

PROFIT IN A REMOTE AREA

Faith In Brora Works Justified

The Brora firm of Sutherland Bricks Ltd. revived 13 years ago with the aid of a substantial loan from the Highland Fund Ltd. has operated so successfully since that the loan has been redeemed almost in full.

The Highland Fund have now translated their interest in the brickworks to an investment in shares.

Brora Brickworks, which had been inoperative for many years, was revived in 1954 when the former M.P. for Caithness & Sutherland, Sir David Robertson, installed new plant in the works. It will be recalled that Sir David also saved the Brora coal pit when it was threatened with closure. The miners, also with financial assistance from the Highland Fund, took over the pit and have operated it successfully.

An excellent example of a

small works which by efficient and determined management operates profitably in a "remote" area. The brickworks now employs 28 men. It uses the dross from the nearby pit to heat the kilns.

Mr W. R. Sutherland, of Alexander Sutherland Ltd., the Golspie building contractors, who with Mr Stuart Sutherland was instrumental in saving the brickworks, has this week disposed of his shareholding to Mr W. Stuart Sutherland of Golspie, who becomes managing director. The other board members are Mr Hugh Fulton and Mr Douglas Stewart.

Representing the Highland Fund on the Board, Mr Stewart's wide experience of operating a small industry in a remote area has proved invaluable to the Sutherland Brickworks Ltd. during their period of expansion.



(Photo by T. B. MacAulay, Stornoway)

The infinite time of boyhood, the infinite patience of youth and, on the far horizon, an infinite world of opportunity. The crunch always comes when the economic shadow looms up with the advent of adulthood: to earn one's living at home or away. What will it be for this young lad of the Isles? A full life lived out in his native surroundings? Or the following, so poignantly said by Agnes Mure Mackenzie in "Island Moon":

"Perhaps the moon is shining for you in the far country?
But the skies there are not island skies!
You will not remember
The salt smell of the sea
And the little rain."

Wm. Grigor & Son Limited

20 HAMILTON STREET
INVERNESS. TEL. 34343



Inverness Cream
SCOTCH WHISKY

Papeir Ban Air Faraidhean

Tha cisean gu bhi air laraidhean is comblain ghoireasan bho £50 air laraidh 3 tunna gu £190 air laraidh os cionn 8 tunna gach bliadhna a reir a Phaipeir Bhain a chuir an Roinn Siubhail mur coinneamh. Nithear barrachd feum de threineichean airson luchdan agus theid nas lugha de fheuchainn (competition) a dheanamh eadar na seirbhisean aig an Rìghaltas, cuirear goireasan air adhart air a mhodh is fhearr. Tha na carbadan trom a denannamh droch mhilleadh air rathaidhean agus sann airson beagan a thoirt a steach mu choinneamh na còisais a tha na cisean ura. Ma bhios luchd buileach mor no trom air laraidh feumar faradh a bharrachd a phaigneadh dha reir a sineadh bho 1/- gu £15 sa mhìle is ma tha luchd thairis

air 16 tunna a dol corr is 100 mìle feumar a chuir air trein. Chan fhaod draibheir barrachd air 11 uair deug a dheanamh sa latha an aite na 14 an ceart uair. Se 9 a dh' fhaodas e bhi aig cuilbheall. Se gle bheag bhon taobh an lár a ni Glaschu dheth an latha ma thig so gu buil. An aite liens a, B is C se liens air leth a tha gu bhi ann agus an aon bhuidheann is urrainn cur an aghaidh na liens so se companaidhean an riaghaltas fhein. Chan fhaod an luchd guilain na còisais a chuir suas an ceart uair air ordain Bord nam Prisean. Tha a h-uile còisais a tha ann a sior dhol suas; chaidh am petrail shein, cis treinidh, còisais comblain ura 10% agus

S.E.T. Tha Bord Freit ga chuir air chois a ghabas thairis gach treine, bata is comblan a tha fo ughdarras an Transport Holding Company gus rian a chuir air cisean agus gnothuichean a dheanamh nas eifeachdaiche. Chanell guth a bheil dad a chuideachadh gu bhi aig aitean iomallach air duthcha, ach mar a bi se bhochdain da rìreabh a bhios ann. Chanell treineichean air an taobh an lár a ni feum nas ceannaidhean so. Se Paipair gun moran smoin a tha so ach tha e cumnartach gun dicheumhnichear gu bheil sluagh air an duthaich a cheart cho feumach air sealltainn as an deidh ri muinntir na bailtean mora. Cha d' fhaicir mi gu bheil pris idir a tighinn a nuas. Buille eile.

ELECT OR CO-OPT ?

SMUDGER

SRUTH

Thursday, 30th November 1967

Di-ardaoin, 30mh An t-Samhuinn 1967

Doigh-beatha agus Deoch

'S e gu bheil barrachd airgid aig daoine ann aobhar co-dhuibh airson iad a bhith ag ob barrachd. Mean air mhean tha a chuid mhor dhe 'n t-sluaigh a' mealtainn rudan nach robh riamh roimhe ach aig a h-uaislean — rudan mar a tha foghlum, tighean comharrail leis a h-uile seorsa goireasan anna, caracian, agus biadh agus aodach math. Agus, 's meag a h-uile cothrom eile, tha cothrom aca deoch laoid a chleachdadh.

Cha robh airgid no leithid gu leir aig luchd-obrach na Gaidhealtachd anns na laithean a chaidh seachad airson a bhith ag ob. Ach cha b' e sin dha na h-uaislean 'e. Ma leughas sinn na leabhraichean aig James Boswell agus feadhainn eile ch' sinn na dh' oladh an fheadhainn aig an robh airgid air a' Gaidhealtachd agus ann an aiteachan eile anns an ochdamh linn deug, agus bha an taon rud fòr mu dheidhinn a h-uile linn eile.

Tha feadhainn a' cumail a mach gu bheil eachdraidh na Gaidhealtachd o chm Chuil-loird agus an fhuadach ag aobharrachadh dubhachais anns na Gaidheil a tha toirt air cuid aca solas a shireadh ann an deoch. Canaidh feadhainn eile nach eil na h-eaglaisean fhein gun choire o chionn 's gu robh iad — ro bhuailteach air a bhith bacadh dhaoine o bhith deanamh rudan, agus nach robh iad cho math air cuideachadh le clubaichean agus a leithid sin a chumadh an oigridh as na tighean-seinne.

Tha na ministearan a dh' fhiach a "veto" a' faicinn mar a dh' fhaodas an deoch beatha dhaoine mhilladh ach cha chreid mi gun deanadh e feum sam bith na tighean-seinne ann an eilean ann chearn dhe 'n Eilean Sgitheanach no ann an eilean sam bith eile a dhunadh. Feadhainn a tha ag iarraidh deoch, gheibh iad na m' chi sinn ma bheachdaicheas sinn air na "bothain" ann an Leodhas, no air am "Prohibition" ann an Ameiraga.

Nach bitheadh e na b' fhearr fachaillin ri sealltainn dha 'n oigridh agus do dh' fheadhainn eile gu bheil a leithid a rudan a dh' fhaodadh duine dhanamh le h-beatha gur e call ubhasach a tha ann dha a chaitheamh 'n chadal no air mhìsg? Ach feumaidh sinn oidhirp a dhanamh goireasan a chur air chois air a' Gaidhealtachd a bheir cothrom do dhaoine seo a thuiginn.

People Count

The Highlands and Islands Development Board have now made a move to recognise openly that their development projects may affect the social aspects of the area. The Board has appointed someone to look into human resources and social factors in island communities. But — And here's the rub — the appointment is only part-time. And not only that. But it is a part-time consultancy. We welcome Mr Robert Storey's appearance on the scene with his significant responsibilities, but certain questions remain to be answered.

The first is based on an assumption. If Mr Storey is a part-time consultant, presumably the Highlands Board will require a full-blown Social Research Department operating on the lines similar to those suggested well over a year ago. Otherwise, how can the immediate and long-term problems with which Mr Storey will be involved be analysed efficiently to yield the necessary material on which recommendations to the Board can be made?

The second question is that if there is, in fact, to be no such Department for Social Research within the Board's set-up, can Mr Storey be asked to play a full and significant role if he has no supporting cast? In most instances, based on rational and logical thinking, the appointment of a part-time consultant implies the existence of a body of workers who will act (in full-time employment) on the consultant's advice and recommendations. Being the "ideas" man, there should be the machinery to translate the ideas into real terms.

In much the same context, Mr Glen, of the Northern Regional Hospital Board, is to be blessed with success for the social-research programme which he is carrying out as an aspect of the Board's Project Counterdrift. In his Questionnaire, there is revealed an interesting way of thinking when comparisons between the Highlands and Islands areas and lowland urban areas are made. It is significant that a possible advantage of living in the Highlands is "good social values." And that a possible disadvantage is "rigid standards." With the moral standards of our present society slipping away so quickly, one would have thought that the presence of a rigid standard and code of living would appeal to good, honest citizens. Anyway, good luck Mr Glen. And good luck to you, Mr Storey. You have our best wishes in the task that faces us all.

GLEANN SEILE AGUS CINN T-SAILE

"Thoir mo shoraidh do Chinn t-Saile

Am bi mannan is orain

Ceud soraidh le durachd

Gu Sgurr Urran 's math m' eolas inn'

Sios is suas troimh Ghleann Seile

'S tric 'ta leag mi damh croach."

'S e sin bu mhiann le Iain Mac-Mhurchaidh 'ic Rath, bard Chinn t-Saile dar a bha e na phrìosanach ann an Ameiriga anns a' bhliadhna 1781. Cinn t-Saile Sgurr Urran is Gleann Seile, duthach cho aluinn 's a tha ann thall no bhos, dachaidh Clann 'ic Rath.

Roimh 'n bhliadhna 1723 bha sgìre Chinn t-Saile na bu mhotha na tha i an t-àgh. 'S a bhliadhna sin rinnadh da sgìre dhith,

a' bhaithail a bha ann 's a bhliadhna 1719, air spàth Rìgh Seumas. An turus seo b' e an t-Iarla Siophort a sheinn an Fhìdag Euidh. Thainig e a Leodhas le buidheann de shaighdearan Spainteach. Chaidh e dìreach do Chinn t-Saile leis na Spainteach agus feachdan a Leodhas cuideachadh. An Cinn t-Saile chuir e mun cuairt an crois-tara a measg nan Crathach agus nam Math-anach. Thainig feadhainn a Loch-abar agus a Muideart 'ga ionnsaigh mar an ceudna. Thachair na Goidheil air na Gaidheil ghe fhaisg air aite cumhach gas ris an abairte. Eas nan Arm. Bha na Spainteach air an taobh tuath d'heag agus na Gaidheil air an taobh eile. Chit-har thachair na clachan a thog na Spainteach airson an dìon fhein. Thainig na Cuigich losgadh na gunnachean mora agus ceann treiseag dh' fhas na Gaid-

nis fo thunnachan mistailte. D' abhaist do dhaoine 'bhith faicinn bochain faisg air an aite seo agus beathach na seann daoine gur e an t-Ofigeir Duitseach a bha ann ach cha chreid mi gu bheil guth air o chionn fhada nist.

O' n aite ch' sinn beinn cho cuimr 's a tha anns an Roinn Eorp, their iad an Fhòdach ris Dar a bha Dr Johnson is Bothwell a' dol troimh Ghleann Seile ghabh iad beachd oirre agus tha iad ag innse 's na leabhraichean aca mu dheidhinn deaireachd a bha aca de cho mor 's a bha i. Bha am facal mu dheireadh aig an Doitair agus thubhairt e gur e "considerable protuberance" a bha intic-

Thainig am Prionnsa Tearlach agus na Domhnallach a bha 'g a chuideachadh an uair a bha e na fhogarach an rathad seo troimh bhealach ris an can iad Bealach na Dubhlich. Thàrr iad sios Coire Mhalagain agus an d'



Gleann Seile agus Cinn t-Saile. Dar a rugais sibh crìoch Siorramaidh Rois air taobh Loch Chluainidh na sibh ann an Sgìre Ghleann Seile ach their iad Srath nan Lon ris an aite airson tri, no ceithir mìle as deise seo. Faisg air a' Chluainidh tha da gheallan, an Caoran Mor is an Caoran Beag agus frith-rathaiden gur e Gleann Abhrig. Air gach taobh dhiubh tha beanntan mora briagh, a' Chraidhlig, Sgurr nan Conbhairean, Taigh Mòr na Seilge, am Bathach, a' Chiste Dhubh agus tor mor eile. Cha robh riamh moran dhaoine fhuirich an seo ach bha iad tighinn ach na s-amhradh chon na h-air.

Tha Gleann Seile ainmeil airson

heil seachd sgith d' e n obair seo agus mu dheireadh dh' fhaig iad am blar is thig iad suas iad fhein dha na Sasunnaich. Their iad Sgurr na Spainteach ris an aite fhatthast. Thrus na saighdearan dearga na h-airm aca agus thig iad ann an eas a tha sin iad. 'Sann air a thaillich sin a fhuair e an t-ainm "Eas nan Arm." Thig air radh gun deach ofigeir le Wightman a mharbhadh 's chomhshri. Feumaidh gur e Olaindeach a bha ann o' chionn gun canadh iad an t-Ofigeir Duitseach ris. Tha an uaign aige eadar an rathad agus an abhainn ach dar a bha iad 's leudachadh an rathaid an uiridh chaidh iad faisg air agus tha an duine bochd

raing iad taigh Crisdean Mhic Rath a Malagan. An sinn dh' iarr iad baidh air an duine seo agus thug Alasdair Domhnallach Fear Ghlinn Aladail ceithir tasdain do mhac Chrisdein. Thug an gille an uair sin aig gur robh sporan an Domhnallach ian airgid. Bha aca an uair sin ri dhol faisg air Abhainn Seile a tha an cul Mhalagain. Leis cho domhainn 's a bha an t-uisge b' fheudar dhaibh na feilidhean a chur dhiubh agus dar a bha iad thall 's a 'cuir umpa a rithist thug sporan Fear Ghlinn Aladail gun fhios dha. Cha deach iad umbaraidh fada mus do dh' fhaicair e gu robh e air a chail agus an t-airgead 'na bhròinn.

Dh' fhaig e am Prionnsa agus chah ann am froig bha a tha sin faisg air Eas nan Arm agus dh' fhaibh e is Iain Frangach Mac-Aonnan. Bhoradail a bha iad gu Malagan gun sin fhaicinn dha 'n sporan. Mu dheireadh chaidh iad a choimehad air, Crisdean airson innse dha, mar a bha iad a' chur Fhuair Crisdean e ghabh a mhaic agus dh' fhoighnich a d'heith calte an do chuir e an sporan. Bha srantian eich 'na laimh agus bha e bagradh gun chrochadh e am brogach le. Dh' innis an gille gun do stob e an sporan anns an duman agus b' e sin air a' d' fhuair iad e agus da fheadh lous d' or 'na bhròinn. A reir beul-athris na duthcha thug am Prionnsa spain bheag airgid do Chrisdean. Co-dhiu tha cuimhne again air m' athair ag innse dhomh mu thurus a bha a coimehad air seann bhoirneachan an Cinn t-Saile. Dha a bha i deasachd a' bhuird laigh a shuil air spain-uisge a bha air a bhord. Dh' innis a' chailleach dha gur i sin a' cheart spain a thug am Prionnsa a' bha sinneir Crisdean MacRath a Malagan. Tha an spain sin nist ann am Montreal.

R' a leantainn.

Topical Comment

The latest attack on one of Britain's most cherished and stable institutions has been unleashed — on the family unit. This was inevitable, I suppose, at a time when "passing the buck," as it were, is "in." Put the voice which uttered the attack did come as a surprise. It came from Dr Edmund Leach, an anthropologist and provost of King's College, Cambridge, who said on the radio the other day that "far from being the basis of the good society the family is the source of our discontent."

The basis of his argument stems from his conviction of the insularity and introverted attitude of the family of today.

Maybe this is true in Dr Leach's part of the world — although I doubt it — but in Scotland family life is, of a healthy family life being the cause of most of our

delinquency; the State is always telling us what it is trying to do to ensure that everyone in Britain can have a good family upbringing — surely social workers would not work so hard for so little reward if family life caused so much of the world's unappiness? Surely these dedicated people would have found this out long before now.

That family life is isolated and secretive I just cannot understand — I would have thought that the very opposite were true. As far as I know Communist China is the only modern day nation which does not believe in family life, as we know it — but they hardly thrive without it!

No, Dr Leach, climb back into your own isolated cocoon and think again. Don't blame family life for today's troubles; there are many other factors of life which can be blamed for these, without impugning the strength and love of the family unit.

woman to woman

DON'T SNIFF AT STUFFING

If you were asked which was the more important the turkey or the stuffing you would rightly answer turkey. Nevertheless it would be very wrong to shrug off the stuffing as something of such insignificance that it could be made in a few seconds and would go to waste anyway.

Stuffing serves two main purposes; it enhances the flavour of the poultry, or whatever it is accompanying, and it helps to make the stuffing available "stretch". To do either successfully it must be enjoyable to eat, which means of the right consistency and neither so highly flavoured that it masks the taste of the milder meats nor so insipid that it is lost when served with hare or similar foods.

When it comes to making stuffing. Given basic ingredients you can experiment and find your own favourite recipes for yourself, with no of course have no doubt done already. Successful basic ingredients are usually either bread, potatoes, apples, onions, chestnuts, sausagemeat, veal liver and oatmeal. In tradition, certain types of stuffing have become associated with various meats — veal foremeat, salt chicken, and onion for duck and goose, chestnut stuffing and a sausagemeat stuffing with turkey, and apple stuffing with pork and so on. Chicken is stuffed at the end, duck and goose at the vent end.

One of the easiest of all to make is a sausagemeat stuffing using sausagemeat bought from the butcher. You can improve on this with little effort and earn yourself a reputation as being a "super" cook. Mince a small onion, mix with a few herbs and a little sausagemeat, then moisten it with stock or, even better, with sherry.

Veal foremeat can be adapted to suit individual tastes, but an excellent basic recipe is to chop or mince half pound lean veal and two ounces fat bacon, and mix together with one ounce of breadcrumbs and one egg. If you like to elaborate on this, herbs, a little onion, and chopped mushrooms can be added.

For those who find pork or goose inclined to be very rich, an apple-based stuffing is particularly good, particularly if potatoes are used as well. For a goose you need one pound cooking apples, one pound onions, two sprigs of lemon thyme, two sprigs of savory, grated rind of one orange, seasoning, half pound mashed cooked potato. Peel and slice the onions and apples and put into a pan with sufficient water to cover, add the herbs and seasoning and cook gently. When ready remove the herbs, press the mixture through a sieve, add the grated orange rind and sufficient potato to make the mixture firm, desired, parsley, sage or other herbs can be used instead of thyme or savory.

Perhaps one of the best known of all is sage and onion stuffing and with this you will soon find whether or not you want to modify the ingredients, lessening the quantities of either sage or onion. Try the following recipe and this will give you an idea if

you want to alter quantities. Take quarter pound onion, half teaspoon powdered sage, two ounces breadcrumbs, one ounce dairy butter, half an egg (beaten), seasoning. Slice the onions and par-boil them in a little water for ten minutes. Chop the onions, mash and work all the ingredients together and season to taste.

Stuffings, though, can be used in much more everyday fare than just with expensive meats. A mushroom stuffing can be used to fill bacon rolls. For this you need two onions, quarter pound mushrooms, two ounces dripping, three ounces breadcrumbs, two teaspoonfuls chopped parsley, salt pepper and egg to bind.

Chop the onions and mushrooms, fry gently in the dripping, mix in the breadcrumbs and parsley, season well and bind with the egg. Spoon a little onto bacon rashers, fold over and secure, then grill on both sides until heated through.

A mushroom-based stuffing is also excellent with fish.

Many recipes use breadcrumbs as part of the stuffing ingredient. These can be made from crumbs taken from a stale loaf and either grated or sieved, or pulled to pieces with your fingers. Some housewives prefer to brown the bread in the oven and then crush it to form crumbs. This way is drier, lighter stuffing is made and those who like a sweetish stuffing can mix breadcrumbs with finely crushed plain biscuits.

Whichever kind of stuffing you make, it should not be stodgy, wet, dry or crumbly. Extra fat, crumbs or moisture should be added if there is a danger of any of these faults occurring.

Finally, although stuffings are made to be eaten there are times when they serve a special purpose in perfecting a dish. They help, for instance, to preserve the moisture of some meats, particularly the flesh of small birds which can become dry when cooked, and can take much of the excessive richness out of certain meats. It is possible to put some peeled uncooked sour apples into a goose for this purpose even though the apples are not intended to be eaten.

So even though stuffing takes time to make it is always worth the effort, not only for its own sake but for the way it improves the whole meal.

★ ★ ★

MUSHROOM STEW

4 oz. mushrooms; 1 chicken cube; 2 oz. butter; salt and pepper to taste; 1 tablespoon flour; top of the milk from 1 pint; small tin of garden peas.

Chop the mushrooms into small pieces. Melt the butter in a frying pan and cook the mushrooms for two minutes; add the flour and stir until the butter is all absorbed; then cook for three minutes. Dissolve the stock cube in $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of hot water and add to the pan. Stir and boil for three minutes. Season; remove from heat and stir in top of the milk. Heat the peas; drain and add to the

sauce. It is delicious with chicken, fried veal or boiled ham and is sufficient for four servings.

★ ★ ★

PARTY TIP

A good use for foil wrapping in the party season, especially if you're having a buffet, is as a table covering. As far as being water-proof is concerned it is fool-proof and what better to give a sparkle to the table setting. It looks particularly pretty if you decorate the table with two or three of those stubby red candles — the flame will really make the foil sparkle.

If you haven't already used foil to make your preparations easier, try this year: you can make a great many things the night before if you store them wrapped in foil — for example roast chicken, cheese and even sandwiches remain remarkably fresh and moist.

★ ★ ★

KIND TO EYES

Eye makeup, ranging from extravagant evening designs to your ordinary everyday make-up must be removed each night, efficiently and safely — and we all know what a difficult job that can be! Elizabeth Arden has created a new Eye Makeup Remover Cream to solve your problems — it cleans away every trace of stubborn eye-shadow, liner, mascara etc., and even more important it won't make even the most sensitive eye sting or smart.

You should be able to obtain tubes of the cream now from your Elizabeth Arden stockist. A tube costs 12/6 and should last for a fairly long time.

★ ★ ★

THE LAST WORD

Three new Hoover products now on the market are designed to make the housewives' lot a more relaxing one: the fully automatic Tumble Dryer, the new Electric Washer and the new Electric Mangle. The Hoover Electric Washer has made a washday in our Scottish climate begin and end on Monday; the Auto-Jet Dishwasher will take eight place-settings of crockery, glasses and cutlery — but unless you have 93 gns. to spare I guess you'll still be standing at the sink! The third item, the last word in luxury — is the Electric Knife. We cannot really imagine that cutting and slicing demands such a great deal of time and energy as to require "automation" but for those of you who would like to sample the advantages of an Electric Knife, 12 gns. will let you experiment.

Keeping Warm in Winter

For those of us who are among the 55 per cent. of British households who haven't yet succumbed to the temptations of an electric blanket, Dreamland's new range looks like bringing about a conversion even for the hardiest amongst us. The prices range from 54 9d to £10 19s 6d, and have been designed for complete safety, carrying the approval of the British Electrical Approvals Board.

If your Christmas list isn't already headed with "winter warmth," it should be. Scotland has always been ahead with ideas for warmth — what about Slumberdown, the Scandinavian type quilt produced in Edinburgh (and come to think of it, porridge and kilts serve the same purpose, too)?

Review Order

STARR SING-SONG

Will Starr, the famous Scottish accordionist, knows how many shopping days it is to Christmas. He has just made a new E.P. on the Thistle of Scotland label that will be welcomed by the thousands of families preparing for festive-season parties and get-togethers. "I know how much Scots and Scottish exiles love a good sing-song," said Will, in his dressing-room at the Palladium Theatre, Edinburgh. "So I collected the real old favourites, the songs that make a party go with a swing and I've recorded them for Thistle on my latest E.P."

"The Harry Lauder tunes are evergreen. Everybody knows them, and sings them. That's why I've included 'I love a Lassie' and 'Wee Deoch and Doris' on this disc. I've also featured 'Stop Yer Ticklin', Jack."

And for those who like to be really patriotic at New Year, I've added 'The British Soldier'.

Will issues a challenge to everyone with a record-player, "If these tunes don't get your guests singing merrily, please let me know," he says. "If they don't then I don't know what tunes will, especially on the accordion."

SWITCH TO SHOW BAND

Fergie MacDonald, the 27-year-old Scottish danceband personality from Achacree, in West Scotland, makes show-business history by switching the talents of his band from traditional Scots and Highland music — to become, for a while Thistle L.P., a Scottish Show-band.

In demand at concerts, ceilidhs, and on television, the all-Scottish band reveal a versatility of talent as they switch from traditional dress and offer a half-hour of folk, Gaelic, ballad, beat and Scottish vocals, together with instruments to suit every taste.

"We felt our fans would like to see and hear us in this new format," says Fergie, the young Highlander who is now a full-time professional.

"The girl on our album is 18-year-old Catriona Maclean, a National Mod silver medalist, of island parentage, who has been studying music in Glasgow. She's a fluent Gaelic speaker."

Then Noel Eadie — he's 22, and an honours graduate of Strathclyde University — plays double bass, bass guitar, Spanish guitar and violin. He's featured in this recording on vocals and the penny-whistle.

"We're out to prove ourselves all-round entertainers, with the kind of show we do on tour, and which we'll be presenting this winter on Monday nights at the High-länders' Institute in Glasgow."

"John Hamilton, aged 21, who's an accountant, used to be with a leading beat group, Jimmy Yca-man — his three sons all play a musical instrument, so it must be in the family — switches to alto-saxophone on the record. (He has a top award for Scots traditional fiddle playing). Callum Kemmair, aged 21, plays most instruments from the piano to the banjo and clarinet. He's a traditional jazz expert too."

From Islay comes Duncan Gillespie, a leading accordionist and pianist, in country dance music. He plays the 'Sheiling Lullaby' solo on this record. That leaves Mike Drowds, who's 26, and whom his fans affectionately know as 'The Colonel'. He's a fine drummer and composes our stage appearances.

Do You Know?

1. How was Thurso founded?
2. What historical connection is there between Scapa Flow and June 21st, 1919?
3. What do the Clan Septs, Bain, MacGillivray and Morgan have in common?
4. When was Stornoway Airport opened?
5. Co rinn 'Moladh Beinn Dobh-rain'?
6. De the ann an t-samhaid?

ANSWERS

1. Thurso, it is said, was founded in the twelfth century by Scandinavians and originally called Thors Town.
2. Scapa Flow was the scene of the scuttling of the surrendered German High Seas Fleet on that day.
3. They are dependents of Clan MacKay.
4. In 1939.
5. Donnachadh Ban Mac An T-Shaor aon de na Baird bu mheasail bhàns a Ghaidhealtachd riamh.
6. Tha amadan. (A fool).

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MOTHAN

by James E. Scott

New Isles Ferry Service In February

Ever since Alexander Carmichael published his "Carmichael's Gaelic," there has been controversy, sometimes acrimonious, as to what plant he gave the Gaelic name of mothan. In the course of these arguments many plants were mentioned, the one fuding most favour was one which they called the bog violet. This is not a violet at all but a member of the Pinguicula family (P. vulgaris) found in bogs and about wet rocks. It is common in the West Highlands, in some places abundant. Cattle refuse it therefore it cannot be the plant called mothan.

The controversy can be easily settled. The writer obtained some plants of mothan from the islands and had no difficulty in identifying the plant as *Linum catharticum*, one of the commonest of our British plants. It can be found in every meadow from John O'Groats to Land's End.

It is a small plant, rarely growing more than six inches in height, very slender and erect, or slightly recumbent; annual; glabrous; the leaves small, opposite, obovate or oblong; flowers small, pure white, on long slender pedicels; petals five; ovary cells five. It is plentiful enough in the neighbourhood of Inverness in flower from the end of May onwards to July.

Linum catharticum is a small brother of *L. usitatissimum*, better known as flax or lint. Flax is grown on a commercial scale in Northern Ireland for the manufacture of linen. From the seeds is expressed the juice known in commerce as linseed oil, afterwards the seeds are pressed into hard corrugated cakes and used for cattle feeding. It is grown on an extensive scale in America for this purpose.

In the West Highlands the cattle during the long winter months are fed on hay with no balancing diet with the consequence that they often become "bound" as the crofter term it. The unailing remedy when this happens is a bottle of linseed oil poured down the animal's throat. *L. catharticum* has the same virtues as its big brother so the islanders belief in its beneficial effects on their cattle is well founded.

Lightfoot in his *Flora* says "a drachm of the dried plant pulverised, or an infusion of a handful of it in whey or water, is a safe purge."

Cameron gives the Gaelic name of the plant as *Liost* ages. Joseph, the fairy woman's flax; another name he gives for it is *miosach*, monthly, from a medicinal virtue it was supposed to possess; *mìoch*, mallow; bows; he also calls it *lus caolach*, the slender weed. Stuart in *Lightfoot's Flora* gives these names in a combined form, an *caol miosachan*, the slender monthly one. Irish, *ceolach*; cool, music.

"Its little bells made fairy music"

Flax or lint has been cultivated from the earliest ages. Joseph's coat was probably made from it and the prophet declared that "water will not quench smoking flax." One of the names of this plant is still preserved in a great number of the European languages, the forms varying slightly but all derived from the root *lin*. This shows that it was cultivated by the western Aryan people since before the time of their separation into the various nationalities of Europe. The investiga-



tions of a German professor have led him to believe that the original home of cultivated flax was on the shores of the Mediterranean 4000 years ago. It has been found in the oldest of the Swiss lake dwellings.

The Celtic tribes who first set foot on our shores, brought the plant and the knowledge of its

cultivation with them. Since that far off time flax has been regularly cultivated in every strath and glen of the country for the manufacture of the household linen. Its cultivation went out early in the last century, the factories being able to produce linen easier and cheaper than it could be made at home. During the war the government encouraged farmers to grow flax but as soon as it was over they gave it up.

Its cultivation is not difficult. It is rather a greedy feeder but skill can overcome that. In summer it bears a pretty blue flower, and later the seed capsule. When this is ripe the flax is pulled out by the root, not cut and tied in bundles. These are afterwards steeped in ponds to separate the fleshy part of the stem from the fibres. It is necessary to form a pond for this purpose if a natural one is not convenient, a pool in a burn will not do as the processes takes some time. A burn which is a placid stream murmuring over its stony bed in the evening may be in the morning a raging torrent sweeping everything before it and if the flax had been placed in one of its pools to steep it would be swept away, after the fibres are separated they are laid out to dry and bleach. There are scores of place-names reminiscent of this, mostly designating insignificant spots that seldom find their way on to the map. In Gaelic this is represented by "toe" or "tor" such as *Ballitor*, *Torlundy*; in English they appear as *Linton*, *Bleachfield*. Local knowledge will recognise most of these names.

After drying and bleaching the fibres are ready for the spinner. There is an idea entertained by many that spinning wheels are as old as the hills in the Highlands but this idea is an erroneous one, they are of comparative recent introduction. Spinning wheels began to come into use in Lowland Scotland about the middle of the eighteenth century but their adoption was slow. Even by the time of Robert Burns they were not common, the distaff and spindle being the method employed. In Ayrshire as we learn from the poet it was customary to gather into a neighbour's house and hold a spinning evening. These gatherings were called "rockings" when the spinners spun, gossiped, and, we may presume, had something to eat and drink. Robert Burns was fond of attending these meetings.

The distaff and spindle were easily transportable and a woman could spin upon it as she took her evening stroll.

The distaff and spindle was a very simple apparatus and was in use from time immemorial, both wool and lint being spun on it.

The distaff and spindle, being a simple apparatus, could be made by any handy person, but the wheel required the services of a craftsman, which makes it somewhat dear and this probably accounts for its slow progress into general use, its price being beyond the means of many. However this may be by the middle of the nineteenth century its use was universal and the old apparatus went completely out of use, in the Highlands and elsewhere.

The knowledge that the prosperity of Northern Ireland is to a large extent due to its linen manufacture. Flax growing was and is an important part of the rural economy, the farmers growing the raw material for the factories. Had the same thought and care been taken to encourage and foster the growing of flax in the Highlands the state of the countryside might have been very different today. Since the beginning of the eighteenth century thousands of acres have gone out

Western Ferries, Ltd., announced last month that their new ferry service between Port Askaig, Islay, and West Loch Tarbert on the mainland, will start in February. They hope to extend the service to the islands of Jura and Gigha by early summer.

The firm have made their announcement before the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr William Ross, has announced a decision for or against the overland route to Islay. Mr Ross also has before him proposals from David MacBrayne, Ltd., for an improved inter-island ferry service and a spokesman for the Scottish Office said yesterday that a decision was expected soon.

Islay, Jura and Gigha are at present served by the ageing MacBrayne steamer, Lochiel, and concern has been expressed about the ship's reliability.

Western Ferries' service will be operated by a new ship at present being built by Ferguson Brothers (Port Glasgow) Ltd. It is due to be launched in the middle of January with delivery at the end of the month.

Expansion Hope

The new ferry will complete two round voyages from Kenna-craig, West Loch Tarbert, on week-days and one on Sunday. It is hoped that the service can be expanded by the addition of a second vessel, which would enable three to five trips a day to be run.

The new vessel will carry up to 25 small cars or six 30-foot lorries. Access to the car deck is by means of an adjustable stern ramp, specially designed for the service. The car deck can also be fitted for the carriage of cattle and sheep. Passenger accommodation at the forward end provides for 35 people to be carried during the winter and 75 in the summer.

Service speed of the vessel is just under 11 knots and a bow thrust unit is being fitted to assist in berthing.

Western Ferries Ltd., were formed specially to run this service and Harrison's (Clyde) Ltd., are acting as general agents and technical managers for the company.

of cultivation, some of these were used for growing flax in small quantities. As a crop flax is not so dependent on the weather as cereal crops which in the West Highlands are in many seasons a failure due to the incessant rains of autumn. Rain would not do much harm to the harvesting of a flax crop, it has to be steeped anyway.

It is now perhaps too late to do anything about restoring the growth of this plant on a commercial scale to supply local linen factories.

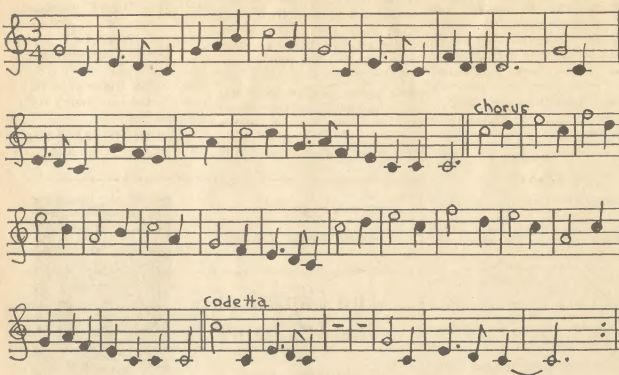
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6. — Songs of the Gael

Phelim's Wee Boat



Báidín Fheidhlimidh

Traditional—N.W. Coast, Eire

Báidín Fheidhlimidh d'imigh go Gabhla
Báidín Fheidhlimidh 's Feidhlimidh ann.
Báidín Fheidhlimidh d'imigh go Tarsaigh
Báidín Fheidhlimidh 's Feidhlimidh ann.

Chorus:

Báidín 's deach, Báidín beosach,
Báidín boidheach, Báidín Feidhlimidh;
Báidín díreach, Báidín deontach,
Báidín Fheidhlimidh 's Feidhlimidh ann.
Báidín Fheidhlimidh briseadh a d'Toraih
Báidín Fheidhlimidh 's Feidhlimidh ann.

Codetta: Báidín Fheidhlimidh . . .
Báidín Fheidhlimidh . . .

Phelim's Wee Boat

English translation by James N. Healy

Phelims boat will go sailing to Gowla
'Tis Phelim's wee boat, and with Phelim we'll sail.

Phelim's boat will go sailing to Tory
'Tis Phelim's wee boat, and with Phelim we'll sail.

Chorus:

Boat of neatness; boat of sweetness
Neat and sweet the boat of Phelim is.
Tidy, and fine, with a beautiful line,
'Tis Phelim's wee boat, and with Phelim we'll sail.

Phelim's wee boat was wrecked out on Tory
Phelim was steering and no one else there.

Codetta: Boat of Phelim . . .
Boat of Phelim . . .

faisg air an t-sruthan



Elder

(Sambucus Nigra)

Gaelic — Ruis (wood)

A small tree or shrub with a soft, white pith inside the stems. The leaves usually consist of five almost hairless leaflets, and the creamy-white flowers are in flat-topped masses. The black fruits are used to make jelly or Elderberry wine. Water made from the flowers used to be thought good for the complexion. The leaves were used for curing wounds and also as an emetic and purge. The Elder was considered efficacious against witches, and from it a blue dye was made.

MO CHEUTAG

Mo Cheutag ghlan ùr dha tug mi mo rùn, Tha d' ghorm shùilean cin ro-shùilich Pearsa mar flur gun ghaise no smuir 's an t-samhradh air gnais an fhàisich. Tha 't' anail leam cuibh' mar fàisich as-ùr tighinn thairis thrà grùnd nan fàs-ghléan, Falt sniomhain 's dlùth bhà iomhnaigh gun ghrùd ciabnach nan lùb tha fàineach.

Gur bhinne do bheul na cubhag air géig do ghriinnas do réir 's do bhòidheach dheidheadh spid na mo cheum nan rachadh tu fhéin gu faighinn bho 'n chléir tu 's cóir ort. 's tusa mo leug thar gach aon fo 'n ghréin thug mise mo spéis glé g' dhiùt 's tu thogadh gu leir mi an áird bho 'n eug 's chuireadh mi an gleus le d' chómhraidh.

'S chuireadh nam bheus binneas gun bhreug Mire nam chré is sunmheas mo shiorad gu leum gu fúran is séis gu mullach nan teud gu luaidh ort. 'S mise gu seimh le cridhe bhitheadh reidh gaoideus gach gne de luaisgan chuireadh mar an ceudn' mo bhith gu bhi treun le subhachas feum is buanachd.

Is e bheir deò na mo chail is ùrachd do m' shláint a bheir sìnd na mo gháidhs nach sear d'heòt me gheibh mi do lamh 's gu cuir mi ort falt thu bhi leamsa gu bráth 's gu dearbha. Mo ghaoil dhiut gach là dol na na 's doimhne gun tàmh ni nach traolag e 's nach traigh 's nach fhaibh dhom. Gu cuir m' uagh e mi beam' as mo chuinnh' e gu bas gu buileach gu cnamh 's mi marbh innit'.

Cha chadail mi dian 's m' air' ort a' triall is e m' urnuigh ri Dha nan gràsan gu dean e mo chiall a stiùradh le rian mur faigh mi thu cha mhiann leam aicheadh gu bheil thu mar grian thaobh ailleachd is fiamh 's fearutan tha fìor a' fas riut thu loinneil is fial mo roghainn thu riamh a chur mi gu sniomh nan dhan dhiut.

Tha beatha le càs mar a' cheò air an lár thu an diugh 's an màireach gun sgial orr' mar an fàr ris a' chàrn gaoisag bheag ni e fàs bheir an dùbhlachd gach blàth agus sgiamh d'heòt. B' e mo dhùrachd a ghraidh gu bi mis 's thus' 's an dàil a thig a' chroich air air taladh gu sìorruidh gu ionnais le fèam an riochaidh nan gràs ann an co cheangail gràidh tha neo-chroichaidh'.

AS NA SGOILTEAN

Extracts from Leverburgh School Magazine

Harris

A MATTER OF OPINION

— The Third Year

Sir Francis Chichester (During his voyage) — He's going to achieve nothing — at least if he's drowned he will achieve nothing. He has got the satisfaction of doing what he wanted to do. He's gone off his own accord, so no-one should make a fuss of him. Perhaps he wants away from his wife.

Harris — We should like to have a metropolis in the centre of Harris with a modern hospital, cinema, super-market etc. We should have an ambulance in every village. We could collect surplus milk from crofters and take it to the central town where we would have a dairy and a creamery making ice-cream. We would like a football pitch in Seilebost with a caretaker and a small stand.

T.V. Gaelic play "Ceann Croic" — He was dreaming or something. I like eating it. "Ceann Croic" had nothing to do with it. I turned it off. It was a waste of time — well perhaps not if you could understand it.

The woman I marry must be — Good-tempered; blond; not a Harris woman — Japanese perhaps; able to make stockings; to be bhiodh math anns a' pholl-mhonadh.

Gaelic newspaper SRUTH — There should be pictures in it. I cannot read the Gaelic, because some of it is so very complicated like the minister uses in Church.

Gaelic Songs — They are all too old — they were recorded ages ago — maybe even before the gramophone was invented. The words are too difficult. They should be simple with catchy tunes.

SIR FRANCIS

Sèoldair rapaidh, gaisgeach cruaidh A' sealladh bàta thar a' chuain Gun eagal air roimh chumhachd nan staidh No neart na gaoithe. Ainn air bilean miltèan shluagh Is ionnadh orr' gu robh e buan A' cathachadh ri muir gun truas Is e na aonar.

Dh' fhàg e Plymouth air a chòl An Gypsy Moth 'sì gael le sìùil Sir Francis fhein, 'se aig an sìùil.

Is fiamh a' ghàire air, Thubhairt an sluagh "Tha e gun tìr 'Smun tìg Nollaig no Bhl-iadh' Ur. Theid am bàta chun a' ghrànd Is theid a bhàthadh."

'Nuair chaidh e timchioll air Cape Horn

Bha eagal oirnn nach biodh a beò 'Snach biodh sgiall air crann no seòl No òirtheadh dhan a bhàta Ach 'on rinn e nise a chvìs 'Se ar guidhe dha 'sar rinn le fèam bi Freada' dhasan dlùth Ga stiùradh dhachaidh sab-huill'.

MISE — ANN AN 1987

'S e seo a bhliadhna 1987 agus tha mise nan shuidhe ann an seathar a' smaoinachadh air ais air mo bheatha bho dh' fhàg mi sgòil. 'Nuair a dh' fhàg mi sgòil chaidh mi gu muir air bàta mòr a bha ag obair eadar Eireann agus Sasuinn. Bha mi ag obair air a' bhàta a bha seo airson trì bliadhna — am bu shona a chuir mi seachad 'nam mo bheatha. 'Nuair a dh' fhàg mi am muir chaidh mi a dh' obair air fearann duine nasail a bha a' fuireach faisg air Inbhirnis. An uair a dh' fhàs mi sgùth de bhi singile smaoinich mi gun pòsainn. Aon oidhech bheagha chaidh mi a mach agus cò a thachair rium ach boirionnach a chòrd rium glan. Bha i cho caol agus gun gearadh an druim aice an caise, 'sann mar sin as toil leamsa iad. Cha toil leam na boirionnach mhòra reamhar oir bhid iad cho leig 's cha dean iad cal. Air latha na bliadhna riar phòs mi fhein agus Màiri, Latha as deidh na bainne chaidh mi fhein agus Màiri air Honeymoon sìos a Sasuinn. Thill sinn an ceann trì mìosan agus thog sinn tigh agus tha sinn a' fuireach gle dhòigheil le cheile.

FEARCHAR MACLEOID Section 1

AM TROM LAIGHE

Aon oidhech chaidh mi a chadal tràth. An deidh dhomh cadal nach ann a thàinig ar trom laighe ort. Chunnac mi duine mòr fìadhaich le coltas an uamhas. Na dhà shùil a' ruith uagh le maide na laimh. Bha aodach gael is Balacava air a ceann. Fhuair mi seachad air co dhiubh — ach ciamar chaneil cail a dh' fhios agam. Bha Fuar fhallas a' brèichdadh

romham agus bha mo ghilèinean a' glacadh ri cheile. Rinn mi air a chidhich ach an faighinn greim air sgab no pòcar a dh' fhuachainn air. Thug mi sùil thar mo ghualainn 'snach robh e a' deanamh air ais as mo dheidh is a chraos fogsailte a' magadh orm. Dh' fhàich mi ri uaghach ach bha mi air mo thacadh leis an eagal. Leig mi aona leum asam airson faighinn a mach as a shealladh. Dhùisg mi. Bha mi na mochlostar air an lár, am buòil teth fo mo cheann na planagaiden nan cnap aig mo chasan agus greim baidh aig am car as leapa.

ANNA S. NIC ILL' IOSA Section 1

MY VISIT TO A TELEVISION STUDIO

On August 16, 1966, I paid a visit to the B.B.C. Studio in Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow. Television producer, Finlay J. Macdonald, took me there. I went up in a lift, and came down in a lift as it quite high. The play, "This Man Craig," was being made and I met John Cairney who is star of the play. I also met Harris actor Roddy Macmillan, who plays Para Handy in "The Vital Spark." Then Finlay showed me how the studios worked. There was a vast number of rooms, offices and studios and into the bargain there are three storeys. There is also a restaurant and a place where the "Radio Times" is made.

The cameramen are sometimes on programmes, televising. Some cameras have five lenses, and some only one lens. The centre transmits a lot of programmes on both B.B.C. TV and Radio.

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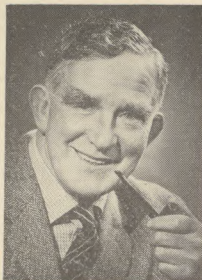
SCOTLAND'S VOICE IN THE LORDS

Lord Bannerman Of Kildonan

Dr John M. Bannerman, the distinguished Gael, is Scotland's newest life Peer. He will take the title Lord Bannerman of Kildonan: his forebears hailed from the Strath of Kildonan in Sutherland.

Our reporter asked Lady Bannerman what it feels like to be in the new role of "Lady," but as yet she "doesn't feel any different," and is naturally "just very proud and very happy" for her husband.

In the absence of Lord Bannerman, who was in London to arrange for his installation in the House of Lords, she assured us that her husband considered his peerage not any honour but a job of work as well, and it was noted in a report last week that he will remain steadfast in his determination to voice



the Scottish point of view. In fact, he has stated that, even although he will naturally support Liberal policies in the House, the foundation of his political interest is Scotland and its people.

The Bannermans have been overwhelmed by messages of congratulation, which have poured in "from as far away as Canada, and from all colours and parties—friends and foes!"—laughed Lady Bannerman.

Lord Bannerman's interest and determination in the cause of Gaelic is well-known, and he is a revered and long-standing member of An Comunn Gaidhealach. He is also joint president of the Scottish Liberal Party, of which he was once chairman, and in his rugby-playing days was capped 37 times by Scotland. Yes, our new Lord Bannerman of Kildonan, at 66, will give a vigour and determination to the Scottish voice which will be hard to match in the House of Lords, and, as we believe it is very much in his mind to do what he can for the Highlands, we send all our good wishes with him to London.

NEED FOR FULL INVESTIGATION Youth Hostels In The Isles

Recently, the Gatliff Trust issued a report on hostelling in the Western Isles. It is a significant document, yet one supposes that barely one person in a thousand will have heard about this Trust and the work it is doing in the Hebrides.

In 1946, Mr Herbert Gatliff paid his first visit to Harris, and discovered that the island could offer something real, though intangible: a degree of happiness and pleasure-in-living which was in proportion to its remoteness from civilisation.

Mr Gatliff realised from the first that there was a special need for youth hostels to be established in the Hebrides. So he started a campaign. It was a long one, for it took time to convince hostelling interests of the need to invest in such facilities in the islands.

Matters did not crystallise until 1961. In that year a young English hosteller, Mac Hoskin, who had been a warden at Achinver, visited Harris and made his way to Rhengidale in wild hill-country about six miles from Tarbert.

Rhengidale is not easy to get to. From the main road, a rough stone track takes its leave over a ridge to begin one of the most tortuous, and one of the most exciting, tracks in Britain.

The path is the only marked way to the village. Some crofters walk over trackless bogs by a shorter route to the north. The local postman on this route makes a round of some sixty foot-miles in the week—in all weathers. Most communication is by boat. All food and fuel comes this way. And it is fortunate that the village has a sheltered harbour with a good natural rock pier.

In past times, every household owned a boat for lobster and shell-fishing to supplement both diet and finances. To-day the interest in fishing has declined, as has the population.

There was something about the place, however, which both Gatliff and Hoskin found almost tangible.

In 1961, an oldcroft-house was converted into a simple hostel. Under the Gatliff Trust it is maintained for the use of trekkers. The Scottish Youth Hostel Association have made an amount of money available to meet the cost of running the hostel, though it is not official.

After Rhengidale, other places in the Hebrides were investigated for suitable sites in which to provide a hostel facility. To-day, there are hostelling projects at Scarp, Howmore and other remote areas in the islands.

Not so Remote
The Trust's Report encourages young people to try Hebridean hostelling. It says of Scarp: "This place is difficult to reach, because the 'bus service is scanty and the sea crossing is infrequent and sometimes difficult. Those who are prepared to sleep out for the night on the way can find a visit to Scarp a rewarding adventure." Of Howmore: "This island is difficult to reach, but it has its own unique character and there is fine hill-walking."
The Trust have a small invest-

ment fund called the Hebrides Fund, the investment income from which is about £70 per annum, and provides enough to keep threecroft-hostels, going on the present simple lines.

This progress has led the Trust to investigate more sites forcroft-hostels: these include Garry and the Loch Reservoir, as well as the Uig district of Lewis and Scarista, in Harris, which has some of the most magnificent beaches of the present simple lines, but not Europe.

The independence of the S.Y.H.A., which the Gatliff Trust has shown, is that there is a need for a full investigation into the existing hostelling facilities in the Western Isles. The authority to sponsor such a study is the Highlands and Islands Development Board, who should recognise the value of attracting the youth of this country to places which are not only worth visiting, but worth living in for a short time to realise the character of both the land and the people.

The Scottish Hostel has proved that an impetus could be given to the hostelling movement if some official recognition were given by the Board, with significant grants and possibly loans. One of the most pressing needs is for a full-scale hostel in Stornoway. At present there is limited accommodation, and the resources of the local Y.M.C.A. hall have been stretched to their limits for many years now.

As for the local population and youth hostellers. Well, as anyone who has lived in a "remote" place knows, the visitor is always welcome. But there is something else, something which is perhaps an intangible, but could eventually be translated into real terms.

When people from densely-populated parts of Britain come to the Hebrides to see the islands, they might well return with their sense of fair play enhanced to the extent that they can influence those in high places who have neglected, often by ignorance, those parts of the United Kingdom which have always had something to offer, so that in an enlightened future there will no more be "remote" areas, but places which re-sound to the sound of the voices of an indigenous population.

Children's Colouring Competition

Boys and girls here's a chance to win either a Gem Water Colour Kit or Gem Fine Writer Kit of six pens in an attractive plastic wallet.

Gem Water Colours are ideal for colouring and drawing, and Gem Fine Writers for writing and sketching.

All that you have to do is to colour in the picture with felt pens, crayons or colour pencils, cut out the picture and send it with your name, address and age to The Editor, Sruth, 92 Academy Street, Inverness. Entries should arrive not later than December 30th, 1967.

The competition is split into two age groups — boys and girls from 4-8 years and 9-12 years. The six best entries in the first group will receive an Esterbrook Gem Water Colour Kit and the six best entries in the second group a Gem Fine Writer Kit.

The decision of the Editor is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

Get colouring and let's see a bumper entry.

(This picture will also appear in the next issue of SRUTH, but additional copies of this issue may be obtained from The Editor at the above address).



BAHA'I FAITH

A World Commonwealth

The World Order of Baha'i Faith, an Order that shall come to be regarded as the fairest fruit of a slowly maturing age, will begin to flourish through World Parliament, International Executive and Supreme Tribunal, a world community in which the fury of a capricious and militant nationalism, who have been transmuted into an abiding consciousness of world citizenship.

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

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* or I enclose 30/- to cover the cost of four books, on the understanding that any balance of this sum which remains outstanding will be placed to my credit as a refund or towards next year's subscription.

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over you.

Letters to the Editor

CIVIC TRUST'S FIRST MEETING

B.B.C. FOR ALL.
Sir, — I don't know how much of the Highlands Mr Jeremy Frazer-Tomkinson actually knows and has experienced, apart from being once in Dunblane, that is, but I would like to make a few points that may interest him as, according to his letter, we in the Highlands are always complaining about something.

Obviously, the parts of Scotland can receive V.H.F. and even then interference mars most programmes — we are experts at tuning our radios; we have to have. We are told poor reception is due to our magnificent Scottish mountains, but never to inadequate forethought on the part of the powers that be.

B.B.C. TV reception in the Highlands is very poor, to say the least, and we pay for the same licence as you do. That goes for B.B.C. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. B.B.C.2 and B.B.C. Stereo broadcasts — they may as well broadcast on the moon.

Good luck to your 8 new radio stations; by the time Scotland opens a new station I expect she will have financed another eight for England. Some of our M.P.s do ask questions in the House, but unfortunately many of them are as far removed from Scotland's problems as her government is. I agree that the B.B.C. does its best but, for the good of the House, your Beef-eater, its probably Aberdeen Angus! Yours etc, Corpach, JEAN MURRAY

Fort William,
Ed. Note: Jeremy Frazer Tomkinson's letter has proved to be humorous and he is a purely fictitious person. However, we were pleased it aroused some reaction and are always delighted to hear your views to any topic.

WILLING TO LEARN
Sir, — Having read the Western Isles letter about the B.B.C. I was told about Mrs Ewing's Gaelic faux-pas, I feel I ought to inform them that, despite her being a lowlander and a non-Gaelic speaker, she is fully conversant about Gaelic's place in Scotland and has voiced this orally and in the press. She, as do all in the S.N.P. believes that Gaelic should be taught in all Scottish schools and should be encouraged in every way possible. Moreover, when in Hamilton on victory night, the M.P. for Scotland told me, as if he had thanked her for something, she had said and written in support of Gaelic, that she was determined to learn Gaelic one day, because she recognises that it is a very important part of Scotland's heritage, not just the Highlands!

As for the Lowlander's anti-hatred for Gaelic, the honourable members of the B.B.C. who pay a visit to the Gaelic classes I, and hundreds of other "Gaelic-extirpating" Lowlanders attend!

Le desph dharrachd,
DUNCAN MACGREGOR
46 Lussnet View
Radnor Street
Clydebank.

Sir, — Although all the copies of SRUTH are enjoyable, the current issue (November 16) is particularly so to me. I live in a bad location for radio reception (TV is impossible) and I've been a long time to the B.B.C. None of their recommendations were of any use, and of course, since this recent change in broadcast arrangements the position of the young has to be taken into account.

Like our friend on the unnamed island, I can get splendid reception of continental stations — no fading, no bad microphones, no surging of power. All these things were supposed to be due to the West of Scotland power wires which surround me, yet they do not appear to impair the foreign reception.

I have written again this week to B.B.C., Glasgow, and to Radio Scotland of Telephone Department,

G.P.O., Inverness, to find out what they propose to do. It will have any interesting replies I I pass them on.

There is scope for an amusing article on the Chinese lessons — which come through very well on Saturday forenoon — I had already written to Glasgow about this saying that the folk in the West Highlands could hardly wait to get their Chinese lessons!

Scotland is being exploited by a bunch of English controlled organisations and the sooner she shakes herself free of them the sooner she will improve things for herself. This includes industry, roads and bridges. I am a member of the S.N.P. and am now convinced that England would need Scotland, long before the reverse was the case. At least let us administer our own affairs.

Yours etc,
JAMES MACGREGOR ALEXANDER

'Burnside',
Lochcarron,
Westmor Ross.

Fhir-deasachaidh, — Nan robh gach Gaidheal (???) a bhruidhinn gach sgateach ma dhèidhinn nan Gaidheal a' fàgail an t-sìne, chaidh a chuir an eighn a phaisne, agus a deannam oidhirp eile buill-parlamaid a thaghadh a sheasadh gu daingann air an taobh, agus air taobh na chaidh, agus air taobh Alba cuideachd, cha bhiadh Gaidhlig no Alba 'san said bochd mar a th ad an dràs.

Ma dhèidhinn na suinn a thuirgt gum b'fhearrid sinn riaghalas Lunnainn? Fad 'a th ad ag imlich brogan am maistrinean, cha Gaidhlig a sìor-dhoil. A dh'ainneoin gach fàilidh gach, bha na bu mhotha dhè Gaidhlig an Alba nuair a bha Parlamaid againn na againn an diugh. Innisidh ma dhùibh roimeistirean eile, na thuirgtid traidair a chuiras feallach uime 'a spaidsearach thaidh 'a bhos 'a cuir di-meas air na Goill, nach aithneachadh telegram Gaidhlig na thuraidh na Unifaid eighnain. Cia meud am measg na suinn a tha cho dhèidheil air Parlamaid Lunnainn aig am bheil Gaidhlig, suil?

Cha mhiann leam tarcais a chuir air fìor-Ghaidheal idir; is e mo bharaid gu bheil iad 'nam fìor-Albannach, gur teagmh. Ach chan eil mi a' dèanamh a' dèanamh mi tuchd-Parlamaid Dhuneidheann ri cheud bliadhna air ais, o nach robh mo bu aig an am. Tha mi seach searbh sìgh, cuideachd, eiseachd ri daoine a dh'fheuchas cho math 's a ruinn dhaibh Alba a sglòthadh an daoinn.

A bhlith dol na 's fhaide, o'n a tha mi ann, 'ad dh'èidheil air eacachdair, ma leughas duine ainmean i tuchd-Parlamaid na h-Alba, anns na laithean a chaidh seachad, ch' iad nach robh iad 'nam Goill gu leir, bha iad a' heal a lioimhadh beinnean an Duneidheann cuideachd. Le meas,

UILEAM NEILL
(S.N.P. is Gall cuideachd)
13 South Gyle Road
Edinburgh.

WHERE THE BLAME LIES

Sir, — I welcome the idea (expressed in your issue of 16th November) that Gaelic should become an All-party matter, as the future of the language lies in the fact that Gaelic is part of our heritage. Individual Tories may give clear proof of their concern for the language, but they have the Tories as a Political Party — any use for the language? The same applies to the Labour Party. All the evidence indicates that the only way the Political Parties is lukewarm.

The Anglicisation of Great Britain and Ireland has been the official policy of Westminster ever

since James VI united the Crowns of Scotland and England in 1603. Rooting out the native Gaelic language and culture was a necessary part of that policy. The Highland nobility were ordered to have their sons educated at the Royal High School in Edinburgh. Their descendants (two-and-a-half centuries later) had their children educated at select boarding schools in the South of England. A further step towards the Anglicisation of the British Isles was the colonisation of Ulster by Scots Presbyterians.

If it was the official policy of the Scottish Government in Edinburgh to repress Gaelic in education, why should the English Government in London want to preserve the language? During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the social-elite of Europe was hardly to be seen without Gaelic, but they could be expected to speak French, German, Spanish and Italian. Even in London it is hardly fashionable for the social-elite to speak English and Chelsea to speak Cockney.

It could be argued that Cockney and Lallans or Broad Scots are dialects of the English language. But Gaelic is not a dialect. Scots Gaelic differs from Irish Gaelic in the same way as a Scots dialect could differ from a Cornish dialect. Gaelic should be a bi-dialectal Scotland, in which Gaelic has equal status with English. But Gaelic must be given official recognition as the language of the few remaining Gaelic-speaking areas before this object can be achieved. Gaelic differs from Welsh as Spanish differs from Italian.

A revival of Gaelic will have to be undertaken in easy stages, of which the first should be to concentrate on those areas where the language is still spoken. Gaelic-speaking areas are few, and the apathy of Gaelic-speaking parents, who will not speak Gaelic to their children, than it has from the far greater number of English-speakers who do not know a word of Gaelic.

Though a large percentage of Gaelic-speakers can be found in Glasgow and Greenock, there are still inconsistencies where the real interest of Gaelic-speakers could predominate. One could hardly expect Gaelic to be of much interest to political parties which are mere contenders for power. A parliamentary candidate will not be elected because of his views for or against Gaelic. An M.P. for Gaelic-speaking constituencies may fight to have Gaelic accepted as an examination subject for entry to the Civil Service; but he would be pleading in his capacity as an M.P. for a Gaelic-speaking constituency, not because he supports a certain political party whose attitudes towards Gaelic may be complacent and apathetic.

The author of the statement given by the Western Isles Labour Party will have to brush up his history if he thinks the Isles were a grandson of Robert II, claimed the throne of Scotland when he was defeated at Harlaw. If he had succeeded the crown of Scotland might have passed to the House of Donald. In 1493 the Lordship of the Isles was forfeited to the Crown. A century later the Anglicising policy of James I sent the Five adventurers to Lewis.

Many of the Highland problems can be traced to the defeat of Prince Charles Edward Stuart at Culloden, but change in the Highland way of life was inevitable. The Clan system was already breaking up, and a Stuart Restoration would never have prevented it. In was the policy of the

Stuarts to bring Britain into line with Europe through an alliance with the Crowned Heads and by inter-marriage with the royal families of Europe. This policy was resisted by those who had the most to lose from such policy — the English parliamentarians who had a vested interest in upholding the Anglo-Saxon supremacy.

The nineteenth century has seen the most rapid decline of the Gaelic language. But does the blame lie with the authorities or with those Gaelic-speaking parents who have allowed their children to grow up without knowing a word of Gaelic? There is tremendous leeway to make up. Most of the work should be undertaken by the schools, the universities, the Education Authorities and various cultural and intellectual organisations. For example An Comunn Gaidhealach and the Celtic Society are concerned with the spiritual, social, cultural and economic welfare of the Highlands and Islands. Gaelic may be taught in the schools, but in the western fringes of European civilisation, but it is a language which has a right to exist, not only because of its value to Scotland and Ireland, but also because of its spiritual and cultural value to the life of the world.

Is mise, le moran spais agusdheadh dharrachd,

H. R. BAILLIE
12 Saxe Coburg Place
Edinburgh, 3.

CORRECT DIAGNOSIS

Sir,—When a patient undergoes treatment for chronic malnutrition and starvation, nourishing food is essential, and it is not surprising that therefore small quantities of easily digestible nutrient are given; to ask the long-deprived digestive system to accept a huge meal too soon might cause it to reject the food, and even death. The case of the Gaelic patient is somewhat similar, and your correspondent, Mr. Bill MacBlane ("Stran", November 16, '67) should reflect on this when he asks for more Gaelic announcements etc., at the Mod. We must be realistic over such things and admit that there are many supporters of the Mod and even tireless workers for An Comunn who as yet are not fluent speakers of Gaelic. We all know in what direction movement should be and we hope that we are all travelling that way, but our Irish cousins have shown us that overfeeding with Gaelic can sometimes cause indigestion. I'm sure that the public taste for Gaelic is being cultivated and that we are being given more of it as and when we can assimilate it.

Marie Lloyd spoke a great truth when she sang "A Little of What You Fancy Does You Good"; but it is sometimes apt to forget that a "little" is "little". To those zealkots who would emulate the Welsh and have the entire Mod in Gaelic, programme and all, I can only say "Gaelic, Gaelic!"

It is a pity that Mr MacPlane was unable to attend many of the better than two dances and the somewhat uninitiated activities at the Albert Ballroom. I certainly looked in at the latter place, and found it entertaining enough, but for me it was not to be compared to the other dances, where all the competitions during the day. But let us realise that the idea of a central ceilidh and of a folk-song competition is a new idea, and there are bound to be sundry snags to be overcome at first and that we must acknowledge what has already been achieved and be grateful and not to dwell in our criticisms. The most obvious lesson to my way of thinking is that it is fatal to have the bar and the performers in the same room, no matter how large that room may be; this has been

(Continued on Page Twelve)

The first meeting of the Inverness Branch of the Civic Trust — the watchdog of town planners — will take place on December 5.

Television personality Maurice Lindsay, a director of the Scottish Civic Trust, heard a packed audience in the Town Hall on Tuesday, unanimously approve the suggestion.

The basic aim of the trust, said Mr Lindsay, was to stimulate interest in a town's environment, but unlike the National Trust for Scotland they were not a 'brick and mortar' owning organisation.

A local society, said Mr Lindsay, could help the aims of the Trust by presenting lectures and film programmes on places of interest and beauty and by recommending certain buildings for conservation.

Public Notice

RENFREW COUNTY COUNCIL
ATHOLL HOUSE, CHILDREN'S HOME, THORNLEIGHBANK

Applications are invited for the post of

DEPUTIE MASTRON

of the home. The post is of particular interest to persons with the C.N.N. or similar qualifications.

The salary scale is £655 to £770 less board and lodging £92 10s.

Applications to County Children's Officer, P.O. Box 12, Paisley.

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A Forester's Contribution

The Geographical Review, No. LV, 2, of 1965, contained a paper by A. B. Cruickshank on "Water Resource Development in the Campsie's." The author has been on the staff of the Department of Geography and lecturer in the Adult Education Department of Nottingham, and this study has great significance. Scotland is well endowed with a water resource, though it is not unlimited as some water-hungry English authorities have postulated, and if maximum benefit is to accrue, its development must be well co-ordinated.

The illusion that multi-purpose river-basin development is applicable only to the larger river systems of the world must be replaced by the realism that such water management is equally necessary in our small industrialised country with its small river basins and high population. He conveys the clear implication that our larger Highland catchments will sooner or later be harnessed either for hydro-electric power or national water supply, and so the condition of the plant cover in these will be of importance.

In the Campsie some peat has been removed for fuel and for agricultural improvement, but peat never seems to have been extensive. "Afforestation here is favoured by water authorities as a means of minimising the pollution siltation through the erosion caused by overgrazing of sheep."

For the central industrial belt as a whole, the water available from the Carron was shared by Stirling, Grangemouth, Falkirk, Denny, Kilsyth, Kilmintilloch and the Forth and Clyde Canal Company, but Grangemouth has since gone further afield to Loch Turrit, north of Crieff. Glasgow's supply from Loch Katrine was secured early on. Scottish Pulp are using the same water as the British Aluminium Company from the catchments of Laggan, Spean, Ossian and Treig. Under the current recommendations of the Scottish Water Advisory Committee, Loch Lomond is likely to be used for Cumbernauld and Livingston in the central belt.

Almost all the potential sources south of this have already been utilised, so Highland sources must inevitably be drawn in. The Lyon and the Upper Earn, and the Tunnel-Garry-Rannoch catchments have already been tapped for hydro-electricity, while further north the Mucomir-Moriston-Quich-Affric-Farrar form a fairly impressive group already harnessed, also the Faunich-Lui-chart and Shin further north again. The single purpose of hydro-electricity does not preclude the same water being diverted and used again for other purposes, but the waste is usually pumped by the second user, ally discharged from fairly near

sea-level, and so would need to In the north-east the Deveron is likely to be trapped by a dam high on the Cabrach, or used in its lower reaches as a pumped source for the local towns.

Mr Cruickshank rightly points out that the Loch Lomond scheme for transferring its water via the Forth and Clyde Canal eastwards for the use of Livingston makes West Lothian into a "tail-end Charlie" with strict limitations on further development, while Fife and its great potential for development is not being catered for. He also points out that the spill from many water storage dams such as the Carron, continues in amounts far in excess of the requirements for compensation water. This not only wastes water but provides little control over destructive flood stages downstream. "There has been to date no integrated development of a catchment area for water supply and flood control, and stipulations laid down fifty or more years ago concerning both the amount of water compensation and the timing of its discharge have little validity under conditions now prevailing in some river basins."

Other countries are paying far more attention than we are to the role of tree cover in sustaining water as an essential natural and national resource. "Alternatives in Water Management," issued by the United States National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council's Committee on Water is a fascinating document. The committee believes that "the management of water resources has evolved to a stage where planning should centre upon the needs of people rather than upon water *per se*. This viewpoint implies that a broad range of alternatives must be considered before a decision is made to develop a water resource," and "recognises that the future development of water resources requires better use of existing knowledge, and that the decision-making process itself must be responsible to advances in science and technology."

In the United States the immensely important social and industrial integration of the Tennessee Valley Authority in the 1930s had been fore-shadowed as early as 1907 in the frequent pleas for integrated water development. Despite such single-purpose activities as grazing permits in the western grasslands, soil conservation in agriculture, afforestation, the regulation of hydro-electric power and investments in flood control, it had become apparent that natural resources were inter-related, and should therefore be correlated within the unity of each major catchment. The standards set forth in Senate Document 97, a 1962 statement of administrative policy, encourage a comprehensive long range viewpoint in planning with full consideration of all

types of water demands and development possibilities.

Momentous social changes in Scotland also include the urbanisation of the whole of our central industrial belt, the motorisation of daily life, the back-lash from an overcrowded south-east England which is sending in English and American factories, whose people have leisure to explore the countryside and make more demands upon it. All these factors are causing large increases in the use of water, and are putting pressure on planners to incorporate recreational and aesthetic values for our Scottish lochs and rivers in their formulae for land use, including the long promised Countryside Commission.

But is the public yet educated up to the fact that it must be prepared to pay for intangibles? Can we afford a Solway scheme, or can we afford to do without it if its function will halt the depredations on our Highland lochs? In terms of pollution prevention our hydro-electric systems carry a statutory minimum flow, but this frequently is quite inadequate, as in the case of the Perthshire Garry. For the more heavily polluted streams, enhanced treatment is probably a better answer than the augmentation of low flow.

Nearly all our lochs already harnessed look frightful when they expose a deep rim of grey mud, as seen recently on Loch Treig. Must we have dams everywhere to utilise the trickle of water that our usually wet climate occasionally produces in a dry spell? The effect of a dam in ponding water is plain, but its effect upon water quality, downstream bank erosion, and the biotic deterioration of the river is less so. What is the effect of our massive afforested blocks on the run-off? We still do not know the answers for Scottish conditions and little effective research is being applied to this. In the end water conservation must be related to man's activities and needs within the practical limits of water manipulation.

(To be continued)

Deliberate Lawbreakers

Has the time come for insurers to consider excluding claims made by those who willingly break the law? Should a policyholder displaying L plates and not accompanied by a qualified driver be covered for more than the minimum required by the Road Traffic Act? It would seem that sentences applied to such offences do not bring home to offenders the seriousness of the situation and strong action by insurers would probably be welcomed by the motoring public in general as a contribution towards road safety. We are all well aware of the divergence between court decisions for similar offences. For example, a woman was given an absolute discharge for breaking the speed limit when taking her pregnant pèkinese to a vet, but a husband taking his wife to a maternity home was fined for the same offence.

Cha Teid E Chaoidh As Mo Chuimhne

Cha robh air ach falbh! Bha mi bhana charaid agus an dunc a' dol do'n Ghreig airson mios na'n deidheadh aice air deigh fhaighinn a bheirheadh an a' air Mairi bheag agus Iain. Sgrìobh Anna thugamsa. Cha tigeach as dhomh diutlaidh. Rainn mi Glaschu an latha a bha iad a' falbh. Bha a' ghriuthach air clann a' bhalie mhoir ud, ach bha Mairi agus Iain air a' cur seachad. Nach mi bha fortanach? Abair gu robh a' chloinn sallt an latha ud. Chanadh duine nach leaghadh an t-im 'nam beul. Ach dh'ath-nichinn robh mhath iad. Cha robh an cianalas orra as deidh an parantan idir. Carson? Bha cus rudan eile air an intinn. Thoisich an othail an oidhche ud thein. An duna duine a' sabaid ris an duine eile. Chaidh an cuir do'n leabaidh ach lean an fuaim. An uair a nochd mios anns an doras, bha an t-ar geal ike itean — son de na cluasgan air stracadh.

Bha chuis air a dhol bhuaidhe. Rug mi air Iain — e a' b' fhaig dhomh—agus ghabh mi dha gu'n robh mi sgith. An ath latha, bha agam ri dhol sios an baile ach gun fhios nach deidheadh Iain agus Mairi bho rian a rithist, dh' fhaig mi iad a' cluich anns a' gharadh.

Dol dhachaidh, bha mi di-reach air eirigh agus mi a' dol a' chur stad air a' bhus, an uair a stad e gu cabhagach. Dh' fhalbh mi an comhair mo chinn — nach bu ghrannad an sgreid a bha sud — agus is e a' teisuidhe an fhir-stiuraidh a' chur stad orm. Oich, oich, mo cheann. De bu chiall do dhùine 'nam bith a' rud mar sud dheanadh gun fhios carson? Thoisich mi a' togail mo ehnachach an bho'n' lar. Bha buille gharbh 'na mo cheann agus bha a' bann cal na b'fhearr a bha an aneamin ghà chur. Thog mi mo thruilleas agus sheall mi timchioll. Bha am bus 'na t'ad, na daoine a' taomadh am mach. Ach gu de bha ceart?

Theab mo chridhe stad. Och, cha b' bhi' ann. Mo chreach 'sa thainig bha duilg agam gur e Iain a bha 'na shreath an cois an rathaid. Nach e bha coltach ris. Ach cha robh Iain a' riannachadh a' gh' riud.

Rinn mi mo shlighe gu slao-dach am mach as a' bhus. Bhuail mi shuil air Mairi — i 'na seasamh le neapainn air a stobadh a' steach 'na beul agus ne deoran a' ruith sios a' plùic-an. Bha Iain 'na shineadh air ciota, sgall mhor dhubbh air fhacal agus aodann a' cheart cho geal ri aodann tannaigh.

"Iain a' ghraidh, de thachair?" dh'eigh mi. Shaoil mi gun tug a' chuideachd suil orm. Nach robh mi a' faicinn le mo dha shuil. Iain gun mhothachadh. Cha robh an corr bhuaim.

Thaig carbad. Chan b'fios agam fhathead de mar a bha luths 'nam chasan a' thug a' steach ann mi. Rainn sinn an taigh eiridinn. Nach b'iongan-

tach mar a bha iad a' falbh le Iain. Is ann a bha iad coltach ri Mairi a' falbh leis an luidheag.

Thaig bean-eiridinn am mach. Bha ficead seorsa paipear ri ainm a' chur ris. Dh' fhalbh i leam an uair sin a' shealltainn air Iain. Bha e 'na laighe gun mhothachadh is bann mor geal air a cheann. Thainn mo stamag nan uchd. Thionndaidh mi air falbh. Nochd a' bhean-eiridinn a' rithist.

"A bheil fon gaigh?" ars ishe cho ciuin.

"Th-Th-Th-a" ars mise. "Ceart?" chuala mi 'g rath' "math bhitheas atharrachadh 'sam bith ann innisidh mi dhuibh." Dh'fhag i mi.

Is ann gu math math tursach a rinn mise mo shlighe dhachaidh. Agus abair dhachaidh. Ann an aite an othail bh' ann an oidhche roimhe, bha mios fairs — fairs nach robh mi nise ag iarraidh am muigh no mach. Nach mi bhitheadh sona 'na'm bithheadh Iain agus Mairi an drasda a' sabaid. De an difir agus an t-slaime ach. Ach cha robh. Gu de bho shealbha a' chanainn ri am parantan?

Thug mi chiall orm copan te o' ach cha b' urrainn domh blasad bith a' ghabhail. Nach bochd nach glagadh am fon. Bha an t-samhadh seo gu mo chur as mo chiall. Mu dheireadh thall thainig fios, ach cha b'e am fios a' b' fhearr. Bha Iain fhatas gun a' thighinn thuig thein. Bha iad 'gam iarraidh aig an taigh eiridinn aig seachd uairean. Dh'fhalbh mi aig a' sia. Carson? Co aig a' sia fios.

Nach e na mionaidean a bha a' slao-dach. Chan'eil rian air gur e t'ri ficead dig a' tha ann am mionaide. Dh' fhoisgal an doras.

"A bheil Iain beo?" Cha b'e an lann leigh a' bh' ann ach fear-nurais. Bhuail e seachd. Nochd an lann leigh a' steach 'na chota mor geal.

"A bheil Iain beo?" "An e sibhe a' mhathair?" "Chan e. Tha mi a' toirt an aire air fhadh a' tha a' mhathair air falbh."

"A' toirt an aire air," ars esan. Shaoil leam gun tainig fiamh a' ghair air aodann. Oh, mar a' ghon e mi.

"De mar a' tha Iain?" dh' eigh mi. Cha b'urrainn domh cumail orm na b' fhaide.

"Oh," ars esan "tha mi duilich" — bha e air caochladh. Mo chogais, mo chogais—"ach bha duilg agam gu'n robh a' bhean-eiridinn air innse dhuibh. Tha e air a' thighinn mun cuairt agus ag iarraidh bhuir faicinn." Bha e beo, bha e dha m' aithneachadh agus ag iarraidh mathanas a' thoirt dha. Cha b' fhadha gun am bithheadh e fhein agus Meiri a' sabaid a' rithist.

"Ghul mi is ghair iai
A lanach mo chride."

MATRI NICLEOID

Crofters' Building Grants

Crofters wishing to build or improve houses or steadings on their crofts next year with the aid of grant or loan from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, are advised to make application now.

Building work on crofts is usually carried out during the months when hours of daylight are longer and weather is better and, says the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, crofters too often delay submitting applications until near the date when they hope to start work.

Applicants do not always appreciate how much has to be done in their interests before the actual building work can start. Proposals have to be examined and discussed on the site by officers of the Department. Reports have to be submitted and dealt with at Department Headquarters. Plans usually have to be prepared, either by the Department on the applicant's behalf or under other arrangements made by him. For most housing proposals, and in some cases for work on steadings, the proposals and plans must be approved by the local authority. Estimates based on the approved plans have to be obtained from contractors, with time allowed for acceptance of these estimates and for the arranging of a suitable starting date.

In view of all these requirements, people who do not submit their applications for grant or loan well ahead of their proposed starting date are likely to be disappointed, and will either have to delay a start or else go ahead on the basis of a provisional approval which carries no guarantee that assistance will be given. In their own interests,

therefore, crofters who wish to carry out such work next year, and similar owner-occupiers who wish to erect or improve their existing buildings with the aid of grant or loan, should be submitting their applications now. The Department cannot say definitely that this will enable approval to be given by the desired date, as circumstances vary considerably from one case to another, but it will greatly increase the chances of this being possible.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the Department at 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, 3.

NEW JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr R. P. E. Donald, service director of Macrae and Dick Ltd., Inverness, and an employer member of the Road Transport Industry Training Board, was last month elected chairman of the new joint committee of Industrial Training Boards for the Highlands and Islands at the inaugural meeting in Inverness.

The setting-up of this new committee stems from the representations made by the Scottish Committee of Central Training Council whose working group on the Highlands and Islands prepared a report on the special problems of the area.

The Scottish Committee were particularly concerned that implementation of the Industrial Training Act through Industrial Training Boards each concerned only with its own industry should not result in the needs of the Highlands and Islands being neglected. The Committee felt strongly that an unusual measure of co-operation amongst the Industrial Training Boards would be needed if the special problems of the Highlands and Islands were to be given the attention they needed.

The new committee, executive in nature rather than advisory, will hold their meetings in the Highlands, and will have a link with the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

district news

NEWTONMORE PLANS

On the 6th November the committee of the Newtonmore branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach held a meeting to discuss plans for the winter. It is hoped to be able to arrange a ceilidh early in the new year, followed by a film show, a whistle drive and another ceilidh in March. The annual sale of work will be held near Easter.

RECORDED GAELIC

As a further extension of Gaelic in Sutherland the education committee has decided to buy An Comunn Gaidhealach's recorded Gaelic courses for use in Durness and Badcall In-chard.

PORRIDGE COURSES

The Crofters' Commission and Sutherland education committee are to co-operate in providing bed and breakfast courses for crofters' wives.

PIPING COURSE

It is hoped that a further education course in piping at Stonehaven, attended by 22 people, aged from eight upwards, will provide the nucleus of the town's pipe band in two year's time.

DALCROSS LICENCE

Dalcross Airport, Inverness, is to have a liquor licence, despite the strong opposition put up by the police. This was confirmed at a sitting last week of the Inverness County Licensing Appeal Court.

THE LARGS AND DISTRICT JUNIOR GAELIC CHOIR

There was a large attendance of friends at the 4th Annual Concert held in the Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs, on 18th November, when Mr Donald MacLachlan, president of the choir, introduced the chairman, Mr Donald Grant, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

In his opening remarks, Mr Grant spoke of the good record the choir had achieved at the National Mod and was pleased to see such a good audience supporting them at their annual concert. He also expressed the hope that the attendance of the choir would be continued throughout the session remembering that Gaelic helps their English.

Mr Grant also expressed the happy memories An Comunn Gaidhealach had of the Largs Mods which have been very successful and especially of their success in being the first host town to pay their own way, although many others have now followed in their footsteps.

The strength of the choir has increased by 28 since the last National Mod and now there are both a Junior Gaelic Choir and a Juvenile Choir, for the under 12-year-olds.

Mr Grant presented the individual prize-winners with their National Mod Prizes.

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Provisional Unemployment Figures

The number of wholly unemployed people (excluding school-leavers) registered at Employment Exchanges and Youth Employment Offices in Scotland on November 13, 1967, was 82,658 (60,551 men, 1,948 boys, 18,689 women and 1,470 girls), reports the Ministry of Labour. Seasonally adjusted the figure was about 82,300 or 3.8 per cent. of the estimated number of employees. Five weeks previously on October 9, 1967, the percentage was 3.8 and in November 1966 it was 3.1.

The number of registered unemployed school leavers on November 13, 1967 was 513.

The number of temporarily stopped workers registered on November 13 was 2,748 (2,081 men, 113 boys, 521 women and 33 girls). This was 1,216 fewer than on October 9, 1967.

The total number of people registered as unemployed on November 13 was 85,919 (62,652 men, 2,365 boys, 19,210 women and 1,712 girls) or 3.9 per cent. of the estimated total of employees. On October 9 the percentage was 3.8 and in November 1966 it was 3.5.

The percentage rate for Scotland as represented by the total number of people unemployed was 3.9 and for Great Britain 2.3.

On November 8, 1967, there were 9,617 unfilled vacancies for adults notified to Employment Exchanges in Scotland. This was 109 fewer than the usual number of 19,677 compared with a normal seasonal decrease of 1,100 and 2,309 fewer than at November 1966.

On November 8, 1967 there were 4,800 unfilled vacancies for young people notified to Youth Employment Offices 77 more than on October 4.

The total number of unfilled vacancies on November 8 was 14,417 which was 232 less than at October 4.

In the five weeks from October 4 to November 8, Employment Exchanges placed 12,413 adults and Youth Employment Offices placed 2,849 young people — a total of 15,262.

BARVAS RESULT

Church supporters in the "dry" parish of Barvas in Lewis, were out in force yesterday to prevent the area becoming wet again for the first time in 100 years.

The voters decided to stay "dry" by 1,388 votes to 505.

The veto poll was the first to be held in the area since 1928 when an overwhelming majority voted to keep the parish dry.

Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme

Due to the present serious epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease, normal progress cannot be made with applications under the Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme. This is announced by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Every effort will be made to continue with the routine testing of herds already accepted into the Scheme. But applicants who have not yet received their letters of acceptance must expect some considerable delay, and applicants who have not yet received their preliminary visit must expect still more delay.

Over To You

(Continued from Page 10)

proved over and over again at hotel ceilidh and was particularly evident in 1966 at Inverness. The shambles at the Albert Ballroom only served to make the point more insistently.

"Sruth" was on sale at the Concert Hall and to my knowledge many new readers were introduced to it there. Similarly, there was a stall in the foyer of the Albert Ballroom at which numerous publications and souvenirs of the Mod were available; may not have been quite up to the high standards of its counterpart at Aberdeen in 1964, but in view of the inadequacy of space in the premises which were available, the stall did very well. Does the Mod really stand or fall on whether tickets were or were not available at the Albert Ballroom at the time stated on the poster or whether they turned up half an hour later? In any case, if you are a member of An Comunn or support your local branch, it is possible to purchase tickets in advance. Not only ensures one's own comfort, it saves the valuable time and effort of the all-too-few voluntary and spare-time workers who help to make the Mod the wonderful event that it is. It may come as a surprise to certain people to learn just how much of the work of An Comunn is done by part-time unpaid workers who are available to help, year after year, as occasionally do, if founded and even ill-natured criticism of the efforts of these people. I have found that such carping criticism is usually given if asked to inconvenience themselves on behalf of An Comunn or the Mod, they demand that the entire resources of An Comunn shall be placed at their disposal whenever they wish and yet one suspects that they can show little for those facilities and resources that are available to all. Mr MacBlane may consider this letter unnecessarily harshly directed towards him, but unfortunately his own letter has been used as ammunition by a factor who has not the best interests of An Comunn at heart. If he honestly feels that there is room for improvement in the Mod or in the organisation that is responsible, I advise him to get in touch with those responsible for the running of these things and see what he can do to help. I speak from personal experience when I say that he will be most gratefully received, he will make many friends and the results will be most rewarding. Not very long ago I holidayed in a Highland town at the time of their Provincial Mod and I found that the extremely capable lady and gentleman who are the pillars of its organisation were at their wits end trying to cope with the sudden illness of a neighbour. So I offered to distribute publicity pamphlets and acted as chauffeur to one or two people, and on the actual day of the Mod I sold admission tickets for a couple of hours at the door of a hall. I was thanked by all sorts of people and was told afterwards that the attendance had been unusually high. I certainly enjoyed that Mod more than if I had been a mere spectator.

An even better example was given by a family of my acquaintance who conduct a private business about three hours' motoring distance from Glasgow. Two younger members of the family have been given every encouragement to become proficient competitors at the Mod, their friend are also encouraged to take part and one of the senior members of the family acted as a steward at sundry Mod functions. On the Saturday morning they were away the day on an unearthy hour in order to catch up with some of the business lost in the previous week. There just aren't enough people of that calibre. Is means.

"EXILED GAEL"



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