

Streamlining Tourist Industry

£40,000 PROPOSALS FROM THE HIDB

As part of its continuing drive to develop the tourist potential of its region, the Highlands and Islands Development Board at meetings in Inverness has presented to local authority representatives and local tourist association representatives a series of proposals which, if adopted, could mean a major step forward in the tourism industry in the seven crofting counties.

Announcing this in Inverness this week, the Board member for tourism, Sir James MacKay, said, "Most local tourist associations are gallantly trying to perform miracles on a shoestring, with almost entirely voluntary work, or work which, at best, receives little recompense beyond the knowledge that the work is worthwhile. We don't think that's good enough.

"The solution we are proposing to this particular problem is a strong, professional system of tourism organisations, and to achieve this we are recommending that the crofting counties be divided into a number of "areas," each with its own central Area Organisation,

with paid staff headed by a full-time professional who will act as a leader for the area tourism industry. There will also be a place, a more important one in fact, for voluntary effort."

Function of Local Bodies

Under the Board's plan, Sir James explained, the Area Organisation would have an Area Council to deal with all normal business

and a Chairman's Committee which would meet every two or three months to deal with matters of general policy. The Board and the Scottish Tourist Board would be represented at Chairman's Committee meetings and would try to ensure that the various areas work together in unison. The present local tourist associations would become local committees of the Area Organisations and would be represented on them.

The functions of the Area Organisations would include running one main information centre all the year round and servicing all winter enquiries for the area; operating an accommodation booking service; preparing and producing "Things to Do" leaflets; and acting as contact point and liaison agent for the Board.

If Area Organisations wanted to operate special evening entertainments, they would be able to apply to the Board for funds like other bodies.

The scheme, if accepted, would cost the Board nearly £40,000 a year. It is hoped that County and Town Councils throughout the Board's area will see their way to contributing towards the scheme.

Successful Meeting

Certainly, Sir James stressed, the level of local authority and local membership contribution would determine the exact number of local information centres that could be afforded, the amount of additional literature that could be produced and the possibility of specific area advertising.

The Board had a successful meeting with local authorities last week and are confident they have their backing and support. Sir James concluded: "There are only minor problems to be resolved and I will be reporting back to the Board as a first step towards obtaining full authority to go ahead. If all goes well this scheme should be in operation for season 1969."



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Air Diar-daoin, an 11mh latha de'n Ghiblean, fhuair Dòmhnall MacAmhlaigh, a Bèarnaragh, cead-searmonachaidh o Chléir Léodhais an Eaglais Martius Memorial ann an Steòrnabhagh, agus thug An t-Urr. Aonghas Mac Cumhais, Eaglais Àrd Steòrnabhagh seachad an searmon.

Bha Mgr Mac Amhlaigh 'na sgiobair air a' "Mhàiri Dhonn," a bha ag iasgach ghìomach amach o Bhèarnaragh Léodhais nuair a bha e air a ghairm gu obair na ministrealachd. Thug e amach fhoghlum ann an oil-thaigh Obair-headhainn.

Nuair a tha ministearan Gàidhlig cho gann se adhbhar gairdeachais a th'ann gu bheil dithis eileanach a' fàgail nan colaisdean ann bliadhna. A thuilleadh air Mgr. Mac Amhlaigh, tha Ruairidh Mac Fhionghain, as na Hearadh, a' cur crìoch air cùrsa an fhoghlum ann an Colaiste na

Trianaid ann an Glaschu. Ach a réir coltais bidh na ministearan oga a shearmonaicheas ann an Gàidhlig cadhnan na's teirce anns an bliadhnachan a tha romhainn.

SELL SCOTLAND MISSION

A ten man mission to North America to boost tourism in Scotland left Prestwick Airport earlier this week.

The mission, led by Mr Robin MacLellan, deputy chairman of the British Airports Authority, and Mr William Nicholson, of the Scottish Tourist Board, will visit New York, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago and Toronto during the next three weeks in an attempt to show the unique attraction of holidays in Scotland and the ease with which they can be arranged.

The Lochan by Wendy Wood

It is a very small loch, not more than a hundred yards across and barely twice as long. It is too small even to have a name other than 'lochan beag' (the little loch) and this in a place where even a big boulder may be considered important enough to have a label. The lochan lies in a shallow cup on the far shoulder of the hill, where no one would expect it. No bustling burn churns from it, no path acts as a guide to it, no rocks or pebbles decorate or

plunges straight down below the still water, seemingly to the very centre of the earth. The lochan has no reeds to whistle to it, nor even a rowan to bless it; no sound of restless pipit or gull's raucous cry disturbs its utter paucity of silence. Without even the embroidery of green weeds or lily pads, the seep water runs from heather edges to its black depths.

But on a day of tranquil sunshine, it can congeal the blue of the whole sky into a deep

hypnotising choreography, and a sudden squall will open over its face like a troublesome thought. There must be plenty of life in it, but I never saw a fish create a bright circle, nor know the upright heron to visit it in the still half-light of the evening—and only once was I afraid of it.

That was when a thunder storm came suddenly, rising like an opera scene over the edge of the hill, a bank of indigo cumulus cloud, silver-edged, gigantic and quite artificial looking. I was not far away in my dash for home when the storm broke and, looking back, I saw the lightning flash reflected only in that one huge wide-open white eye—the fury of Cyclops. Nothing normal remained, the whole world was a place of giant gods and fury, and I dropped down where I was, and remained with my head in the rough rain sodden heather till the storm passed, and normality and mercy returned to the friendly hills.



bind it, except on one side where its liquid blackness makes a line at the foot of a precipitous crag.

This is an ominous face of rock, grimly expressionless, that

ultramarine oval, and blandly out-stare the very firmament. On a day of sun and breeze, because there are no stones, it does not chuckle, but silver triangles lift and change in an

An Comunn Gaidhealach's Conference

Representatives from Branches and Affiliated Societies of An Comunn Gaidhealach met at a conference in the Queen's Hotel, Perth, on Friday and Saturday, 5th and 6th April. The theme of the conference was the future. A gathering of 40 people from all over Scotland heard talks on An Comunn's Policy, the treatment of Minority Languages and Youth Activities.

The guest speakers were Professor Glanville Price, Professor of French at the University of Stirling and Mr D. J. MacLeod of the Department of Celtic, Glasgow University.

The double duty that An Comunn Gaidhealach has towards the people and the language was emphasised by Mr D. J. Mackay, the Director of An Comunn in his statement on policy. The statement recognises the need for those who are concerned with the future of the language to have regard for the social and economic development of the Gaelic speaking areas in order to arrest the decline in population. To achieve its objectives An Comunn must co-operate with and try to influence the various other bodies who have direct and statutory responsibilities in the fields of work with which it is involved.

The importance of focussing international attention on the Gaelic minority was stressed by the Director who said, "Perhaps the urgency of this question can best be illustrated by my experience in Norway last week where they are taught in some schools that the language died in the early part of the 20th Century."

There is little doubt that the Islands hold the key for the

maintenance of Gaelic and it is in the Islands that the effort must be concentrated. The Conference were unanimous in their approval of the recommendation that an official of An Comunn be permanently based in the Western Isles.

Later on during the discussions on Youth Activities the need for a paid official in the islands was again highlighted.

The continued growth of the National Mod presents difficulties in administration and presentation that cannot be overcome under the existing organisation. A semi-autonomous body should be formed to administer the Mod with a full or part-time Executive who will be responsible for its promotion and financial success.

Minority Groups in Europe

Professor Glanville Price of the University of Stirling gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on minority groups in Europe on Saturday morning. A comparison was made between Gaelic and various European languages such as Romansh, Frisian, Basque, Catalan, Breton, Provençal, Faroese, Welsh and Irish.

While the treatment of the French and Spanish minorities is extremely unsatisfactory—the French have in fact been accused of cultural genocide—the approach to the problem in other countries is much more enlightened. Romansh in East Switzerland is spoken by fewer than 50,000 people. The complications of dialectal fragmentation and the absence of a common literary language are overcome by the generous official support for the language. Faroese, Irish, Welsh and Frisian are all nowadays enjoy-

ing a more favourable position than Gaelic.

An Comunn must use its influence to see that professional and other leading figures appointed to the Gaelic speaking areas should have Gaelic qualifications. The importance of appointing Gaelic speakers to all school posts in the areas cannot be over-emphasised and there must be a concentrated and continuing effort to realise this aim.

Mr D. J. MacLeod of the Celtic Department, Glasgow University, in his talk on Youth Work suggested that An Comunn had failed to make use of the energies and initiative of Gaelic speaking youth to keep the language and culture alive. Surveying the scene from Lewis to Barra, Skye to Islay, it can be seen that incomers are in the main responsible for running such Youth Organisations as do exist. This would indicate a lack of leadership so far as the indigenous population are concerned.

Mr MacLeod then went on to outline a scheme for a Youth Movement. This would require the establishment of a completely new youth organisation catering for all ages from 5 to 25. A trained youth worker is essential to ensure the success of such a movement and the Conference, in congratulating Mr MacLeod on his proposals, felt that there exists a very urgent need for the appointment of such an organiser.

On the whole the conference was felt to be very successful and the general feeling was that it should become a twice-yearly event.

Mr Donald Grant, President of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was unable to attend because of illness.

Frank Speaking

FUELS MARCH IN

It seems that the decision on the Invergordon smelter is being delayed by a consideration of the Norwegian Government's request that no smelter should be built with government aid. This gives time for me to say something about the fuel requirements of the smelter, should it eventually arrive at Invergordon.

First, the package deal offered by the National Coal Board. This was a good move. The coal would have come from Scottish pits—and pits in the north of England, if the Scots couldn't come up with the goods. But what about the coal at Brora? Truly Highland coal, was there never any suggestion made by, say, the Highlands Board, to look into the question of developing the seams at Brora to supply the fuel requirements of the smelter's power stations?

If not why not, seems to be the question. And if Brora coal was considered, why was it not announced that for certain specific reasons it was decided not to use the Brora resources? Or was it simply that the vested fuel interests of the south were too powerful to fight against?

The alternative fuel to be considered for the smelter's power stations is nuclear. It may be all very well to consider atomic energy as a source of heat, but have the side issues been taken into the open and placed before the Highland public?

I mean, that the production of atomic energy is accompanied, unfortunately, by two quite easily foreseeable and disastrous, as well as unavoidable consequences.

First, it yields a proportion of what is glibly called 'atomic waste.' This is not like ordinary refuse. It is a material so virulently poisonous as to constitute a deadly genetic hazard should it be leaked into the life cycle.

It has been estimated that by the year 2000 A.D. some 40,000 tons of this densely radioactive material will be produced each year. And it will remain highly dangerous for 600 years!

At present this deadly stuff

is being dumped into deep ocean beds. Who can tell what problems future generations may have to face because of this?

The second consequence of atomic energy is that a nuclear power station has a working life of up to fifty years. This is because the cumulative effect of radiation damage to the internal structure renders it unsafe. The contamination is so great that it becomes unsafe even to dismantle it!

Hence, all these structures must be sealed off, presumably for about 600 years. It has been estimated that by 2050 A.D., there may well be some 10,000 disused radioactive power stations scattered around the world, including the Invergordon ones!

So what think you to an atomic bomb ticking away on your doorstep? Or the possibility of another 'Windscale incident, which happened a few years ago and caused millions of gallons of contaminated milk to become polluted with radioactive particles and afterwards poured away to waste?

I maintain that there are sufficient natural resources remaining in the Highlands (water, coal and peat) to supply the power needs of any smelter at Invergordon. In addition, there could well be natural gas and oil from the North Sea or the Moray Firth.

Have all these been really considered, not from an economic point of view, but from the social aspect? If not, why not? We are being governed more and more by scientists and economist and less and less by people who recognise they have a responsibility for their fellow humans and legislate accordingly.

It is up to the people of this country to see that they are represented by people who are willing, against the crack of Party whips, to apply moral determination to our present way of life. We hope the present representation of the Highlands in Westminster possesses the philosophic criteria to draw the right conclusions of atomic energy at Invergordon.

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SRUTH

Di-ardaoin, 18mh de'n Ghiblinn 1968

Thursday, 18th April 1968

Gradh-duthcha agus Teachd-an-tìr

Air a' phrogram "Checkpoint" a tha air a chraobh-sgoileadh a Alba leis a' Bh.B.C. chaidh an da cheist seo a chur air luchd-eisdeachd a bha an lathair anns an studio:

(1) "An oibriceachd sibh nas cruaidhe nam bitheadh a parlamaid fhèin aig Alba?" agus (2) "An cuir-eachd sibh suas le beatha nas cruaidhe nam bitheadh a parlamaid fhèin aig Alba?"

Fhreagair a' chuid mhòr de 'n luchd-eisdeachd (a bha air an cruinneachadh leis a' Bh.B.C. gun deanadh iad an da chuid nam bitheadh Alba a' seasamh air a casan fhèin.

Ge brìg de a' bhuidheann de bheil sinn feumaidh sinn suas a ghabhail de na freagaritean seo, oir tha mi creidsinn gu bhèid iad a' co-fhreagairt bheachdan agus smaointean aig a' bheil freagairtean domhain ann an intinnean e-t-sluaigh.

Is ann airson feuchainn ri fhoghlainn a mach am 'urrain Alba seasamh air a casan fhèin a thaobh 'economics' a' chaidh an program a chraobh-sgoileadh agus bha a' chuid mhòr de 'n fheadhainn a bhruidhinn a' bheachd gu robh a' cheart uibhir a' chomas aig Alba seo a dheanamh agus a bha aig torr de duthchannan beaga na Roinn Eòrpa — gu robh i a measg rìoghachdan beairteach an t-saoghail. Ach 's e an doigh ann an do sheall an luchd-eisdeachd an uidh a bha ead 'nan duthaich fhèin, nam bheachd-sa co-dhiubh, an rud as annasach thainig as a' phrogram.

Canaidh feadhainn nach eil co-cheangal sam bith eadar gradh-duthcha agus "economics," ach de tha deanamh "economy" math no dona ach an uidh a tha aig daoine 'nan oibair agus an doigh anns a bheil iad 'ga deanamh, agus tha seo an crochadh air an doigh-smaointean.

Tha muintir Alba a' faireachadh an dràsda nach eil eil as urrainn dhaibh a dheanamh a ni dìfir do theachd-chumbach na rìoghachd. Tha fios ead nach eil mوران chreachdhan aig an comhairlean ionadail. Tha ead-dhealchadh a thaobh astair agus doigh-smaointean eadar na buill-parlamaid agus an sluaigh.

Tha mi creidsinn gu bhèid eumachd mhòr ann an gradh-duthcha de nach eil a' deanamh feur sam bith airson leas na rìoghachd.

Sore Thumbs

"A poor region within a nation state is in many ways worse off than a poor nation state in the sense that it is more restricted in the policies that it can follow to correct a failing level of regional income. A region within a country cannot prevent capital funds flowing out across the regional frontier, nor can it impose restrictions on inter-regional trade, nor can it follow an independent monetary and fiscal policy." (M. J. Pullen, University of Leicester).

The Highlands area has always been a sore thumb to the London administration. Indeed, it has been very much so to the Edinburgh sub-administration. The Surtsey-like creation of a couple of years ago in the form of the H.I.D.B. has been passed the buck to doctor the thumb to yield a state which requires less medical attention from the nation's hard-pressed resources.

But the Board itself is faced with a sore mini-thumb — the islands, which, were it not for the insistence of Malcolm MacMillan, of the Western Isles, would still be without access to a developing authority. The potential of the islands is at least equal to that of other island groups in Scandinavia. Yet it seems that only peripheral attention is being given to the development of this potential. Admittedly, the Board's fishing schemes may yet yield results, creating a useful and significant area of employment for the male population of the islands. But the land has yet to be developed. Are the reclaimed acres of Lewis being used to the full? Are crofters being encouraged to develop the best grazing policy? The horticultural use of peat is well known. Yet Britain imports thousands of tons of peat products from Eire.

To get back to our quotes. Something more than Home Rule for Scotland is needed — Home Rule for the Highlands. At least a significant degree of independence, particularly over fiscal matters, so that the area can find out its own regeneration point and begin from there to create anew. This should be investigated by the H.I.D.B. It is necessary to ensure that money generated in this area is kept in it. One Highland shop in a London-based multiple-stores company sends south some £70,000 per month. What could such a sum do if it were retained in the area?

The Highlands and the Future

Continuing our Series 'Highlands and the Future,' the author of this article takes a look at the possible place and state of the Arts in the Gaelic Highlands of a century hence. The author, Francis Thompson, is a native of Stornoway. He has had poetry and fiction published and broadcast. He has also won awards and prizes at London, Provincial and National Mod for setting Gaelic lyrics to music and for choral arrangements of traditional Gaelic songs. Some of his poetry and fiction have been translated into Gaelic.

Last month SRUTH sent its Arts Critic, Eoghann MacThomais, to the University College for Rural Community Studies in the Hebrides. There he met the Resident Tutor of the Department of Celtic Arts, Dr Iain MacLeod. The University College was established in the Seventies of last century, as an experiment in embryo. Today, the College is a focal point of international interest for those whose task it is to ensure the continuity of communities in rural areas and islands all over the world. The following is the unrendered text of the interview between MacThomais (MacT.) and Dr MacLeod (MacL.).

MacThomais — A charaid, before we get down to discussing specific areas of the Arts today, have you a few words in summary of the Arts in 2068 as compared with their state in 1968?

MacLeod — Now, that's a challenge in itself. But I'll try. I think the best approach to a summary would be to look back to 1968 and then to see what we have now. First, music. This was not organised. Only a few scholars gave it their attention. Indeed, it was not until about 1990 that the whole body of Gaelic music became recognised as being a field virtually uncultivated so far as research was concerned. Today subsequent research has enriched the body of international folk music, even to the extent of Gaelic airs contributing to the melody for a number of award-winning international popular songs.

MacT. — What about the visual arts?

MacL. — A century ago this area of art activity was non-existent. Today — well look around you. (At this point Dr MacLeod waved his hand at the painting and sculptures by Gaelic artists arranged round the room.) And look at the names now being accepted by international galleries. Remarkable progress is less than a century.

MacT. — And literature?

MacL. — This is the field in

which the greatest impact has been made and I'll mention this later, if I may. When I read the records of the day about the struggles of the young man paper SRUTH, in 1967, and of the valiant, and not immediately rewarding, but eventually successful efforts, of Club Leabhar, it says much for Gaelic literature that it had the necessary masculine aggression to win through against such tremendous odds, particularly the monoglot English culture, which eventually failed because it had no seed of its own from which to grow. It was, in fact, an accreted amalgam of foreign cultures.

MacT. — Can we not get down to specific fields. Since literature is perhaps the most important field, let us take up the point of progress. Compared with today, what was the state of Gaelic literature in 1968?

MacL. — The state was exactly what one might expect when a language — a spoken language — was recognised only as a second-class language. It took political pressure to raise its status to that of equal validity with English. The product of Gaelic writers a hundred years ago tended to concentrate on poetry. This was not everybody's cup of tea, though some of the poetry was really magnificent and worthy even then, of inclusion in international anthologies. There were also a number of short stories in Gaelic. But these, too, were read by an extremely small number of Gaels. The reason for this was simple: there was not a sufficient medium for them.

But because Gaelic was a depressed language, these literary efforts might not have existed so far as their recognition was concerned. In the novel side, it was the setting up of Club Leabhar in 1968 that eventually boosted printed Gaelic. Following quickly on this there was the recognition of Gaelic by the then Government of the day as the result of political pressure as I've mentioned. Opposition to this recognition came from quarters where it was least expected. The recognition was underlined by grants of money made available for publishing a variety of Gaelic texts in a variety of forms.

MacT. — In a word, Gaelic became commercial so far as authors were concerned?

MacL. — It did — and with a vengeance which had its necessary effects. With more reading material available, not all on the same literary plane, the percentage of literate Gaelic speakers rose, particularly among the younger generations of the sixties and

seventies. Learners of Gaelic, too, had simplified texts made available to them.

MacT. — Who were the people who were writing in those days?

MacL. — Oh, a long list of names, though not all were really dedicated to writing. Derick Thomson, Iain Crichton Smith, Donald MacAulay, Sorley MacLean, Colin MacKenzie are a few who spring to mind immediately.

Following them came a new breed of writers, all of whom recognised the two-thousand years old tradition to which they were inheritors: Calum MacQueen, Donald MacLeod, Hector MacAulaidh and Calum Laing. These writers are all, strange to say, novelists and writers of the short-story form. Though poetry is still being written it is not having quite the same impact with readers as poetry once did.

MacT. — When did full international recognition occur for Gaelic writing?

MacL. — Not until just before the turn of the present century. Away back in 1968, a body called the Scottish Arts Council, which was a chip off an English Arts body to cater for Scottish interests, launched a magazine with the title of 'Scottish International.' For a long time it carried articles, verse and stories in English, not even Scots, mind you. Then Gaelic was introduced into the magazine, sometimes on its own; sometimes with a literal translation in French, German and English. It paid off, despite the wallings of the Philistines of the day.

MacT. — In what way?

MacL. — Well, through the medium of translation; it was seen that Gaelic had something significant to offer world literature and was encouraged to contribute what it could.

MacT. — I have a copy of 'Scottish International' in front of me. I see that Gaelic, though not prominent, is significant.

MacL. — The fact that it's there at all is an achievement for those who believed in the strength for continuity a century ago. And today the language is accepted on its own merits. The space in the magazine is not a handout for a poor relation.

MacT. — Can you say briefly why Gaelic writers have international recognition today?

MacL. — Well, there are a few reasons. One stands out however. It was that the Gael was able to inject a new and interesting, indeed, a refreshing, philosophy into the mainstream of international

(Continued on Page Twelve)

woman to woman

CUNGAIDHEAN-LEIGHIS: CUMAIBH RIS AN TOMHAS CHEART

Tha fhios aig a h-uile duine an cunnart a tha ann an gabhail cus de dhruag sam bith, ach cha n eil fhios aig ubhair gu faod tomhas ro-bheag a bhith cunnartach cuideachd, ann an doigh eile. Tha antibiotics ghe lurch-mhor ann a bhith gabhail aig galar-gabhail (infection) agus is urrainn dhaibh germs a mharbhadh na bacadh a chur ora ma ghabhar iad ann an tomhas mor gu leor. Ma tha an tomhas (dose) ro-bheag faodaidh na germs lamh-an-uachdair fhaighinn orra, agus ann an uine ghoirid tha na germs a' fas gun buaidh sam bith aig na h-antibiotics orra. Airson nach tachair seo thathas a' toirt seachad tomhaisean mora de antibiotics do dhùine air a bheil galar-gabhail dona, airson ionn-saigh chruaidh a thoirt air na germs. An deidh seo tha an duine a' faighinn tomhaisean na bige aig amannan suidhichte (ni claran beaga no 'tablets' dhe'n drug an gnot-hach aig an am seo) airson cur as dha na tha air fhagail dhe na germs. Faodaidh na germs lamh - an - uachdair fhaighinn ma tha an duine tinn a' faighinn tomhaisean eadar-dhealaichte dhe 'n drug, no tomhaisean aig amannan eadar-dhealaichte dhe 'n latha no 'n oidheche. Ma tha 'Gabh seo ceithir uairean 'san latha' sgrìobhte air a' bhileig: chan eil e ciallachadh idir gum faodar

na claran beaga ghabhail aig an aon am, no an gabhail an drasda 's a rithis re co-ladde agus gum mair iad nas fhaide. Chan eil e ceart, nas motha, na claran a thoirt do dh' fheadhainn eile dhe 'n teaghlaich air a bheil an t-aon tinnseas airson caomhnadh dha 'n dotair tadhal a rithis. Docha gun caomhnadh a' bha tinn fheadhainn de 'na tablets mhiorbhùileach ud' airson an ath uair a bhiteas an cnatan orra, no airson rud sam bith a dh' fhaodadh a bhith ceart air a' nabaidh. Tha an dotair a' toirt seachad an aireimh cheart de na h-antibiotics

Leis a' BHAN-DOTAIR EALASAIÐ

agus cha bu choir gum bith-eadh gin air fhagail. Co-dhiubb, cha bu choir 'tablets' a chumail airson tinnseas a dh' fhaodadh a bhith gu tur eadar-dhealaichte.

Is e gnot-hach ghe dhullich a tha ann an uair a dh' fhasas cuid de na germs comasach air sabaid an aghaidh nan antibiotics. Tha na h-uiread de na germs cumanta a dh' fhas laidir ann an doigh seo, mar a tha an staphylococcus, an germ a gheibhar ann an neasgaid. Faodaidh na germs laidir a dhol o dhùine gu duine aig aobharachadh ghalairean a tha ghe dhoirbh gabhail aca. Gu fortanach tha buaidh

mar as trice aig penicillin, an antibiotic as sine tha againn, air streptococcus, an germ a tha aig aobharachadh amhaich ghoirt agus uairean ghalairean nas miosa na sin.

Tha buaidh ghe laidir aig na drugaichean a thathas a' cleachdadh airson a' chaitheimh ach, ma tha iad air an cleachdadh gu mi-churamach, faodaidh na germs fas laidir agus is ann airson an aobhair seo nach eil na drugaichean a thathas a' cleachdadh airson a' chaitheimh air an cur gu feum uair sam bith 'n aon aonar, ach tha dha air an cleachdadh comhlh.

Tha laghannan ann airson a dheanamh cinnteach nach teid tomhaisean beaga de antibiotics anns a' bhainne a tha sin aig od (air eagal gu fas na germs 'nar bodhaig ro-eolach oirre) agus, ma thathas aig cleachdadh gin dhubh airson mairt a leighis, chan eil am bainne aca eil od airson suas ri trì lathaichean an deidh sin.

Tha a leithid de chungaidhean-leighis laidir againn a nis nach bu choir dhùine a bhith mi-churamach mu 'n doigh anns a bheil sinn 'gan cleachdadh air dhoigh nach dean iad feum dhùine a rithis ann an galar nas miosa.

EILEAN SCALPAIGH

Seisid:

Gu robh mo bheannachd-sa gu buan aig eilean Scalpaigh 's an taobh tuath: An t-eilean glas dha 'n tug mi luaidh tha ri fuam nam marannan.

Innis mara tha leam faoil ri sruth caithreamh a' chaoil: an t-eilean glan mu 'n iadh a' ghaoth 's tir mo ghaoil 's na Hearadh e.

Sud an tir 's an robh mi og tìr nan gleanntannan 's a' cheo: tìr mo chridhe 's tìr nan ob an tìr is boldhch 'air thalamh leam.

Gun cluinn thu fonn air eoina-chiuil ri cois nam bearraidhean 's nan stuc dubh-bhrìc ann an Loch-an-Duinn a' snamh gu dluth ri tanalach.

Chi thu spreidh air uchd an fheoir a' ghrian ag eirigh as nàd neòil: laogh is uain a' leum an coir na moinntich anns a' chamhainnich.

Bataichean le' laoch air cèan is anns an Acarsaid-a-Tuath; chi thu tional d'ie is sguab toradh chluain is fheannagan.

Is Bèinn Scorbhalg tha ciar sruthan join a' ruith 'n 's dòch: chi thu 'n Clisem bhuaat 's an iar s chi thu fiath ri Hamarsaidh.

An t-eilean beag ud glas fo dhriuchd air feargar Samhradh anns a' chiuin; gu robh mo speis dha anns gach tub is anns gach cuil is cala dheth.

D. R. MOIREASDAN

Review Order

IN DAYS OF OLD . . .

The Irish have done it again. In 'Folktales of the Irish Countryside,' they have produced a set of tales guaranteed to make one stay time for an hour or two and gain a bit of pleasure out of remembering the 'life that was once in't.'

The selection of folktales in this paperback is by Kevin Danaher. He follows in the line of the storyteller of old, though he reaches a far greater audience in print.

There are tales here of giants, ghosts, kings of Ireland and their daughters, the inevitable fairies, queer happenings (and what place for quarerer happenings than in Eire 2?) and of wondrous deeds.

Too often in this day and age of television, the present curse of mankind, radio and the cinema, with bingo and

other trashy pursuits of leisure, the old days are forgotten. The old days when people met each other because they wanted to, because each person was an identifiable unit in a close-knit community. The loss of even one person was a loss, not only to the family affected, but to the whole community.

Nowadays you can die in a tenement building and lie for days without anyone finding out about it.

So both the author and the Mercier Press are to be congratulated in bringing out this reminder of how a couple of hours' pleasure can be gained by switching off the television and settling down in a chair.

That's all you have to do except, of course, to send 7/6d. plus 6d postage to the Mercier Press, 4 Bridge St., Cork, Eire, for: 'Folktales of the Irish Countryside' by Kevin Danaher.

GAELIC ORTHOGRAPHY

Recommended Forms

	B	
bag		bitheanta
banais		bladh
banrigh		blàthach
bantrach		blàths
bàr (bar)		blonag
barrall		bocsa
bàth (foolish)		boiceann
beanntag		bolteag
beart		bonaid
bearach		bonn-asia
beartaich		borbsair
beathach		botal
beuglaid		braicst
beul		brag
beut-oides		brandaidh
b'fheàrr		bràth, gu bràth
bhitheadh/bhiadh		breacadh-sianain
	(alternative)	brèagha
bhicheas/bhios		brèth
	(alternative)	brìogais
bithidh/bidh		bris
	(alternative)	brìtheamh
bho—bhuam		broclach
bhuat		brùdhearg
bhuaidhe		brugh
bhuaipe		bruith
bhuainn		buabhall
bhuaibh		buidleair
bhuapa		buidsear
biath (verb)		buigire
biataiche		bùlas
binndeach		buthaid
biogail		bùthan (plural of bùth)
biorach		busan (dimin. of bus)

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SCOTCH WHISKY

over to you:

A CASE OF WILFUL NEGLECT?

Sir,—In recent years it has become customary for the press, radio and television, and the odd politician to pay lip service to the Gaelic language as a part of Scotland's cultural heritage, and to make this an excuse or even a justification for neglecting it as a living language. It is the purpose of this letter to remind you of certain factors bearing on this subject, and since we are reasonable people who believe that criticism must be constructive to be effective, to suggest means by which the presently existing situation might be improved. We are not cranks; we are not fanatics; this communication has no political motivation. We demand nothing; beg nothing. We merely seek to place before you a set of facts and suggestions, invite you to draw your own conclusions and allow your minds to give birth to their own ideas.

It cannot be denied that Gaelic has nowhere been more shamelessly neglected than by the public body who do most to promote it—BBC Television—and if independent television companies have done no better, at least they have done no worse. The BBC used to argue that their television coverage did not include most of the Gaelic-speaking areas of Scotland, and while it had certain superficial logic about it, this argument ignored the fact that a great many Gaels live in Glasgow. In these days of television, programmes in or about Gaelic had a great deal less viewing time annually than the intermissions, and appeared to be transmitted for very much the same reasons. In these days, too, we suffered the indignity of having programmes in Welsh transmitted to us—"Hob y deri domdo" is the only one of these whose name comes to mind, but there were others—and this immediately invited the examination of the television status of Gaelic vis-a-vis Welsh. Comparisons are odious, admittedly. This one more odious than most.

How has the situation improved since these dark days? Leaving aside the annual bonanza of programmes from the National Mod, we now have "Se ur Beatha" for twenty whole minutes each week for twenty six weeks of the year. Ignoring the fact that it is transmitted in competition with a full length feature film on the "other channel" this is less time than has been devoted to "Parliamento Italiano" — "Kom Mit Wir Sprechan Deutsch" — "Vamos a Ver" and other non-English programmes. We admit the need to educate the non-English speaking element of the population, but even

the Pakistanis do better at the hands of the BBC than the Gaels.

The obvious starting point for any attempt at redress is an educational programme on the lines of those already mentioned, where the visual approach to language learning has already proved its worth. If the television companies are incapable of producing such a programme, help from An Comunn Gaidhealach would doubtless be readily offered. Other means of allowing Gaelic a little house room are many, various, and obvious to those who do not regard it as an archaic foreign language. Opera singers perform on television in Italian, German sometimes Latin with enormous success. Mirielle Mathieu sings at the London Palladium entirely in French, and the audience does not consider that its enjoyment has been marred. If the television companies were to let a little Gaelic slip into their Scottish programmes, we venture to think that they would find that the viewing public likes it fine. Gaelic singers of professional standard are not scarce—that they sing for the love of it and not for the lucre does not detract from their abilities as musicians, and a performer of quality ought not to need an agent before his abilities are recognised.

Gaelic ought not to be treated as a thing apart, an esoteric subject to be ignored by the uninitiated. It is the native tongue of a nation, and ought to take its place as an ordinary, unremarkable part of Scottish life. A Frenchman, living in France and fluent in English, might be justifiably proud of his ability, but if he could speak only English, he would feel not proud, but ashamed. How many of us have so lost our self-respect that we do not feel ashamed to be unable to speak our native language.—Yours etc.,

ERIC FULTON
W. F. M. DEANS

1 Dirlot Place,
Thurso.

Copies of this letter have also been sent to:—

Lord Bannerman
M. A. C. Noble, M.P.
Mrs W. Ewing, M.P.
M. K. McMillan, M.P.
R. MacLennan
R. Johnston, M.P.
A. McKenzie, M.P.
Director B.B.C. Scotland
Director S.T.V.
Director Grampian T.V.
G. Y. Mackie, D.S.O., D.F.C.

BY FAIR MEANS OR FOUL

Sir,—Now that a recent "Checkpoint" programme has revealed the fact that the Scots are not to be bought off with trade beads, attempts will be made to coax them to aban-

don their totems by other methods.

If I were a propagandist agent on behalf of an alien government these are some of the methods I would employ.

Firstly, persuade them that their national garb is comical in time of peace, but an honourable garb to be shot in at the other side of the world.

Secondly, persuade them that particular traditional foods eaten by them, no matter how nutritious, are ridiculous and parochial.

Thirdly, persuade them

Gaelic Broadcasts

Thursday, 18th April

- 12 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus).
3.00 p.m. "My Church": The history and doctrine of the Churches of Gael-dom. Rev. Edward Campbell talks about the Baptist Church (recorded).
3.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by the Rev. Malcolm Smith, Howmore, South Uist (recorded).
7.00 p.m. VHF "In the Highlands": An all sorts magazine — comment, interview, music and song from Gaideldom (recorded).

Friday, 19th April

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

Monday, 22nd April

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

Tuesday, 23rd April

- 12 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus)

Wednesday, 24th April

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

Thursday, 25th April

- 12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.
3.00 p.m. "Gaidheall Chanada": Geo. MacDonald talks about the people of Glenarry, Ontario (recorded).
3.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by the Rev. Malcolm Smith, Howmore, South Uist (recorded).
7.00 p.m. VHF "In the Highlands": An all sorts magazine — comment, interview, music and song from Gaideldom (recorded).

Friday, 26th April

- 12.00 p.m. News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn.
6.35 p.m. "Kathleen and her guests": Kathleen MacDonald welcomes you to twenty-five minutes of song and music with her guests — Donald MacLennan, Angus C. MacLeod and The Alabanachs (recorded).

that any indigenous language spoken within their borders is ridiculous, archaic, and not a viable means of producing literature. Ensure that the work of their own great writers is ignored in schools.

Fourthly, persuade them, through the mass media, that the culture of the alien establishment, however absurd, is better than their own; it is not too difficult to persuade a man that to dress up in white flannels to hit a wee ball with a wooden bat, is more sensible than to dress up in a kilt for the purpose of hurling tree-trunks through the air.

Lastly, convince all political nationalists that the above must be complied with if they wish to be taken seriously. Yours etc.,

WILLIAM NEILL

13 South Gyle Road,
Edinburgh, 12.

NO HOPE FOR GAELIC?

Sir, — While there is life there is hope. But not for the Gaelic. Gaelic, indeed, may be still alive, but it is a lingering death — slowly being suffocated by the Gaels themselves. They do not want it to survive. It is an embarrassment to them. Something they are very much ashamed of to be acknowledged among themselves only in secret, and to be hidden completely from others.

Let the Lowlander speak in the Gael in Gaelic and he is answered in English. It is not that the Lowlanders' Gaelic is not understood. The Gael answers — in English.

The Gaelic children in their own country learn the language at their mother's knee. It is the language used in the kitchen at home. It is the language used at play with other children. But it is not used in the presence of the stranger.

The children go to school when five years old. From then onward progress in learning must be in English. Their baby talk, their "kitchen Gaelic" is fixed indelibly in their minds but they do not progress further and, at six years, English becomes their language of thought, speech and writing.

Like the little Pakistanis and the little Indians, they become little Englishers, brain-washed of all that was precious to their ancestors.

80,000 Gaelic speakers in Scotland? Nonsense! There are not 8,000 who have got beyond their kitchen Gaelic baby talk. How many are able to read Gaelic? Not even 8,000. Gaelic has no standard pronunciation, no standard orthography, no standard syntax. Every bay and every glen has its own dialect. The local patois spoken is difficult for

the stranger from other parts to understand. Grammatical rules are thrown out. Words are strung together in a stripped, slurred, utilitarian form of basic communication. There is no room whatever for the finer phrase. Meaning is only guessed at, for one man's method of stringing the words of his kitchen Gaelic may differ from his neighbour's.

An Comunn Gaidhealach publishes a book on Gaelic Grammar (Reid's Elementary Course of Gaelic). But even the few who do know something about the language ignore the rules. They speak and write according to the tense, gender, and sequence of their own dialect. Of course, theirs is the real Gaelic! Others simply don't know any better!

Does An Comunn conduct its business in Gaelic? How many branches of An Comunn use Gaelic at their meetings? Does An Comunn or any of its branches do anything to encourage the spread and use of Gaelic? They do not! Let the non-Gael seek information or help to become proficient in the language and he is ignored and discouraged.

Thousands of young people — and older people too — seek to learn the "Real Scottish Tongue," but give up in despair. Those who continue their studies seldom get beyond reading. Opportunities for talk are nil.

The Greeks in Britain, a foreign people from Eastern Europe publish a weekly newspaper wholly in their own language, advertisements and all. Can the Gaels do that? Not "Sruth" is ninety per cent. English and can only manage once a fortnight.

Comunn na h-Oighridh at their camps encourage the children to speak Gaelic, but the leaders among themselves speak English. Kitchen Gaelic is useless to enforce the ideas and ideals of modern life.

The Gaels cry out for industry. They want work. Unemployment is ten times the British average. Will the sitting of industry in the Highlands and Islands preserve the Gaelic language and way of life? No! It will mean the settlement of strangers with different habits and customs, and the Gael will become more and more the oddity that he is, English, Pakistanis, Italians, Poles, West Indians, Chinese and Africans, ready to forget their homelands and way of life, will follow industry and establish the new community. The Gaels, like other aborigines, will either be absorbed or die out — and their language with them.

What now?

Yes, indeed, what NOW!

ADHAMH

(Name and address supplied)

Youth Carries Torch Of The Future

CELTIC YOUTH CONGRESS

"I am convinced that the most important thing that has happened in Ireland in recent years is the great renewal which is taking place in Conradh na Gaeilge," said Maolsheachlainn O Caollai, a member of the Coiste Gnotha of Conradh na Gaeilge, in Bangor, Sir Caernarfon, Cymru (Wales), on 30th March.

An tUas. O Caollai was the guest speaker at the Annual Convention of the Celtic Youth Congress, which was attended by delegates from Eire, Alba, Cymru, Breizh, Isle of Man and Cornwall. Continuing he said:

"Those who underestimate the role played by an Conradh in the renaissance which occurred in the early years of the century may tend to scoff. Others may feel that an Conradh can never again be a force in Irish affairs.

"On the surface the people of Ireland appear quite content to take their mess of pottage.

"The process of assimilation to the Anglo-American style of living—to the Anglo-American values, outlook and behaviour—is well advanced and continues with great determination every day.

"A deluge of English and American publications, films, songs, radio and television programmes condition us to regard the values of the materialistic affluent society as the only normal values.

Reaction Period

"Daily we are taught to dislike, and even to hate, old allies like France and all efforts to normalise our links with Britain are condemned as isolationist. We are even conditioned to hold those links in awe and veneration.

"In this type of milieu one might be excused for dismissing Conradh na Gaeilge as an irrelevancy. This point of view, however, fails to give due consideration to the facts of history and to the social movements which are occurring all over the world.

"The period during which

Conradh na Gaeilge reached pre-eminence was a period of intense reaction to the assimilation which the previous generation had willingly accepted.

"Great things were achieved during an Conradh's early days but the most essential requirements for the continuance of Ireland was not fulfilled.

"Language independence was not established. As a result, the various measures of independence achieved were built on foundations of sand—predictably the sand has subsided!

"History does not repeat itself but there are certain social phenomena which do so.

"Periods of action and reaction are a normal pattern of social life. A period of reaction to the current assimilation and integration with Anglo-America is bound to come and is now well on the horizon.

"Conradh na Gaeilge, if it is ready to accept the challenge, can direct this reaction into constructive channels.

Youth To The Fore

"During the past few years a great number of young people have joined an Conradh and accepted responsibility. With them they have brought new thinking on old problems.

"This new movement of youth into an Conradh is no flash in the pan. I see it as part of a great international movement of youth and the first sign of reaction to the pottage generation.

"The movement for freedom in Poland, in Wales and Scotland, the American protest movements are all outcomes of youthful dissatisfaction with present conditions and of a desire for a better world.

Build New Life

"The movement in Poland seeks more freedom; in Scotland and Wales freedom and national identity are sought.

Four Facts

"The new Conradh seeks to build a national community by building a distinctively Irish culture or style of living. The

basic value in respect for the dignity of the human individual. The means is the restoration of the Irish Language.

"The importance of language in the attempt to build a better Ireland may be outlined by mentioning four facts about language—

(a) It is through language that man achieves communion with others.

(b) Language shapes the way in which we think.

(c) Language makes possible social organisation.

(d) Language is the strongest bond uniting the members of a group.

"It is in the light of those four facts that more and more of Ireland's progressive youth see the restoration of Irish as the basis, the sine qua non, of a better Ireland."

Agricultural Drainage Work

Grant may now be claimed on standard costs for new tile or plastic pipe drains and hill drains, announce the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland. This will enable the farmer, if he so chooses, to claim grant on the basis of a cost for the relevant operation prescribed in regulations instead of having to produce receipts or other evidence of actual cost.

Grant will also be available from now on (although based on actual costs) for the cleaning of ditches and reconditioning of tile or pipe drains, provided that the drainage system in question has not previously been grant-aided. This will be a once-for-all arrangement for any system.

The rate of grant remains at 50 per cent. of the approved cost of works, with a 10 per cent. supplement where the work is for the benefit of hill land.

Leaflets describing the new scheme are available from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh 3, or any of the Department's Area Offices.

Highland Political Press

Some examples of political enterprise have recently been sent to SRUTH Offices. They show a remarkable awareness of the effectiveness of the printed word perpetrated through the medium of newspapers. Strangely, or perhaps not so strange, these newspaper emanations all find their origin in the Scottish National Party's various organisations in the Highlands.

First, in real newspaper format, is the 'Highland Nationalist.' It is printed each month in Oban (4 Stevenson Street) and contains both news, feature articles and columns of comment relevant to the political scene in the Highlands. Naturally, it is SNP biased. But its content, and much of its comment, is relevant to the problems of the area.

Significantly, it carries a good proportion of advertising, which is always the lifeblood of any paper. The editors are to be congratulated in their production of an organ which successfully attempts to bring the hard facts of Highland life and living to the people of the Highlands in a way which non-political papers can seldom hope to do.

An occasional magazine from Ross-shire is 'Aurora.' It contains material which is designed to promote thoughtful discussion rather than contemporary comment. Printed in Dingwall, it takes the form of a political multi-page pamphlet. Whether one agrees with the politics behind the features or not, it must be appreciated by any reasonable person that the magazine does a good job in bringing Highland problems to the open market place for discussion. It

recognises that only discussion will bear fruit in the ultimate solution to many of the things that are wrong in the area.

The third newspaper is not perhaps Highland. But because the north-east of Scotland is as much a depressed area, socially and economically, it has an affinity in these times of trouble with the Highlands. The 'Nor-easter' is produced by the Moray and Nairn SNP people (106 High Street, Forres). It is litho-printed which makes a pleasant change from the normal newspaper. It contains articles, features and comment on matters which affect the north-east of Scotland.

Lastly, an enterprise by a branch of a political party—Lochaber. The title of this small magazine is 'Am Bratach', the Banner, a good Gaelic name. It is printed in Fort William (New Pier Terrace) and is a monthly.

One must ask what it is about SNP politics which makes even branches embark on the production of printed words for their supporters instead of the more usual duplicated newsletter. Certainly political enthusiasm is apparent in all these publications.

Their value is in the way they can be used as a medium of direct approach to the voting public. Certainly they are image-makers of a high order.

However much other political parties may decry the nationalists, the production of a Highland political Press is something the SNP opposition could well emulate to make Highland politics a relevant aspect of Highland living.

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News Bits

ARGYLL

Thecroft museum at Auchincrain, a few miles from Inveraray, is running into difficulties because of lack of finance. At a recent meeting in Dunoon of Argyll Education Committee, Mr T. G. Henderson, the director of education for the county, reported considerable difficulty in getting this museum "off the ground" in terms of running expenses.

The resources of those behind the museum had gone largely into capital development and Auchincrain was not yet operating to the extent where there was any real income.

It was planned to appoint a guide and caretaker and this along with other running expenses might cost about £900 a year. The museum's trustees, said Mr Henderson, had no source of income other than the £200 contributed annually by the education authority and the secretary had written to suggest that until Auchincrain could stand on its own feet the committee might be prepared to increase this grant.

Mrs Naomi Mitchison, Carradale, suggesting that members should agree, said the museum was not at present an obvious tourist attraction. An additional grant on a

purely temporary basis would help to make it so.

Once the museum had been established on a suitable basis it was proposed to charge adults 2s 6d admission and children 1s. At the moment there was merely a collection box into which visitors would frequently put 1s for a whole party of five or six.

The committee agreed, however, not to increase the current level of their annual contribution.

SOUTH EAST

Plans to build an airstrip in the Badenoch district have been abandoned meantime by Inverness-shire Roads Committee, who were told last week that the owner of the land at Blackmill, Kincaird, had found the district valuer's lease terms unacceptable.

Mr Iain Hilleary, Skye, the committee's chairman, said that the difference between the amount offered to the owner for a 31-year lease and the amount sought was in the region of £100 a year, an amount, he added, that seemed difficult to reconcile.

By reducing the extent of the strip the original estimated cost of £29,000 had been reduced to £11,340, half of which would have been met by the Highlands and Islands

Development Board. The work would have been done by the Royal Engineers.

THE ISLANDS

A 14-bedroom all-wood hotel, complete with furniture, will be taken by ship at the end of next month from Norway to Salem, Mull. Within eight weeks of the prepared logs arriving on the island a team of 15 Norwegian carpenters will have the hotel ready for occupation.

It will cost £30,000 and will replace the Glenforsa Hotel, which was destroyed by fire last December. It will stand on the site of the former hotel and bear the same name.

The designer, Mr Richard Avery (33), an Edinburgh architect, said it would have a bar, swimming pool and 14 double bedrooms, seven of them with private bathrooms. It will stand only 170 yards from the islands airstrip and 200 yards from the Sound of Mull.

Special features will be Celtic designs on the woodwork in the centre of the windows and a grass-covered roof.

A grant from the Highlands and Islands Development Board has been applied for,

and, if allowed, could be as much as 35 per cent. of the cost of construction.

Mr Avery said he decided to have the hotel "manufactured" in Oslo and shipped to Mull because of the short time it would take compared with conventional building methods. It would also be about half the cost of a normal hotel.

Construction is expected to start on 1st June, and it is hoped to have the hotel ready for guests by 1st August.

The tiny theatre of Dervaig on the Isle of Mull, thought to be the smallest professional theatre in Britain is in future to be run by the Dervaig Arts Theatre, a new, non-profit-making company which was formed in Glasgow last week.

This remarkable venture was launched, maintained by, and manned by Barrie and Marianne Hesketh who left the stage two years ago to run a guest house on Mull. They began to put on shows for summer visitors and locals

and it proved a striking success.

NORTH WEST

The redecorated and modernised Lochaber Yacht Club was formerly opened recently when over 50 members took part in a social evening.

Performing the opening ceremony was Mrs Sutton, Snr., who has shown great interest in the club over the past years.

Inverness-shire Planning Committee last week recommended that a contribution should be made towards the £1000 cost of a survey on population growth and employment needs in Lochaber.

The Scottish Development Department had told the committee that the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) were prepared to carry out the survey and bear half the cost, the remainder to be made up by contributions from the county council, Fort William Town Council, British Aluminium and the pulp mill.

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M.P. and Wife In Two Trouble Spots

On Monday of this week Mr Russell Johnston, M.P., and his wife flew to Greece as members of a group of five Members of Parliament and their wives invited by the Greek Government to examine conditions there and draw their own conclusions about the possibility of an early return to constitutional government. Full facilities have been promised to meet and talk with anyone they choose, of whatever political persuasion, and no matter how opposed to the regime. The visit is to last a week, and Mrs Johnston will be back in Inverness next Monday.

Mr Johnston, however, is returning by way of Berlin and will not be home until Wednesday or Thursday. This visit is of particular interest in view of the student riots presently harassing that city, and he has already arranged, through the German Embassy, a visit to the university and facilities to speak with members of the Senate.



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GROWING and SHOWING

Entering garden produce for your local horticultural or flower show could be the highlight of your gardening year if you take a little extra care in the preparation and transport of your entries.

Once you've read the show schedule you will have a good idea how to set about growing and showing. Fruit should be gathered as near the day of the show as possible to avoid over-ripening—the day before is usually ideal. One or two points often forgotten in the preparation of fruit, etc., are: Never polish apples, leave natural bloom on fruit (including stalks) and choose ripe fruit.

Soft fruits which class does not include plums and gages) are more difficult to transport any distance, but if you do enter these make sure that all berries are bright coloured and pack them extra carefully.

Apples, pears, etc., should be wrapped separately and

packed in a box, avoiding any accidental bruising before the show.

However, it is more probable that you will be showing vegetables and not fruit. Every gardener with a vegetable patch has his own favourite varieties and knows exactly which to show, but one point to remember is that the judge will look for uniformity; and uniformity means similarity of size, shape and colouring.

A brief outline of what is required of the vegetables most likely to be grown by gardeners in the Highlands is given below:

Carrots — Remove the root hairs only; sponge the long tap roots with cold water; cut tops until roughly 1 in. long and tie.

Onions — Should be evenly matched with thin necks.

Peas — Well-filled pods with no greyness on them; leave on natural bloom.

Potatoes — Medium-sized; shallow-eyed and blemish free.

For a mixed vegetable class at least four varieties are usually asked for.

A Woman's Work

Usually more in the line of the lady of the house who tends the garden are the flower classes of the local show. There is usually scope for pot plants as well as cut flowers. Obviously, flowers should be cut on the day of the show if possible, and plunged directly into water. (It is in most cases a good idea to allow the whole stalk to be submerged in the water). A cotton wool stopper at the base of a hollow stalk will retain the water until the bloom is arranged at the show. The arrangement of the blooms can be most important, but most women who enjoy growing flowers become expert "florists" as well, and some magnificent displays can be seen at shows.

One point to remember: always dry stems and flower heads for packaging. Then wrap each bloom separately in tissue or cotton wool and protect them from the elements, preferably in a box. Of course, for a local show this procedure can be forgotten.

In the next few months many of you will be busy with careful preparation for shows, small and large, but the more mundane garden tasks cannot be neglected. Most of our garden centres, nurseries and ironmongers are prepared for a rush on implements and tools for the mammoth "clean-up" of autumn and winter debris. The aids for this once formidable task are now numerous, and a trip to your nearest stockist could prove most valuable and save in the long term a good many strained muscles!

An T-lasgach

A reir cunnas a thug Bord an Fhearainn 'san Iasgach tha am barrachd iasg ga marbhadh am bhliadhna chun an so na mharbhadh an uiridh.

Ged tha aireamh is fìach gach seorsa iasg a' dol am feabhas 'sann air marbhadh nan iasgan-shìgeach as motha tha piseach. Thainig fìach £240,554 de iasg-shìgeach air tìr 'sa cheud da mhios de'n bhliadhna. Tha sin £82,628 a bharrachd air na rinnadh air an uiridh.

Bha iasgach a sgadaìn 18 per cent. na b'fhearr ach cha do bhunnaich fhìach ach 4 per cent aig £218,366.

UNVEILING CEREMONY

Abertarff House, Inverness, will be the scene of an unusual ceremony tomorrow at 11 a.m. when two plaques will be unveiled by Lord Lovat at a ceremony at which Lord Doune will preside.

One plaque has been presented by Lord Lovat and outlines the history of the building and its connection with his family. Abertarff, one of the oldest dwellings in Inverness, was built in 1593, and was the town house of Colonel Archibald Fraser of Beaufort and Abertarff, son of Lord Lovat of the Forty-Five. It remained Fraser property until the mid nineteenth century.

The building was presented to the Trust by The National Commercial Bank of Scotland Ltd. in 1963. The Bank generously included in its gift the small courtyard between the present Bank buildings and the house. This space, of great value for any future extension of the bank, was surrendered because it is vital to the appear-

ance of the house which stands at right angles to the street.

The second plaque marks the presentation in 1967 of a Civic Trust award for its restoration cited as—"a model example of the sort of work The Civic Trust awards are designed to encourage."

The work was undertaken by the Trust with Messrs Rowand, Anderson, Kininmonth & Paul, architects, and Duncan Logan (Builders) Ltd., contractors, and was helped by the generosity of An Comunn Gaidhealach and the people of Inverness, and grants from The Historic Buildings Council, The Pilgrim Trust and other benefactors.

In 1967 it was leased by the Trust to An Comunn Gaidhealach as their Northern headquarters.

At the unveiling ceremony Dr John Maclean will represent the Trust's Executive Committee. Also invited are representatives of the Town Council, The National Commercial Bank, An Comunn Gaidhealach, the architects and the contractors.

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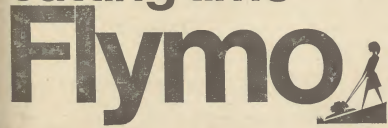
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