



Newspaper of current Events in the Highlands,  
the Islands and in Scotland

DI-ARDAOIN, 21mh DE'N MHAIRT 1968

THURSDAY, 21st MARCH 1968

23 MAR 1968

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No.26

SCOTLAND'S BI-LINGUAL NEWSPAPER

# Big Order For Barra Firm

## £12,000 U.S.A. Contract

Mr James Lennon, a director of the spectacle frame manufacturers, Afocol, on Barra, is to fly to the United States in June on a sales promotion drive. This follows the firm's success in landing a £12,000 contract from the U.S. Mr Lennon, whose initial staff of three now numbers 17, expects that by the end of the next 12 months the factory will employ 30 people, and attributes the firm's success in America recently to top class materials, sound design and the high quality of workmanship available on the island.

**Launched by HIDD**  
Mr Lennon is convinced that you can set up anywhere in the Highlands if you have the experience, and he himself would have no hesitation in doing it again.

Afocol is another factory attracted to the area by the Highlands and Islands Development Board, who sold

the idea of making spectacle frames on Barra to the firm which was opened on the island by Professor Grievie last October. Professor Grievie's comment on the success of the firm — "We hoped for it and expected it."

### CUIDEACHADH BHO'N BHORD

Mar a dh' fhoillsichear o chionn ghoirid tha Bord Leasachaidh na Gaidhealtachd 'sna Eileanan deonach air cuideachadh airgid a thoirt do Chomunn an Luchd-Turuis 'sna h-Eileanan an Iar.

Ach b' iongantach an cumhachd a-mhàinnach iad a dheanadh. Tha am Bord den ìre chad gum bu choir Bùthan Fios a bhith fosgailte air an t-sabaid!

Chan e mhaoin gu bheil so a' dol caig dhreach an aghaidh miann a mhoir-shluagh ach tha e ciallachadh gum Crìtheadh a paigheadh dhaoine 3 'sna bùthan sin an uair nach eil duedh-turuis cur ghlusaid 'sna h-Eileanan.

'S cinnteach fo sheabh nach eil an Bord cho tìr ainealach air an tìr 'sa bheil iad ag obair sa sheallas a leithid so.



Peace and quiet beside Loch Urragach. These qualities are particularly characteristic of the Western Isles inland waters. It is no wonder that the tourist is attracted to them. The Isles offer much besides: the quiet, unburrying life which gives the visitor ample time to reflect on his raison d'être in this world. For the tourist who is on a walking tour, there is the pleasure of trekking the moors under a pleasant sea sky. These island skies reflect the sea that surrounds them, the sea wherein the wealth of the island lies, if only there was the capital to develop it.

(Photo: Angus MacArthur, Stornoway)

## Coinneamh A' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich An Leodhus

An deidh a' choinneamh a bha an Steornabhagh 'san Fhaoiteach eadar Ard Chomhairle a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich agus riochdairean bho Chomhairle Bhaile A' Chomhairle Ionadail is eile shuidhicheadh coinneamh a ghabh air air a 15 latha de'n Mhart.

Cha robh e 'n comas do Ard Chomhairle Chomuinn a bhith an lathair ach bha am Fear Stiuridh D. I. MacAoidh agus am Fiosrach D. MacLeod le cheile aig a' choinneamh.

An deidh dhol thairis air na puingeann a thogadh aig a' cheud chruinneachadh dh' ainmich Mgr. MacAoidh gu robh riochdairean bho 'n Chomuinn an deidh tacnairt ri Bord an Fhoghlum agus am Bord Leasachaidh an Diluan roimhe sin.

Tha e coltach nach eil an Riaghaltas an ceart uair comasach air cuideachadh a thoirt le oifigeach bho 'n Chomuinn a shuidhicheadh sna h-Eileanan.

Cho-dhuin na bha crùinn gum bu choir Comunn Ghaidhealach Leodhuis rannsachadh a dheanadh air ciamar a ghabhadh airgid togail am measg an t-sluaigh airson oifis a chuir air chois an Steornabhagh.

Ged tha Comuinn Oigridh a' dol an Leodhas o chionn bhliadhnanach chaneil iad a' cuir moran air adhart co-cheangailte ri 'n dualchas mar luchd-Gaidhlig. Ach a reir cunntais tha an oigridh deonach gu leor air cuideachadh leis an aobhar ma gheibh iad stiuraidh agus b' urrainn iad a dhòl an sas an togail airgid.

**Comhairle nan Eileanan an Iar**

Mu'n gabh comhairle chuir air chois 'sna h-Eileanan feumar meuran a chuir air adhart agus tha a' cheud te dhiubh sin air a suidheachadh an Uibhist a-T-uath. Tha na h-uibhir a dhuilheadas co-cheangailte ri ìmbe fhaoitinn dh'n Chomunn 'sna h-Eileanan. Chan eil am mor-shluagh a' faicinn co feum air aite thoirt do bhuidheann nach eil a' cuir dad air adhart ach ceilidhean is modan — gu h-araidh an uair a tha an suidheachadh a thaobh beo-shlaint is teachd-an-tìr 'na uallach cho mor dhaibh 'sgun an Comunn Ghaidhealach cho fad 'sa chitheadh iad chun an so co dhù ag gabhail moran uidh 'nan suidheachadh. Chan ann a reiseid

R'i leantuin t. d. 12

## The Budget

As usual the main characteristic of the Budget is one which confirms that the mentality in Westminster is of the type engendered by the urban environment, which inevitably aggravates the already serious problems which face rural societies as are found in the Highlands and Islands. The increased SET, for instance, will hit this area really hard. This is the kind of London tactics which makes a laughing stock of the HIDD — offering it a couple of million pounds to spend while drawing no less than £30 millions out of the area. The car-owner in the Highlands and Islands who needs his car more than does his city-dweller is being hit hardest as usual. These London tactics are, so far as the Highlands and Islands are concerned, no less than legalised genocide — and this is supposed to be the Year of Human Rights!

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SRUTH

Diardaoin, 21mh de'n Mhàirt 1968  
Thursday, 21st March 1968

## "An T-Eolas Nach Cruthaich

Fear a' bhreithneachaidh s an fhiosa, am fiosrach balbh nach cruthaich ni, tearbar am math s an t-òle leis am meadhan cothromach a chin.

Seallaidh e le cinnt an cumantas, mar ionnsamhach le gradaibh mion; slait-thomhas e an am-fan-ais ann, nach toir ni ur gu blaths is bit'h."

Tha Deorsa Caimeub Hay a' foillseachadh dhùinn anns an dealbh seo cho math agus a tha a' tuigsinn nadur an duine. Tha cus dhe'n t-èorsa seo ann.

Foadaidh sinn dealbh eile a chur ri taobh an fhir seo. Bha seo aig Van Gogh, an dealbhadair ainmeil Alaindeach, ri radh mu dheidhinn fhein:

"Co ris a tha mi coltach ann an suilean a' chuid as motha de dhaoine?"

Duine gun luchd sam bith, neo tha iad 'fear gh fhaicinn 'nam dhùine neonach, neo-thaiteach — 'gam aig nach eil inbhe a meag dhaoine agus aig nach sin gu brath — a meag an fheadhainn as ile . . ."

A nis chan eil guth air na daoine gic, toiniseil a rinn tair air fhein agus air obair, ach tha fhios aig a h-uile duine mu dheidhinn Van Goch. Bha beatha bhàirearach aige agus dreirdh bochd ach fad a bheatha bh e feuchainn le uile neart ri "ni ur a thoirt gu blaths is bit'h" as a cheann agus a chridhe fhein.

Cha do bhuiliceadh air moran againt talantan mar a bha aig Van Goch (air a shon sin tha cuid de na meidhean, no na tomhaisean nach eil ach gugalach uirreannan) ach foadaidh sinn, mar a bha esan, a bhith feuchainn ri rudan a dheanaim sinn fhein an aite bhith faghinn coire do dhaoine eile.

Cinnteach gu feum brithreamhan a bhith ann, ach mo thruaighe sinne an latha nach bi ann ach brithreamhan.

## Drift Counterdrift

It is a matter for concern that the recent special Census Surveys show an alarming drift from the countryside to the towns. Lewis, for instance, cannot afford a decrease in its population of 53 per cent. Harris, too, cannot afford a decrease in its population of 8.6 per cent. Indeed, the Census for the islands show that the death rate exceeds the birth rate. Particularly disturbing, though not surprising, is the increasing tendency for young people to leave the rural parts of the Highlands and Islands. Not that they can be blamed. For there is nothing in their native townships to keep them at home. They have no jobs prospects, let alone career prospects, unless they leave for the towns and the cities.

It is significant that in our last editorial we mentioned the desirability of accelerating the development of rural societies instead of developing or creating towns. Was it coincidence too that the present Chief of Comunn Gàidhlig, Inbhir-Nis, recently spoke at length on the need to develop a rural society? And now the Census Reports confirm that the very existence of towns and cities spells anathema to rural society.

We have always maintained that the Highland Board's Counterdrift plans were good in intent, but not the kind of action needed to meet the requirements of the problems which were urgent two years ago and which are now screaming out for attention. If the indigenous youth of the Board's area are leaving in droves because of lack of a future with opportunity, how on earth does the Board expect to convince the families who wish to come north to work in the Highlands that their children, too, will not be forced to take the road South?

There is no doubt that had the Board decided to recognise to the fullest extent its social responsibilities at the outset, we would now be seeing the results of hard, fast and positive action by the Board to maintain at least the present level of population in the Highlands and Islands. But even now, the HIDB has no full-time Social Research Officer. It is significant that the more sincere Irish Board, an Foras Forbartha, has recently advertised for more research workers to develop plans to revitalise rural Eire. It is now painfully obvious that 'our Board' has no intention to honour any of the social remits which are written into the Act which fathered it. This is not surprising, for the Board's composition is alien in character to the area it serves.

It is to be earnestly hoped that the Board's second Annual Report, out soon, unless its subject matter is leaked again, will show how determined it is to fight against the migration of the youth of the area to the South. It would be good if the Board could say: "Nous avons changé tout cela — We have changed all that."

# What Kind of Highlands?

YEAR 2000 AHEAD

Russell Johnston, M.P., who writes the following article deals with the question which is bound to have a bearing on the future of the Highlands: What kind of Highlands do we want? Mr Johnston, who has Skye connections, won Inverness-shire for the Liberals, first in 1964, and again at the last General Election in 1966. He has become well-known for his probing questions, both written and oral, into matters of specific interest to the Highlands. He started his electorate by holding regular 'clinics' for his constituents and any candidate who opposes him at the next election will undoubtedly find Mr Johnston's record as a sitting Member a very hard nut to crack. Mr Johnston, who has taught history in Edinburgh and was a research assistant for the SLP before he was elected, is the author of the significant booklet: 'Highland Development.'

"The Highlands need to be developed." This is a cry which we have heard for a very, very long time. Perhaps it has been promoted more actively by certain political parties than by others; by certain organisations rather than others, but it is a cry which has found an echo, if indeed it has not been swelled by thousands upon thousands of ordinary folk all over the North. A cry whose volume has been strengthened by thousands of ex-patriates too. Highlanders, who, for primarily economic reasons, find themselves in Glasgow, in London or New Zealand, and who yearn nostalgically for the land of their youth . . . Eilean Bharraidh tir mo ghraidh far 'n d' fhuair mi m' arach og.

Now we have a vehicle through which this can certainly be done. Given the support of Government — and while this support is never reliable, there are many related and inevitably favourable factors now working which make it very sure — the Highlands and Islands Development Board can, and I believe, will succeed in the economic development of the Highlands. And what will be the end product? This is something to which I am convinced we have given far too little considered thought. So much time has been spent in the simple but exhausting task of persuading the country as a whole of the desirability and viability of developing the Highlands, of creating conditions which will stem the dreadful flow of depopulation and enable people to have the opportunity of advancement within their own communities that we have given insufficient attention to just what these com-

munities are going to be like. Engrossed as we have been in building, I feel we have often forgotten just what it is we are building.

I would emphasise most strongly that I am not seeking to oppose development. I would be the last person to do so. Equally, I think that to take a Luddite view of technical advance is as futile as a dog howling at the moon. What I am saying, however, is that we must recognise that with economic development go certain perils and problems and influences, which unless they are recognised, cannot be regulated in any way.

I am far from advocating the hard life — the austere training of the Spartan, while productive of a fighting discipline which was memorable, added nothing to men's knowledge of how to live constructively and excitingly with their fellows. Yet I feel it must be remembered that throughout history, the best kind of people have often been produced as a consequence of stress and struggle. Once the material benefits which they have fought to obtain have been won, future generations have not tended to maintain quite the same quality of leadership or behaviour or indeed mental output, whether it be in literature, science or art, until some new challenge formulates itself.

We are proud of the Highland way of life and we must remember I think that the kind of society which has been evolved here has related to the pressure of economic circumstances. The emigrants left the Highlands for reasons outside their control, but reasons which also contributed to the formation of the kind of people that the Highlanders are.

To take an example, I don't believe for a moment that the reason that we have not had a murder in Skye since the 17th century is because of the alleged deterrent effect of capital punishment. If this were so, the same deterrent would have worked equally in Glasgow or London. The reason is rather to be found in an ingrained moral, and in the best sense, religious community responsibility built up over many generations. This is something we don't want to lose. Yet while this responsibility and attitude has been slow to evolve, it could be quickly snuffed out. It is the hardest thing in the world to define the spirit and the temper of a people, to say what it is that makes people in the Highlands different from

those in Midlothian, or Yorkshire or South Wales, but that there is a difference we know. We know also that this is never preserved in a static way — it evolves unendingly, but it evolves in a pattern. History has demonstrated that this pattern can be quickly broken by the introduction of other influences. Take Skye again, if one were to build 5 new factories there, each employing 100 people, there is little doubt that the population could be pushed back up over the 10,000 mark within a generation, but it is equally almost certain that in accomplishing this, there would also be brought about a complete change in the way of life, the attitude of mind, the qualities of honesty, sincerity and humour which make our community worthwhile.

This is true all over the Highlands. To my mind, it is a tremendously important, if not dominant problem now, and one to which we must direct a great deal of our thought and energy. It is a great deal more difficult problem than the practical task of development which involves simple mathematical equations of profit and loss and use and misuse and need. It is quite intangible. It is almost impossible to define, but it is there, and we all know it to be there.

Development must and will come and the sooner the better. What I think people must now begin to think about most seriously are the effects of this development in the non-material sense and whether these effects can be regulated. If the future of the Highlands means more to us than the simple question of economic land use, we must direct our minds to trying to see whether in this latter half of the 20th century, we cannot somehow devise, perhaps through the field of education, perhaps through the welding of a new spirit and temper and pride, which I would have thought was the role of An Comunn, some method of preventing the future being shaped simply by economic forces. If we do not, it could be that the contribution of the Highlands to the moral and mental and cultural timbre of Scotland might be submerged.

## IRISH GAELIC MASS

A congregation of more than 1,400 were present in St John's Church, Portugal Street, Glasgow, when, for the first time in Scotland, Mass was celebrated in Irish Gaelic. Mass was said by the Father Sean McGilligan, of Derrybeg, Donegal.

# woman to woman

## Beware the Highlander!

It was quite voluntary, of course. Over twenty-one and of sound mind — or so I thought — I decided to marry a Highlander. Why not? He was gay, he was kind, he had the lifting voice and all the charm of the Celt. Why not indeed? What I did not realise was that Highland men are not as other men are. My youthful affairs with Lowlanders, Sassenachs and such like of lesser breed, gave me no help whatever when it came to dealing with a Gael. So, for the sake of any innocent who is about to undertake the same venture, I feel it is my

he is at home, stays at home. If he is away, he goes home. And that's about it. If your home is acroft, summer is the time for the haymaking, the time for the peats to be cut, dried and taken home and the time for relations from every corner of the globe to descend on you. If you live in a town you will find a restlessness setting in about a month before your holiday is due to begin. A looking out of wellingtons and fishing lines, old trousers and raincoats and a general air of acceptance that he and his are going home, where the air

nothing but the truth! No, no, nothing so coarse as a great whooping fib. But the Lowland habit of calling a spade a spade is regarded as a trifling uncouth by the thoroughbred Highlander; don't expect him to leave muddy boots at the back door—he won't do it and he will be annoyed if you suggest it. And don't make weak tea.

You're still determined to go ahead with that wedding? Good luck to you then. Even if your marriage does not survive you will have a lot of fun while it lasts. That Celtic charm is heady stuff.

by Margaret Mackintosh

duty to set down a few pointers which I have picked up along my own heathery, tussocky, boulder-strewn marriage path.

First and foremost, did you know that the theory of the equality of the sexes has never crossed the Highland Line? The first real fog comes when you discover shortly after crossing the marital threshold that this man actually intends to be the Head of the House. Yes, truly! And it might save a few head-on collisions if you realise this from the start. Not that it is for one moment suggesting that you allow this state of affairs, of course, but you will be wise to pretend to it. It is a bit of an effort at first but you will find that in a year or two you will have the knack and then it comes quite easily. You know the sort of thing. You need the kitchen redecorated so you say: "This room is very shabby but I have decided not to do anything to it for a couple of years."

It's that "I have decided" that does it. He can't stand it, you see. First thing you know the painter is on your doorstep. It's the Head of the House who makes the decision.

Linked with this is his belief in women's work and men's work and "never the twain shall meet." A Highlander does not do anything which is traditionally done by women and, depending on your situation that can mean anything from milking the cows to drying the dishes. And if, by some extraordinary chance he does occasionally lend a hand, don't, if you value your marriage, tell anyone! There's only one thing worse than doing women's work and that is having his friends find out!

Have you thought about holidays at all? Probably like me you were in the habit of spending a fortnight or so each summer lazing by the seaside, pottering about one of the more attractive cities or even jaunting abroad. No reason for this to stop, you imagine. Poor lamb, you'll learn. When holiday time comes round, the Highlander, if

is pure and clear, and where he is welcomed by a close-knit community like a knight of old returning from the Crusades.

Nothing wrong with that, you think. Sounds idyllic. So it is—for him! You won't smell much of that pure air, I'm afraid. Your holiday will be spent making "straps" for all the callers who are so delighted to see you home, and cooking enormous meals for all those hungry working men. Because, of course, your husband will be out enjoying himself hugely at the hay or the peat with his brothers, uncles, cousins, while you keep the cattlechase company and wipe up the mud brought in on innumerable wellingtons.

And then there is the fish: evening after evening the 'boys' will be out in the dinghy with the lines, or up the river with the rod. Home will come lithe, mackerel, saith, rock-cod, trout and Heaven knows what else. With a bit of luck they may have cleaned them 'on the shore, but they will still not resemble those nice clean fillets you buy in the shop in town. At first they taste so delicious that you don't mind, but at the end of a fortnight or three weeks you begin to feel you could not look another fish in the face again, certainly not at ten o'clock at night which is quite often the time you are expected to cook them!

And talking about cooking, can you make oatcakes or maragas, a dumpling in a cloth or a ceann gnopaig? You can't? Well if you believe that old saying about the quickest way to a man's heart, you'd better toss aside these continental cookery books and learn. I never did, as a matter of fact, but when I see my Paella or Coq au Vin making no more impression than neck of mutton while maragas sent from home, light up his face like a beacon, I begin to wonder.

One or two other little points while we're on the subject: don't expect your Highlander lad always to stick to the truth, the whole truth and

## Gaelic Broadcasts

Thursday, 21st March  
12 noon News in Gaelic.  
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus).  
3.30 p.m. "From My Bookshelf": John MacInnes reviews recent books and pamphlets of interest to the Gael (recorded).  
3.45 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. Monsignor Neil MacKellig, Daliburgh, South Uist (recorded).  
7.00 p.m. VHF "In the Highlands": An all sorts magazine — comment, interview, music and song from Gaidheòl (recorded).

Friday, 22nd March  
12 noon News in Gaelic.  
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus).  
6.35 p.m. "Bardach" Uisdean Laing": Despite living in Australia, Hugh Laing, from Uist, followed closely his Hebridean heritage. Tonight Rev. Dr T. M. Murchison talks of his life and work, while the poet himself reads selected passages and comments on them (recorded).

Sunday, 24th March  
11.00 a.m. "Tighean Fasgaidh" TV (Sheltering Places): A Meditation by the Rev. Donald MacLeod about these in the Christian faith (recorded).

Monday, 25th March  
12 noon News in Gaelic.  
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus).

Tuesday, 26th March  
12 noon News in Gaelic.  
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus).  
5.25 p.m. "Ceol na Mara" (Song of the Sea): Janet Campbell, with the help of students from Jordanhill College, selects songs and prose writings connected with the sea (recorded).  
6.35 p.m. "Music of the Gael": A programme of Gaelic songs with Flora MacNeil and John M. Morrison. Duncan Morrison (piano) recorded.

Wednesday, 27th March  
12 noon News in Gaelic.  
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus).

## Review Order

WALES — A NATION AGAIN, by P. Berresford Ellis. Preface by Gwynfor Evans, M.P. To be published on March 14, by Library 33 Ltd, 33 Beauchamp Place, London, S.W.3 at 21s (hardback).

This is the first complete history of the struggle of the Welsh nation to maintain its culture and achieve political autonomy from England. It contains a brief history of Wales from the inception of the Welsh nation in 655 A.D. (as distinct from other Celts) to the Conquest and Acts of Union by England.

There are chapters on the language struggle from the time English was to "utterly extirp" Welsh to the passing of the Welsh language Bill in 1967.

The book, however, concentrates on Wales during the past 100 years from the time the first Home Rule for Wales motion was raised in the House of Commons in 1844. Items of interest covered are the founding of a Welsh colony by Michael Jones in Patagonia; Lloyd George founding the first Welsh nationalist movement; Winston Churchill advocating Welsh independence in 1904; the Liberal Party gaining every seat in Wales on the self government issue in 1906; the Labour Party gaining the majority of seats in Wales on the same issue in 1945 and Herbert Morrison dismissing it as a "political expediency" in 1948; founding of Plaid Cymru in 1925; election of Gwynfor Evans in 1966 and his one-man campaign in the Commons; the truth about Tryweryn and the campaign of violence, including the birth of the Free Wales Army.

An end section titled "The Celtic Fringe" shows how Wales is part of a larger resurgence of Celtic nationalism and this section shows the history of similar nationalist movements in Cornwall, Brittany, Scotland, Isle of Man and Ireland. The author is not a Welshman, but was born in Coventry, and now specialises in writing about the struggles of European national minorities to gain cultural and political freedom.

### A HIGHLAND GLEN

"As We Were" is the title of a series of school booklets of

about 16 pages each. The series, aimed at primary ages of about 8, tells in fairly simple language what life was like in the various parts of Britain and England in the past.

The only title to deal with a specifically Scottish subject (out of 24 titles) is "A Highland Glen."

The story of life in the glen is told by the daughter of a Highland Chief. The text, perhaps this is done deliberately, often leaves a question in the air. Presumably this allows the teacher to ask why this, and why that, and to solicit answers from the class.

Really excellent are the illustrations by Justin Todd, which have an almost photographic quality about them. Indeed, they are so crammed with detail that any child will take to this booklet with no need for encouragement.

One would hope to see a Scottish series of titles, for the present series is an admirable way of introducing the little, but significant, facts of history to small children.

The booklets cost so little that they can be purchased for class use. Certainly the above title is recommended to our teacher readers.

("A Highland Glen," by H. Grant Scarfe; Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd., London).

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Am bliadh as fearr.

Gabhar gu math ruith le Tighe

Fear an Ithre 'sa Bhean

SEORAS IS FREDA SUTHARLAN

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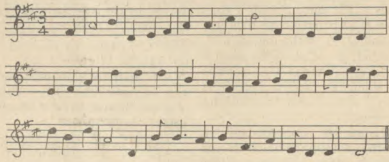
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### 13. — Songs of the Gael

Ho-ro 'illean



Ho-ro 'illean nach tiugainn sibh leamsa  
 'Null far na linne 's na biodh eirbh curam  
 'San am dhùinn bhith tilleadh gur sinne bhios sunndach  
 Dol chionn na duthcha far robh sinn og.

Di-Sathuirn a dh'fhag sinn far traisigh Tail a' Bhanca.  
 Gu 'n dh'fhalbh leinn am bates gu faile na mara  
 'S air latha na Sabaid; bha cradh air na balach,  
 A chionn gu'n do thachair dhaibh fuireach air bord.

Gur moch rinn sinn gluasad 's bu luineach a h-astar,  
 A' spoltadh nan stuidhannan uaine 's 'gan sgapadh,  
 Bha John 's e fo ghruaman Mac Ruairidh is Lachlann  
 Nuair fhuair iad an t-caicir a steach air a bord.

'S nuair gheibh sinn 'nar sliasaid taobh an iar Bay of Biscay,  
 'S nuair sheachnas sinn slantainnean fhadhaich a' chlisgidh  
 Thig ald' oirnn bhios briagha, agus fiath mar tha fhios agaibh  
 Togaibh ur misneach 's na bhithidh fo bhron.

Dol seachad Saint Vincent, bu chorrach 'na deigh i  
 A' ghaath far an fhearainn 'sa' mhaduinn 'n am eirigh  
 'S nuair dh' eightheadh gu deek sinn ga faighinn fo h-eideasdh  
 Sheit sinn gach breid a bha aic' agus seol.

Dol seachad Madeira, bu bhriagh leinn an sealladh  
 Bhith faicinn nan isgan 's an sglathan 'gar mealladh;  
 Bha duil agam riann gur e eunlaidh na mara bh'ann  
 Gus an do thachair fear aca air bord.

A crossadh na line bha'n oidhche 's i reannadh  
 Bha 'm mate 's e cho cobhneil, 's bha loinn air na balach,  
 Bha botul 'na laimh 's gun do dh'fhoighnich e ceanaita,  
 "An gabh thu dheadh, Alasdair, searrag ri h-ol."

'S nuair sheolas sinn thairis gu Valaparaíso,  
 Leigidh sinn anail gu faigh sinn am Mailboat,  
 'S bidh sinn 'nar ceathrar a' leantainn a cheille  
 'S cha bhith dhùinn beud fad' bhithes sinn beo.

Bidh mi smaointinn an comhnuid a notion a ghabh mi  
 Nuair chaidh mi a sheoldh air bhoidheaschan thairis;  
 Ach mionnann is boideann ri 'bheo nach teid Alasdair  
 Tarsuinn na h-Atlantc ri 'mhàireann d'a dheoin.

ALASDAIR RUAIRI LACHLUINN,  
 Baga a Tuath.

('Deoch-slainne nan Gillenn.' Colm O. Lochlainn  
 a dheasachaidh)

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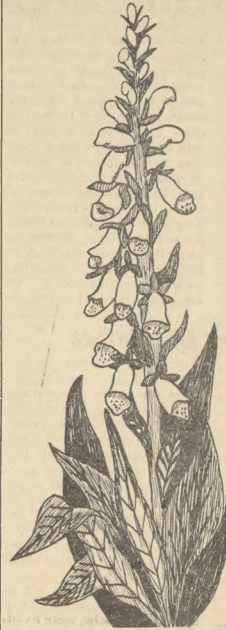
## CASCHEM NAM BARD

Tha sinn uile cleachdte ri  
 "tartan novelties" fhaicinn  
 's na buithean, nithean a  
 rinneadh mar is trice ann  
 am "Brum." Tha e ion-  
 gantach mar a tha na  
 Sasunnaich a' deanamh na  
 rudan annasach seo 's a  
 cheud dol a mach agus gan  
 ceannach air ais bhuainn dar  
 a tha iad ma reir (holiday)  
 ann an Albainn. Ach tha  
 barrachd 's a chuis na sin  
 a' reir choltais. Co shaoil-  
 eadh gur e bard a Lunnainn,  
 Cogaidh ris an can-iad Bob  
 Halpin, a rinn na h-crean  
 Albannach mar "Lovely  
 Stornoway," "Sky-line of  
 Skye," "The Lovely Lass  
 of Inverness," agus "Rollin'  
 in the Heather," gu brith co  
 i. Cluinimh sinn fhathast gur  
 e cuideigin a Srath Fhara-  
 gaig a tha deanamh na  
 "lyrics" airson na Beatles.

### URRAM NA BANRIGH

Fhuair an t-Oll I. A. Mac-  
 Gilleathair Fear Stiùiridh  
 Foghlum an siorrachd Inbhir  
 Nis, agus Mhr. Seumas S.  
 Grand, Ceann Suidhe Coim-  
 misèan nan Coitèaran sa-  
 cheannais an urram C.B.E., a  
 chaidh a chuir orra aig a  
 Bhlàdhn Uir aig Palais Duc-  
 kingham on chaidh an innis  
 mu dhreaddh de "Sruth" a  
 dheasachadh. Tha sinn ag  
 cur lan mbealladh naid-  
 heachd orra le cheile. Tha  
 an dithis ainmeil air a Ghaid-  
 healtachd.

## faisg air an t-sruthan



### Foxglove

(Digitalis Purpurea)

Gaelic: Lus nam ban sìth  
 (the fairy woman's  
 plant)

A tall biennial 2 to 5 feet in height, with large lower leaves up to 1 foot long; the undersides are greyish. White-flowered plants are occasionally found. Other names for this plant are Dead Man's Bells (the plant is poisonous) and Fairy Thimble.

A drug, digitalin, is extracted from the leaves and seeds and used to treat heart diseases. Its leaves used to be applied to bring boils, etc., to a head.

Mairéad.

### Do You Know ?

1. What was the religion of the Highlanders before the days of St Columba ?
2. Is there any connection between Irish, Manx and Scots Gaelic?
3. How long and wide is the Isle of Lewis?
4. De tha ann an "umbrella" sa Ghaidhlig ?
5. Co rinn an t-oran "O chi, chi, chi, mi na Mor-Bheann?"
6. Co fhuair Bonn-or a Mhoid an Inbhirnis an 1966?

### ANSWERS

1. The accepted theory is that people were given over to pagan beliefs after the pattern of the Druids.
2. Yes. Up until after the Reformation times Irish and Scots Gaelic had a common literary language. Manx is understood to be a remnant of the Gaelic of the Kingdom of the Isles.
3. 683 sq. miles in area (60 miles long and 29 miles wide).
4. Their cuid; sgaileag, cuid eile: maid-uisge.
5. Rinn fear a Baile-Chaolais anns a bhliadhna 1856 da'm b'ainm Iain Camshron.
6. Mairi Sandeman agus Gilles-  
 buigh Mac an t-Shagairt.

## GAELIC ORTHOGRAPHY

### Recommended Forms

In 1954 the Central Gaelic Committee of the Educational Institute of Scotland considered the question of standardisation of Gaelic orthography. The committee recommended that the orthography in MacEachen's Gaelic Dictionary be commonly used with certain exceptions. These exceptions will be published in the next few issues.

#### A

abair, thubhairt  
 a bheil  
 achanach  
 a'chuinge  
 a' cur  
 adhar (air)  
 ag (before vowels), e.g. ag òl  
 a' (before consonants, except ràdh), e.g. a' bualadh, a' caoidh, a' gearradh,  
 but ag ràdh

#### a ghàidh

a h-uile

aig—agam

agad

aige

aice

againn

agaibh

aca

aifreann—rinne,—rinn

aimbarr

air—orm

ort

air

oirre

oirinn

oirbh	}	'na mo. 'am 'na do 'na Colloquially and in poetry
airged		
air son		
am (in my, etc.)		
'nam	}	'na mo. 'am 'na do 'na Colloquially and in poetry
'nad		
'na		
'nar		
'nur	}	'nan, 'nam
am (time)		
am measg		
an—annam		
annad	}	ann linnte annainn annaibh annta
ann		
annta		
anntaibh		
an de	}	anns a' (before c, g, b, m, p) anns a' chath (not anns an chath)
ans a'		
ans a' chath		
an uridh		
ann-deug	}	àrdorus a réir arrachd as—asam asad as aiseid asainn asaibh asda as fhaide as ùr athraichean
ardorus		
a réir		
arrachd		
as—asam	}	asad as aiseid asainn asaibh asda as fhaide as ùr athraichean
asad		
as		
aiseid		
asainn	}	asaibh asda as fhaide as ùr athraichean
asaibh		
asda		
as fhaide		
as ùr	}	athraichean
athraichean		
athraichean		
athraichean		

# over to you: ●●●●●●●●●● Letters to the Editor ●●●●●●●●●●

## PLIGHT OF GAELIC

Sir,—It is time that general indifference in Scotland gave expression to their thoughts and feelings concerning the present plight of Gaelic, and demanded singly, or with a unified voice, official encouragement and increased status for their native language.

Gaelic has been allowed to decline over the years from a time when Gaelic was actively suppressed to the present day, when the language lacks official recognition and is being subtly ignored by the Central Educational Authority.

The value of Welsh as the second language of Wales has recently been recognised and the presence of fewer native Gaelic speakers in Scotland is not sufficient reason to delay the same recognition in this country. As a minority group the native Gaelic speakers deserve protection to preserve their mother tongue. Lack of unified purpose by interested individuals and groups to obtain facilities to learn Gaelic to give the culture a still greater impetus, has, it is felt, been taken advantage of by the authorities who previously have seen Gaelic as an encumbrance instead of a stimulating force.

It is submitted that a case should not be presented for the protection of Gaelic, but conversely, that authorities should present adequate grounds why this heritage and culture is a precious thing which belongs to the people of that country. It is the duty of the responsible authority of that country to protect the interests of the people and the heritage that has been handed down from past generations. A language enshrines that heritage.

It is commendable and accepted policy that our historical monuments are preserved. No one contends that as relatively few people, in comparison with the rest of the population, visit such monuments, we should neglect or destroy these buildings. Gaelic is in this category.

Gaelic is a beautiful lan-

guage of great antiquity and with a wealth of expression and feeling in story and song. The language is also a living one, spoken in parts but belonging to Scotland as a whole, and to deny the people of Scotland the opportunity of learning their native language and culture within the context of their environment, is to close a door to a greater understanding and to stifle education in its broadest sense. Whether the bulk of the population choose or not to take advantage of this opportunity is really of little consequence. It should be open to them to enrich their lives in the same way that advantage is taken of other stimulants to achieve a broader education and greater perception. It becomes a government to absolve itself from its responsibility in this field. To leave the prime possession of a country solely in the hands of interested voluntary bodies is, by my contention, a situation too disgraceful for words.

It is NOT necessary for the Gaelic language to be inflicted upon people without free will. The same even cannot be said of our present educational system which allows little or no freedom of choice as far as a second language is concerned. If Gaelic were available, there are those who would undoubtedly opt for it, especially as it is made more meaningful by immediate association with the environment in which they live.

There is an interest, albeit passive and lacking in direction, from all age groups to learn Gaelic. Can a seeming alien and (dare I say it) an Anglo-Saxon culture, continue to remain unsympathetic towards Gaelic and

its own culture. If ever the Gaels and Scotland were a threat to England they are not so today. Surely Gaelic can now be accorded the right to develop with encouragement, not restriction, to give us healthy expression, creative thought and development of the arts.

The death of the Gaelic heritage would, I submit, be even more tragic than the loss of an established ancient monument, as it will involve people, not buildings. The loss would hit at the core of our society and would correspondingly weaken our links with the past, understanding of the present, and lead to a further break up in the pattern of our society. The Central Authority is responsible for the upkeep of the Gaelic language, the onus lies with them and with them only. The failure to accord due recognition to the rights of a not inconsiderable minority group, with whom the language is their means of communication in day to day use, warrants attention in its own right.

The final run-down of Gaelic by a Central Authority with whom the responsibility of a nation's culture is ultimately entrusted would lead that authority to be viewed by historians with scant regard should they turn their backs on the nation's language and culture in its present time of need.

— Yours etc.,  
**ROBIN MACDONALD**  
5a St Valery Drive,  
St Ninians  
Stirling.

## DE GHAIHDHLIG TH'AIR BADGE ?

Sir,—Lugh mi ann am paipear stachdannach Inbhirnis mu dheighinn "Badge" a bha

An Comunn Gaidhealach a smuaineachadh air deannamh agus a reic airson math a chanain. Cha b'urrainn na b'fhearr; Gaidheal ri sealltainn, do'n t-saoghail, gu de taobh air am bheil e. Air taobh a dhuthchais 'sa shinnsear, taobh a chunain 'sa chual, agus taobh fhireantachd agus uail.

Laimh ri seo, feudaidh e bhith, gu mi-ghnathach doime an meadhan seo, mar a dh'fhoillsich eachdraidh dhuinn, a rinnadh le moran, air iomadh meadhan eile. Mar sin, cha chuis curom idir seo; ach ni a' chudthromach, agus a dh'fheumas faiceal air leth. Faiceal co an lamh a gheibh e.

(1) An toiseach, faiceal nach ceannach neach e ach fear no te a bhruidhneas an canain gheibh. Fear no bean a theid buo bhoiden roimh fhaoitainn agus mar chomharadh air an sin a sgrìobhas ainm sios a seualachadh nur cridhe. Daighneachd agus seualachd a dhaimh do'n ni seo le lamh-sgrìobhaidh oir, "'s fear an leth-chuid dileas na na'n s'loigh meadh bhilath."

(2) A' Nis, sgaradh a bhith air a dheanadh eadar a'ois agus oige, ma ghabhas a lethid a chuir mar sin.

Leis an ni seo, ged a bhithheadh an Gaidheal na ciltirheadh air taobh eile 'n t-saoghail, athnìdhidh e a chuid fhìn. "Cloimh mo chaoirach fhìn !"

Is e rud ion-mholta bhios an sin. — Yours etc.

T. MACLEOID  
An Rudha Leodhas.

## THOUGHTS ON GAELIC

I must congratulate An Comunn Gaidhealach on having such realistic leaders. It would seem to me, however, that while the learning

of Gaelic is ideal for young Highlanders, An Comunn should begin less ambitiously by making these things most:

(a) All Highland schools to teach correct pronunciation of Gaelic — especially of place names (and a knowledge of meanings!).

(b) Gaelic songs to be taught.

(c) Celtic art (and Pictish) forms to be taught and encouragement made to adapt these and incorporate such designs into craft work.

(d) Good translations of the best Gaelic poetry should be made available in secondary schools. (Better some appreciation of the Gaelic poets than none!).

Lastly, I feel that if the best Gaelic scholars of today should take it upon themselves to simplify the spelling of the language (in fact a phonetic spelling of Gaelic plus simplification of grammatical rules would be a great step ahead). The language would be far more likely to be learnt by your youth.

As for the purists, while they have my sympathy, surely Gaelic must adapt or continue to be used by a small minority of enthusiasts. — Yours etc.

MALCOLM J. MACPHERSON  
1 James Street  
Inverkargill  
New Zealand.

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

## BAHA'I FAITH HUMAN RIGHTS

Principles from the writings of Baha'u'llah 1863-1892  
The oneness of the world of humanity.

The independent investigation of truth so that the world may be saved from the darkness of imitation.

The abolition of religious, racial, political, economic and patriotic prejudices which destroy the edifice of humanity.  
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Education for all the world.

Further information: Local Secretary, 42 Island Bank Rd., Inverness.

## SCOTS MUSIC IN ZAMBIA

Recordings of some of Scotland's top artists and bands including those of Fergie MacDonald, the 27-year-old bachelor from Acharracle, near Fort William, who tours his Scottish dance-band all over Scotland, are proving popular in faraway places like the copper-belt of Zambia.

Fergie, who records for Thistle of Scotland label, has received fan-letters from several Scots in Zambia. One, from Miss E. MacLean of Kitwe, tells him that his long-playing album titled "Come Dancing at the Highlanders' Institute" is being given many plays in homes and on radio in that part of the world. "It brings back many memories to Scots like ourselves," says Miss MacLean. "We play it on all occasions. Dance-music from Scotland is just

what we need to remind us of home."

Few weeks pass now without Fergie MacDonald receiving fan letters, especially from girls in the West and North-West of Scotland. Several have proposed to him. Still a bachelor, he believes a young bandleader like himself loses many fans when he decides to get married. "So it won't happen to me just yet awhile," he says, in his attractive West Highland accent.

Fergie, a former pupil of Fort William High School, is rarely off the roads and fairs of West Scotland, taking his Highland music to audiences in town, village and city halls. He plays regularly at the Highlanders' Institute in Glasgow. He is due to record more records of Scottish music for Thistle in the near future.

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# Cornishmen Make Headlines

## HOME RULE BILL FOR CORNWALL

"A bill demanding independence for Cornwall will probably be presented to Parliament in the next session." (4-inch headlines right across front page and first sentence in Plymouth "Independent," Sunday 3rd March 1968). The five Liberal associations in Cornwall are studying the matter. Peter Bessell M.P. said "Mr Thorpe did not refer to Cornwall" in his recent bill for Wales and Scotland "because he is awaiting the outcome of the working party's investigations. It would be very much to the advantage of its people."

## MEBYON KERNOW "NEWSPAPER"

First issue was on St. Piran's day. Members can buy this 16-side duplicated bulletin bi-monthly. Although many branches have had various publications this is the first National effort, and as such should be of immense importance and significance.

It contains an article by the Nationalist Party promising any help possible, but not a single word from anyone in Wales.

MK membership is now over 3,000 and the possibility of contesting a Parliamentary Election is being enthusiastically investigated. As a first step MK will probably ban members of other political parties from its National Executive.



# BLACK HEART- THE WARM HEARTED RUM WITH THE SMOOTH DARK TASTE



AN RUMA BLATH-CHRIDHEACH  
AS TAITNICHE BLAS

# North Farming Topics

## AGRICULTURAL GUARANTEES INCREASED

The total value of the agricultural guarantees has been increased by £52½ million as a result of the 1968 Annual Review and Determination of Guarantees presented to Parliament, announce the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland. The main effect of the determinations is to increase farmers' end prices as the best means of encouraging further production: the guaranteed prices have been increased for fat cattle, fat sheep, fat pigs, milk, wheat, barley, oats, sugar beet, and potatoes while the wool guarantee is unchanged and the guarantee for eggs has been reduced. The only change made in the production grants are increases in the rates of hill cattle and of beef cow subsidy. In addition the standard quantity for barley has been considerably increased and the standard quantity for wheat has been abolished. The middle band under the flexible guarantee arrangements for pigs has been very substantially widened.

Since the last annual review net income and net output have risen in spite of a sharp increase in costs; productivity has also recovered showing that the effects of the exceptional determinations made a year ago are beginning to reveal themselves.

## GOLSPIE'S NON-PROBLEM?

Mr Robert MacLennan, M.P. for Caithness and Sutherland, has asked the Minister of Power, what proposals have been made to him regarding the supply of gas to Golspie, Sutherland, by the Scottish Gas Board and if he has approved them.

Mr Freeson, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Power replied: "None."

Mr MacLennan said this was an astonishing reply as, about a year ago, the Minister admitted to him that the existing plant was incapable of supplying the needs of the area.

"Are you aware that provision is being made in Caithness for the supply of liquefied petroleum-air-gas. Will you consider the need for such supplies in Golspie?"

Mr Freeson said he had been in touch with the Board and was advised that there was no problem in Golspie, the potential of the existing plant having been increased somewhat.

## BODWIN BRANCH

Are finding about 80% of Bodmin residents are against London Overspill. The branch intend to take the local council to court and have advice of an MK member who is a barrister. A "petition" is being taken around every house.

# News from Brittany

By our Breton Correspondent

The political observer will be struck by the different directions taken by the national movements in Western Europe, in Scotland and Wales on the one hand, in Brittany and the Basque Country (Euzkadi) on the other. There, Welsh and elected to the House of Commons, here the struggle for freedom is gradually taking violent forms. Yet the aims are the same.

This contradiction arises from the difference in the political conceptions which dominate government in the States concerned. In Britain, the approach is empirical. Nobody will oppose in the name of a principle what a strong majority of Welshmen or Scotsmen will have asked. Thus the Welsh have obtained almost full cultural autonomy, recognition of the rights of the Welsh language (including its use in public life and in the administration). Both Wales and Scotland have got their own economic councils and Secretaries of State. They will get self-government when they elect a majority of nationalist representatives, perhaps even before.

In France and Spain, on the contrary, the will of "part" only of the so-called national territory counts for nothing. The Bretons have proved sufficient the Breton language to be taught in schools and regional institutions to be set up. To take only one example the demand for a Breton Plan of development was backed by 80% of the Breton municipal councils. The Basques have proved that they want the reunification of their country and political autonomy. What prevails however is the conception which the French and the Spanish governments and about have of the unity and indivisibility of their States.

To the really democratic style of political life in Great Britain correspond the constitutional methods of the Welsh and Scottish national parties. The French and Spanish authoritarian and colonialist style however can only provoke increasingly violent and illegal methods. Unless France and Spain revise and reverse their conceptions the only choice they leave Brittany and Euzkadi is a life of rebellion or death by integration. Who could blame the Bretons and the Basques for choosing life? The French and the Spanish States bear responsibility for all the acts of violence.

The International Celtic Congress will be held at Fougères in Eastern Brittany this year. Strating on Tuesday 20th August, it will end on Sunday 25th with a Festival of Celtic song. The programme includes lectures, discussions, folk songs, dance and music, and excursions in the surrounding area. The concerts will take place in the grounds of the Fougères historic castle. For further information, write to an A. Per

Denez, Le Ris, 295-Ploare-Douarnenez. (Communique).

The Annual Conference of the Celtic League will be held at Bangor (N. Wales), (1-2 June) under the chairmanship of Mr Gwynfor Evans, M.P. for Wales. The main speakers at apudic meeting will be Mr Evans and Dr Y. Fouere (editor of l'Aventur, Brittany, and a leading member of the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany).

## ONE-WAY MAN-POWER MOBILITY

Over the past 4 or 5 months, dismissals affected the following enterprises and factories: Ouest-Montage (22), Fairchild Paperworks (16) in Rennes; Duquesne - Purina, Foodproducts (11), Loudeas; SICCN (33), St-Malo; Coal Ouest (20), St-Nazaire; Flaminaire (50), Redon; Dyckoff (15), Ninan. Closures affected 160 workers at Mere's (Fougères), 27 at a cast-iron foundry, Gerandre, 70 at Construction Aero-Navale, St-Nazaire. Of the 700 workers who lost their job in Henbont, 2 years ago, only 350 are working in new enterprises in the Lorient area. Employment dropped during 1967 from 150 (full-time) and 200 (part-time) to 65 (full-time) at the St-Nazaire dockyards; from 227 to 180 at the Auray Railway warehouse. Thousands are or will soon be unemployed in Rennes, Redon, St-Malo, Fougères, Vitre. The Breton Bureau has established that emigration from Brittany is double the figure expected in the 5th French Plan. Only 21% of the road work projects adopted by the Plan (1966-70) have been carried out so far. CELTB would request the EEC Commission in Brussels to hold a conference on epirpheric regions in which representatives of these regions would take part.

## VEGETABLES ON BOG LAND

By our Eire Correspondent  
"This could revolutionise farming in the west of Ireland," says Mr Gerry Darcy, an agricultural instructor with Galway County Committee, who has scheme. The plan is to grow high-profit vegetables on bog land no longer in use in the emigration-hit western counties of Galway, Roscommon, Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim.

For a start, onions are being grown on 15 half-acre plots at Clonfert, Meelick, Killimor and Tiernascragh. The experience gained will be used in other places.

The farmers will be able to grow 12 to 20 tons of onions an acre. Selling them at £30 a ton would bring a yearly income of between £360 and £600 an acre.

The Galway County Committee of Agriculture is paying half the cost of seeds and weed-killers. The growers will pay the rest, but they hope to be assisted by a State grant.



# News Bits

## NORTH WEST

A 20-year-old student, Gordon Macnair, Fordnew Road, Little Kingshills, Great Missenden, Bucks, was rescued from Ben Nevis this week by a helicopter piloted by Captain R. Matthews of the Army Air Corps, with Sergeant R. Young, Inverness Burgh Police, as observer. Mr Macnair had been one of a party of nine climbing Ben Nevis.

The helicopter used in the rescue was one of three being used by the Army Air Corps in an experiment designed to aid police work in Scotland in widely varying areas at different times of the year. The first phase of the experiment, which closed yesterday, has been attended by police observers from Inverness Burgh and County, Ross and Sutherland, and Scottish North-Eastern Counties, and covered a total area of 8,250,000 acres with a population of 500,000.

## NORTH EAST

Results of extensive surveys made over the past two winters show that Ben Wyvis in Easter Ross might well be suitable for development as a winter sports ground, announced the Scottish

Tourist Board, which has helped to finance research into the possibilities of Ben Wyvis as a ski-ing area. The money has come from the Government's grant to the Board for its research programme.

From the surveys undertaken so far it has been found that four distinct ski runs on snow-fields exist on Ben Wyvis, with a variety of grades suitable for moderate and skilled ski-ers.

Mr Norman Buchan, M.P., Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, this week visited the police helicopter experiment at R.A.F. Kinloss. He left by helicopter from Scottish North-Eastern Counties Police Headquarters at Bucksburn, Aberdeenshire, and at Kinloss he met police officers and service personnel engaged in the experiment. A short demonstration of helicopters at work was given, and afterwards the Minister left Kinloss by helicopter for Bucksburn.

The Ministry of Defence has announced that their plans for military training in Scotland include an extension of the areas in use for small-scale field craft exercises. This type of training has been carried out

successfully in the Glen Trool and Glen Affric districts with the helpful co-operation of Forestry Commission and other owners and tenants.

To achieve greater flexibility in training, and to keep the numbers exercising in any one stretch of country to a minimum, negotiations for training permission on additional areas are now in hand with landowners in the vicinities of Strathconon Forest, Loch Hourm and Loch Quoich. Those concerned have already been approached.

Entries for the three day Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival which took place earlier this week had dropped slightly compared to last year's figures. A more popular section, however, was that for percussion bands.

Mr Robert MacLennan (M.P. for Caithness and Sutherland) last week asked the Secretary of State for Scotland, when work would begin on the transmission lines to carry electricity from the prototype fast reactor at Dounreay to the grid; what consultations had been held about the line of route; and whether the power generated will be available to local industry in

skippers available — or perhaps they are sailing on the high seas like many a fellow islander?

It is interesting to compare the Board's present effort to get fishing established with the efforts of the Congested Districts Board at the turn of the century. Then, the Board was astonished at the willingness of the Isles-folk to do their best to improve the industry and make the Hebrides the main fishing ground in the world. In fact, the percentage repayments of loans were the highest for Lewis. They were lowest for Shetlands and the North-west.

Casting one's eye back to the twenties, one recalls Lord Leverhulme's schemes for fish processing. Perhaps then was not the time to set up such facilities and ancillary industries.

No one can deny that NOW is the time. We say that the Board should come clean about the advanced state of its plans regarding the setting-up of auxiliary fishing industries in the Western Isles.

In the booklet the Board says: "... one of our aims is to build up the Lewis fleet to a level at which fish-processing becomes viable."

But this build-up will take time. It is, in fact, one of the complaints of fishermen in Lewis at present that there is no Stornoway-based fish-processing plant to cater for their catches which, at present, must go to the mainland.

Caithness and Sutherland, and upon what terms.

Mr William Ross, in a written reply, stated that, as statutorily required, the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board had advertised the route of this line and had consulted all appropriate local planning authorities by Amenity Committee and all owners and occupiers likely to be affected.

## THE ISLANDS

For the first time the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board are to extend the benefits of an off-peak tariff to the Islands of Lewis, Harris, Orkney and Shetland. The charge, 0.95d will operate for an eight hour period during the night.

The Islands are supplied from diesel power stations, and until now the Board's attitude has been that that expensive form of production would not permit an off-peak tariff. The new rate starts on April 1.

## STRUAN SITE FOR CLAN CENTRE

The Clan Donnachaidh Society, with the support of Robertsons and affiliated clansfolk throughout the world, are to build a clan centre and museum on a site purchased from the Duke of Atholl on the Perth-Inverness road between the Falls of Bruar and the heart of the old clan territory at Struan.

More than half of the initial cost of £20,000 has been raised, and an appeal is being sent out to clansmen, clanswomen and friends, with a total target of £30,000, to include an endowment fund.

## An Communn's Place in the Islands

At a meeting held in Stornoway, last week, representatives from Communn Gaidhealach, Leodhais, Stornoway Town Council, Lewis District Council and various other bodies considered the implications of a report by the Director of An Communn, Mr D. J. MacKay, that no official financial support is forthcoming immediately for the appointment of a Regional Officer in the Western Isles.

While efforts are being made to form branches of An Communn throughout the Islands, disappointment was felt at the Scottish Education Department and Highlands and Islands Development Board's failure to support the establishment of a permanent An Communn representative in the area.

In the circumstances it was felt that consideration should be given to "going it alone." This would mean that the appointment of a Regional Officer in the Western Isles would be financed by money

## An Communn Officials Meet HIBB and SED Representatives

An exploratory meeting to discuss the financial application by An Communn was held last week with officials of the Scottish Education Department, Edinburgh, and the Highlands and Islands Development Board, at St Andrew's House, Edinburgh.

Representing An Communn were Mr D. Grant, President, Mr R. Mackinnon, Perth, and Mr D. J. MacKay, Director.

After the meeting it was stated that there was little hope of obtaining money at this moment for the appointment of a Regional Officer in the Western Isles or for other new developments but there was a faint possibility that some assistance might be given towards An Communn's administrative expenses.

It may be recalled that in last year's Annual Report it was mentioned that the S.C.D.A. received a grant of £7,500 and the English Folk Song and Dance Society, £13,000. Some of the other organisations receiving financial assistance are the Young Farmers' Clubs (£4,500), the Y.M.C.A. (£4,950) and the Board for Information and National Tests in Youth and Community Service (£5,500). Virtually all minority languages in Europe now receive financial help from the national governments.

A branch of An Communn Gaidhealach has been formed in North Uist, with Mr John MacDonald, of Paible, as chairman, and Mrs Peggy Johnson, of Lochmaddy, as secretary.

raised within the Islands. Communn Gaidhealach, Leodhais, are to consider ways and means of raising the necessary funds, and submit their proposals to the Executive Council of An Communn.

**HIBB**  
The Crofters Union recommendation to press for the appointment of Mr D. J. MacKay as Gaelic-speaking member of the HIBB was fully endorsed by the meeting.

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## Frank Speaking

In an attractively-produced booklet entitled 'Occasional Bulletin No. 1', the HIBB have indicated to the general public their ideas on fishing.

In their introduction it is said: "We are satisfied . . . that the Highland waters could be fished more intensively without (sic) imperilling future stocks."

Unfortunately, West Coast, and particularly, Island fishermen well know of the continued destruction of the Minch fishing grounds by alien trawlers. So why build fishing boats if at the same time the Board refuses to agitate for legislation to protect Minch waters?

It reflects on the Board attitude to the Fishing Training Scheme that no mention at all is made to the fact that the MacAulay Trust first proved that a fishery training scheme could work in the Isles. Does the Board want all the credit for itself? The fact that it has built on good foundations provided, not from Government sources, but from a private individual's bequest and a Lewisman's at

that, should be at least acknowledged.

The Board says that it has taken the view that "at least one of the tenders submitted by applicants should be from a Highland boatyard, if possible. In practice, unfortunately, this has not worked out to date; at present, however, we are hopeful that this situation will be remedied. Which seems to mean that in a short time, perhaps a year, the HIBB will be announcing that a Highland boatyard has been set up in business to compete on equal grounds with other yards in Scotland.

It is important that this kind of activity, this kind of natural industry, be fostered in the Highlands. Perhaps the Board will make it clear in a statement just what its intentions are in this matter. After all, if nothing is done soon, the Board's scheme will be finished with still no Highland yard in sight!

Is it indicative of the decline of the Hebridean fishing industry that three training skippers hail from Edinburgh, Peterhead and Buckie? Surely there are Islesmen

Faitle Chridheil Chairdeil

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**1968 . . . A Year To**

Not only will Dunoon be an exciting place during the Mod Week, October 6-11, but it will also be an exciting place throughout the whole of the season.

This year the town celebrates its centenary as a Burgh and several committees, with a Town Councillor the convener of each, are working hard to ensure a

series of attractions worthy of the occasion.

The first main event is an act of appreciation by the Town Council to their longest serving member, Police Judge James Marshall, who served for two terms as Provost. On March 27 he will receive the highest honour a town can bestow when he will receive the Freedom of

Dunoon. Not only has he been a member of the town council since 1931 but he is a long serving member of Argyll County Council and is the present Convener of Education.

April 17 is another important day for the Burgh, as the new indoor swimming pools will be officially opened by Mr Bruce Millan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland.

This building, modern in design and most attractive, houses two pools, one of 82 feet 6 inches (25 metres) by 42 feet wide to provide six swimming lanes. Its depth is graduated from 3 feet to 10 feet which allows for a one-metre diving board. The second pool is a learners' one and is 36 feet by 20 feet with a maximum depth of 2 feet 6 inches. The most modern methods of water purification and heating are in use.

The opening ceremony will be followed on April 20 by a grand swimming gala.

Centenary Queen

Dunoon is to have its own Centenary Queen. She will be

(Continued Opposite)

**40 Years Ago**

(The following is an extract from the souvenir programme issued for Dunoon's Civic Week in September, 1928).

*This year Dunoon celebrates her 60th birthday and Diamond Jubilee as a Burgh. The Jubilee should have been recognised in 1918, but coming as it did in the closing year of the Great War, the Council considered it inopportune to do anything at that time owing to the great upheaval from which we were then emerging . . .*

*Nowhere, probably in the British Isles, is there a spot better suited to be the headquarters of a summer holiday than the bright town of Dunoon. Some holiday makers long for the Highlands of Scotland . . . while others prefer the pleasant breezes of the seaside and the blue waters laughing along the shore. The desires of both these classes of visitors can be satisfied in Dunoon, which thus has a character and charm quite its own . . .*

*. . . Dunoon has an unlimited supply of excellent gravitation water and a first class drainage system. It is cleansed daily, and the refuse is burned in an up-to-date destructor. It is almost entirely free from infectious disease and epidemics are unknown. The death-rate is somewhere about eight per thousand per annum, and the number of centenarians' grave-stones in the kirkyard affords*

*eloquent testimony to the health of the town.*

Although circumstances and conditions have doubtless changed with the passage of time and with technological advancements the charm and character of Dunoon is probably exactly the same, and this year sees not only the celebration of Dunoon's centenary year but also the holding of the National Mod in October. A great year indeed for a town already accustomed to an influx of visitors each year, but this year having its "good old fashioned welcome" truly put to the test.

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49 HILLFOOT ST., DUNOON

**Loyalists Hoist  
Ensign At  
County Hall**

(Heading in "West Briton" for Thursday 7th March 1968). St Pirans cross (a white - on black) was put up "without permission" on County Hall, and was hauled down by County Council. Chairman of County Council later took flag to Perran Round and put it up there, saying "Perrantide" was previously a miner's holiday etc. and should be kept up. He took the flag in his Rolls Royce causing headlines such as "Flag goes on a VIP pilgrimage."

Flag was flown on City Hall, Truro, and many other places where individual members arranged it.

# Remember

chosen from local girls, will be crowned at a Centenary Dance on May 10 and will be available to attend Centenary events as required throughout the season.

The various committees have decided on their programmes and are now getting together to work out dates to avoid clashes. Among the attractions are regattas, galas, angling contests, dances, pipe band performances, ceilidhs, Highland nights, entertainments, out door attractions, boxing matches, judo displays, sports events, parades, youth events and a host of other special occasions.

### Entertainment Galore

This is all in addition to a full entertainment programme presented by the Town Council. In the Queen's Hall, for example, there will be something

different each night. On Sundays there will be all-star variety concerts with different artistes each week; on Mondays, ceilidhs; on Tuesdays and Thursdays, summer show; on Wednesdays, "This is Scotland"; on Friday and Saturday, dancing. In addition Alasdair Gillies will be presenting his own show before the dancing on two Fridays in July and two in August. Then in the Argyll Gardens there will be a show every morning and afternoon. Other important annual events which will add to a very full programme include the world-famous Cowal Highland Gathering on 30th and 31st August; sheep dog trials; flower shows; fetes; fireworks display, open amateur golf (ladies and gents.), open bowling, open tennis, and a host of other events.

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Mr MIKE PELLICCI

## Commandant Of The Army Piping School Commissioned

Friends and admirers of "Pipe-Major" John Maclellan will be glad to hear of his recent commissioning as lieutenant in the Royal Highlanders. John Maclellan's army career has been one of regular advancement. During the last war he was a pipe-major with the Seaforth, the youngest pipe-major at that time in the British Army. After the war he continued in the same rank eventually becoming a warrant officer first class. For some time now he has been in charge of the Army Piping School in Edinburgh Castle and is now Director of Piping where he trains not only pipers for British regiments but those from the Dominions and from Eastern countries which have adopted our pipes and music. Mr Maclellan spent part of his youth in Fort Augustus. His father came from Lochearn but the family originates in Morar. Mr Maclellan senior, now retired, is an expert bagpipe reed maker, and his reeds are much in demand. He now lives near Buncrev, Inverness. On congratulating Mr Maclellan on his recent promotion we should not forget his father, his first tutor.

May he and his illustrious son be long spared to us.

## SUNDAY COACH TOUR PLAN ANGERS ISLES

A public meeting is going to be held soon at Tarbert to protest at the introduction of Sunday coach tours in Harris by Messrs David MacBrayne, Ltd. MacBrayne's 1968 Brochure reveals two Sunday tours in the itineraries. Both begin at Tarbert where the car ferry, Hebrides, will be berthed and complete a circular tour via Rodil. In the islands there is mounting anger because it is felt that this is the first step to try to introduce a Sunday car ferry and shows complete indifference to local feeling.

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# GAELIC SOCIETY DINNER

The Annual Dinner of Inverness Gaelic Society was held in Inverness on Friday 8th March. The presiding Chief was Rev. William Matheson, M.A., Senior Lecturer in Celtic at Edinburgh University.

In his address to those attending the dinner, Mr Matheson took as his theme the place of the rural society in the present-day philosophy which so much favoured the town and the city.

Many of the planners of today, and this applied to those in the Highlands, had an urban background, which was not the best of qualifications for planning for rural societies. Adding point to the place of the rural society today, Mr Matheson said that what politicians really bothered about today was the vote.

"Can we really expect politicians to wax ecstatic about rural life when the vast majority of their constituents are town dwellers and have no prospect of being anything else?"

Mr Matheson said that the thinking involved in the development of the Highlands was too much centred round the creation or development of towns. It was a short-term view. "Towns can thrive only when they have a healthy hinterland."

So far as Gaelic was con-

cerned, it had to be accepted that the trend today in all parts of the world was bilingualism. Thus it was necessary to have a common language, a "bread-and-butter" language, used to transact the business of the world. But the local language was necessary too, to offer a medium through which a man could be made aware of what he was and what he had inherited.

Mr Matheson said that he thought some ideal solution could be reached regarding the position of Gaelic in Scotland. It had first to be realised that there were two traditions in Scotland, though both had common roots, which were now rather distinct from each other. In education, the system should be one in which children would be well schooled in their own tradition, and got at least a book knowledge of the other, and grew up to treat each other with mutual understanding and respect. That would be better than the present confusion where the kilt was the national dress and Burns the national poet.

In reply to the Chief's Toast to the Society, Mr D. J. MacCuish, Chieftain of the Society, said that the Society was doing a difficult job, and doing it well, particularly in the field of publishing papers in both Gaelic and English.

# GAELS IN SCANDINAVIA

Increasing interest in the Highlands and Gaelic is being shown by Scandinavian countries as evidenced by the invitation to Mrs Mairi MacDonald, Post Office, Scarista, Harris, from the organisers of Norwegian Agricultural week to talk on crofting and island life.

It is now announced that Mr D. J. MacKay, Director of An Comunn Gaidhealach will tour Norway and Denmark for three weeks on a lecture tour for the British Council. Mr MacKay will talk about the Highlands, (social economic and cultural aspects) Norse Influence in Place Names, Highland Music and Alba.

His tour is to include—In Denmark, Copenhagen, Haslev, Vallekilde, Gørlev and Roskilde. In Norway—Oslo, Bergen, Fana Asane, Lillehammer, Elverum.

## 1320 CLUB SYMPOSIUM

The 1320 Club, recently "outlawed" by the SNP is organising a symposium on "The Political and Economic Meaning of Devolution." It is scheduled to take place on Saturday 6th April, at Glasgow University. Among the speakers and leaders of the debates are Dr George Philip, Dr George Davie, Professor Hanham, and Dr Gavin McCrone. The guest of honour at the reception will be Lord Orr of Brechin.

# BRUSH UP YOUR GAELIC

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**Sibh** = plural or polite form.

**Thu** = singular or familiar form.

### Lesson 23

#### Possessive Pronouns

**Mo**—My

**Do**—Your (sing.)

**A**—His, her

**Ar**—Our

(bhuir) **Ur**—Your (plural)

**An, am**—Their

Remember that *l, n, r* never aspirate.

'Mo' and 'do' aspirate the noun following, as in: *Mo mhathair*. Do bhrathair.

'A' (his) aspirates nouns beginning with a consonant whereas 'Ar' (her) does not.

Thus, *A athair* (his father) *A h-phiuchair* (her sister). The reverse holds true when the noun begins with a vowel.

Thus, *A shair* (his father) *A h-athair* (her father).

Note also that before nouns beginning with a vowel, the 'O' of *mo* and *do* elides, as in *m'athair* (my father), and 'ar' and 'ur' are followed by *n*—as in *ar n-athair* (our father) and *ur n-each* (your horse).

The 'o' of 'mo' and 'do' also elides before 'f' nouns, and the 'f' is aspirated: *m'fhalt* (my hair).

Similar rules apply when the per-

sonal pronoun follows the present participle:

*Tha e 'gam bhuiladh* (he is striking me)—*lit.* he is at my striking.

*Bithidh mi 'gad fhacinn* (I'll be seeing you) — *lit.* I'll be at your seeing.

*Bithidh sinn gur faicinn* (We'll be seeing you (plur)).

Further examples of Possessive Pronouns: *Leum a shron* (his nose-bleed)—*lit.* his nose jumped. *Thoir dhomh do lamh* (give me your hand)—'I remains unchanged.

## COINNEAMH 'A'

### CHOMUINN GHAIÐHEALACH AN LEODHUS

faic t. d. 1

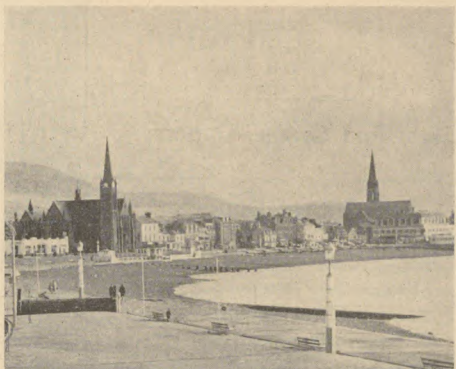
gun atharrachadh iomhaigh a ni An Comunn adhartas 'sna h-Eileanan.

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Dh' ainmich Mgr. Tearlach MacLeod gun mhol Co-Chomunn nan Croiteirean Mgr. D. I. MacAoidh a bhith air Bòrd Leasachaidh na Gaidhealtachd 'sna Eileanan. Tha aite falamh fhathast air a' Bhord agus is iomchuid gur e Eileanach a shuidhicheadh ann. Dh' aontaich an cruinneachadh gum bu choir do chomunn Gaidhealtachd Leodhuis sgrìobhadh gu Ru'nairne na Staitè a' tagradh airson so.

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