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THURSDAY, 11th JANUARY 1968

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No. 21

Truth

SCOTLAND'S BI-LINGUAL NEWSPAPER

A MASSIVE RESPONSE Tourist Campaign Off To Good Start

Since the Highlands and Islands Development Board launched their large-scale advertising campaign less than a fortnight ago, the £20,000 scheme has attracted enquiries at the rate of 3,000 a day, and one day earlier this week there were 4,000 replies.

The aim of the campaign is to "sell" the seven Northern Counties to holidaymakers—the first attempt ever to attract tourists solely to the Highlands.

As it is intended to send every letter an immediate reply, additional clerical staff have had to be taken on to deal with the deluge of enquiries which have come from as far afield as Uganda, Switzerland, Sweden, Holland, Canada and America.

The Board's campaign consists mainly of coupon advertising in the national Press and magazines, and each applicant receives a package of leaflets describing the varying holiday opportunities in the North, and listing names and addresses of local contacts.

The scheme will be continued until the end of February.

EROSION DANGER TO HOMES

Two families, tenants of Council houses in Caithness, have been told by their local Council that they will have to leave their homes because the houses are in danger of collapsing into the sea.

The two houses, in Scrabster, are perched on the top of a crumbling boulder-clay cliff which has come 14 feet nearer their front doors than it was when the houses were erected only seven years ago. Now, the cliff edge is only 12 feet away, and, after getting expert advice on the erosion problem, the Council have decided that their tenants should be offered alternative accommodation in Scrabster—a new housing development is underway in the fishing village at the moment.

But the farmer who sold the land to Caithness County Council had warned of the site's unsuitability for building; the County Clerk maintains that the decision to build was taken before he went to Caithness, and he refused to comment.



Looking toward warmer weather: the shearing of the sheep in the Islands. About one-third of the Scottish wool clip goes to the Indigenous Harris Tweed industry. By a very curious anomaly, much of the Hebridean wool clip is shipped to the mainland because the wool is more suited to carpeting than clothing. On reasonable estimates, the available native clip is sufficient for about three weeks' full-time mill production. There are some 2,600 Hebridean registered producers of wool. The clip yields some 361,000 lb. of wool. The value is in the region of £73,000. The island producers are given the choice of selling their wool for local manufacture or to the British Wool Marketing Board. All others producers in Scotland with more than four sheep are obliged to sell their wool to the Board.

TRANSPORT AND ROADS

Rathaidean Is Siubhal

Sann trath san 18mh tinn deug a thoisich eadag cur mor fheum air rathaidean air a Ghaidhealtachd agus se rathaidean drobhaidh a bha sin fein. S iongar-tach mur a robh rathad cruaidh no cha faisg air bailtean ach se an t-arm is Sincara! Wade a thog na rathaidean cruaidhe a bha againn gu toiseach an 19mh linn deug ach bha e mach a feum ann an 1908. Nuair a thoisich an rathad iarrainn mu 1858 bha ceangal eadar Eilean Nis, san taobh an Ear agus chaidh an t-slighe eadar Eilean Nis is Peairt roimh 'n t-Slochedh fhoghladh mu 1890. Ach ged a be na rathaidean iarrainn a b'fhearr is b'ghiorrasaiche a thaobh siubhal is iarradh stuth, cha d'fhuair rathad riabh ceart den chialp airgid a chaidh a' nàis ceannaidhean so agus tha an dearb' easbhuidh orra fhathast. A reir cunntas Cameron-Kilbrandon ann an 1963 nan d'rachadh na rathaidean iarrainn a dh'fhàdadh chan fhanadh an slugh. Bho chionn sia mìosan fhuair sinn aithis Bòrd Siubhal na Gaidhealtachd agus mhol iadann gum bu chòir Bòrd Siubhal ceart le ard ur-darras a bhì an urra ri gnòthichean siubhal is rathaidean ri Gaidhealtachd. An coimeas ri aithis an d'channan eile san Roinn Lorga chaneil a Ghaidhealtachd

air an t-slighe gu rioghachd eile agus nuair a bheachdaichean sinn air giorrasan siubhal se na h-astair mhòra is an slugh beag an cnap starra a dh'fheumas sinn a chummal far comhair. Chaneil a chumhachd aig a Ghaidhealtachd a thaobh aireamh slugh no thaobh nìthean politeichean airson leasachadh fhaotainn. Tha sinn ann feum drochdaidean mòra, rathad da leud agus theid a cheist fhoighneachd a bheil e ceart a bhì cunail rathaidean iarrainn ma tha se a cuir bacadh air leasachd nan rathaidean cruaidhe.

Sgoil de na seorsa rathaidean is giorrasan siubhal a dh'fheumas a Ghaidhealtachd sna bliadhnaichean a tha mur coimeas? Co a tha dol a shealltainn riutha? An e na siorrachachdan san riaghaltas a nì na rathaidean mar a tha iad an ceartair? An riaghaltas a mha'n a coimead ri treinneichean is itealan agus cuid mhòr a dh' airròid aca ann an aiseag a cuideachd?

The deagh fheum air rathad da leud eadar Peairt is Eilean Nis a dh' simeidheoin aithis a Bhuird Siubhal agus dheanadh so feum a thaobh adhartas thionnsalag is margaidhean. Tha cus airgid la chos' an d'eads e docha air na rathadan beaga nuair bu chòir dhuinn a bhì fogsaladh an aite le

rathad mor doighheil. Sna deich bliadhna gu 1978 se luchd turais is motha a nì feum de' rathaidean agus thig asan taobh a Ghearas dain air A82. Dh' fheumte so a dhenamhad da leud cuideachd agus taobh Loch Lomain a dheanamh dreach. Tha cinn gu faihge calp airgid o bhàn-cathcan s on phobul airson drochaid Bhaic Chaois. Le eis, phreagheadh i a coisgais, ach nam bitheadh na Soisealach deontach dh' fhooidh an riaghaltas a ceannach nuair a bhiodh airgid re sheachnadh. Mun bhliadhna 2000 A.D. bhithidh suas ri 4 millean tunna de fhuad a dol a mach as a Ghaidhealtachd a h-uile bliadhna. Ciamar? De a nìs mu aiseagan nan Eileanan Siar? Tha am Bòrd Leasachadh air snasan a chuir a mach a thalaidheas luch turais. Ciamar a nì iad an rathad gu tuath is deas? Nis mar a tha scriobhis nan itealan saoi an e aon phleim mor sa latha a tha dhith? Nam biodh da phleim mhor a tighinn a dh' eilean Nis sa latha is pleineichean beaga a riuth ann mach sa steach gu Uic. Arcaibh. Sealtan Steornabhagh, Beinn a Fhoghla is Barraidh saoi an e o so a b' fhearr? Tha ceistean gu leur rim freasair, co a bheil fuasgladh orra?

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Inverness Cream SCOTCH WHISKY

Lochaber To-day

Eaglais Ghaidhlig Chalum-Chille An Grianaig

Seall sibh air Grianaig agus cha n'fhic sibh ach an eaglais leis seirbhis anns a' Ghaidhlig. Is e eaglais Ghaidhlig Chalum-Chille agus a b'e Calum Cille a' cheud duine a sheamronachadh. Soisgeul Chrìosd anns a' Ghaidhlig heathlach agus ann an Inneis Gall.

Uair a' rannadh Calum Cille Alba 's a' nàid a' riarach air an

Le Uisdean Camslron-Mac' Ille Bhan

cuthaic a dh' eirich an latha griannach. Aen ged tha e aginn a nis ann an tomhas mor 'n a' aird a' mheadhon latha cha-n'fhad' o'n a' choachail iad a chunnaic ur-miladum an latha so a' b'risteach os ceann nam bean; latha 'n aigh! Trid am bheil lionnhoireachd nan cìlean ait, agus luchd-ri-teachadh nan creag a' seim gu Coolmoor.

Is fhada, gu dearbh, o'na sheamronachaidh, soisgeul Chrìosd ann an Gaidhealtachd na h-Alba. Is cian o'n a' bha i Chalum Cille 'na b'ard lochran, cha n' e' mhaid no'n rioghadh so, ach mar an ceudna do dh'iomadh ceam cile de'n Roinn-Eorpa. B' fhuinn air an tobar de dh'uisge bea a dh' fhoighidh 's an eisean daighneach sin, agus b' iochlaint do dh'iomadh duthaich Thioraim Thartmhor na Sruthan fhallan a bha sgaoilteadh uaithe gu fada farsaing.

Uair bha Calum Cille a' seamronachadh an Alba cha robh canan aig na daoine ach a' Ghaidhlig. B' ann a' Eirinn a bha Calum Cille agus bha Ghaidhlig agus. B'e an aon teanga a bh' ann 's a' Ghaidhlig Albannach aig an sin, cha robh iad a' canann Ghaidhlig Albannach, Gaidhlig Eirinnach no Gaidhlig Manainnach an uir sin, cha

robh ach aen Gaidhlig 's an t-seamronachadh bha Calum Cille a' seamronachadh anns a' Ghaidhlig.

Tha a' Ghaidhlig Albannach ghe chloach ris a' Ghaidhlig Eirinnach an duigh fein. Bha mis ag abair ann Am Baile Atha Cliath ann an Eirinn o' choimn da sheachdainn agus bha mi a' bruidhinn ri Oifigich a' Chostaim anns a' Ghaidhlig. Bha mise a' tuigsinn a' Ghaidhlig aca gu math. Tha moran Gaidhlig ann an Eirinn agus tha Gaidhlig aig a' h-uile balach agus caileag an uair a' dh'fhagas iad an seòil.

Anns an Eaglais Ghaidhlig Chalum-Chille an Grianaig tha Seirbhis Ghaidhlig air a' cheud Sabaid de gach mìos, agus tha caidair fìchead agus da fhìchead daoine a' dol do an seirbhis so. Cha n' eil so ghe mhat ach cha n' eil an suidheach moran na' s' fhearr anns a' Ghaidhealtachd.

Choachail an t-Urramach Riarbheart Iain Mac Aoidh 'n Inbhir-Nis air a' cheathramh la fìchead de'n t-Samhainn. Choidh e 'n 1934 gu Eaglais Ghaidhlig Chalum-Chille an Grianaig agus 'n an Grianaig shaothraich e ga d'fheallach fad choig bliadhna fìchead agus an do leig e dlèth uallach na h-èibhre an 1959. Chaidh e a' dh' fhuireach an Inbhir-Nis ach chum e air a' seamronachadh far an robh feum air e chobla'.

Bha Mgr. MacAoidh 'na Gleireach aig Cleir Ghrianaig agus thug e seirbhis air lomach comhairle agus cominn eile.

Tha Gaidhlig aig tharis da cheud daoine ann an Grianaig agus is math gum bheil mionstair anns a' bhaile so 'n seamronachadh, ach mjos ann an cananan na h-Alba.

'Sann a' Eilean Bhearnaisidh a' bhàineas an Ministear a tha ann drasda; Domhnall Mac Ille Mhoire.

The Tangle O' The Isles

Did you clean your teeth this morning? Did you do some home painting last week-end? Are the jellies for to-night's party setting nicely? Did you apply your lipstick with care after breakfast? . . . Then the tangle of the Isle of Lewis has probably helped you out in these and many another

everyday aspects of living. For seaweed (or alginate) is used in as many as 150 different products.

Four wet tons of seaweed make one dry milled ton. The drying process takes over three hours. The seaweed mainly used is 'rockweed' or *Ascophyllum nodosum*.

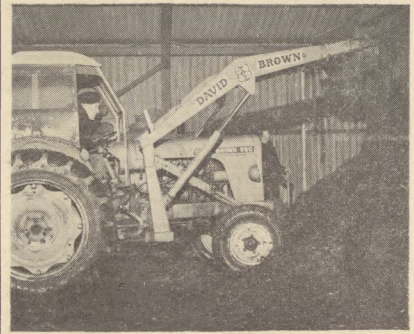
to small landing areas, where it is collected in lorries and taken to Keose, on the side of Loch Erisort.

The factory at Keose was set up by Alginate Industries Ltd. at a cost of £30,000.

Keose was chosen as the centre for this new Lewis industry because it offered easy access to the puffers. These craft come right up Loch Erisort, are on-loaded at the new-built pierhead, and ship the milled seaweed to Girvan, where it is finally processed for various end products.

The capacity of the oil-fired drying plant is 120 wet tons per week. This produces about 30 dry milled tons. Collection of the raw material is at present done by a dozen or so crofters in the East Loch Roag, Bernera, Scarp, Hushinish, and Loch Seaforth areas.

Though the work is hard, and dependent on tide and weather, good money can be made; up to £20 each week. However—a tangle of a different kind—there is some reluctance on the part of many crofters to take up this natural extra-crofting activity. The result is that the plant is at present working only at half capacity. Full participation by more



FIRST LOCHABER BIRTH FOR 1968

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Ronald MacKellaig, Glenfinnan, on the birth of their first child, Iain MacKellaig. Iain was the first child born in Lochaber this year.

The father, Ronnie MacKellaig, is a well-known Gaelic singer and National Trust Warden in Glenfinnan.

sum, which is collected in various parts of Lewis and Harris by crofters who can make 25/- per collected ton.

The seaweed is cut with sickles and transported to the island drying factory in two ways. First, in and around Loch Erisort, on the east side of Lewis, it is allowed to

LOCHABER TOURIST GRANT

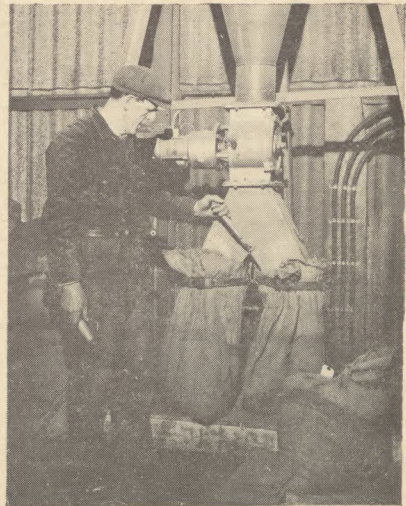
A gift of £900 from the Highlands and Islands Development Board has saved the Lochaber Tourist Association from grave financial difficulties.

Members at their recent annual general meeting at Fort William were considering disbanding and asking Fort William Town Council to take over, when Dr Iain Skeewis, of the Board, said that they would be giving the Association £900 to run the bureau. The Lochaber group are a major Highland Association.

The sum promised will be reviewed, and there is also a possibility that should the association have to vacate their present headquarters—which they receive rent and rates-free from Fort William Town Council—the Highlands and Islands Development Board may consider building new premises.

CURSA NABHIGEISIUN

The 24 iarsgair—12 a Sealtain is 12 a Arcaibh—air cur a steach a'curson cursa nabhigeisiun a' tha am B.B.C. agus Comhairle Foghlum Shealtain a' cròladh air V.H.F. Bithidh fìchead leasan sa chursa agus 's Mrs J. Williamson Gheibh na b'òileannach leabh-Gheibh na h-òileannach leabh-Gheibh na uidhean eile air isad bh' ann Shealtain a' ch' fòumaid' muintir Arcaibh air m' d'èidhinn bursaraidh dhaibh fein. Sann air Diciadain air 10 mh de Fhaoilleach a' tha a' cheud phrogram ach bithidh so air ath cròladh air la na Sabaid



float by an incoming tide. Then the great mass is tethered to a rope and towed into the loch to where the plant is situated.

In other areas, distant from the plant, the seaweed harvest is carried in baskets

crofters would, without doubt, make a difference in the economic, social, and employment aspects of Harris and the Lewis.

(Photographs by Angus MacArthur)



When the Duke of Edinburgh visited the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Highlanders in Berlin recently he met 25-year-old Private John MacMurray, of Fort William, who was being shown how to use a mortar. Dressed in the uniform of a field-marshal, the Duke had lunch with the battalion, whose Colonel-in-Chief he is, and spent the rest of the afternoon with them before flying off to visit units with which he is connected in the British Army of the Rhine.

Private MacMurray's guardian, Mrs A. McNaughton, lives at 10 Burnsides, Muirsherrich, Banavie, Fort William.

Alba, 1967

Chan eil teagamh ann nach e an rud as cudthromiche thaclair ann an Alba air a' bhliadhna chaidh seachd gun do thagh muinntir Hamilton a' Bhean-uinn Ewing gu bhith na ball-parlaimaid aca. Mura robh sinn a' creidsinn seo roimhe feumaidh sinn a chreidsinn: a nis.

Seall an t-arrachadh a rinn e air na buill-parlaimaid Albannach. Bha an da buidhinn mhoir roimhe seo coltach ri da bhuidhinn ball-coise (football teams) ann an league leatha fhein. Cha robh cumart ann bho bhuidhinn sin bith eile ach gun bithheadh eagal orra, an drasda's a rithis, gun eireadh na Libearailich as an darna roinn (division). Dh' fhaodadh iad na riaghailtean cluiche a dheanadh suas eatorra fhein gun guth air duine eile. Ach a nis tha cumart ann gun bithheadh eileagiarraidh cluiche cuideachd agus cheud dha na seoid sinn Alba ann an Tigh na Parlaimaid a nis agus, mar a chaidh innse anns an "Scotsman" air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, rinn an ceasnachadh seo soilleir gun do chosg a' Rìgha-tha £580mullainn air contractan ceangailte ri obair dìon (defence) ann an Sasainn agus nach do chosg iad ach £25mullainn ann an Alba airson na h-obrach seo. Cha robh guth air agus a' bha iad air innse dhuinn cho math dèidh agus a' bha sinn leis an ubhair seo mhillean de rathad mu' choimheann gach bodaich air a' Ghaidhealtachd.

Ge brìg de thachras aig an ath thaghadh-parlaimaid a' e math dha'n luchd-riaghaild buile, nar a' fhuair iad ann an Hamilton, fhaighinn an drasda's a rithis. Tha seo a' cumail 'nan cumhne gur eil na slough saor aig a' bheil am beachdan agus an tur fhein chaidh an taghadh agus nach leig iad a' bheas saoilinn gun creid sinn a' h-uile guth a' thig as am leas.

Agus rud eile. A' bheil sibh a' smaoin: teachadh gun teid nas lugha eirid a' chosg air Alba no nas lugha dheanadh airson Alba leis gun d' fhuair ball-parlaimaid Naiseantach a' stigh gu Tigh na Parlaimaid? Fao daidh sinn a' cheist chur air doigh eile. A' bheil sibh a' smaoin: teachadh gun bithheadh ubhair a' dh' aibre aig na daoine mora anns an Rìgha-tha air Alba nar robh an Soisealach air fhaighinn a' stigh ann an Hamilton, gun guth air an Toraidh?

Feumaidh buill gach buidhinn beachdachadh air a' cheist seo.

Escape To The H. & I.

Lacking but a fanfare of trumpets, the Highlands and Islands Development Board blew the old year of 1967 out on a blast of welcome, calling on faithful tourists to spend a few weeks' retreat in Britain's (nav. Europe's) sanctum: the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Following hot on the heels of Frank Thomson's announcement of computerisation in the holiday market, the Board's endeavours bear some close scrutiny. From one viewpoint, it looks as though the Board's package hand-out of tourist literature and information may well cause many hundreds and thousands of people to flock to the area during this and some subsequent years.

Some of the questions to be asked at the moment are: Are the Highlands and Islands quite ready for the influx of tourists which the Board expects? Where are the Board's chairs of large hotels? Are the potential tourists really aware of the fact that the area, so far as holidays are concerned, has certain demands which the tourist must satisfy? Sabbath observance, for instance, may well result in a jaundiced viewpoint from the tourists, who may not realise that it is in fact part of a way of life.

Looking through the Board's glossy literature, one is made gradually aware of an omission. There are purple patches galore, extolling the scenic attractions of the Highlands and Islands. But where, oh where, are the mentions of the people (the natives)? Surely one of the attractions of the area for the tourists is that there live communities with very definite views on life, or living, with a different cultural background and language. Scotland has something which England has not: Gaelic.

So come off it, Board! Let's have a range of tourist literature which gives full credit to the area for having things so different (and refreshingly so!) from other Anglified parts of the United Kingdoms. Of course, the blame may not necessarily be placed at the Board's door in Castle Wynd. More likely, it should be placed on the doorstep of 2 Rutland Place, Edinburgh, where lives in a parlous state the Scottish Tourist Board.

But the H.I.D.B., being an accessory to the literature's birth and dissemination, must at least share some of the blame. To ignore as it has the characteristics of the area over which it has been given authority is little short of criminal.

HIGHLANDS IN THE FUTURE

The Highlands and Islands are well-known for the 'second sight.' Sruth threw out a challenge to a number of people, most of whom are household names in the Highlands, to look into the crystal ball of their choice and say what the Highlands would be like in a hundred years from now, or as far ahead as they had the courage to look. The response to the challenge has been encouraging. We print today the first of an occasional series of articles on the subject of 'The Highlands in the Future.' The first article is by Douglas Shaw, Highlands Area Officer of the Scottish Council, Development and Industry.

"Depopulated areas," "Closure of railway lines," "High unemployment," "Factory closure," and so on. Looking around us now in 2067 it is difficult to believe that phrases like these were ever used to describe the Highlands in the mid 20th century. What has happened in the 100 years to solve the Highland problem and transform this area into the prosperous, productive and populous place it is today?

The Highland problem was debated much in the early twentieth century. The bitterness of previous centuries still lingered in a strange way and though perhaps only sub-consciously present in Government it was discernible in the patronising attitude taken by even lowland Scots. In any age of increasing industrialisation and the rapid spread of technology in industry the population centres of the South, very often the South of England too, became the economic growth point of the country.

The Highlands lost population, very often the youngest and ablest of the new generation, economically the area was poor and the prospering sector of the economy, manufacturing, was noticeable by its absence.

What changed this situation so radically? This area after all had never been economically abreast of the rest of these islands but it had been at least capable of supporting a larger population and to a great extent self sufficient. Was such an aim as economic recovery followed by repopulation a pious hope, an unrealistic wish? The answer is clear to us in this second half of the 21st century but to those in the latter half of the 20th century who strove towards an ideal it required great faith, determination and sense of purpose.

The analyses of the Highland problem, the definition of the area of the Highlands, the suggestions for solutions all were the subject of reams of paper, the result of numerous committees' deliberations. Some of the solutions — the attraction of industry, the development of the fishing industry, encouragement of forestry, were tackled in too haphazard a manner. Lacking entirely was any means of ensuring that the Highlands could tap directly, and if possible, before anyone else, the latest discoveries and developments in technology which were relevant to the area's own particular needs.

Highland Research Institute

How this has been achieved is a matter of common knowledge. We can now accept here in Inverness the existence of a

world renowned Highland Research Institute — the "largest" in the world geographically speaking, with its three outlying units at Thurso (meteorology and mineralogy), Stornoway (Oceanography), Fort William (Forestry and Agriculture). The Inverness Institute itself made its name with its work in the latter part of the last century on transport and communications, and most notably for its land use programmes which have now been so adequately justified.

It was a great experiment in linking research to practical application, in a partnership which involved both Government and industry and most of all in gaining the co-operation and wholehearted support of the people of the Highlands. It worked because there was a substantial Government Exchequer Grant provided as a long term investment on which no early returns were expected. It worked because the majority of the Highlands were prepared to turn their backs on the past and look to the future.

In this age of universal synthetics, more minerals are being won from the Highlands than ever before, more are being processed in the region. The huge plant near Thurso is the most advanced in the world for extracting minerals from sea water. The associated industries in that area sprang up as a direct result of that plant and, of course, the superb intercontinental links which are so close via the Scandinavian Orbital Flight Terminal.

There is nowhere else in the world so advanced in producing food from the sea as the Isle of Lewis. The extensive studies of their Oceanographic Institute have given them the means of truly farming the sea. The processing factories send their products to world wide destinations via the now somewhat dated sub-orbital transporters. In volume, quality and regularity of supply these products of what used to be called fishing are world renowned.

The timber lands of the mainlands are the envy of our continental neighbours. There is not yet a more efficient means of converting the energy of the

sun for mankind's use. A hundred years ago a few realised the importance of timber but unbelievably it was used for furniture, house building and even sold for burning. Now the chemical uses for which timber can be a raw material gain in importance yearly. The complex of industries in the Fort William area is based on this resource.

This was helped considerably by the land use surveys, scientifically based, which were the first work of the Inverness Institute — this resulted in general terms in very large areas being dedicated to forestry entirely with account only being taken of the uses of high ground and of tourism — marginal farming was largely excluded. The chemical complex at Fort William is based on a natural resource more efficiently handled than anywhere else and an enlightened decision of land use being taken in advance of any other country.

Leisure

People worked for many more hours 100 years ago. Even then they were developing use for their leisure time. Today, we are used to travelling extensively and the costs of doing so are small by comparison to the costs our great grandfathers had to pay. The attraction of climate becomes therefore more important in deciding where holidays are to be spent and ultimately where industry is located.

That the Highland Tourist Industry is still an important part of the economy of the area is due almost entirely to researches into weather control which have achieved a degree of control though small nevertheless significant. In our oceanic climate we have an asset which even in 2067 we are only beginning to realise. The work done to date by the Institute in Thurso has helped the tourist industry, the growth rate of trees, the intensive agricultural/horticultural complexes on the Eastern Lowlands and the efficiency of Hydro-electric/Friction Power station links.

Much of this article may seem to consist of superlatives — that is how I see the industrial scene in the Highlands in the mid 21st century. For efficient, advanced and economic exploitation of its natural resources there are few areas in the world to compare with this one. The result is a stable population, enjoying a very high standard of living, opportunities for all and a positive contribution to the world's economy.

What might have happened to this area if there had been a continuation by Government and others of attempted application of policies and remedies designed for other circumstances and communities does

(Continued on Page Twelve)

woman to woman

High up the table in the "unusual jobs" league is the part-time occupation of a panel of two dozen housewives who all possess an extraordinary sense of taste.

Every day members of the panel visit a small laboratory at the headquarters of the giant Glaxo organisation at Greenford (Middlesex) to taste samples of infant and invalid foods. By reason of their special food perception, they are able to assess the effect of different processes, storage and packing conditions on the flavour and quality of food products. The panel's task is to taste and report on food samples produced and stored under these varying conditions, and to submit a detailed analysis of their reports are correlated with the research programme.

Tasting sessions are held on two mornings and five afternoons each week, and normally last an hour. Panels for each session usually consist of six members drawn from the panel of housewives who live within a five-mile radius of the factory. They normally attend sessions twice a week. Some samples are prepared and submitted to the panel for Glaxo's milk-drying factory, but most of the tests are carried out on the same batch of food produced by a pilot plant in the factory's food technology section or during trials elsewhere.

Some samples are stored at different temperatures under controlled conditions for varying periods of time. The samples are delivered to the preparation room which is also used for discussions between members of the panels and the staff conducting the tests. Here also the samples are prepared (by reconstitution in water, or other means if necessary) when needed by the tasters.

When ready, liquid samples are drawn into white polystyrene disposable cups (of which about 1,500 are used each week), and presented to the panelists. They sit in individual booths in a room into which air is drawn through a roof filter, to eliminate extraneous odours which could easily prevent any precise assessment of the taste and smell of many samples.

For each session panel members assemble in the preparation room, where they are briefed about the particular tests to be done, and are provided with forms on which they are to enter their comments, together with an appropriate scale of features which refer to degree of difference between one sample and another.

After the briefing, the members enter their individual booths where samples are passed to them through the hatches of the booths, whose lights can be adjusted from a control panel in the preparation room. Lighting in red, green, blue or "white"—or any combination of these in varying intensities—ensures that there is no visual difference between samples.

In order that the information

gained from these tests can be properly used for research purposes the panelists have to be trained, although before that they will have undergone some simple tests to assess their senses of smell and taste.

Their acceptance means that they have good flavour "memories," and are sensitive to particular "flavours" in which the laboratory is interested—flavours such as "stale," "tallowy," "cheesy," which to the scientist are much more useful descriptions than "stuffy" or "nasty." Panel members are trained to identify and describe these flavours and then to identify one flavour in the presence of another.

In addition to tasting samples, panel members also test for smell. For a product may look and taste satisfactory, but the smell on opening its container may be unpleasant. This is only one factor among many to be considered when developing a new product. The panel members also test samples to see how easily they can be prepared in the home.

The laboratory staff try to keep the volunteer tasters together in panels of six so that the same group of people can test a sample from the same batch of food powder at intervals of as long as 12 months or more. Each series of tests is normally repeated once or twice in order to improve the statistical value of the information gained. Statistical analysis of the results of the panels' tests are carried, and provide the information needed to evaluate the many experiments carried out by the company's food technologist in an effort to maintain their reputation for quality products such as the baby foods, Ostermilk and Farex, which have become household names in many parts of the world.

★ ★ ★

Perfume Offer

Max Factor's *Exuberance*—already successful as a bath and toilet fragrance—is now available as a perfume in an introductory offer exclusive to users of *Creme Puff*.

No woman can resist the temptation of a new perfume, and this once-in-a-lifetime offer of a phial of Max Factor's *Exuberance* perfume with each *Creme Puff Refill* will be irresistible.

Creme Puff Refills come in four popular shades, and each one is attached to a card with a phial of *Exuberance*.

The refill costs only 5/1d, and it will be on sale at cosmetic counters of stores and

shops from the middle of January. Why not spoil yourself?

★ ★ ★

Angel Cheesecake

There are many recipes for cheesecake, but here is something completely different and, because of its many flavours, it is a recipe which should appeal to all the family:—

For 6 Persons (Ingredients):
Crust — 6 oz. crushed digestive biscuits, 2oz. castor sugar, 1 tsp. melted spice, 2 oz. melted butter.
Cheese Filling — ½ tin plim cherries, 1 lb. cream cheese, 2 eggs beaten, 3 oz. vanilla sugar, 2 egg whites.

Combine all the ingredients well and line the bottom and sides of a 9-inch pie dish and leave to set.

Filling: Spread a thin layer of cherries on the bottom of the pie crust. Blend the cheese until soft; add vanilla sugar and beat for a while, then add the beaten eggs and continue beating until you have a smooth and creamy mixture. Pour into the pie crust and bake for 75 minutes at 350°F. (Stage 4). Blend the sour cream with 1 tbspn. of sugar and spread over the cheese layer (after it has been allowed to cool and set). Beat the egg whites and over the sour cream. Turn for 10 to 15 minutes until golden.

Leave to set before serving.

★ ★ ★

Beauty and Protection

Lip Gloss has been a "must" with top models and smart girls for some years as an established beauty aid for imparting a high gloss to the lips.

Now, this cosmetic is being introduced in a new, improved, medicated formulation in an easy-to-use lipstick shape and size.

As well as giving a high gloss to the lips, *Lip Gloss Stick* protects; it provides a smooth, creamy base when worn under lipstick, and it helps to protect the lips against dryness and chapping.

The new *Lip Gloss Stick* comes in a lipstick-style gilt container in a clear, decorated plastic case. It costs 5/5d from Max Factor, and is now obtainable at cosmetic counters of large stores, and should be on sale at chemists throughout the country by the middle of January.

Review Order

TWO NEW BOOKS

Two new books from the Press of Caithness Books add point to the fact that the small private-enterprise publisher can produce a significant slice of Scottish publishing. The first is *The Life of the Fossil Fishes of the Massif and other apathetic reluctance of Scottish publishers to publish Scottish authors* by J. A. Williamson. This is the story of the Thurso bakers who was thought more than a little mad to be going about the country observing and collecting insects, plant life and rocks. Dick's life is in many ways typical of the kind of activity which was carried on by public or other field activities added to the name of Scots learning throughout the world, and especially in Europe. His contributions to science are perhaps not so well known to-day except among those whose interests take in fossils and botany. But there is no reason why Scots chemists should not be introduced to Dick, and countless other Scots who in one way or another gave something significant to the world.

But author and publisher are to be congratulated in producing this booklet, to sound aloud the name of Robert Dick, (the Thurso) baker who made real sacrifices on the altar of his deep interests. This should surely be standard reading in all classrooms in Caithness, not in all Scotland. Scots pioneers are too often ignored by teachers in Scottish classrooms. They can start with Dick.

Caithness Notebook No. 6 deals with a related subject: "The Fossil Fishes of Caithness." Now, one might say, this is too dry for general reading. But it is not at all. This is a book which will be useful for tourists, even those who have a limited time to spend in Caithness, as well as those favoured by the wealth of fossil fish material—which is there for the collecting.

It is much more interesting to have the forenoon of a holiday cast of a fern leaf which existed many millions of years ago than the usual cheap guide bauble (usually made in Hong Kong) which too often passes for a local memento. Added to this, there is interest of having found the fossil locally.

For those who want a simple yet effective introduction to fossils, Saxton's book fills the bill. One chapter of the book gives details of the localities in Caithness and Orkney, together with modern details of some of the classical localities in other parts of the Northern Highlands. Lists of fossils at many localities have been brought up-to-date; and of this information has never been published before, and should be of value to professional and amateur alike.

A brief glossary of the Middle Old Red Sandstone is given, together with lists of diagnostic fossils to enable correlations to be made between different localities. One chapter is devoted to an illustrated monograph of the fossil fishes, based on the most up-to-date information available. Synonyms are given to enable readers to correlate the usage of different authors. There is a section on simple identification rules which should be useful to beginners for identifying as well as to collectors. Tools and methods of preparing specimens are covered.

This is the kind of book which other Counties and towns in the north could well produce. The material in a handy form as this, is cheap, yet well-published, and is just the thing for keeping in the car when driving through the North of Scotland.

"The Life of Robert Dick," by J. A. Williamson, 4/-, plus 6d postage.

"The Fossil Fishes of Caithness," by J. Saxton, 3/6d, plus 6d postage. Available from Caithness Books, 1 Bank Street, Thurso, Caithness, Scotland.

THE INDUSTRIAL HIGHLANDS

In a new pamphlet published by the Gaelic Information Centre's Committee of An Comunn Gàidhealach, Douglas Shaw, representative in Inverness of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry), paints an unusual canvas of the Highlands.

It would be unfair in a short review to merely quote a few snippets of this excellent article, since the length is available at a cost of four pence from Aberthart House, Inverness. But one or two points can be made:

First, there is the significant expression of faith in the ability of the Highlands to contribute something significant to the Scottish and British economy. Secondly, that in fact the Highlands are already "industrial" to a certain extent, though the industrial entrepreneur is unfortunately not the visible one. Lastly, one quote:—

"Without in any way spoiling the great natural beauty of the area, much can be done to exploit the economic advantages where they do exist. It is certain that unless this does happen, and the expression 'the industrial Highlands' becomes less obviously a contradiction in terms, it will probably be more accurate to write in twenty years' time of the deserted Highlands."

OSSIAN

"*Ossian, 1968*," is the annual of the Glasgow University Ossianic Society. It contains articles, stories and poetry in both Gaelic and English. A useful article, "Our Last Chance—Again." This surveys the two years of existence of the Highlands and Islands Development Board. One or two useful opinions are displayed here, interesting, perhaps, because their source is presumably Glasgow.

Ronald Black, *Ossian's* Editor, interviews the 1967 Mod bard, Norman Macdonn. This gives an interesting insight into the man who made Mod history. The mystery of Ceol Mòr is dispelled by a final chapter, a useful article which explains the misuse of the pipes which is, in fact, often a mystery to listeners. MacNeill's article should read as if those who tune-in occasionally to the B.B.C. radio to listen to pipe playing.

The Gaelic content is mainly confined to the first two issues, for purely Glasgow county production items in Gaelic on the topics written about in English. However, the immensely useful, however, "Ghaidh Mo Mhurchadh Gu Muir," by Murdo MacFarlane of Melbost. Also, in a review of Derrick S. Thomson's "Fadar Samhraidh Foghar," the reviewer offers an analysis of some of the poems and Thomson's style as a poet. Altogether, an interesting edition of *Ossian* which is recommended, and is available from Glasgow University Ossianic Society, at 8 Southbars Terrace, Glasgow, W.2. The price is 2/6d, plus postage.

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NEW FISHING NETS ORDER

From January 1, 1968, the minimum mesh for seine nets in dismembered waters, excluding the Forth area, is being increased to 110 mm. so as to establish a uniform size for seine nets in these waters. This is the result of the Sea Fishing Industry (Nets on British and Foreign Fishing Boats) Order, 1967, which has been made by the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Home Secretary.

Three more species (capelin, herring, mackerel and blue whiting) are being added to the list of fish which may be caught by shell mesh nets in certain areas; this will provide wider scope for industrial fishing. The use of an additional type of top-side chafer designed to protect nets from other boats is also authorised by the Order.

8. — Songs of the Gael

Cailin Mo Smuain



1. Cailin òg, reul nan ainmhir,
Gruagach mhaiseach sgeul mo dhàin,
'S e mo rùn bhì far an suidh thu:
Miann mo chridh' bhì leat gach là.
2. 'Nuair a b' òg mi thug mi luaidh dhuit
Sin bha dualach dhomh am phòisid:
Dh' altramadh sinn òg le chèile,
Ceum air cheum an càidreamh gràidh.
3. 'Aomhneach sinn am blath na h-òige,
Sunndach, solasach gach là:
'Leum 's a' ruait, a' seinn 's a' comhradh:
'B' and ar seirm 's bh' bhinn ar gair.
4. Tha do ghruaidh mar ubhal bhiodh
abach,
Do ubhad seol mar chunach bhàich:
Do chùil-dualach donn mar dhàrach,
'S do shùil ghorm mar thonn na tràigh.
5. Tha do phearsa 's d' ionghaigh maiseach
Tha do nàdur sìobhalt cùin:
'S iric bheir thu 'nam bhruadar cadail
Orm a' suain bhios seimh gu'n diùg.
6. Tha do ghuth mar chèil na fìdhle,
Tha do chridh' làn gear is gràidh:
Tha do nàdur baidheil usal,
Is do ghlasud saicre a' ghnàih.
7. Mar a dh' fhasas clann 'nan daoine
'Siomadh caochlaidh thig 'nan gnàths,
Ach am feas' cha chlaon mo ghàths,
Bì mi dileas dhuit gu bràth.
8. 'S tu mo phìuthar 's mi do bhràthair,
Tha ar càirdes dluth is teann:
'S geat nach fhaic mi'n dùgh air fàir thu,
Slantè 's sonas dhuit gach àm.

Eòin Dòmhallach (Na facail)
Prionnsas MacThomais (An Ceol)

faisg air an
t-sruthan

POPPY

(Papaver Rhoeas)

Gaelic: Meilbheag,
sometimes Beilbheag
(a little pestle).

A plant containing milky juice which is poisonous to animals. It grows from one to two feet high, with spreading hairs on the leaves and flower stalks. The Poppy is a common weed in cornfields throughout Britain.

The juice was formerly put into children's food to make them sleep.

MAIREAD.

BRUSH UP YOUR GAELIC

with TORMOD

(A series of lessons on basic Gaelic)

Under each Gaelic sentence or phrase you will find an English translation and a guide to pronunciation.

Thù—singular or familiar form.
Sibh—plural or polite form.

Lesson 18

The irregular verb 'cluinn', compared with the regular verb 'seinn'.

Seinn seo. Cluinn seo.
Sing this. Hear (listen to) this.
Shine sho. Cloo-eann tin.

'A seinn. Tha mi 'a' cluinntinn rud-eigin.
I hear something.

Hia mee a'cloo-eann-tin root-ig-in.

A sheinn. De tha sinn 'a' dol a' chluinn a'inn?
What are we going to hear?

Jay ha sheen a-dol a'chloo-eann-tin?

Sheinn mi. Chuala mi na naidheachdan air an t-sèachdain seo
chaidh.

I heard the news last week.
Choo-a-la mee na nigh-achk-an air an tchackean sho cha-wi.

An do sheinn mi? An cuala tu eigin?
Did you hear a knock?
An coo-a-la too grock.

Cha do sheinn mi. Cha chuala mi gun robh thu tinn.
I did not hear that you were ill.
Cha choo-a-la mee gun ro oo cheenn.

Seinnidh mi. Cluinidh sinn bhò Ghilleasbuig gun dail.
We shall hear from Archie without delay.

Cloony sheenn yo Veel-ace-bick gun dail.

An seinn mi? An cluinn sinn Murchadh air a' phìob-mhòr?
Shall we hear Mr Murdoch on the bagpipes?

An cloo-eann sheenn Mooru-choo air a-fee-p-vore?

Cha seinn mi. Cha chluinn sibh bhuan.
You will not hear from me.
Cha chloo-eann sheev voo-am.

Note also:
Cha chuala sinn dad sam bith.
We did not hear anything.
Cha choo-a-la sheenn dad sam bee.

Am faca tu riamh a leithid?
Did you ever see anything like it?
Am fackh-a too ree-av a-layth?

Chan fhaca mi riamh e agus an seo.
I never saw it till now.
Chan achk-a mee ree-av e agus an sho.

UNEMPLOYMENT
FIGURES

The number of wholly unemployed people (excluding school leavers) registered at Employment Exchanges and Youth Employment Offices in Scotland on December 11, 1967, was 83,465 (61,581 men, 1,892 boys, 18,563 women and 1,429 girls), announces the Ministry of Labour. Seasonally adjusted, the figure was about 80,700 or 3.7 per cent. of the estimated number of employees. Four weeks previously, on November 13, 1967, the percentage was 3.8 and in December, 1966, it was 3.2.

The number of registered unemployed school leavers on December 11, 1967, was 409.

The number of temporarily stopped workers registered on December 11 was 2,355 (2,003 men, 94 boys, 231 women and 27 girls). This was 386 fewer than on November 13.

The total number of people registered as unemployed on December 11 was 86,229 (63,584 men, 2,237 boys, 18,794 women and 1,614 girls), or 3.9 per cent. of the estimated total of employees. On November 13, the percentage was 3.9, in December, 1966, it was 3.6.

Do You Know?

1. What is the motto of Clan MacKinnon?
2. Who was the First Principal of Lewis Castle College?
3. What is the Hebridean population?
4. When did St Columba come to the little Island of Iona?
5. Co rinn bardach "Clarsach an Doire"?
6. Cuir Gaidhlig air "ZEBRA"?

ANSWERS

1. Fortune favours the brave. (Tha fortan an cuideachd nan treun).
2. Col. John MacSween, O.B.E., D.L., M.A., J.P.
3. About 80,000 persons.
4. In 563 A.D.
5. Niall MacLeòid, a rugadh an Glèann Dal, anns a bhliadhna 1843.
6. An asal-stiallach.

Military Flowers

(In a changing scene)

by Keith Murdoch
Blocks of a hundred men:
Edinburgh Tattoos:
a cùilidh-cum-parade for you.

Snap-movement men in a suburb-stretching city.
Longstretched songs:
gritty.

Towns remain more constant than a hundred flowers in a block of a hundred trees. Their unchanging scene affects man.

Military movements remain history:
made more constant than flowers, if you please, by parades; with blocks of a hundred men.

MORE POWER FOR HEBRIDES

The North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board is seeking the consent of the Secretary of State for Scotland to increase the capacity of its Daliburgh diesel engine power station to meet rising demand in South Uist, Barra, and Benbecula, and to serve the expected further demand in the North Uist, when that island comes on supply. At the moment, Daliburgh

power station contains seven diesel generators, with a total installed capacity of 3,470 kilowatts. Capacity is being increased to 4,570 kilowatts. A submarine cable some 700 yards long, costing £11,000, has been laid across the North Ford from Benbecula to North Uist, and work is in hand erecting the extensive distribution network in North Uist.

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The Scottish

The first will probably be the Treaty of Falaise 1174 between William the Lion of Scotland and Henry II of England. In the Scottish Realm, MacNeill writes:—"But it is clear from the nature of the known limitations on the power of the Scots King, and the examples of the renunciation by the Scots of Royal Edicts, that William had no authority of any kind in Scots Law to surrender the freedom of his country. Even when Baliol surrendered his kingdom with the concurrence of the Scots nobility, the Scots people maintained their complete independence, as they did when Edward Baliol later attempted a similar betrayal of his countrymen. Even in comparatively minor points of domestic law, we shall see later instances of the Scots Parliament warning all officers and sheriffs not to give effect to Royal Warrants which conflicted with the Common Law... The seal of William to the Treaty of Falaise was no more valid in Scots Law than the seal or signature of the wildest cateran."

Innes states in "Scottish Legal Antiquities," p. 156, that "the clansman's right to his land was as inalienable as the chiefs." The wealth produced on clan lands was primarily the property of the producers; such part of it—and often it was a considerable part—as went to non-producers, such as the chief, went not as rent, as to a feudal lord, but as stipend or ratification to the chief in return for his services, inclusive of all cost of government, local and national. Such duties as went to the Crown came as part of the chief's allowance and were not normally a special levy on the clansmen.

If the seal or signature of William to the Treaty of Falaise was not valid in Scots Law as a clan of Celtic tradition, said to have been original inhabitants of clan lands identifiable to-day, make an effective claim now to such clan lands?

MacNeill again—page 71—"If Parliament passed an illegal act, the executive could not shelter behind that act; if the executive tried to enforce it, they were themselves guilty of an illegality; similarly there was no obligation upon the judiciary to uphold such an act."

Lord MacMillan, in his essay on "Scots Law in a Scotsman's Heritage," quotes Lord Dundin with approval—"The fundamental difference between the Common Law of England and that of Scotland lies in this: that in England you have to find the remedy in order to discover the right, whereas in Scotland you have to find the right in order to discover the remedy."

In 1372, the Scots Parlia-

ment re-enacted the prohibition against enforcing a Royal Writ not conforming to Common Law. By that time there were in existence

Glan

numerous (feudal) charters purporting to make outright sale of specified lands, with the price commuted in to a perpetual annuity. Can these be shown now to be illegal, being in conflict with Common Law?

Act of 1469 proceeded to indicate the steps whereby a creditor might take possession of bonded land. King's "Feudalism in Scotland," page 61—"There followed a period during which the feudal barons acquired by deceit and corruption most of the lands which they had omitted to get by violence." Through this Act and another also passed in 1469 much of the land of Scotland passed into the hands of the nobility and the Church, and to the impoverishment of the people. Many of the latter refused to become cottars or feudal tenants but, striving to retain the rights under the native law, became what Parliament so often calls "idle and masterful beggars."

As the people had rights to land occupation under Common Law, can it now be shown the Acts of 1469 are illegal?

In 1603 James VI of Scotland became James I of Great Britain, and acquired the comparatively immense fortune which attached to the English Crown. Large sums of this money he used to buy support from public men in Scotland; other men were given titles and estates in England where the principle of feudal rent was unquestioned. So James and many of the Scots nobles and gentry set themselves, as their forefathers had done, to undermine the native Scots economic—and, incidentally, political—system and to substitute the feudal. Their course was clear; they had to smother, first, the political machine, i.e., Parliament; and, second, the Kirk; that done, Scotland's wealth would be in their hands." (MacNeill—"The Scottish Realm," page 179).

There was a further onslaught on the Clan System so far as it remained in operation. It is wrong to think that all clansmen remained within the clan territories. James VI set himself to destroy the clan organisation with all that it stood for, politically, economically and legally. From the Acts of 1587 and 1594 it is apparent that the great bulk of the land and of the people still adhered more or less to the clan system. Can it be shown now these Acts were

contrary to Common Law and therefore illegal?

In 1707 was the Union of the Crowns. Article XVIII declares that, with certain exceptions, the laws of Scotland should remain as then in use.

Article XX provides that heritable jurisdictions be continued.

Can it be shown now that Common Law land tenure should apply?

The Heritable Jurisdictions Act of 1748 sought to

System

By A. A. MacInnes

complete the destruction of the Clan System (1) by converting the chiefs into feudal landowners, and (2) by destroying the powers of co-operation between the chiefs and their men. The chiefs who refused were forced into exile, their lands being disposed of in feudal tenure to outsiders.

Can it be shown now that the Act of 1748 was illegal?

After the Clearances—1762 to 1842—the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act of 1866 provides (1) Security of Tenure to crofters and their descendants, and has been said to be a modern version of the system of land-holding in use among their forebears. It appears to me this does not give a true picture.

The Clan lands are not in possession of the Clans. Can it be shown the present owners are in illegal possession?

The crofters who benefit from the Crofters Act of 1866 are not in possession of the lands from which their forefathers were evicted.

Could claims be sustained now, to the lands from which people were evicted during the Clearances, by descendants of those evicted?

SCOTTISH ELECTRICITY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mr A. I. MacKenzie has been re-appointed by Mr William Ross, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, to be Deputy Chairman of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board for a further two years to December 31, 1969.

Other members who have been re-appointed to the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board for a three-year period to December 31, 1970 are—Lord MacDonald, Bailie Mrs A. S. Holway and Mr I. A. Dunlop.

Lord MacDonald is also re-appointed to the Chairmanship of the Electricity Consultative Council for the North of Scotland District, a position he has held since January 1, 1962.

Mr James Ballantyne has been re-appointed to the South of Scotland Electricity Board for the period to December 31, 1970. Councillor J. Kane, of Edinburgh, has been appointed to be a part-time member of that Board for the same period in succession to Councillor Sutherland, also of Edinburgh, whose term of office ended on December 31, 1967.

Weather review of 1967

(By Donald G. W. Hurry)

1967 will long be remembered in Lochaber for its heavy rainfall and absence of sunshine. The winter was extremely wet and very mild, with numerous gales while March alone had 16.1 inch rainfall. The Spring was much drier but rather cold and had far below the normal amount of sunshine. By June, the weather turned dry and warm with prolonged sunshine, but by the end of the month and all through July, wet, cold and cloudy conditions prevailed. August was much better, but did not have quite the sunshine or high temperatures required for a really good summer month. Autumn was very wet and on the cold side, and October had 13.7 inches of rain. The year ended rather cold and sleety. To sum up 1967 in two words: it was cold and wet.

The highest temperature recorded was 74 deg. F. on June 25, while the lowest was 16 deg. F. or 16 degrees of frost on the morning of December 9th. Total rainfall for the year was 81.4 inches, which is far above normal for Lochy Bridge. Fort William is often quoted as having normally 80 inches of rain per year, which is perfectly correct, but Lochy Bridge is some 10 inches drier. Had the old readings been kept up at the Low Level Observatory, I am sure around 90 inches of rainfall would have been recorded in 1967.

At the top of Glen Nevis, around 120 inches was recorded. However, the mean temperature for the year was only a little below average—the mild winter offset the low summer temperatures.

As will be obvious, westerly winds dominated last year, bringing plenty of cold and rain.

1967 was the worst year of weather since 1961, which was rather worse, and this last summer was almost perfect compared with 1961. Snowfall was very light in 1967 and, strangely enough, mostly confined to early Spring.

As I predicted in November, the very wet westerly

HEAVY SNOWFALLS ENCOURAGE SKIERS

More than eight inches of snow which fell in the Central Highlands last week-end was welcomed by skiers who flocked to the slopes. Unfortunately, the Scottish Ski Club found it necessary to cancel its first race, the Thistle Trophy, because of lack of a suitable ski area, but if the present cold spell continues and more snow falls, all winter sports areas should soon be ready to cope with the expected numbers of skiers.

weather has come to an end, and northerly winds and cold spells have become dominant. I predict that the cold weather will continue right through January and February. This will benefit us next summer, since this year should be dominated by Continental air-streams more than usual, and as a result a marked improvement should occur on recent years, both as regards rainfall and temperature.

Sea Fishing Law Committee

A committee has been set up to examine the law governing this sea fishing in Scottish coastal waters and enforcement. This was announced by Mr William Ross, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, Chairman of the committee will be the Hon. Lord Cameron, D.S.C., Q.C., Senator of the College of Justice and former Chairman of the Advisory Panel on the Highlands and Islands.

The methods of fishing that may be carried on in inshore waters round the Scottish coast are regulated by a large body of legislation, both in acts and in bylaws, dating originally from 1855. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland operate a fleet of eight fishery cruisers to enforce this legislation, which was introduced largely to protect inshore fishermen who fished with lines from sailing boats, from the effects of steam trawlers. Since the introduction of trawlers, much more come ashore.

Today, trawling using beams or otter trawls is forbidden, generally within three miles from low water mark in Scotland and also in certain firths and bays, including the Moray Firth. Some exceptions have, however, been made, for example, to allow fishermen to trawl for mussels in certain areas and subject to particular conditions. Seine net fishing for white fish is also generally prohibited within the three-mile limit but relaxations have been allowed by bylaw in a number of areas in favour of the small boat fisherman.

The areas in which trawling and otter trawling are prohibited also happen to be the nursery grounds of certain varieties of fish and the system of regulation has also been made to allow for the need for conservation of the fish stocks.

Fishing vessels and fishing methods have changed over the years, and with altered circumstances and the greater complexity of the regulations it has become steadily more difficult to enforce them. The Secretary of State considers, therefore, that the time has come for a radical examination, in the light of present-day circumstances, of the whole system of regulation and its enforcement.

The committee's term of reference will be:

"To review the law governing the methods of sea fishing in Scottish coastal waters, having regard to the changing pattern of sea fishing, the requirements of fishing communities and the conservation of fish stocks; and the cost and method of enforcement, having regard to the state of the fisheries concerned, and the cost and effectiveness of alternative methods; and to make recommendations."

SGEULACHDAN NA CATLUC

Caitlhin Seonag Nic Dhomhnaill

(Nis Leodhas)

Sràidean fada glas, togalachan mòra cloiche a' sreap suas ris na neamhan, 'gan cail fheiaig aig ammanan amearag sgothan de cheo dhorch duhbu — ceò dhorch duhbu air a bheil a h-uile duine a chaidh a thogail suas anns a' bhaile min-eòlach — sin agnabh Glaschu, neo pàirt mhath dheit co-dhùibh. Tha seachad air deich cuibh mile duine a'fuireach ann an Glaschu is tha a'chuid mhòr duhbu sin a'fuireach anns na taighean mora aosda, grunnan theaghlach-each anns gach taigh.

Shuidh mi sìos is leig mi le bean-an-taighe sraon a' leigeil le h-inntinn.

"Cha bhi thu so fada gus an coinnich thu ris an t-uisge fuirreachd shìos an staidhire. Bhàsaich an duine aice mu'n àm seo an uridh." 'S tha i uamhasach anranach. 'Se sin mi bhàra-sa co dhùibh. Ach feuch thusa a leig i sin orrre. Bha factoraidh aig an duine aice is mar sin tha airgid gu leòr aice. Tha i saòilinn beagan cuideachd — pheant i taobh a muigh an doruis buidhe is tha i a' feuchainn ris na sgaindean a tha anns a' bhalla fhalaich le sìtheanan plastic is dealbhan. Tha i cho uairbheach, 's nach tig i steach a shealltainn air daoine comanta mar sinne ann.

An aite sin tha i ag obair le a muigh a'bhàile. Tha sin a'ur seachad beagan de'n uide dith, 's am beul na h-oidhche bhithidh i a' fighe cuileanan is piseagan beaga math a bhios i a' reic airson deich tasdain. 'Tha i a cur an airgid gu Oxfam. 'S iomadh uair a dh'iarr naise orrre a thighinn a chèilidh ach cha tig na taing air a shon.

Nise, shìos an staidhire tha Mrs Henry a'fuireach. Chan'eil ise buileach ciallach. Agus, cuimhnicheo, sa dh'inneas i dhut gu bheil a mac ann an sgoil mhòr faisg air Peart far am bi mic uaislean a'dol, na toir feart orrre. Tha e ann an sgoil am Peart gun teagamh, ach 'sann bhò ghabh e an t-òrdire 'sann nuair a bha e coig bliadhna deug. Cha robh ann ach an dearg bhleigeard. Chleachd sinn bhith 'ga chluinninn ag eìgheachd le eagal a' bhàis 'nuair a bhithheadh e tighinn a steach leis an deoch — 's bhìodh agam — sa 'nuair sin ri eirigh a mach — sa mo leabaich 's fàbhsios. Bha eagal aige romhamsa. Ach smaoinich thusa, cha robh e oidhche fuar 's gun e ach coig deug. 'S cha chanainn nach robh e ris na drugaichean cuideachd. Cha chuirinn cail seachad air an laoch ud. Ach can thusa cail mo dheidhinn 'na fianuis is chi thu de' an taing a gheibh thu. Tha a' ghrian ag ciridh 's a dol fodha air Philip.

Tha a phluthar a' fuireach anns an taigh cuideachd; 'se trughag bhòchd a h-innt. Tha i beò ann an saoghal leatha fhéin. Shuidh i an sud a latha 's a dh'oidhche ann an rum dhorch air cul an taighe, a' coimhead air an t-saoghal a'dol seachad. 'Se brisaidhridhe a h-innt, 's i cho beag 's cho aosd, a' turabannach leatha féin; facha chan'eil e ag radh ri duine. Tha mise de'n bheachd ach na can thusa seo ri duine beò gun do theachair rudéigin dhith 'nuair bha i ag. Tha beachd math agad de bh'ann cuideachd ach . . .

Bhithheadh i air cumail orrre gu meadhan—oidhche ach bha thide agam sa togail orm. Cha b'urrainn dhomh gun ionghadh a bhith orm ciamar a bha fios aice mu dheidhinn a h-uile duine bha fuirreachd anns an taigh mhòr ud. Bha mise an deigh bhith ann airson sia seachdainean 's cha robh mo shùil air buaidh air duine beò ach an teaghlach comhla ris an robh mi fuirreach. An dùil de bhìodh iad ag radh mu'm dheidhinn-sa.

Ach tha e coltach gu bheil mianach taighe Ghlaschu air fad mar sud. Tha fios aca air a h-uile cail mu dheidhinn nan daoine tha fuirreach faisg orra. Chan'eil iad a ciallachadh cran do dhùine ach dh'fhaodadh iad cron a dheanadh le'n cur-amach.

Souvenirs On Show

An exhibition of the wooden souvenirs popular in Scotland from about 1850 up until the first World War has opened at the Museum Gallery, the National Museum's annex at 18 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

Of yellow, varnished wood, with transfer engravings of local building and beauty spots on them, there is a wide variety of objects. They include banks, watch-stands, trinket boxes of all sorts, stamp boxes, book-covers, containers for tumblers and balls of wool and reels of cotton, for hairpins, and matches. The inkstands, egg cups and hair brushes were made with pictures as a reminder of visits to Dunkeld, or Rothsay, or Moffat.

A miniature social history of Victorian Scotland is contained in the souvenirs. Some are remarkably well preserved. The places tourists and holiday-makers visited can be traced, with special emphasis on the souvenirs sold in Burns' Cottage and Monument, and at Stirling Castle. Normally, the white syncrastic wood from which the earlier snuff boxes had been made is used. But often it is wood from places with romantic or literary associations — from woods round Abbotsoford, from Birnam Wood, or the banks of the Doon.

At this period there were no picture postcards, and both home Scots and exiles knew their native country at second-hand from these gifts.

The exhibition will remain open for two months at least, and owners of interesting specimens are invited to bring them for the Museum to see.

THE SALTIRE INTERNATIONAL AWARD

A sum of £125 and the Prince Charles Trophy will be awarded for the best composition of compositions for the Scottish bagpipe submitted by the 31st December, 1968, to the Secretary of the Saltire Society, the terms of the competition being as follows:—

1. The award will be for music for solo bagpipe which has not been published, entered for a previous competition or hitherto played in public.

2. Importance will be attached to originality of composition and style, and adherence to the rules of traditional pibroch is not considered necessary.

3. The winning award would probably have a playing time of about 10-15 minutes.

4. A written score is required, and a tape recording (not necessarily of the composer's own playing) would be helpful.

5. Up to three prizes will be awarded, the prizes being the number of entries, the winning prize being not less than £75. The sponsors, however, reserve the right not to make any award if in the opinion of the judges a sufficiently high standard is not attained.

6. The entry fee will be one guinea which will go towards the cost of administrative expenses incurred.

7. A panel of three judges will be set up, whose names will be announced in due course.

8. The Sponsors reserve the copyright, for which arrangements will be published before the closing date of the competition.

9. The Stirling Festival Committee has expressed the wish that the first public performance of the winning composition should take place at the Stirling Festival in May, 1969, played by a leading Scottish piper.

10. Entries should be sent, by 31 12.68, to the Secretary, the Saltire Society, Gladstone's Land, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, 1.

11. Entries will be submitted incognito to the panel of judges. It is therefore important that compositions should be unsigned and not identifiable by any handwriting, but accompanied by a covering letter, giving the composer's name and address.

The Sponsors are: An Comunn Gàidhealach, Abertarff House, Inverness (£25); The College of Piping, 20 Ottago Street, Glasgow, W.2 (The Prince Charles Trophy, an ancient silver replica of the Monument at Glenfinnan recently presented for this purpose by Captain Charles A. Hepburn); The Saltire Society, Gladstone's Land, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, 1 (£100); and the competition is being organised by the Saltire Society, Gladstone's Land, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, 1.

HIGHLANDS IN THE FUTURE

(Continued from Page Four)

Not bear thinking about? The adaptation at second hand of ideas and plans for other areas to fit the Highlands was commonplace a hundred years ago. Thank goodness for those who saw the way ahead clearly, worked for and implemented the necessary far reaching policies.

Thanks to those who dedicated themselves to achieving what was the very best for, and the most suited to the area, the Highlands are today amongst the most desirable locations in the world in which to live.

It's Time For A Rethink

Says WENDY WOOD

While I rejoice to see moderncroft houses with all "mod cons" as they should have, my pioneer spirit does not particularly envy the inhabitants. But if I see a ruinedcroft, I immediately want to rebuild walls, clear choked field drains, and mend the roof. It annoys me to hear so often of Sasachas from Sussex who have taken a desertedcroft at the back of nowhere, and make a living from it. Why do our own people go abroad to just such conditions when, if they would work at home, they could make a contribution to their own country? I suppose pioneering is in my blood.

My people went out to the Cape during the Boer War, where my mother (who till then had bought chops at the butchers), was confronted by the whole carcass of a sheep, and did not flinch. Indeed, at the age of 92, she looked at me with suspicion and said — "I hope you are not so thrifflous as to buy furniture-cream and boot-polish!"

I have no desire to manufacture my own soap, etc., but my interest on the lard remains. On a motor journey, I find my eyes surveying for drainage, planning shelter-belts and placing hayricks. Concerning the English landlords of glens, I sometimes think it is just as well that

they are "absentee," as the Highlander is inclined subconsciously to connote the owner of "the big house" with the thought of a chief, and give more deference than is due.

But even a good landlord can be a menace. Because the crofter who used to rely on tilling his land and raising stock for his livelihood, now lets his fields (which for generations had been nurtured to perfection on honest dung and seaweed) go back to rushes to act as an early bite for the laird's ewes, while the crofter makes a wage for the owner of the property.

It must seem very ungracious to say so, but it is nevertheless true: that if a foreign landlord is hospitable, he is likely to be doing harm by unconsciously deflecting loyalties and subtly eliminating the Highlander's natural culture. To my mind, the crofter's promise of compensation on possible departure is a poor exchange for independence and encouragement of owning actual land as well as the house and outbuildings.

It isn't just creeping rushes, or creeping sheep, it's a creeping exclusion of being ourselves, of coming under a foreign influence in thought and philosophy which Scotland can ill afford.

BLACK HEART-THE WARM HEATED RUM WITH THE SMOOTH DARK TASTE



AN RUMA BLATH-CHRIDHEACH AS TAITNICHE BLAS