan, agus phill sinn air ais sìos mar a thainig sinn. Seachad ar brataichean Union Jack agus bucas-lichrichan "dir-each mar aig an tigh" thubhairt esan. Thadhal sinn an t-sìd oisda beag leis gach breacan-arm air a bhalla, mar chumhneachan air gach reiseamaid a thainig a riagh dian. Bha stigh a seo coigear de shaignhdèaran ag cur seachad latha fluigh ag ò barrachd na bu chorr dhaibh. Bha fear beag a Glaschu a ghabh m'uidh as a bhideigh bhan againe. "Nach math dhuibh a dh' dhachaigh" ars esan ruinne. Agus ris na balach eile "Chanell nighean as a t-saoghal cho boidheach ri nighean bheag Albannach eadar a bha a's tri."

Dh' fhalbh sinn an uine ghoirid. Dh' fhag sinn saighdear leis a chianalas, agus creag air a bheil cianalas eile cianalas son Impreachd laidir is laithean a dh' aom. A dol a mach thug luchd cuspaoin na Spáinn gear shuil ar air malleadan, oir tha e air a thoirmesge na cheannach air a Chreig is a thoirt do 'n Spáinn. Bha boirionnach aca dèisil gu sinne a sgrudadh—agus coltas oirre nach bitheadh i meit. Chunnach sinn na saighdearan Spáinneach a dèanaibh an "Drile" agus thubhairt na seann saighdearan a bha nar còis nach mar a b' fhiach iad agus gu robh Gibraltar sabhailt gu leir. Cha robh mi fhein a faireachdainn ro shabailt aig a cheart am is feagal orm gu robh na poilis a bha gar coimhead gu falbh leinn. Ach fhuair sinne air ais gu sabhailte chun an da dhraibhear thoir againe, agus dhealraich a ghrian. Ach bha fhathas na sgothan nan currag air Gibraltar.

Frank Speaking

GOD IS DEAD

The senseless killing of Robert Kennedy last week is the latest manifestation that the educated, civilised and sophisticated societies of the world are entering into a new phase of mental sickness. Were it a sickness which vitiated any stimuli leading to violence it might be acceptable. But it is the other road which is being taken, a road which can lead only to an utter and complete destruction of society as we know it and the establishment of a totalitarian regime.

It must be obvious to any straight-thinking person that there is an evil force walking the streets of the world today, and not lurking in dark corners as it used to do. For how can it be a force for good if some of the best men of our society are gunned down to bring to an abrupt halt a life devoted, for the most part, to preserving the elements of sanity which are all too fast disappearing along with the once-upon-a-time sense of values which held human life in sanity.

One remembers Dag Hammarskold, John Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and now Robert Kennedy is a growing memory which will ultimately take to itself its final stature in our minds.

In a recent television interview, Sammy Davis, Jr., made a valid point. Why, he asked, was it always those who were endeavouring to preserve worthwhile human values who had their lives cut short before they could fulfil the ambitions they had for their fellow-men? Why was it that the human misfits of this world are nearly always allowed to live out their lives to create more chaos, more hatred, more violence, not only unimpeded but often encouraged?

One might well ask: Is God dead? Robert Kennedy's assassination adds strength to the rumour that God is either dead or in the fast process of becoming so. Otherwise, how can one rationally explain the beasts of violence in society today? Students, criminals, racists and the like are jumping onto the

violence bandwagon, which is speeding down a road to a certain destruction. The pity of it is that most of society is unable to prevent themselves also from being destroyed in the process.

One might well place the blame on the world's politicians. For it is they, and they alone, who, in their complete and utter inability to appreciate the fundamental principles governing human behaviour, have built up the present framework of society. Politicians caused two world wars. They could have been prevented.

Like the Church today, politics is a career field, and less of the sincere calling it once was. The idealism in politics went out a long time ago, to leave a hardened core of intensive politicians to administer a growing anonymous and amorphous mass. It is significant that among all our politicians today there are few — indeed, if any — who would qualify for the human-interest stakes. Maybe pacifists like Noel-Baker are the people to look to if we in Britain are not to end up like American society: violent, ugly, egocentric, materialistic and completely insensitive to these aspects of human life and living which were better preserved in earlier times — even those times were harder than they are today.

The Church, too, seems quite incapable of producing the coercive force necessary to counteract the unfortunate trends which certain minority elements of our society are nurturing today to foist on the greater mass of society. All we get from our spiritual leaders is a familiar bleating. We, at this date in the history of civilisation, surely deserve deeds not words. On present showing, God is surely dead in the Church, for is it 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?

We may well be cringing in the wilderness — crying for the still small voice which speaks of sanity and the dignity of the human.

by MAIRI NICAMHLAIDH

robh sinn a fuireach. Lorg sinn da dhraibhear Spáinneach aig an robh "Seat" (is e sin am "Fiat" Spáinneach) — agus ghabh sinn an rathad lughach thairis gu ruige La Linea. Bha ainmean gach baile an airde air claran romhainn agus gu leoir de shanasan reic son luchd-turais mu 'n deidhinn, ach Gibraltar fhein. Dh' fhaodadh a chreag a bhi air a ghealachadh son na chunnaic sinn air an t-slighe. Thug iad a h-sinn air falbh aig toiseach na comhstri seo. Ach nuair a theannach sinn dluth cha leigeadh sinn a leas claidh-iùil-bha i an sud a stobadh an arda-ordag mhor na Roinn Eòrpa, a tha car eiginneach an drasda. Stad an da charbaid an La Linea, am baile Spáinneach as fhaighe agus cha b' urrainn an da Spáinneach a thighinn na b' fhaide. Chaidh sinn troimh an tigh Chuspainn agus thug seann carbaid sinn an cairteal mhe thairis air an striop-adhair a null gu ruige Geatachan na Creige. Chuir iad stampa "Gibraltar" air gach passport againe agus ghabh sinn a steach, seachad air pòlasman - maor sìthe sgeadaichte mar fear an meadhan Lunnain. Agus le sin, is gann gun creid sibh, thoiseach an uisge, nach fhaca sinn bho dh' fhag sinn Breatuinn. Gu cinnteach cha b' e an Spáinn a bha seo tuilleadh.

Bha fear arl coileach, dorch a seasamh an sin a sìreadh luchd turais agus dh' fhalbh e leinn. Seachad air "Winston Churchill Avenue" agus air cladh Trafalgar. Seachad euidheach air saighdear KOSB a bha air faire, a phunna 'n dhorn.

Cha b' fhada us an do nochd ar fear iùil dhùinn a thaobh san de 'n ghnòth-uich. Air a chiald fhacas "Sìd gaighb na solvis, suas gu mullach na Creige. Tha sinn gan lasadh a h-uile oidhche son cumail an cuimhne nan

Creige, ag iarraidh a bhi nan Spáinnich.

Stùir e an taxi moir Aingeinach troimh 'n Sraid Ard, far an robh gach ainm cho Beurla is a b' urrainn. Chunnach mi boirionnach le bheile mu 'n aodann-feadhainn a bha tighinn gach latha a Morocco a dh' obair o nach leigeadh iad boirionnach o 'n n Spáinn a null tuilleadh.

Stad e aig osd thigh-Hotel na Banrighon, agus fhuair sinn greim a bha ghe bhladaidh eigin, o 'n bha e 2.30. (Is e seo an aon turas a fhuair sinn "im na ba neonaich" (margarine) fad ar turais. Chan eil fion pailt nas motta-geidh nach eil gu leoir ach mìle air falbh, oir is ann a Portugal neo Breatuinn a bheir iad na rudan sin—fhuas am burn a tha dhithi orra). Anns an seomair-suidhe chunnach sinn bodach a suidhe a leughadh an "Times," leis an uisge a dordadh a muigh is luchd frithealadh a bruidhinn Spáinneach gu socaire nam measg fhein. Bha e car coltach ri sgrìobhadhainn Kipling. Mhothaich sinn gun do bhruidhinn fear an taxi cheart cho fileanta co dhuibh sa chanaid eile ris an luchd obrach. Thubhairt e gu bheil an da chanaid aca gu leir an sud, gu labhairt ri na tha tighinn a steach gach latha as an Spáinn, airmach a tha dol an lughad gu ruige 2,000 an aite na 6,000 a bh' aca; agobair aig a Navy mar bu trice. Suas gun deachaidh sin is an carbaid m' a dir-each is ag cur nan car leinn gu ruig an tigh sholuis. An sin, bha fad os ar cionn, na gunnaichean mora a leigeadh peillear gu ruige Africa. Shios fiodhainn gun-iar bha na bataichean, an caladh seasgaire na tighen teann ri cheille is ris a' mhuir, agus gu tuath an striop-adhair na srianag eadar an da chuan, agus aha Linea. "Chi sibh aite nan tarbh thall an sin" arsa

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'PRACTICAL AID FOR GAELIC' PROMISE

Scottish Secretary, Mr William Ross has informed Mr Malcolm Macmillan, Western Isles MP, that he is considering what aid he can give to assist development of the Gaelic language.

In a letter Mr Ross stated: 'I am sure you will be the first to agree that the Gaelic language and culture cannot be sustained simply by enacting legislation.

"I am more concerned that my departments should do whatever they can in a practical way to encourage the teaching of Gaelic and the development of Gaelic study generally.

"You will be glad to know, that despite the present financial situation, I have been considering what further measures might be taken to assist the development of the language. I hope to give a statement on this matter shortly."

Welsh Act

Mr Ross stated he did not see any need to clarify the status of the Gaelic language. Under the Welsh Language Act of 1967, Welsh was given the principle of equal validity with English, by which any person had the right to speak Welsh in any legal proceedings.

The Gaelic language, he said, had never been under the legal restrictions applying to Welsh before the 1967 Act.

The Welsh Act removed the statutory limitations on the use of Welsh. It also empowered Ministers to prescribe Welsh versions of statutory forms. But it did not go so far as to provide that proceedings in law or adminis-

tration should as a whole be conducted in both languages.

Mr Ross continued: "It may be that there is no power under existing legislation to prescribe Gaelic versions of statutory forms. But I am not aware of any demand for this facility to be provided.

Relevant

"The need for it would clearly have to be demonstrated.

"It is relevant in this context to point out that there are about 25,000 people in Wales who speak no English, but fewer than 1,000 people in Scotland who speak no English.

"I doubt very much whether, in the circumstances, we should be justified in incurring the substantial expenditure involved in making special provision for the printing of statutory forms in Gaelic."

CROFTER POWER



Bithibh falbh chan e seo an Sorbonne ach Commission nan Croitair.

over to you:

A charaid, — Is iongantach an tlachd a tha an duine iongantach sin, Adhamh, a' gabhail ann a bhih a' toirt beachdan an follais aig nàit 'eil bunach sam bith. Ars mu laoghach ann an litir mu dheireadh: "There has not been an English-Gaelic or a Gaelic-English dictionary published this century." Ab-air thusa ladarnas!

Thainig an faclair mor aig Dwelly ann follais an toiseach eadar 1901 agus 1911. Chuir Calum MacGhillinnell faclair Gaidhlig a mach ann an 1929, agus ann an leabhar fheumail sin tha cuibhriann le faclan Beurla air an eadar-theangachadh gu Gaidhlig. Tri bliadhna as deidh sin chuir eadhlann an faclair aig Cyril Dieckhoff an clo, agus cha chuir eadhlann e iongnadh sam bith orm ged a tha feadhainn eile ann nach do dh'ainnigh mi an seo.

A bharrachd air na leabhraichean sin chaidh iomadh deachdadh ur a dheanamh ann an linn seo air na faclairean aig MacAlpein, MacCoinnich agus MacEachainn. 'San dealachadh fagaidh mi an seannfhaclan aig Adhamh coir — "Cha seas a' bhreug ach air a leth-chois.

— Le meas

DIARMAD

Innse Gall.

FRUGALITY AND AUSTERITY

Sir, — Although these two concepts originally meant the same thing they have now evolved different meanings. The latter has come to be associated with government control to check inflation. Now it is necessary to check unnecessary expenditure somehow and not live beyond one's means, but government restrictions can only with difficulty avoid arbitrary measures. For instance: why should those who travel be curbed more than those who spend their money on furniture or houses?

To get over this difficulty and help both the government and ourselves it seems that we might subsidise austerity for the concept of frugality. By doing this we would imply a sort of doctrine and the youth of today (as indeed any thinking man) has not much use for measures that have not a doctrine behind it. Now the difference is the following: frugality has the idea of voluntary action not imposed by an authority, and aims at avoiding the arbitrary nature of austerity. It seeks to undermine the hypocrisy of austerity that looks for loopholes and evasions and in its place to substitute real reduction of expenditure and not only living within one's means but leaving an ample margin for saving.

The Aberdeen jokes used to ridicule saving, now has come the time to reverse all this and ridicule the spend-thrifts. By doing this we can

do much both to attack decadence and snobbery. Much expenditure is not for real necessities but for fashion and to be like the "Joneses" and we spend in order to compete with the imaginary requirements of our neighbour. A person who cannot engage in a conversation or tell a story without an expensive drink is a coward and would certainly benefit his health as well as his pocket if he sought some milder accompaniment to his conversation if such is needed. We should soon find that frugality establishes human contact that formerly was lacking through the intrusion of material intermediaries. Frugality also fits in with the typical Celtic simplicity of life.

Decadence comes from superfluities and excess, frugality brings back health and discipline, but being self-imposed should be more flexible and sincere than an austerity with a merely legal and confided basis.

Frugality is also an alternative to earning: those who can earn with difficulty owing to living in a remote district for instance, or for reasons of health, have at their disposal a means of living without extra money which often only serves to stimulate needs artificially. Is mise

IAN G. MACNAIR-SMITH
Conde de Penalver, 68-1 dcha, Madrid 6.

HELP!

Manchester — Please note Sir, — We are trying to start a Gaelic choir here in the North East of England. We would very much welcome some publicity from you if you have any readers in this area. Perhaps too, through the medium of "Sruth" we could appeal for advice from those in Manchester who pioneered a similar venture.

Mrs FIONA M. ORR
16 Edinburgh Drive
Darlington
Co. Durham.

"STANDARD" GAELIC AND PHONETIC SPELLING

The article under the above heading, written by Mr J. Harvey Macpherson, was very interesting. With one of its main theses, his contention that attempts to make the spelling of Gaelic "phonetic" are misguided, I am in full agreement. Such suggestions usually consist in urging the replacement of bh and mh by v, ignoring the fact that these lenited consonants are silent in many instances and ignoring also the use of mh as an indication of nasalisation. Other "improvements" in Gaelic spelling which we have had inflicted upon us by the activities of a sort of "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty

to Compositors" consist in the omission of accents and the apostrophe despite their usefulness to students.

Mr Macpherson went far astray, however, when he asserted that "the spelling of Gaelic is almost completely phonetic." If he will refer to Dieckhoff's dictionary of the Glegarry dialect he will find fifty-two sounds listed, without taking account of sounds used in other dialects, or the three lengths of some consonants and the various lengths of vowels. All this cannot be represented phonetically by the eighteen letters used in Gaelic. It is true to say that if the relations between spelling and pronunciation are known to a student it becomes possible for him to pronounce at sight any word in the language (which is not true of English and this pronunciation generally will make the word intelligible to a person literate in the language even although it may not be the pronunciation in his dialect. It must be emphasised that while this is generally the case it is not invariably so. Taking as an example the word "abhag" (terrier), a person in whose dialect the pronunciation is, roughly, "a' ook" may not understand the "literary" pronunciation, roughly, "avack."

Mr Macpherson made much of a distinction he tried to draw between a Gaelic pronunciation and an English pronunciation of the diagram "ai." Unfortunately he did not quote examples and I could not tell whether the English word he had in mind was "mail" (often indistinguishable from "mile") or "again" or "laity." He did not indicate in which dialect of English his word was to be spoken. For his Gaelic example I could not tell which of the following (or what other) he had in mind: ainm, fàirge, caileag, faic, snaim, Barraidh, bualaich, balach-ann, air, aig, cal, sail.

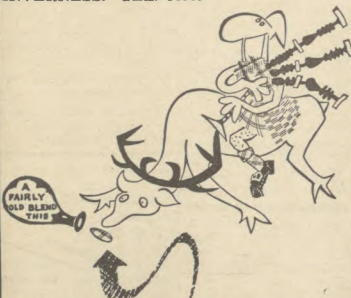
Mr Macpherson referred to some things which he feels make Gaelic simple. One of these was the fact that Gaelic has only two genders. For students who know only English this is a difficulty, not a simplification. There is the further and complicating difficulty that writers and teachers have not realised that in Gaelic as in German (and as in English for that matter), gender exists only in the singular. Some writers confuse effects of declension such as the lenition of m in "fir mhora" with effects due to gender. They forget that beside "fir mhora" can be placed "caoraich mhora" and beside "caileagan beaga" can be placed "gilleagan beaga."

The article refers to tenses also. These require proper presentation but what help can a student obtain from a

(Continued on Page Twelve)

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Good Home-cooking

An excellent step towards helping Asian immigrants to settle into life in Britain is the publication of a booklet from the Food Information Centre entitled, "Recipes for Asians in Britain." This is the first attempt at anything like this in this country and the recipes have been created by Mrs Mariyam Harris, an Indian housewife and sociologist. Religious laws are respected—no meat is used—but the main course dishes are high in protein and contain ingredients easily obtained in this country, but cooked and flavoured in a typically Asian way. To make it even more interesting the recipes are all cheap and very easy to cook.

"Recipes for Asians in Britain" is printed in English, Urdu and Bengali and is available free upon individual request from The Food Information Centre, 36 Park Street, Croydon, Surrey. Requests for three or more copies are available at 3d per copy.

★ ★ ★

A Touch of Spice

With holiday time drawing near most of us are stocking up with all the necessities for going away. That precious fortnight is awaited patiently every year and passes far too quickly, but a bit of preparation beforehand can make it all the more enjoyable.

Now is the time to buy toilet

items, sunglasses and the like: even one item a week makes the last minute dip into holiday savings less painful. I was pleased to see last month that at long last a range of suntan preparations made exclusively with men in mind had come on to the market. Old Spice has decided to bring to an end once and for all the myth that apparently only women like to soak up the sun (if there is any!) and have brought out Cream and Clear Sun Tan lotions costing 8/4 and 9/9 respectively.

★ ★ ★

Salad Days

This is just the beginning of the salad season and it seems to be more or less tradition that we all throw ourselves wholeheartedly into the habit of "lettuce, tomato and cold meat." Of course, some people—notably the men folk—are not at all enthusiastic about the idea and we get cynical remarks about rabbits etc. before very long! But even the more enthusiastic salad-eaters must yearn for a bit of variety after the novelty wears off. It is therefore our intention to print a series of salad ideas with a difference in an attempt to prevent the initial enthusiasm from waning! The first is particularly good served with poultry:

Carrot, Grape and Mushroom Salad

½ lb. of new carrots
½ lb. mushrooms

½ lb. black grapes
½ pint sweet red wine.

Cook the carrots in salted water until just tender, then drain well and cut into ½ inch pieces. Halve the grapes and remove the pips. Dice the mushrooms. Mix the ingredients together in a bowl, pour over the wine and allow to stand for two hours before serving. Turn the mixture twice with a wooden spoon during the two hours.

★ ★ ★

Sticky Business

New from Sellotape are three liquid adhesives for do-it-yourself fanatics and housewives. The first, Sellobond Clear Adhesive is useful for all repair jobs on PVC, wood, cork, tile, fabric, brick and many other surfaces (price 1/11 per tube with spreader); Sellobond White PVA Adhesive is ideal for finishing carpet edges, fabric, leather etc., and although it attaches itself very firmly to most fabrics, it is easy to remove from fingers (price 2/- per dispenser); Sellobond Gum for paper work comes in a bottle with a spreader cap (price 1/7).

These three products should be in the shops now and are available at most hardware shops, stationers, do-it-yourself shops and even grocers.

First Flutter

For all of us who haven't yet taken the plunge and tried false eyelashes for ourselves, Eyelure has brought out a newly trimmed set of lashes at a specially low price. First Flutter is only 8/9 and comes in black or brown. Minilash is another new product from Eyelure and, although it says on the hand-out "ideal for mums, aunts and grans," I think this is the set for any girl who previously hasn't had the courage to "branch out." These lashes are priced at 12/6.

GAELIC EQUALITY SUPPORTED

A resolution that Gaelic should be given equality of status with English in Scotland, moved by Mr Duncan Murray, Highlands Area Council, was approved by the recent SNP conference.

An amendment that it would be more practical to encourage it in areas where it is strongest and leave equal status for the whole country to a later date, moved by Mr John H. D. Gair, Dumfries, was soundly defeated.

Montrose-born Scottish writer and Gaelic scholar Fionn MacColla—Mr Tom MacDonald, Edinburgh—had the last word.

"The Gaelic language is dying," he said. "The motion asks you to salute it—the amendment to dismiss it with a gesture of disdain."

Bean Iain Ruaidh

Bean Iain Ruaidh an Aird-a-bhealaich,
Bean Iain Ruaidh an Aird-a-bhealaich,
'N cuil' thu mar a dh'fhàg i mi!
O, 's iom mo chridh', rinn i mo mhealladh.

Dh' thàit faineach reidh air dhath nan teud,
'S tu 'u' bhinne beul' e's mìle sealladh,
O choinn a' righ' 's tu luaidh mo chridh',
Ged thrèig thu mi an deigh do mhealladh.

Ceum eutrom àrd, bu deas air làr,
Com dhìreach, alùin, ghradhach bhanail;
Ach phòs thu bodach liath gun ghràdh,
'S chaidh gu brath cha 'n fhas mi fallain.

O, mìle marbh-plaigh air an òr,
Dh' thag mi gun chòir air pòg na calaig;
'S e 'n iargaidh cruaidh tha aig Iain Ruaidh,
A mheall mo luaidh, 's a dh' fhàg mi falamh.

It is hardly necessary to say that the above is a translation into Gaelic of the popular song "Roy's wife of Alldivalloch." The song was written by Mrs Grant of Carron, so called to distinguish her from the lady of the same name who composed the rather poor song, "Where has your Highland Laddie Gone?" She was born in Ireland of Scottish parents. She married, first her cousin, Mr Grant of Elchies, on the river Spey, about the year 1763; and secondly, Dr Murry, a physician in Bath. She died there in 1814. A monument to her memory was erected in the local cemetery which can still be seen.

The Gaelic translation is from the pen of Lady D'Oyly, a grand-daughter of John MacLeod IX, of Raasay. Her father was Major Thomas Ross of the Royal Artillery. She married Sir Charles D'Oyly, and died without issue in 1875. She was brought up in Raasay, and learned the Gaelic language there. She collected many Gaelic airs which she left in manuscript at her death. She also composed several Gaelic songs. A selection of her Gaelic songs and melodies was published in Glasgow in 1875. It was called "Orain Ghaidhlig le Bain-tighearna D'Oyly." It is a slim paper covered book and is long out of print, and copies are hard to come by.

The air of "Roy's Wife of Alldivalloch" is of considerable antiquity, and was originally known as "The Ruffian's Rant." The tune is a dance one, and is so printed in "Twenty-four Country Dances for the year 1742," as "Lady Francis Weemsy's reel." The air is said to be in the MacFarlane Manuscript 1740, but this date is conjectural and the manuscript may be of later date. Braemar has it in his "Scots Reels or Country Dances" of 1759. In Angus Cumming's collection of Strathspeys, published in 1780, the air is given the Gaelic title of "Coig na Scalan." The spelling will be phonetic as Angus Cumming, as far as I am aware, knew nothing about Gaelic. The air would appear to be of Highland origin.

Robert Burns has some pithy remarks to pass on the tune. "In fact, in the first part of the tune, the rhythm is so peculiar and irregular, and on that irregularity de-

pends so much of its beauty, that we must e'en take it with all its wildness, and humour the verse accordingly. Leaving out the starting note has, I think, an effect that no regularity could counterbalance the want off: Try and compare O Roy's wife of Alldivalloch with Roy's wife of Alldivalloch. Does not the tameness of the prefixed syllable strike you? In the last case, with the true furor of genius, you strike at once into the wild originality of the air; whereas, in the first in-spird method, it is like the grating screw of the pins before the fiddle is brought into tune."

J. E. S.

Fortune on the Doorstep

On old-age pensioner, little Miss Annie Conlon has lived alone in her two-storey house on a 60-acre farm Moyvaughey, near Moate, Co. Westmeath, for the past 15 years.

Little did she realise that she was living on a treasure of lead and zinc, until the mining people moved in recently and paid her £10 to let them drill a hole 50 yards from her front door.

At a depth of only 44 feet a zinc percentage of more than 23 was found. Further strikes were made deeper down.

The actual extent of the seams of mineral is of course a closely guarded secret. Nevertheless the Stock Exchange prices for Gortdum Mines Ltd., who made the strike rocketed to a new record in London and in Toronto within a few hours of the find on Annie Conlon's farm.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Slum clearance in Scotland last year reached a record level for the fourth year running, states the Scottish Development Department.

The Housing Return shows that 19,087 houses were closed or demolished during 1967 compared with the previous record of 16,650 in 1966. It also shows that in the first three months of 1968, 9,292 houses were completed: a twelve per cent. increase on the first quarter of 1967.

BENZIES OF INVERNESS

SUMMER SALE

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Naidheachdan Mu Na h-Eaglaisean

Air A' Ghaidhealtachd

Le "FEAR-FAIRE"

EAGLAIS NA H-ALBA

Bàs Ministear Bharragh

Bidh ionndrainn mhòr ann an iomadh àite air an Urr. Murchadh Dòmhnallach, a chaochail aig am an Ard-sheanaidh. Air an 12mh latha de'n Damhar an uiridh chaidh a phòsadh ri eaglais Bharragh, agus cha robh duilgheas duine gum biodh a' mhinistreachd air an eilean cho goirid. Thug Mgr. Dòmhnallach amach dreuchd na ministreachd ann an 1932, agus thug e seirbhis dhìleas agus dhìochallach do'n Eaglais ann an Taigh an Uilid, Dalaborg (Uibhist-a-Deas), agus siorrachd Pheairt. Bhuineadh e do Nis ann an Leòdhais, agus bha e trì fhichead agus sia.

taing e a Leòdhais. Tha eaglais Nis air a bhith bann bho'n leig an t-Urr. Iain Moireasdan dheth uallach coimhthional.

Leabhar Ur

Tha luchd-leughaidh mìosachan na h-Eaglaise eòlach air sgrìobhaidhean an Urr. U. B. MacNeacail, a tha 'na ministeir ann am Ploc Loch Aillie. Bidh e a' sgrìobhadh gu fiosaich e gu fianta ann am Beurla agus an Gàidhlig. Tha e a' nìs air leabhar a thoirt ann foillais mu'n t-Seann Tiomnadh, agus tha sinn an dùil sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air anns an ath àireamh de "Sruth."

Eaglais air Fìod!

Tha ainm Sròn an t-Sithein air a bheith air bilean an t-sluaigh bho'n chualas gu bheil an Riaghaltais an dùil obair-leasachaidh a dhèanamh 'sa bhaile. Ann an eachraidh na h-Eaglais air a' Ghaidhealtachd tha àite sònraichte air a' bhaile bheag seo. An dèidh an Dealachaidh ann an 1843, nuair a dhùilt an t-uachdaran làrach a thoirt do'n fheadhainn a dh'fhag an Eaglais Seidhte, airson taigh-aoraidh a thogail, chuir muinntir na h-Eaglais Shaoir romhpa bha a thogail far am biodh seirbhis air an cumail 150 slat amach o'n tìr. Chaidh 14100 a chruinneachadh airson am bàta iarainn a thogail, agus uaireannan bhiodh sia ceud air bòrd.

AN EAGLAIS SHAOR CHLEIREACH

Craobh-sgaolaidh an t-Soisgeil
Tha an cumunn a tha ag obair fo ùghdarras na h-Eaglais ann a bhith a' craobh-sgaolaidh leabhraichean soisgeulach—The Blythwood Tract Society—a nìs air an treas iomradh a chur

amach mu na coinneamhan a chum iad. Chum iad coinneamhan amuigh ann an Glaschu, Grìanaig agus Dùn-èideann. A' measg nan leabhraichean beaga a chlo-bhuail iad airson a bhith 'gan toirt seachd tha fear anns a bheil naidheachd air inne mu Each-mann MacPhàil, ministeir ann meil a bha ann an Ruigh-shluais 'san ochdamh linn deug. Fhuair an cumunn tiòdhlaic-an-airgid a iomadh ceann de'n Ghaidhealtachd agus de na h-Eileanan.

Mar Chùimhneachan

Tha a nìs 75 bliadhna bho'n a chaidh an Eaglais a chur air bhonn agus anns a' mhìosachan bhidh sgrìobhaidh air an toirt am foillais a chumail cuimhne air na nìthan a thachair ann an 1893. Air a' mhìos seo tha an t-Urr. Alasdair Moireach, ministeir na Comraich, a' toirt seachd a bheachd air diadhair-eachd an Declaratory Act, a bha 'na sòbhar air an dealachadh.

Ordaighean

Tha Sacramaid Stùipeir an Tighearna gu bhith air a fhrìthladh 'san Og-mhios mar a leanas: a' cheud Sàbaid—A' Chomraich agus Auckland; an dara tè-Sàideig; an treas tè-Loch Carrunn, Gleann-dail, Bunn-lìdh, Dornoch agus Uig; agus air an dà Shabaid mu dheireadh, Gearrloch agus Inbhirnis.

AN EAGLAIS EASBAIGEACH Diacon le Gàidhlig

Air an 8mh latha de'n mhìos

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AIR TUR NA FAIRE



AN COMMUN GAIDHEALACH

NATIONAL MOD

DUNOON 1968

8th - 11th October

Final Entries

Intending competitors in all sections, Junior and Adult, are reminded that entries must be despatched to arrive not later than Friday, 24th May.

Nova Scotia Gold Medal

Those who qualify and wish to compete this year in the Nova Scotia Vocal Solo Competition must submit their names and the appropriate entry fee, 2/6 or 1/6, immediately after their local or provincial Mod is over.

Local and Provincial Mod Prize-winners

Entries from first prize-winners at local and provincial Mods held after the closing date will be accepted if forwarded within three days of the Mod concerned taking place.

Conditions for Entry

Unless otherwise stated, all entrants in the Senior Section (Orals, Vocal Solos, Duets, Instrumental and Art and Industry) must be or become Branch, Annual or Life Members. Subscriptions of Branch and Ordinary Members will be entered on the roll must be paid for the current year, 1968-69, not later than the closing date.

The age group of Junior entrants will be determined in relation to their age on 24th May 1968. Dates of birth of all Junior entrants, individuals and duetists, must be submitted along with their entries.

Copies of the Syllabus, price 2/-, the 1968 Supplement of prescribed pieces, price 6d, Art and Industry Syllabus, Entry Forms and prescribed songs are available from An Communn Gàidhealach, Aberforth House, Inverness, and 65 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G.2.

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| Shoulder and Flank of Lamb | 2/- 1/2 lb. |
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| Flank of Beef | ... 2/- |

Above may be boned and rolled, add 2d 1/2 lb.

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| Whole or Half Sheep | 2/6 to 2/8 lb. |
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| Pork Gigot | ... 4/2 |
| 10 lbs. Mince | ... 4/6 |

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DORCHADAS

Bha bean-ùasal dhiaidhaidh a Tolastadh bho Thuth, aig orduighneam ann an Nis.

Thadhail i air seana bhana charaid nach fhaca i o chionn bhliadhnaichan, agus, mar bual "bha torr eac ri radh."

Thoisich iad air labhairt gu spioradail, agus, is gann a chumadh fear-an-taighe na thamh, ged nach robh clail sam bith aige do'n mhodh-labhairt seo.

An greisge thionndaidh te Tolastadh ag riadh, "O nache ceann-an-taigh a tha dorach."

"Och," ris am bodach, "na'm faiceadh tu e mun deachda uinneag ann."

IN THE FAMILY . . .

Brian Macdonald, 18-year-old son of Mr William Macdonald, president of Drumadrochit Piping Society, won all four competitions in the open section of the Society's annual piping competition at Inverness last Saturday.

There were 97 entrants in this, the society's seventh competition.

Leabhar Feumail

Tha e 'na uallach air ministearan Gàidhealach gu bheil mòran dhaoine a' fhrìthladh nan seirbhisean gu cunbhalach, agus a tha neo-chìreach a thaobh an caitheamh-beatha, nach 'eil a' tighinn air adhart mar bhuill eaglais. Geibh luchd-teagaisg agus luchd-leannmhain cuideachadh leabhar a thainig amach aig an Ard-sheanaidh, agus a tha a' dèiligeadh ris a' phuing seo. Bheir sinn iomradh na's miona-daiche air ann an "Sruth" a dh'aitheghearr.

AN EAGLAIS SHAOR Ministear Nis

Bha suas ri dà mhìle an làthair nuair a chaidh an t-Urr. Aonghas Mac a' Ghobhainn a phòsadh ri coimhthional Nis ann an Leòdhais. Bha Mgr. Mac a' Ghobhainn ann an Sniòsot 'san Eilean Sgiathanach agus

The Canals of Scotland



With the reduction in the number of iron ways in Scotland, to emasculate the land transport and communications system in the country, one is occasionally brought hard up against the fact of Scotland's waterways.

Apart from one or two canals, the Caledonian, Forth and Clyde, Crinan, one might think that Scotland was poor in such water links between cities and areas. This is not so, however. Jean Lindsay has brought together a vast amount of commercial, technical and other kinds of information to present it in a readable text. Her book, 'The Canals of Scotland,' recently published, is not wholly aimed at the enthusiast. The general reader can find much of interest here as he motors round Scotland with this book in the car.

The story of Scotland's inland navigation history did not begin until the later 18th century. The reason for the late start, late, that is, compared with England and Ireland, was that more attention was paid to the improvement of such navigable estuaries as the Clyde, Forth and Tay, to give sea-going vessels access to most of the major centres of population.

Scotland's canals were designed to link up the established waterways represented by arms of the sea by using the larger fresh-water lochs, as in the case of the Caledonian Canal. At the same time, the provision of direct links by water between large centres, created a desire for lateral connections from each waterway to smaller centres of mineral and agricultural activity.

The canals which were built to satisfy these secondary requirements were not wholly independent of one another. Rather, they provided thorough routes, for example, between Paisley and Edinburgh, and between Leith and Inverness. These waterways did not form the canal-network which eventually appeared in England. Many of the minor canals were land-locked, rather communi-

cating with the sea or other canals.

In fact, not one of Scotland's seven major canals, not even the Union Canal, was originally projected as an inland waterway to link with another inland waterway.

At a time when the iron way is being decimated month by month by the Government, it is a pity to read the long list of canals that once contributed to the wealth of a nation and now no longer do so. The British Waterways Board has closed a number of canals, little realising the move in England (so why not in Scotland?) that these waterways could still contribute a little at least to their upkeep by giving them a tourist function. There are still people today who get much interest in canal-going; it is an increasing interest on many of England's canals.

Dr Lindsay has succeeded in bringing canal history to life with her glimpses into the canal projects as they were being constructed. The long chapter on the Caledonian is of particular interest, being a Highland Canal.

In 1955, the British Transport Commission expressed the hope that traffic on the Canal might be stimulated by afforestation, the development of hydro-electric power, and the Atomic plant at Dounreay.

In 1964, the British Waterways Board signed a 30-year contract with Wiggins, Teape & Co., for the enlargement of the basin at Corpach to receive up to 100,000 tons a year of raw material for the £20m pulp-mill.

The Corpach basin can now accommodate vessels over 200 feet long and 35 feet wide. The southern end of the Canal has become a busy centre of activity with the rapidly-expanding population. But despite the renewed activity in the terminal basin, the Canal is now used chiefly by fishing-boats and yachts.

Perhaps the Highlands Board, having given £1000 to investigate the existence or otherwise of the Loch Ness Monster,

The Forth and Clyde Canal: a passage-boat at Port Dundas about 1840. This canal is one of Scotland's many waterways, and on which much of Glasgow's prosperity was founded, and from which sprang the port of Grangemouth. Work was begun on the Canal in 1768, and the waterway was finally abandoned in 1962. This canal and many more are detailed in the book by Jean Lindsay.

might consider the development of the Caledonian Canal as a tourist attraction.

There is a great potential in this waterway. It has, and this makes it different from most of Scotland's other waterways, a route through some of the best scenery in the world. Thus, its potential as a tourist attraction is immense.

('The Canals of Scotland' by Jean Lindsay; David & Charles Ltd., Newton Abbot, Devon; 50s).

Fishing Pact With Poland

Irish fish exports and ship-building will benefit as the result of a trade agreement recently signed between An Bord Iascaigh Mhara and two Polish state companies, Centrum and Rybek.

Centrum imports and exports ships and marine equipment. Irish skippers and firms will now be afforded favourable credit facilities to buy Polish built steel hull trawlers.

Already a £60,000 trawler has been delivered to Wexford skipper Michael Doran. Named "Father Murphy" the all-steel trawler is 82 feet long and 100 tons weight.

Skipper Doran received 25 per cent of the cost by way of grant from Bord Iascaigh Mhara and 65 per cent by way of loan under the new agreement.

Centrum will use Irish shipyards to build for their foreign orders when the work cannot be done in Poland.

STIRLING PROVINCIAL MOD

A very successful Mod was held in the Albert Hall, Stirling on Saturday, 1st June. The standard throughout was high and both the Gaelic and English adjudicators commented on this.

At the evening concert Provost Donald Thomson, Oban, presided and the guest artists were Kirsteen Grant and Norman MacLean.

The results were as follows:

Junior Section

Silver Medal—Alison MacLeod, Brightons.

Duet (Own Choice)—Alison MacLeod and Lorna MacDougall.

Solo Singing (13-16 years)—Lorna MacDougall, Falkirk.

Choral Singing (under 16)—Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir.

Solo singing (under 13)—Ishbel Lamont, Glasgow.

Recitation (under 13)—William H. Kennedy, Stirling.

Recitation (13-16)—Lorna MacDougall, Falkirk.

Solo Singing (10-13)—Eileen Docherty, Camelon.

Solo Singing (under 10)—Fiona MacDonald and Malcolm MacLean (equal).

Senior Section

Solo Singing (Male and Female)—Morag M. Murray, Dunfermline.

Silver Medal (Female Voices)—Morag M. Murray. Duet Singing—Sheena Mackenzie and Duncan Macpherson, Larbert.

Group Singing—Stirling Gaelic Choir 'A'. Puirt a Beul—Hugh Camelon-White, Greenock.

Learners

Solo singing (Female voices)—Janet Thomson, Stirling.

Solo Singing (Male Voices)—John N. Findlay, Stirling.

Singing of Unpublished Song—Elizabeth Crockett, Dunfermline.

Recitation—John N. Findlay.

Quartet Singing—Falkirk Gaelic Choir 'A'.

Solo Singing (Male and Female Voices)—Hugh MacQueen, Luin.

'CELTS AT THE HELM' FORECAST

The 16,000,000 Celts may be destined to play a part in this world comparable with the role of the Scandinavian countries. Mr Gwynfor Evans, Welsh Nationalist M.P. for Carmarthen, told delegates attending the conference of the Celtic League at Bangor last week.

He said that the Celtic countries had astonished the world by their new vigour. Many had thought that, with the exception of Ireland, they were finished.

Now an amazing political resurgence had revealed their latent resources of strength and determination.

He told delegates from Brittany, Cornwall, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the Isle of Man: "They are clearly deciding in these islands to take control of the domestic life and to participate fully in world politics."

"For the young people of these countries in particular, their politics will be the politics of participation together with a determination to have a national future. There is evidence in each Celtic country of a growing interest in and consciousness of what is happening in the other."

Mr Yann Fouere, leader of the Breton nationalist movement, said that France did not want to release any part of its grip over the Breton nation. Brittany was refused her most elementary right to have her language taught in her schools.

Mr J. E. Jones, former secretary of the Welsh Nationalist Party, and chairman of the conference, said the Celtic League Council had been discussing possible ways of further co-operation between Celtic countries in the political field.

Gaelic

Broadcasts

Thursday, 13th June

12 noon News in Gaelic
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
3.00 p.m. "Canada—1890", Geo. Macdonald tells of a letter from Canada written by Neil Clark in 1850 to his brother in Islay. Reader, Neil MacGill (recorded).

3.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. Colin MacKenzie, Kilwinning (recorded).

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

Friday, 14th June

12 noon News in Gaelic
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
6.35 p.m. "Eadarainn Fheinn": A programme for women prepared by Christie Dick (recorded).

Monday, 17th June

12 noon News in Gaelic
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
6.35 p.m. News in Gaelic

Tuesday, 18th June

12 noon News in Gaelic
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
Wednesday, 19th June

12 noon News in Gaelic
6.35 p.m. Chanters: A magazine programme for the piping world compiled and introduced by Seumas MacNeill (recorded).

Thursday, 20th June

12 noon News in Gaelic
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn
3.00 p.m. Bard Tighearna Cholla (The Laird of Coll's Bard): Donald Meek talks about the Three poet, John MacLean (recorded).

3.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. Colin MacKenzie, Kilwinning (recorded).

Friday, 21st June

12 noon News in Gaelic
6.35 p.m. Seinn an Duan So: Concert of Gaelic songs requested by listeners.

THE HIGHLANDS IN 2068

When I boarded the plane which was to fly from Inverness to Stockholm I found that the Air Hostess in charge of the passengers was an attractive young girl wearing a Macdonald tartan skirt. Her charm and her good looks indicated that she had real Highland personality. She was typical of the many young Highland girls who have become Hostesses in the Highland Airlines, or, to give its official Gaelic name, "Aer Gaidhealtachd." Tartan skirts must be worn by all Hostesses on Aer Gaidhealtachd, and each Hostess is expected to wear the tartan of her respective Clan; so I knew she was a Macdonald. Her home is in Skye, and there is no doubt that she regards Skye as the most important island in the world.

"Is e Gaidhealtach mo cridhe, agus tha mo dachaidh anns Spìth," she would say. When asked why she became a Hostess in Aer Gaidhealtachd she replied "Because I love travelling and I love seeing places." She has certainly travelled all over the World—Spain, Italy, France, Ireland, Germany, India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South America, Greece and the Middle East to name only a few places—and she is always ready to talk to passengers and her friends and relatives at home of the places she has visited. In her view to be an air hostess is the most interesting and most fascinating job a girl could want.

It is hard to realise the vast wall of prejudice Aer Gaidhealtachd had to overcome. Originally started as a small airline to provide essential air services in the Highlands and Islands and the far north. Aer Gaidhealtachd took the bold step of inaugurating international air services. This encountered the most stone-walling opposition. In fact, the chief reason why Aer Gaidhealtachd was allowed to operate under a Gaelic name was that the airline was to concentrate on the Highlands. "Concentrate on the Highland services and leave the international services to the big airlines" was the generally accepted view.

This view was widely shared by many Highland lairds, who were genuinely concerned about the welfare of the Highlands and thought the idea was too fantastic for words. "Aer Gaidhealtachd could not possibly operate without a subsidy from the Government, most of which comes from the revenue earned by the big airlines. If Aer Gaidhealtachd tried to compete with the big airlines for international traffic the airline would lose its subsidy!"

Rumours were afloat that Aer Gaidhealtachd was betraying a trust vested in the airline through its readiness to sacrifice the unremunerative Highland air services for the more remunerative international services, and this would be a disaster for the Highlands. Many of the directors of

Aer Gaidhealtachd threatened to resign if the Company persisted in the absurd idea of trying to capture international traffic. Eventually one director had the courage of his convictions to speak up.

"We are living in a highly competitive world" he declared in a most emphatic voice "and risks must be taken in business. By inaugurating international services we will have a chance to put the Highlands on the map instead of continuing to remain relegated to the status of a back garden. The big airlines do not want us to compete against them because they do not want to lose the international services from which they derive enormous profits. What has saved us is the fact that none of the big airlines want us to be taken over by a rival competitor. But if we should ever find ourselves taken over land services will deteriorate. One of the big airlines High-This was proved in the case of the railways and in many other instances where Highland enterprises have been taken over by the vested interests of big business."

This view prevailed and Aer Gaidhealtachd went into international business. Since then Aer Gaidhealtachd has developed on an ever-increasing scale. The service from Stormovay to Dublin with an intermediate call on the island of Islay has proved extremely popular; so also is the service from Stormovay to Trondheim with an intermediate call at Shetland. There is hardly a country in Europe which is not served by Aer Gaidhealtachd; Inverness handles a whole volume of European traffic, whilst Wick competes with Prestwick for the honour of being Britain's No. 1 airport. This is not really surprising as so many countries are within easy flying reach of Scotland.

Taking a general look at things, how the Highlands changed for the better or for the worse? Certainly there are more opportunities and more incentives for the young people to stay at home than there were. Only a hundred years ago if this young girl from Skye wanted to be an Air Hostess she would have to go to London, which she hardly ever visits.

But in those days there were so many cleavages. People spent too much time stressing points of disagreement; once they began to realise how much they had in common, differences gradually faded until they became insignificant.

At first glance it would seem that political differences were the obstacles to be overcome. Political animosities were circulating everywhere—particularly at Elections—but the political parties were regarded as a discredited and spent force, and no one took them very seriously. In a democracy many issues, which are debated in Parliament, are also debated in the homes, in the schools and in

By H. R. Bailie
the universities. The general attitude towards the politicians is summed up in the 31st verse of the 5th Chapter of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

The real obstacles to be overcome were religious differences which were deep and paramount. This may sound strange as religious animosities seem so un-Christian. As it is, talks were being held at all levels between members of the Established Church and the Episcopalians. Nevertheless, the move for more unity in Christ's Church met strong opposition as religious prejudices are ingrained in so many from birth upwards.

Many prominent members of the Church of Scotland were accused of breaking faith with the principles of the Reformation and the heritage of the Church of their Fathers by flirting with the Scarlet Woman of Rome. Unity can never be achieved unless it is based on love, toleration and understanding. People so often ruin their cause when they become too hasty and over-zealous. However bigotted the opposition may have seemed, many of them were men of high principle, and they had the moral courage to make a stand and speak firmly when social life at all levels was being corrupted by every conceivable vice. No one could condemn them for refusing to compromise with evil.

There is, however, the case of the son of a strict Free Presbyterian family in the Island of Lewis who met a girl from South Uist whose family were devout Roman Catholics, and the two were deeply in love with each other. This illustrates the clash between love, which knows no barriers, and human prejudices which create them.

Last year was another successful year for tourism. Last century many Highland lairds were rather unjustly accused of being obstructive in their attitude towards tourism. The trouble lay in the fact that Highland lairds were regarded as a public school educated upper class removed from the rank and file of the population and were associated with grouse-moors and wealthy shooting tenants; rather an unfair criticism; considering that grouse is a popular dish on the menu.

In actual fact opinion amongst the landowners was very sharply divided: Some were strongly opposed to tourism; others realised the social, cultural and economic values of tourism bring.

Opposition to tourism became less obstructive when people began to realise that visitors are attracted to Scotland by the unique features which distinguish Scotland from other countries. This applies as much to the spiritual and cultural way of life as it does to the scenery. A large number of hotels are now holding dinner-celidhs which have proved

extremely popular. Whatever reasons people come to the Highlands—whether it be the skiing and mountaineering centre at Aviemore, the tourist centre at Strathpeffer or the fishing hotels in the Outer Hebrides—the vast majority enjoy a good celidh in the evenings. Some have even decided to learn Gaelic.

But tourism is a two-way traffic. If people like to spend the Summer in the Highlands, many like to spend the Winter in a warmer climate—Spain, Italy, Greece or the Middle East. Very few want to hibernate in London. Quite a contrast to the middle of last century when people made an annual pilgrimage to London to visit their friends and relatives. But in those days there were more Highlanders in London—and even in Glasgow—than there were in Inverness. As distances were telescoped and people took advantage of the facilities for foreign travel London became by-passed.

You can fly from Inverness to Australia or New Zealand without touching London. Then there was that most memorable occasion in 2000 A.D. when passports and travel identity cards were declared obsolete, and all financial restrictions were lifted, thus making free travel available to all. As it is a Scot has two ambitions:—

- 1.—To see as much as he can of his own country.
- 2.—To see as much as can of the world.

The head master of Gordonstoun hopes that a large number of his boys will again compete in the Highland Games and continue to uphold the high standard of sportsmanship for which the school is famous. We heartily applaud his view, and it is encouraging to find an ever-increasing number of young people from the highest to the lowest participating in the games.

We are always pleased with the high standards achieved by Gordonstoun, but we should not forget the similar high standards achieved by many other schools, by the universities and by various youth clubs and athletic clubs. Highland games are the Highland contribution to the long and ancient tradition of athletics which can be traced to the days of Ancient Greece.

A distinguished head master of Harrow once remarked in an address to parents: "Are we in this age giving enough scope to adventure; to living strenuously; to activities calling into play the co-ordinated powers of mind and body? Do not many of us shelter our children too much? In an age of small families it is perhaps inevitable that we should be over-protective, but need we by way of spurious compensation habituate them in their teens to the pleasures of the middle-aged, cars and smoking and cocktail parties and watching other people being strenuous instead

of being strenuous oneself?"

"To keep the young tied as it were to one's social arrangements is no service to the cause to which you and I are entrusted. Security is a necessity to the young; there must be a place where you can take your ease and relax and find rest, but it may if it is over-stressed sap the strength of the spirit." If home is the place where one starts from, it is also the base to which one should return. In the Highlands there is no room for class distinction in education, in sport or in any form of human activity.

The Inverness Gaelic Choir has just returned home after a successful tour of Italy. They are now busy with preparations for a grand celidh to be held at Inverness in the Summer, to which folk singers from Naples have been invited. Commenting on their tour they said "We found many Italians were as keen to learn Gaelic as we were to learn Italian. It is a great source of encouragement to know that we share a common interest with the Italians in music, in learning and in art."

Scotland has always had strong connections with Italy. Prior to the Reformation the Church in Scotland was recognised as a "Special Daughter of Rome, a privilege which may still be claimed by the Roman Catholic hierarchy of Scotland. The law of Scotland is based on the laws of Rome, though some may claim that Scots Law is derived from the Roman-Dutch Law of Holland. So it was good to renew the cultural ties between the two countries. The members of the choir were proud that they were allowed to sing with the choir of the Scots Church in Rome, and there was a general atmosphere of awe and reverence when they sang the psalms in Gaelic. "Music," they said "expresses the beauty of holiness."

They were also very impressed with Casanova's monument erected to the memory of the last of the Stuarts in St Peter's Cathedral. "What saddened us," they confessed, "was the number of young Highlanders who lost their lives fighting in Italy during the Hitler War. Let us hope that in future Highlanders will go abroad to sow the seeds of peace and good will, not to fight wars."

In 1745 Prince Charles Edward Stuart set out from Rome to recover the Thrones of Scotland and England for the Royal House of Stuart, and now three centuries later the Inverness Gaelic Choir won the hearts of Milan, Venice, Florence, Rome, Naples and Palermo with the words of the MacCrimmon's Lament:—

"Cha till, cha till, cha till Mac-Criomhain
An cogadh no sith cha till e tuille;
Le airdio no ni cha till Mac-Criomhain,
Cha till e gu brath gu La na Gruinne."

Review Order

NEWS FROM
SCOTLAND'S DISC-LAND
Mouth-Music Record Makes History

When the music of the bagpipes and the fiddle were banned once upon a time, either for religious or political reasons, the Highlanders turned to making their own music for dancing—with their mouths.

They sang an infectiously gay Gaelic selection of tunes and called it 'port-a-beul'. In the plural this became 'puirt-a-beul'. Today, as dancing moves into a new boom period in the Highlands, Gaelic singers still offer the old-style mouth music for dancers. This type of music has an infectiously gay rhythm that is often in marked contrast to the sad melancholy of other Gaelic music.

Calum Cameron of Broomhill, Glasgow—well-known Gaelic singer on radio, records and television, has recorded the 'port-a-beul' for four popular dances. Thistle of Scotland make history by presenting this, the first recording composed entirely of mouth-music.

The dances on the record are "Foursome Reel," "Shepherd's Crook," "Hebridean Weaving Lilt" and "Cauld Kail". The singer, Calum Cameron, a former R.A.F. pilot whose parents hailed from Scaur and Bernisdale in Skye says: "I have aimed this record mainly at dancing. Wherever I travel, I find puirt-a-beul a topic of interest, even with English visitors to the Highlands. It has a great attraction for tourists, too."

Calum Cameron's previous Thistle record, "Mist-covered Mountains" proved deservedly popular and is now played all over the world.

The Thistle singer's fine voice has brought him major awards at national Gaelic Mods. He spent some time in Aberdeen, where he sang with Aberdeen Gaelic Choir. He is a sales superintendent in the Telephone Manager's office at the G.P.O. in Glasgow.

RWPE 652 Puirt-a-beul by Calum Cameron.

THE DARK ISLAND

Mary Sandeman, the tall and good-looking Scots girl singer, who records for the Thistle of Scotland label, has been invited to sing Gaelic songs at a summer festival of music and the arts at Quimper on the Brittany Coast of France.

"I'm terribly thrilled about it," says 20-year-old Mary, whose latest EP record "Dark Island" is released on the Thistle label. "The invitation is to join a Scottish party of pipers and dancers,

and appear at this Brittany festival from July 23 to 30."

"I'll sing Gaelic songs, of course, including some from my new record for Thistle."

Mary works as a television secretary in the closed-circuit television department of the Herriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. "I help generally with the administration of the programmes," she says. "The fact that I appear on television myself, as a singer, helps very much."

On her new EP record of Gaelic songs she sings, "Dark Island," "Spinning Song," "Will Ye Go, Lassie," and "Rowing Song." She plays her own guitar in two numbers, and has backing from the leading guitarist, George Hill, on others.

She has been interested in Gaelic since she was a schoolgirl at St Denis School in Edinburgh. She is particularly fond of Mull, Tiree and South Uist.

The Language Question

LIBERAL AND LABOUR
MPs INVOLVED

While paying tribute to the Scottish National Party for their initiative on Gaelic at Aberdeen the great amount of work undertaken on behalf of the language by members of other political parties is acknowledged by An Comunn Gàidhealach. Mr Malcolm MacMillan, Labour M.P. for the Western Isles, Mr Alexander Mackenzie, M.P. of the Liberal Party, Mr Russell Johnston, M.P., Inverness-shire, have all taken steps, in pressing for support and recognition for the language.

Bill in Preparation

Mr Johnston at the moment is preparing, in conjunction with the Scottish Office, a Bill to enable District Councils to contribute financially to the National Mod.

Mr William Ross, Secretary of State, and Mr Bruce Millan have shown themselves to be actively interested in the further development of Gaelic, and the Secretary of State's latest reply on aid for Gaelic is a positive indication of his desire to help the language.

It is to be hoped that a Gaelic Bill would secure all party support when it eventually goes into the House.

PROVINCIAL MODS

Some provincial mod results are being held over to the next issue.

Inverness Man Liberal Candidate



South Aberdeen Liberals have chosen Councillor K. J. B. S. MacLeod, Inverness, as prospective candidate.

A native of Ross-shire, 32-year-old Mr MacLeod is a former Inverness bailie and an insurance broker by profession.

Mr MacLeod is a member of the Scottish Liberal Party Executive and vice-president and former secretary of the Scottish League of Young Liberals.

NA FAROES

(Continued from Page One)

0 per cent gu 40 per cent a reir cosnadh. Tha na comunn a' cosg 25 per cent de chosgais spoilean, laimhriagain, factaraidhean, tralairiagan agus eile. Tha iad a' cumail a mach gu feumar leighe le doine agus a bheil foghlum, tidsearan agus doitairiann an aite ghabhail air an Lagting is air na comunn chionn gu bheil barrachd aca san ri thoirt seachad do na daoine na an tuarasdail a chosnadh agus na tha comas na measg nach bu chuir mhi-fheum a dheanamh dherth. 'Se sin as coireach gu bheil dothair 'na mhaidssear air factaraidh eise a thuilleadh air obair fhein, tidsearan na ceann suidhe air comunn agus anns an Lagting. Tha tuarasdail tidsear eadar £2,000 is £3,000 'sa bhliadhna chum bu bheil feum orra agus nach teid iad chum an iasgaich. Tha torr againn ri ionnsachadh ach 'se an rud a chosnadhraiche a thog sinn nach dean dune nach eil cleachd ri doigh beatha eilein cail airson an leasachadh agus gum tuigse ac' orra. Agus ma tha an canan fhein aca gu bheil so 'na chuideachadh mor ann a bhi sri air an son fhein. Chan eil a bhruidhinn Danais an diugh 'na Faroes ach beagan de luchd obreach an Rig 's ombudsman a Denmark. Tha so air ath-rachadh o na 1930's 'nuair a channadh cuid de mhuinntir na Faroes fhein gu robh e cheart cho math dhaibh a' canan a leigil bas nach robh feum ann an taobh am muigh nan crìochan agus nach deantar gnòthaich roimhe na chaoidh. Na tha duine a'griùinn a stigh a dh'fhuireach an diugh fheumaidh e Farais ionnsachadh.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

writer who speaks of a "subjunctive tense." It appears that these writers have not heard of the "conditional" tense or "future in the past" tense to give it a better name. In Scottish Gaelic, of course, this tense is combined with the Imperfect which expresses as in other languages both a continuous and a frequentative past.

Mr Macpherson has been fortunate in the facility with which he has acquired his knowledge of Gaelic. We do not all find it so easy. One gentleman I knew, a translator by profession, told me that because of the poorness of the textbooks as well as for its intrinsic difficulty he had found Gaelic incomparably the most difficult of the languages he had studied and these included French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Magyar. I myself consider Gaelic more difficult than Norwegian, Danish and Swedish. One wonders what were the six languages that Mr Macpherson found more difficult than Gaelic.

Mr Macpherson commends An Comunn's "Gaelic lessons" on gramophone records. I do not think that any foreigner would be satisfied with a course of "English lessons" on gramophone records. A mixture of dialects such as "Brummagem," Cockney, "Zummerzet," "Geordie," "Glesca," and "Aiberdonian." What a student requires is the accepted or literary dialect or a median cultured pronunciation, presented by a disciplined team conforming to the prescribed pronunciation. In other words, the student requires a standardised language. He has neither the knowledge nor the experience to sift out a muddling mixture of provincial dialects. Even though there is not in Gaelic a dialect accepted as the "Tuscan tongue in a Roman mouth" is accepted as standard Italian and no class dialect which has gained acceptance as public-school English has, still it is possible to adopt a literary pronunciation of Gaelic. This I have observed when a University lecturer was reading texts. Also, I have observed that a secondary school teacher spoke to me quite differently from the way in which he spoke to a man from the village next his own.

The "Gaelic lessons" on records seem to be addressed to the crofter-fisherman, if one may judge from its topics. Crofter-fishermen must be thin on the ground in Dunedin, as indeed they are in Edinburgh.

The idea that the language spoken by a native is "correct" dies hard. A good many years ago I listened, in company with my mother, to a broadcast of a Gaelic service. She remarked, "That

man must be a learner. He is making many mistakes. My reply was, "The mistakes he is making are not the mistakes a learner would make." The speaker was simply not literate in Gaelic. His "Gaelic" can best be described by saying that it was the Gaelic counterpart of the "English" spoken by the "Glesca comics" "Francie and Josie" portrayed on STV by Rikki Fulton and Jack Milroy but so far as I am aware neither "Francie" nor "Josie" ever spoke their lines from a pulpit. This "Gaelic preacher" so far as I knew did not broadcast again.

Mr Macpherson stresses that a reformation may be needed in the attitude of some students of Gaelic but a much greater reformation is necessary in the attitude of those who teach Gaelic or write textbooks. If grammar is taught it must be grammar, not nonsense. Sentence and intonation patterns should be used and initial vocabulary be selected on a basis of frequency of use. The study of phonetics is essential, not for the purpose of teaching phonetics but to enable a clear explanation of the positions of lips and tongue in the production of Gaelic sounds to be given. In a gramophone course one record should be devoted to demonstrations of all the sounds included in the standards or "literary" dialect and to illustrations of the relations between sound and spelling.

Some years ago, on one of the rare occasions when I have been able to attend the odd session of a National Mod, I was impressed by the performance of the adjudicator. Obviously he had missed his vocation. As he moo-ed and meh-ed, he showed that he was a gifted animal mimic. The marvellous sounds he made were alleged to be examples of the right and wrong sounds produced, or not produced, by the competitors. (That he considered there were right and wrong sounds implied that he considered that there was a correct, i.e. a standard Gaelic.) Unfortunately, he did not, and probably could not, tell how he produced these marvellous sounds so his efforts failed entirely. This is the case with most of what has been written about the pronunciation of Gaelic. Le meas is muim—

ALASDAIR MACNEILL

CATALYST

The third edition of "Catalyst," the quarterly magazine published by The 1320 Club, contains contributions on 'Scottish Education'; Lord Belhaven and Stenton on 'Scottish Nationalism'; An Interim Report on the work of the Defence Committee of the 1320 Club; J. Russell Thomson on Free Speech in the S.N.P.; A review of Professor H. J. Paton's book "The Club of Scotland." The fourth-Autumn-edition will be published at the end of August. Available from 23 Kinkell Terrace, St Andrews, Fife.