

Truth

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UDI Prospects In North Isles

Last weekend the Conservative Party Regional Conference in Inverness unanimously accepted a motion deploring the Government's dictatorial attitude in enforcing amalgamation of Orkney and Shetland with mainland Scotland against the wishes of the people of the islands.

The proposal was put to the conference by Miss Grace Halcrow, of the Shetland branch, who has been helping to organise a petition to the Queen. This petition asks that a pledge of James III, giving the islands the right to their own administration, be honoured.

Gordon Campbell, Member for Moray and Nairn, said that the Government were considering a pattern of administrative amalgamations "without fully considering local views of conditions."

Another proposal put before the Inverness conference

deplored the Government's policy of excessive centralisation and urged that when the reorganisation of local government took place, there should be adequate provision for local decisions to be made at local level.

It was essential, said Mr John Gray, a prospective Tory candidate, that flexibility must be the keynote of any new structure. Special considerations must be given to Orkney and Shetland, the Western Isles and the whole northern region, because of its geographical area and scattered population.

Mr Gray said, "If it is considered that Orkney and Shetland and the Western Isles are not large enough to form a major authority, they should each be given a lower tier authority with extraordinary powers."

(Srnth Note : See Editorial and article: Representation Reform Needed Now, page 12.



PEAT—tons of it. Our picture shows a familiar activity in the Highlands and Islands. Peat today in the area is used only as a domestic fuel. In recent years, stimulated by the knowledge of successful peat-burning power stations in operation in the U.S.S.R. and in Eire, consideration has been given to its wider operation as a source of power. The Scottish Peat Committee, appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland, has estimated the total workable deposits in Scotland to be in the region of 600 million tons. This is roughly equivalent to 500 million tons of coal. An additional advantage is that when land is cleared of peat, development of forestry or agriculture is made possible. But such an enterprise, involving the exploitation of these vast fuel reserves in remote parts of Scotland, really demands national action with Government backing. With this in mind, peat as a source of employment income for the Highlands and Islands can be written off.

(Photo : T. B. MacAulay, Stornoway)

TIONNSGALAN BHARRAIDH

Mun am a bhios am paiperir so a tighinn a' clo bithidh factoraidh speulair-ean air fosgladh am Barraidh. 'Se an t-Oll R. Grieve a tha an urra ris an fhosgladh agus bithidh Mgr. Iain Rollo cuide ris. Tha dithis fhear is seachdair nighean ag obair san fhaictoraich an ceart uair agus se Tom Moireasdan a Cataibh an gafair orra. Tha duil gun bi 30 ag obair an so am bliadhna eile ma thoisicheas iad ag obair air na glainichean.

Tha sinn cuideachd ag cur mealladh naidheachd air "seant" Thangasdal—obair ur eile. Bha failleadh briaghna riann a Barraidh ach bi e seachd fheabhas a nis. Speulair-ean is seant-de nis? Pudar is hipstic! ! Nach bochd nach lorgadh duine craag mhath den da chuid. Cha bhithidh dith oibreach ann an uair sin.

Moderator in Inverness
The Right Rev. W. Roy Sanderson, D.D., Stenton and Whittinghame, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, ended his ten-day visit to the Presbytery of Inverness on Monday.

Echoes Of The Mod 1967

Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain represented their post-Mod concert in the Phoenix Cinema on 28th October. All tickets were sold well in advance, and an extremely high standard was attained throughout the evening as one would expect, considering the programme, which consisted of Norman MacLean and Bette MacDonald (the Gold Medalists); Oban Gaelic Choir (winners of Lovat and Tullibardine Shield and Ladies' Voices Competitions), Nan Black and Anne MacKenzie (duet winners), Isabel Clark (Glasgow Skye Gold Medal), Catherine MacIntyre (junior unpublished songs), and guests: Pipe-Major Lawrie and party from Glasgow Police Pipe Band, Oban Male Voice Choir, Colin Campbell and his Band, and Donald MacRitchie (Helensburgh), who also acted as chairman with the assistance of Mr Donald Thomson. The ac-

companist was Morag McIntyre, and votes of thanks were proposed by Robin Banks.

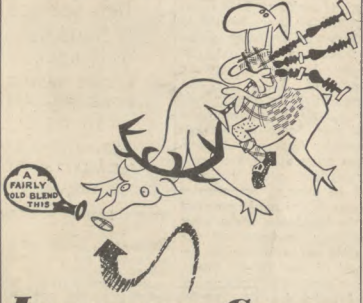
This is the second year that the Oban Branch have promoted a concert of this nature, and it is hoped that it will now become a regular feature of the Oban winter programme. Some members of the audience travelled specially from as far away as Kyle, Ballachulish, Tobermory, Inveraray and Campbeltown.

Transport For Fort William Children

Parents and teachers have met to discuss the problem of transporting the children from the school to the playing fields at the other end of the town. The fields will be moved out even further when work starts on the proposed swimming pool, as it is being planned to build the Baths on the site of the present King George V Park, and have new fields at Claggan — about three-quarters-of-a-mile further away from the school. To get the children to and from the playing fields, it was decided to purchase a minibus, and as a start to a drive to raise a minimum of £300, a sale of work is being organised.

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BIRTH

MCLEOD — At Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on 24th October 1967 to Mr and Mrs Alistair McLeod (Maria Chisholm), Achintore Rd., Fort William — daughter. (Both well).

MARRIAGE

FRASER — ARMSTRONG — At Kenneway Old Parish Church, on the 17th October 1967, by the Rev. Peter Fraser, B.D. (father of the bridegroom), and the Rev. John Clark, F.P.S., William John, elder son of the Rev. Peter and Mrs Fraser, Invermoriston Manse, Glenmoriston, to Elizabeth Nellison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert H. Armstrong, Denhead, Kenneway, Fife.

DEATHS

CAMERON — At the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness, on the 29th October 1967, Simon Cameron, beloved husband of Isobel MacDonald, Faichem, Invergarry.

CAMERON — Very suddenly, on the 30th October 1967, Ewan, dearly beloved son of the late John and Janet Cameron, Gallanachbeg, Oban, and Murielston, Greenock.

MACDONALD — At Strathard, Drumdradroch, on 20th October 1967, William Francis MacDonald, M.B., Ch.B., J.P., beloved husband of Joyce, and dear father of Frances, Interred Kilmore Cemetery, Drumdradroch.

SEAN-FHACAL

Cha d'fhuin doras nach d'fhogail doras.

No door closes without opening another door.

Text for the Times

Cha-n' bh' gaideachas agam as mo na 'bh' cluinntinn gu bheil mo chlann ag imeachd 's an fhirinn.

III Eoin C. 1 r. 4.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.
III John Ch. 1 v. 4.

Wanted — Copies of the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness — Early Volumes. Apply Box No. 55 Sruith.

Proprietary Employment Figures Bad

The number of wholly unemployed persons (excluding school leavers) registered at Employment Exchanges and Youth Employment Offices in Scotland on October 9, 1967, was 78,991 (57,371 men, 2,049 boys, 18,144 women and 1,427 girls), announce the Ministry of Labour. Seasonally adjusted, the figure was about 83,700 or 3.8 per cent. of the estimated number of employees. Four weeks previously, on September 11, 1967, the percentage was 3.9, and in October, 1966, it was 2.9.

The number of registered unemployed school leavers on October 9, 1967, was 841.

The number of temporarily stopped workers registered on October 9, was 3,929 (3,070 men, 78 boys, 716 women and 65 girls). This was 1,264 more than on September 11.

The total number of persons registered as unemployed on October 9 was 83,761 (60,441 men, 2,666 boys, 18,860 women and 1,794 girls), or 3.8 per cent. of the estimated total of employees. On September 11, the percentage was 3.7, and in October, 1966, it was 3.0.

On the other hand . . .

Fly Air Wick

We conclude our Tourism series with a look at travel generally and future developments.

Aer Lingus and the Irish Tourist Board swap the colour supplements with invitations to visit Ireland; yet there seems to be little co-operation between B.E.A. and the Scottish Tourist Board. Most visitors to the Highlands come by car or bus and when one considers the volume of air travel to, say, Spain, it seems odd that there are no charter flights from the Continent and Scandinavia to Dalcross. With recollections of the stealth with which B.E.A. introduced their Inverness-London service, we rather suspect most Sassenachs think that Air-Wick is the main Highland Air-line. (Air-Wick: A well known wick-in-the-bottle air fresher).

At the moment the Highlands must represent the end of a one-way road to many continental tourists and there must surely sooner or later be grounds for some limited northern sea link to Scandinavia during the tourist season or else perhaps a re-routing of the London-Stavanger B.E.A./S.A.S. service via a Highland airport, possibly twice a week. We must also look ahead and prepare for ever increasing tourist traffic on the ground as well as in the air. Europeanisation is leading to the opening of all frontiers and boundaries between countries. Within the next decade it will be possible to travel everywhere throughout Europe without passports or visas; everywhere, that is, except Glen Strathfarrar, where intending visitors will be required to produce the requisite permit at the locked gate.

Improved roads and bridges will be necessary to cater for the increasing traffic and the Highland Transport Board's recent Report received great acclaim. It was, however, (as Donald John McKay, the Director of an Account, said at the time it was presented):

SAFE RETURN

Sister Margaret MacDonell, the Cape Breton nun, has arrived back home safe after her holiday in Scotland, when she visited among other places, the Western Isles, Skye, Eigg, Kintail, and Glangarry.

Since her return she has attended a meeting of the Cape Breton Gaelic Society of Boston. This Society is of long-standing, and has a membership of 300. A good deal of Gaelic is spoken at the meeting and there are Gaelic songs and music from Cape Breton fiddlers. Tea and oatcakes are served at the function.

One of those, who became well-known at the Inverness Mod last year is Bill Lamey, the president of the Society.

Sister Margaret's ancestors originated from Strathglass and Eggsdale. She was born in Judique, Cape Breton, and is at present doing doctoral studies in Celtic at Harvard. On her father's side her forefathers are Nighean Uilleim, Alasdair, Chaillein, Dhòmhaichaidh and her mother's Nighean Mòr Chaluim Dhòmhaighail Eeachainn.

"primarily a report of recommendation" and if we may coin a phrase "Only the road to Hell is paved with good recommendations." But it is very easy to be cynical and — who knows — by the early 1970's we may even have another Report.

In addition to improved roads there is the need for a few new link roads to open up the Highlands for visitors and locals alike. It is encouraging to read that the Army are considering constructing a new road linking Rannoch Station with King's House to complete the road to the Isles. The Balgay Gap has been closed and it can only be a matter of time before the Glen Feshie road becomes a reality.

One other possible link road appears to have been overlooked of late, a new roadway through Glen Affric linking the Loch Benevean road with Loch Duich. Such a link-off offers immense possibilities and would open up a great deal of new country.

We are wholeheartedly in favour of National Parks, but with regard to the Loch Affric National Park Scheme, we have misgivings as to the overall advantages accruing from its very large park with very limited access as opposed to two smaller parks with access from a central roadway.

We also perhaps rather surprisingly question the particular appeal of Glen Affric as a big National Park. It is some time since we crossed through the actual Glen, but as we recollect it was rather uninteresting after Affric Lodge in complete contrast to the scenically outstanding lower reaches along Loch Benevean.

We were intrigued by the proposal some time ago by the Countryside Commission for a hydrofoil on Loch Ness. We recently did some bus travel in a very, very old bus and with thoughts of travel services generally in the Highlands, we would pose the question — "Where are they going to get second-hand hydrofoils from?"

Travel on Loch Ness is at present catered for by the Scott II and it might be thought too forward looking to envisage more craft on the loch. We are inclined to imagine today that tourism is something new to the Highlands and it is revealing to

MORE GAELIC-SPEAKING PAKISTANIS

Sruith seems to be reaching the four corners of the world now, with a recent order from a student's club in Pakistan for a number of copies. In a letter from the secretary to the paper, the closing remark is that he "will do his best to remember Scotland during his whole life." There are already a few Gaelic-speaking Pakistanis, and it looks as if there is a club of students very eager to learn.

quote from a June edition of the "Courier" of the year 1824 on the subject "The steam packets through the Caledonian Canal and coaches from the south and east daily bring crowds of strangers to visit the Highlands; and the three steam packets and daily coaches seem to be at present well employed."

The last time we were in London we stayed at one of the large popular hotels; it was packed with Americans. Yet, the American tourist is very much a rarity in the Highlands. This is probably due to poor salesmanship and lack of effective advertising. Who, one might well ask, has heard in Little Rock of either Glen Affric or the Callernish Stones? (Actually we half anticipate with Sruith's readership a letter from the Sheriff of Little Rock stating that he happens to be descended from a McKenzie from Harris married to a Fraser from Beaulieu).

A little more imagination might help lure the tourist. Most West-Coast hotels are either the Royal or the Caledonian and we have given some thought as to possible names for the five new Highlands and Islands Development Board projects — we would suggest the Hilton for Americans, the Angleterre for the English, the Viking for the Scandinavians, The Grand Charles for the French and the Grand Plaza for the Glaswegians.

In much the same vein more originality could be shown in bed and breakfast signs. Such signs are of course subject to a commendable measure of conformity in size and layout. But perhaps a more person! note might be introduced — "Stay with Mrs Nicholson, recommended by R.A.C., A.A. and Boswell and Johnson;" "Mrs MacDonald — Highland hospitality at its best — No Campbells;" "Mrs McKenzies for home cooking — Duke of Edinburgh's Award for crowdie and oatcakes."

Finally we would suggest that all "Sruith" readers furnish of Scotland book their 1968 Highland holidays now. We should perhaps warn intending visitors that accommodation may be strictly limited during the months of June, July and August in all the popular holiday centres as students and staff from Schools of Art and University Geography Departments along with business consultants and other specialists will be carrying out massive surveys on the tourist potential in the Highlands, whilst other University students will be handing out questionnaires; on behalf of the Tourist Board, the Countryside Commission, local authorities, the Scottish Office and the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

R.M.M.

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Faicinn Bhuam

AM MOD

Tha e a' dèanamh feum mòr, saoilidh mi, a bhith a' faicinn bhàrailean, math no dona, a' tighinn an follas gairidh an dèidh a' Mhoid-fhein. Tha sin fìor gu h-àraidh ma tha sinn a' cluinninn còig aig a tha na bàrailean sin. Nuair a chì nàrachadh ann an paiper-naidheachd gun rithic ach ainm-pinn tha lethseul an leughadair ri ghabhail muir a toir e mòran cum dhì.

Gun teagamh faodaidh suidhichidhean a bhith ann nuair nach bi e freagarrach do sgròbhadair aobhar suarach a chur as a leth airson ainm a chleith. Bithheadh sin mar sin, chanel mar as trice paiperan a tha a' toirt cead saor do lùthraich gun turra ri am moladh airson a' chleachdadh sin. Faodar a ràdh, muir eile deònach ainm a chur ris na beachdan a tha e a' cur an cèill, agus seasamh air an son ma dh' iarrar air, gum bithheadh e cho math dha fùreach sàmhach.

A nise chan fhaic mi lùthraich ann a' n-tseorsa mu Mhòd Ghlaschu am paiper sa bhith. A thaobh am beagan a chnuaic mi bhàraig a' coachadh leis an fhear a thuir nach robh Gàidhlig gu leòr ri cluinninn bhò 'n àrd-ùrlar. Dh' ainmich e na curimean-feasgar. Nuair a tha fir-chathrach againn aig nàcheil Gàidhlig chaneil e fùrasda gnòthachan a chumail a dol ann an Gàidhlig a bhàin.

Dè as còir a dhèanamh? Deanamh as aonais fir-chathrach, mar a chomhairlich n-cuid. Tha e soilleir cò-dhiu gur e barrachd Gàidhlig a tha a' dhlith oimh air àrd-ùrlar agus an aiteachan eile.

Tha sinn uile buailteach air a bhith a' dèanamh lethseul dha na Ghall airson tìomhachd ris na beachda. Ach chan e an Gall a bhith sa' chuideachd a tha gur chur dhen. Ghàidhlig ach, an tomhas mòr, cion a' chomais no dìreach an leig. Tha sinn air fàs cho fìleana ann a' Bheurla, agus cho meirgeach ann a' Ghàidhlig, s gur ann a tha sinn a' dèanamh toilleachadh ri Gall a' nochdadh air fàire. Bha na Gàidhlig riamh cho mothaidh. Ma chumas sinn oimh ann a' Ghàidhlig bithidh am fear eile a' smainteachadh gu bheil sinn a' bruidhinn airson, s dòcha a' magadh air. Feumaidh sinn a bhith mothaidh agus leantainn dlith ri cùl air sinnir.

Cha deam e an gnòthach. Bha an fìrinn again a' dhuin uasal a

thuir aig a' choinneimh bhliadhnaile nuair e an rad gur dheireadh a tha an fear-ionnsachadh ag iarraidh gu sguir daoine de bhruidhinn na Gàidhlig nuair a thig an strainnsair. Ged nach tuigeadh e ach facal an siud san sò, chaneil sin gu defir; feumaidh a chluas fàs eòlach air fuaim na Gàidhlig. Tha na leanamh a' toigil casan labhairt le bhith ag èisèachd sa' cluinnint; se sin an dòigh as cinntiche do 'n inbheach cuideachd.

Tha na beachdan a chluinnear 'n an cur an cois nam beachdan a leughar. Chuala mi feadhainn an agh gu robh e fùrasda daoine a chluinnint ann an talla mhòr agus feadhainn eile nach robh e fùrasd idir. Bithidh cuid a' gearan cò-dhlith, ach se gnòthach fìor-bhòchda a bhitheadh ann mur bithheadh an uidheam-chlaisteach comhlionta an deidh dhùinn duine fhasadail e'r comharrad air gu bhith a' cur a' chead rud sin air dòigh.

Thuir feadhainn gu do dh'òs gladh a' Mhòid Di-luain riutha, agus feadhainn dh'òs sin a dh' a' d'aidich nach robh mòran Gàidhlig aca. Rinn na h-uile toilleachadh ris a' chloinn fhàicinn agus a chluinnint an co-charpas nam sgòlteach, ach charean a bha na ceisean cho mi-fhèarrachar? Chuir e iognadh oim fhìin gun taghadh fàr a tha cho eòlach air clann-sgoile ri Iain Domhnullach a leithid de cheisidan, agus an cuala mi nach b' eisan a thaghadh idir. Tha daoine againn a tha eòlach air an obair seo agus bu mhat leinn an deasanas earbsa ri fòr no tè, dè 'n air-eamh nam deasachd id e.

Bha mòran bruidhne ann mu cho-fharpas nam 'oran siùdaìn. An dèidh an othail a bh' ann an uridh, b' iongantach nach d' thuing air ceithir buidhnean air adhart ann bliadhna. (Bha a sia Inbhirnis). Chaneil dad agamsa an aghaidh a bhith a' seinn anns an nòs ùr ach feumaidh sinn cumhachadh gu bheil an nòs ùr a' gabhail ionachd dreach. Rachainn fada a sheachnachd cuid dha na pòsan a' dhlith a' ràinig an fheadhainn Ghàidhlig fhathast an ìre nach tuig leam. Theagamh gun tig an nòs ùr, ùr, cuideachd. Ged a bhitheadh deonach eile a thoir dhaibh aig a' Mhòid, na toiramaid

a chreadisinn oimh fhìin gu bheil seo, mar a tha cuid a' cumail a mach, a' dol a chumail na Gàidhlig beò.

Gu dearbh tha sinn tric air ar mealladh nuair na seinn òran us bhith a' dèanamh airson na cànan. Cia meud a chluinneas bhì, no a chì bhì, aig deireadh cuimh-chòig a sheinneas fìin Laoidh na Rìoghachd fhìin anns a' Ghàidhlig?

Ma chuala sibh cuid dha na h-bràin siùdaìn, agus dha na chò-bhith a' dèanamh airson na cànan. Cia meud a chluinneas bhì, no a chì bhì, aig deireadh cuimh-chòig a sheinneas fìin Laoidh na Rìoghachd fhìin anns a' Ghàidhlig?

Ma chuala sibh cuid dha na h-bràin siùdaìn, agus dha na chò-bhith a' dèanamh airson na cànan. Cia meud a chluinneas bhì, no a chì bhì, aig deireadh cuimh-chòig a sheinneas fìin Laoidh na Rìoghachd fhìin anns a' Ghàidhlig?

Bha e fùrasda gu leòr do 'n BhC taghadh a dèanamh a' lònadh leth-ùir shòlhabta shocair fhàbh, mar sin a bha a' dhàith eirra cho robh iad riaraichte le leithid sin. Cha ghabh an cron a rinnèadh a' fàbh a' d'ubhadh as ach, ma tha sinn a' d'air a' reic sarrannan ann a' Mhòid an dèidh seo, feumaidh sinn a bhith cinnteach nach toir sinn seachad, aig prìs sam bhith, air dha' fhasdas marhad a thoir oim fhìin.

Donald Macrae

Na Breabaidhean

Tha Comhairle nam Crosair 'nna Bheillean ann an gr ag comhairleachadh gum bu chòir mu 400 breabaidair a thoir far na leabhraichean. Aig airde chaneil ach obair do 800 sa Chìh-Mhòr. Ma tha duil sìg an T.G.W.U. staid is inbhe nam breabaidair a leasachadh feumaidh nas lugha o bh' air obair is feumaidh nam mairidh a' d'obair a' d'obair a' shuidheachadh. An ceart uair sann air an ceann fheir a' na na breabaidhean air obair: chaneil còir aca dol, no laithean saora. Tha sinn a' d'obair a' d'obair a' d'obair ann an tìomhsal mar a gheibheadh iad nam biodh iad air am fàsadh aig na muillean f'heibheadh na muillean an uair sin £400 san t-seachdain bhon righaltas na 'ghrant' tìonnsgal agus ann 800 a dh'fhasdaidh iad agus bhiodh na còirichean a tha an sàbh' luchd obreach eile feadh Bhrèataim air an buileachadh air na breabaidhean.

A Country

by Keith Murdoch
In such a small space
In such a small space
From Highlands to Lowlands
What a change of atmosphere!
There's culture in Edinburgh
(to an American)
from Hungary and Liverpool
- what an education!
In such a small race
(to an American)
from Norseman and Pict
- what a colour!
There's a croft in the north
content with quiet life
(to an American)
- what a courage!

In the south
where international business
(even to an American)
makes the sky grey.
There's a mixture of sentiment
for London as centre
or (full of history to the
American) Scotland is separate.
What an atmosphere!

Review Order

Scotland's Industrial Past

The industrial past of Scotland has been glorified many times. But not until now has there been a real attempt to tell its story as a preliminary run in its own right. Too often it has been tied up with economics, politics, and social history.

"The Industrial Archaeology of Scotland," by John Burt. is a good preliminary run on the subject. It is as well that in recent years the interest in industrial archaeology has increased to the level that many industrial subjects are now being recorded if not being preserved.

The book gives the results of the first full-length study of the physical remains of industry throughout the breadth of Scotland.

The book is in two parts. The first is a general review of the remains in the fields of engineering, chemicals, transport, public utilities, mining, textiles and agriculture. The second part is in the form of a fairly comprehensive gazetteer covering the whole of Scotland, county by county, and parish by parish.

Some 1,500 sites of interest are covered and will do much to stimulate the interest of local historians. But why confine the subject to historians? With so much of the past of industrial Scotland being demolished, this is definitely a subject to be tackled by senior school pupils. Technical colleges could be drawn to this subject through their complementary studies departments. Indeed, what better way is there to introduce the past of the local trades and industry to the new entrants of today than to go on a "dig" to a nearby site.

Perhaps "dig" may not be the correct word here. But dig one must certainly do in order to get the facts of an industry's past history. When so often the real archaeological work is confined to experts qualified in their subject, industrial archaeology is certainly the subject of the moment and one well worth the ability and interest of the amateur.

Those with specific local knowledge will probably find that the book only mentions briefly or not at all their local sites. While this might be called a fault of the book it is appreciated that the subject of Scotland's industrial archaeology is a vast one, and the author is to be congratulated on being as com-

prehensive as he is.

At least Dr Burt has thrown out a challenge with his work. And it remains for more persons to become interested in the subject to record, if not preserve, the remains of Scotland's industry. This is a cause it is it should therefore not matter of national pride. And be neglected. If you're not quite sure of how to go about things, the book's thoughtful bibliography will put you right.

("Industrial Archaeology of Scotland," by John Burt. 50s. David & Charles, Newton Abbot).

The present and the future are often so vital to us that it becomes too easy to lose sight of the past. Man has ever thrown a backward glance to discover his origins, or to verify that things into the future bears relevance to the thinking and the activities of his forefathers.

In "Man Discovers His Past," Glyn Daniel, a household name these past few years, tells the tale from the times before history books were certain. This is a well-told tale, in an easily read style. In fact, the book is an edited transcript from a popular series on the B.B.C. in 1966.

The book is better than radio, however, as it is illustrated to heighten the reader's interest. It is a pleasure to browse through an just the thing to give a gift to the older child looking around for something to occupy the mind: something that's not only educational, but thought-provoking too. There are many questions one can ask about the past. This book answers some of them, and that answers are certainly well answered. For the exciting aspect about archaeology is that, as Daniel says, "the past has a great future."

"Man Discovers His Past," by Glyn Daniel. Readers Union/Gentle Duckworth, 13/6 to members.

Truth At Last

An inordinate lot of rubbish has been perpetrated in the name of tartan for some decades now, mainly by those with romanticised ideas of the Highlands and its clan system; but thought-provoking ideas, to read about tartan written by Lt.-Col. Iain B. Cameron Taylor. This is "The Story of Tartan," No. 7 in a series published by the Gaelic Information Centre of the Gaelic Information Centre of the Gaelic Information Centre of the Gaelic Information Centre.

The author pulls no punches. He denounces the spirit of tartan as it is given in connection with the habit of connecting a tartan with a clan which has its origins in the mists of time.

Some flower illustrations (the sources of dyes) and a thread-count stick heighten the interest of this short but fairly comprehensive write-up of tartan. A most for anyone with only the slightest interest in the subject. And surely a summary of tartan information for the tourist to keep by one's side. "The Story of Tartan" is available from Gaelic Information Centre, Aberlathf House, Inverness, at 9d plus 3d postage.

Sonnet

Darling, I can leave you never.
Part perhaps yet love forever,
Love you till the Muses fail to bring
Songs to poets that angels sing.
Why, from the moment that I
Symphonies they've hummed around me.
And now my heart for their live they take
Honey, my flower, from you to make
And perfume you each day I adore,
My perfumed poem, more and more.
Donald Macrae.

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by F. G. THOMSON

The respects of Tidal Power

Last October, President De Gaulle inaugurated the Rance tidal power scheme and the first, large-scale production of electrical energy from the tides began. The construction of the scheme was full of innovation, for never before had an estuary with average tides of 30ft. range been closed.

There were doubts about the Rance scheme, of course. The main criticism was the cost. For £36 millions is a lot to pay for a net output of 544GWh per annum. The energy cost per unit is more than 0.75d, little more than half of the energy is peaking energy.

Because of this, at a time when thermal power stations produce energy at 0.5d per unit and nuclear power is promising even cheaper costs, the French have been speaking of the Rance as the first and perhaps the last tidal power station in the world.

But there are others who do not share this view and who believe that the Rance, though showing one method of how the tides can be harnessed, has opened up a new field of development in other types of tidal-power schemes.

Only recently a proposal from Malcolm K. MacMillan, Labour M.P. for the Western Isles, and the Western Isles Labour Party, involved the creation of a tidal power scheme in Lewis.

The site recommended for survey by interested Statutory bodies in the Highlands is Little Loch Roag. The proposal is based on a scheme outlined by a technically-qualified member of the Labour Party in Lewis. The Loch at Ungeshader is about 120 feet across and experiences significant tidal ranges.

As the bulk of the electricity generated on the island is by diesel-electric stations, the proponents of the tidal scheme say that the high-cost electricity acts against industrial development of the kind which relies on low-cost electrical energy for competitive production.

It would well to look closer into this proposal, particularly in view of the Rance scheme and other similar projected schemes throughout the world.

At the present time, many years in the development of high-head (high-pressure) pump-turbines, we know that pumped-storage schemes (e.g., at Loch Awe) can be built at a cost of £40 per kilowatt installed. In fact, if existing hydro facilities such as Loch Sloy are used, the Hydro-electric Board have estimated a cost as low as £25/kW.

Also, the developments which have taken place in turbo-generators in recent years has led to the idea of tidal-power-pumped-storage schemes with a cost of about £20 per kilowatt installed as against the Rance cost of about £80/kW. The net output of the tidal-power pumped storage schemes is far more flexible than that of a Rance-type scheme. Load can be

VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND TO ORKNEY

Mr Edward M. Taylor (C. Glasgow, Cathcart) has asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he would make a statement on his visit during the summer to the Orkney and Shetland Islands.

Mr William Ross, in a written reply, has said: "On my recent visit to Orkney and Shetland I was able to discuss economic and social problems, to visit industries, schools, hospitals and to meet medical authorities and the local councils of social services, as well as representatives of local authorities."

"These settings were of value in enabling me to assess the problems at first hand, and discuss them with the local people."

accepted within a few minutes, instead of a few hours notice. The pumped-storage element, being a separate entity, may be designed for a combined tidal power and system requirement. The load factor of the conventional generating plant used can also be further improved by using cheap night energy in the conventional pumped storage way.

The combined tidal-power-pumped-storage scheme can be used to meet a peak energy requirement lasting up to 12 hours, all the energy required being provided either directly from the pumped storage or indirectly by regenerating from the pumped storage capacity.

The great bulk of this energy would be tidal energy, either converted or directly injected. Since the tidal energy all costs the same, the tidal scheme using storage capacity looks extremely attractive.

Another suggestion which brings the tidal power station into the realm of cheap-power provisions is the prefabrication of the station itself and its sluices, which allow the water to be pumped into the storage basin. By making the power stations in self-contained sections which can be manufactured simultaneously at the shore or in drydocks, they subsequently towed out and sunk onto prepared rock-rubble foundations, the construction period may be shortened and the need for elaborate coffer-dams avoided.

The main focus of attention of tidal power engineers has now shifted from France to Canada, where the immense potential of the Bay of Fundy is currently under assessment by the Canadian Government's Tidal Power Programming Board. There are strong reasons to believe that the British thinking on tidal power in Britain may influence the Canadian investigations.

Other principal sites for consideration throughout the world are the Gulf of San Jose in Argentina, the north-west coast of Australia, Cook Inlet in Alaska, and the English Bristol Channel.

It is reckoned that the Bristol Channel offers perhaps the best site for the development of tidal-power schemes anywhere in the world.

So far as the Loch Roag scheme is concerned, one must of course think in terms of cost per head of population involved in the resultant benefit of cheap power. But there is no reason why the North of Scotland Hydro-electric Board and the Highland and Islands Development Board should delay in setting up an interim Committee to look into tidal power schemes in the North of Scotland.

Another aspect is that in times of national emergency, there will be a restriction in the movement of oil, a basic fuel for electricity generation so far as the Isles are concerned. The existing hydro-electric capacity in the Isles would be insufficient for all but essential consumers.

The Western Isles Scheme should not be allowed to become yet another proposal. The potential is there in Loch Roag. It just needs to be developed.

Bretons Want Minimum Charter

by our Breton Correspondent

(SRUTH NOTE: Our Breton Correspondent has sent us this Charter of basic requirements for Brittany. It was presented at a recent meeting of the Jorisset, a movement of Bretons, who also adds point to the Bretons' request for Brittany to be recognised as a geographical entity with racial characteristics different from those of the rest of France.)

Point I

Demandé que dans les textes législatifs français, le terme de "nationalité" employé abusivement dans le sens d'appartenance à un Etat souverain, soit remplacé par celui de "citoyenneté."

Affirmé que dans le cadre de l'Etat français, le Breton constitue, au sens strict de terme, une nation.

Requiert que tout Breton puisse se réclamer, même dans les actes publics, à la fois de sa nationalité bretonne et de sa citoyenneté française.

Point II

Reclament l'enseignement de la Langue bretonne à tous les degrés primaires, secondaires, technique et supérieur en Basse-Bretagne. L'enseignement de la langue bretonne dans les degrés secondaire, technique et supérieur en Haute-Bretagne.

Reclament, en outre, l'enseignement de l'Histoire du Bretagne sur tout le territoire Breton.

Reclament également l'enseignement des Arts traditionnels développés ou généralisés dans tous les établissements d'enseignement artistique, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Conservatoires de Musique et tous établissements de ce genre.

Reclament la création d'un service spécial "Culture bretonne" dans les restaurants, services départementaux de l'Education nationale et de la Jeunesse et des Sports chargés d'animer tout le vie culturelle dans l'ensemble de la Bretagne.

Point III

Estiment nécessaire et urgent la création d'une Assemblée régionale délibérative sur toutes les questions intéressant la Bretagne et l'ensemble du territoire. (Généralistes des Cinq Départements Bretons.)

Exigent la mise en place d'un Conseil économique et social régional, organisme d'étude et de consultation, composé de représentants de organisations syndicales patronales, ouvrières, artisanales, agricoles, des cadres et professions indépendantes, ainsi que de représentants d'organismes culturels et culturels.

Reclament l'installation d'un Exécutif régional doté de pouvoirs substantiels, notamment à l'égard de modes de financement, assisté par un Commissaire Régional du Gouvernement.

SPRAT SURVEY FOR HIGHLANDS

A survey is to be carried out by the White Fish Authority to confirm the reports of "sherrhen that the West Highland lochs are a 'ful of sprats' at certain times of the year.

The Authority says that the survey will be centred on Ullapool. The lochs involved are in the west.

The object of the survey is to confirm that the shoals of sprats were large enough to justify a fishing activity to catch the fish. If the fishing activity has potential, there may be the setting up of a meal and oil reduction factory on the west coast.

The Government are reported as being interested in establishing industrial fishing to help reduce an annual imports bill of more than £20 million for fish meal and oil. The meal is an essential ingredient for animal feeding stuffs.

Life In Canada

Part 5

No talk about Canada is complete without reference to its aboriginal inhabitants the Red Indian tribes or clans, Mic Macs, Iroquois, Cherokees, and others, who live on separate land reservations allotted to them by the government.

No longer do these romantic nomads roam the wilds, fishing, hunting, and scalping their conquer enemies as their ancestors were wont to do, but have

by Norman MacDonald

long ago settled down to the comparatively tamer and more civilised life of the white race, with whom they have very largely intermixed and bred, so that now a full blooded Indian is indeed a rarity. Nevertheless, they have on the whole retained a great deal of their native traditions, weather lore and primitive customs.

Indian names have often struck me as odd, until I found out how and why they were given.

The moment a child is born, the father goes outside and whatever sight or sound greets eye or ear, be it bird or beast in any posture, flying, walking, running, or crying, he hastens in and calls the new born after it.

Hence such expressive names as Sitting Bull, Quack in the Bush, Rushing Water, to mention only a few.

The form-labile warriors of bygone days now prefer to live in peace, taking pride in their handicrafts such as brightly coloured baskets, mats, beads, and leather work of all descriptions, which are sometimes sold from house to house.

Living so close to Nature for centuries, yea millenniums, it is not surprising the Red Men have succeeded in wresting many secrets from her, such as, for instance, the uncanny gift of being able, sometimes a year beforehand, of giving remarkably accurate weather forecasts by studying barks of trees, animals' furs, and water level in burns and rivers.

Over and above, they have an amazing knowledge of the medicinal properties of plants, herbs and flowers and of how to apply them, quite often with success.

I have heard a story about a certain man suffering from a stomach ailment, who was discharged from hospital, incurable. An old Indian from the neighbouring reservation, when he heard the bad news, called on the patient and advised him thus: "If your disease is what I guess it to be, there are herbs growing at the lower end of your farm which will cure you. Put a kettle of water on the fire, half fill it with this plant and let it slowly boil. After it has boiled for a while, fill a tea cup with the juice which must not be swallowed in mouthfuls, but carefully, one sip at a time.

If you have this disease, no sooner will the first sip or two settle in your stomach than you

will feel an excruciating pain. The pain is a sure omen that the medicine will bring about a cure, if you continue taking it. If the ailment is not what I suspect, the juice will not give you any pain at all.

The sick man had tried so many remedies in vain, and knowing that death was inevitable, accepted the prescribed herb, a species of clover, to be gathered and boiled.

After the first few sips his pain was almost uncontrollable. He patiently continued drinking the Indian's medicine and when, after many years, this story was related to me by one who knew him well, the once rapidly declining sufferer was very much alive.

There is a sense in which Canada has not yet been discovered. In many places, especially mid and eastern Canada, her towns and villages are small clearings in an ocean of unbroken forest. Leave a bit of land untilled for a couple of years and it is under 'thick bush. Trees grow naturally in that soil, just as grass and weeds do in ours. You can hardly put a pin point between young saplings when they first rear their heads above the scrub.

The enormous wealth of Canada still remains untapped, undetected, underground. Mines of every kind of precious metal, imaginable, oilwells worth untold millions of pounds, await the patient explorer who is destined to become a multi-millionaire overnight.

But Canada's greatest treasures are spiritual, the ones exploited, and to be exploited by her artists, whose skill in the use of words, as well as that of brush and canvas, will yet earn for them a high place among the immortals of other nations.

(The End)

ARMY TO BUILD ROAD ?

An Army survey of the proposed road between Rannoch Station and Glencoe, which would provide the final link in an east-west route across the Central Highlands, will be completed this week-end.

The road, which has been under consideration for many years and may be built eventually by the army, would run for about 12 miles across rugged moorland from the B86 at Rannoch Station to the A82 at Kingshouse, Glencoe.

The survey, which began last Sunday and is on behalf of Argyll and Perth County Councils, is one of several projects being undertaken by the Army to aid local authorities. The officer-in-charge, Major Geoffrey Austin, in command of a team from 62 C.R.E. (Construction), Royal Engineers, is optimistic about the feasibility of building the road.

The Rannoch-Glencoe road would open up a new area for tourism, and also provide easier access from Perthshire to the pulp mill at Fort William.

Gu Léir

Flach ma ch' tu beum air càch gu faic càch oirn' air fhéin; nach léir d'inn' toim air léir, gu bheil fàillean oirn' gu léir.

SRUTH

Thursday, 2nd November 1967
Di-ardaoín, 2 An t-Samhuinn 1967

Ceartas airson na Gaidhlig

A' toirt breith air tagraidhean Buidheann Naiseanta na h-Alba as leth na Gaidhlig chair Mgr. R. M. MacLeod (am fear a tha ag iarraidh a bhith 'na Bhall-Parlamaid Toraidh airson Inse Gall) a' cheist seo: "A bheil na tagraidhean aca-san a' ruigheachd smear na cuise?" Nach bu chòir dhùinn, tha esan ag radh, toiseach toiseachaidh a dheanamh le bhith deanamh cinnteach gu bheil eolais air leughadh agus sgrìobhadh Gaidhlig aig a-huile neach a dh'fhagas an sgoil? Cha bhithheadh feum ann an rud sam bith a bha 'Buidheann Naiseanta ag iarraidh as aonais seo, thuirte e, agus dh'fheumadh parantan Gaidhealach cuideachadh leis a' ghnòthach.

Tha sinn ag aontachadh le Mgr. MacLeod anns na tha e ag radh mu dheidhinn nan sgoiltean. Cha mhair a' Ghaidhlig beo mur a bi i air teagasg do 'n chloinn. Tha luchd nan sgoiltean a' deanamh an díchill. Feumaidh feadhainn eile an t-aon rud a dheanamh.

"Se e canan a tha anns a' Gaidhlig air an deachaidh foinnear a dheanamh re iomadh linn. Bho an Seumas VI agus roimhe sin bha an 'Riaghaltas' a' deanamh na b' urrainn dhàibh airson cur as dhì, agus cha d' fhuair i ceartas an uair a stèidhichadh Achd nan Sgoiltean ann an 1872. Feumaidh an Riaghaltas a' chuis a leasachadh a nis.

An uair a chomhaidhas sinn timcheall oirn air duth-channan eile anns an Roinn Eorpaa anns a bheil barrachd is an chanain air a bruidhinn ch'inn nach e rud mor sam bith a tha a' Buidheann Naiseanta ag iarraidh. Chan eil ad ag iarraidh ach a-haite fhein a thoirt dha 'n Gaidhlig 'na duthach fhein. Cha shaoileadh muintir Nirribhidh, no na h-Eilbhis, no eadhon Ruisia gu robh iad ag iarraidh rud mi-reusanta sam bith. Nach toirheadh a air parantan Gaidhealach barrachd uair a bhith aca anns a' Gaidhlig nan bitheadh iad a' faicinn gu robh i a' fhaighinn aite ann an obair na Rìoghachd?

Feumaidh sinn a dheanamh soilleir dha na buidhnean uile nach bi sinn sàsaiche le rud sam bith ach a-haite dlighchear airson an canain. Cha leig duine leas a bhith 'na bhall dha 'n Buidhinn Naiseanta airson sin iarraidh.

The Minority Complex

Ever since it was pushed a little to the side by royal elbows about 800 years ago, Gaelic has been regarded as the language of a minority. Subsequent attempts, such as the Iona Statutes and the efforts of Knox, have served to consolidate its position as a language of the few. Though what a few! Geographically, the area of the Highlands and Islands is hardly "minority" — it is significant: socially and economically. Therefore, in these present times the area should be nationally (the broadest sense!) significant. But it isn't.

In a political context, it is valid comment to say that the area is virtually non-existent, except at, say, election times when seven seats are at stake. Let's look at this "north seven." It has a still small voice in the midst of the Sturm-und-Drang atmosphere at Westminster, 640-odd strong. What chance has such a voice to make itself heard among the rabble of self-interests who regard the area as a sore thumb.

Another valid comment is that so far as the Highlands are concerned, Government from Edinburgh could be just as bad as Government from London. But at least Government from an Edinburgh-based Parliament would increase the representation proportion: seven out of seventy-one seats is better than the present ratio.

With this in mind, it is good to note that two political parties with a specific Scottish connotation (Liberal and National) have implied that with Edinburgh Government the Highlands area would have a bigger voice — even though of necessity it would be a minority voice. The latter party has in fact gone far enough, through its Highland agency, to indicate that the Highland proportion would be really significant both to the area and the nation as a whole.

The interesting aspect of this increased representation is the way in which it must come about. Considering the sparsely-populated character of the area, it must be with constituencies which are geographically large but numerically small. Thus, one may well surmise that Orkney and Shetland will have individual representation in Parliament. So will, say, Skye — and Lewis and Harris — and Inverness Burgh.

On reflection, this method of representation "by viable community" rather than by a numerical qualification is particularly suitable to the nature of Scotland's social geography. So perhaps Government from Edinburgh may not be so bad after all . . . ?

Scots Language

By J. I. DANIEL

The Welsh Language Society is a fairly loose grouping of about 400 persons whose main collective aim is the deliberately limited one of "securing for the Welsh language," in the fields of administration and government, "an official status equal to that of English"; in short, equal status for Welsh in Wales.

Such societies have existed before in Wales, but the W.L.S. is recent and has two inter-connected peculiarities: its leadership and membership consist in the main of persons less than 30 years old, and it is willing to use the methods of non-violent civil disobedience where more conventional methods have proved unsuccessful.

The permanent background to the Society's existence is the continuing decline of the proportion of the population of Wales that speaks Welsh. At the beginning of the century, it was 30 per cent; in 1961, it was 26 per cent. Simple arithmetic informs us that, at the present rate of decline, the situation will be effectively irretrievable by the end of the century, at the latest. The Irish experience, the failure of massive (though not always well-conceived) official campaigns to turn the Irish language from the speech of an isolated peasant minority into that of a modern nation, was such that the next 20-30 years are the decisive ones.

It is customary, and largely correct, to explain the founding of the W.L.S. in terms of three main factors: certain individual initiatives, discontent with Plaid Cymru (the Welsh National Party), and the personal influence of Saunders Lewis. The last two are subtly interconnected.

Plaid Cymru fought the 1959 General Election in the shadow of its failure to prevent the drowning of the Tryweryn Valley by Liverpool Corporation. The failure might have been expected by many in Plaid Cymru, but what made it damaging was the refusal of the leadership, when it became clear that the legal battle was lost, to commit the Party to any kind of illegal action. The call for such action was especially strong among a section of younger members, several of whom are, or have been, leaders of the W.L.S. The argument over the use of illegal methods came to a head in summer 1959, but was shelved for the autumn General Election. It was finally settled in the Llan-gollen Conference of 1961, when Saunders Lewis's rejection of any illegality was confirmed by vote of the delegates. However, the spirit of discontent had been aroused, and was kept awake by the disappointment of inter-election years.

This discontent was essentially connected with Mr Saunders Lewis. In 1936 Mr Lewis and two other members of Plaid Cymru had burned down some Royal Air Force property at Penberth in Caernarvonshire, and applied to the Tyrwyn and the police. Those who were dissatisfied with the Party's refusal to break the law over Tyrwyn were not to exploit that as a precedent. It was felt that the statements made by Mr Lewis about Penberth were directly applicable to Tyrwyn, and that the Party as a whole had shown itself incapable of living up to his high example.

Even in 1961 Mr Lewis delivered a famous radio lecture, entitled "The Fate of the Language." In it he stated that the foundation of a revolutionary language movement was "the only political matter which it is worth a Welshman's while to trouble himself about." The movement's main aim would be to "make it immediately impossible for the

business of local and central government to continue without using Welsh," in areas where Welsh was in daily use. This lecture is the foundation of the W.L.S.'s belief that its activities are at least a necessary condition of the survival of the language. The Society was founded in August, 1962; it was never intended to be a mass movement, a "language wing" of Plaid Cymru.

Of the individual initiatives, the most important to the W.L.S. was undoubtedly the seven-year struggle, in the face of prosecution and expropriation, of Mr and Mrs Trevor Beasley, Llannegoch, to obtain bilingual rate demand forms from the local authority. This struggle was successful, and set a pattern of resistance and a standard of heroism. However, this example by itself could not have created the by now unbreakable connection between the cause of the language and the cause of its official status. To do this it required a man of Lewis's authority, speaking to men who were especially disposed to listen to a prophet.

Since its foundation the activities of the W.L.S. have been guided by three main principles: the use of non-violent action for the whole of Wales; and non-violence in all activities. In this context, bilingualism means *Welsh* bilingualism, not recognition of Welsh should not be implemented by the publication of monoglot Welsh forms in parallel with those in English. English recognition must be by means of bilingual forms.

This principle, which still puzzles some people, was adopted on the following grounds: that if the main value for the survival of the language, of increased official use of Welsh is that more people should be able to do things for which Welsh was not previously used, this value will not be realised by any policy of separate publication. For separate publication means that the people will have to make a deliberate choice of one language rather than the other, and it is to be expected that the pressures that determine such choices will be in favour of English; not least because few Welsh people have any experience in reading official Welsh. Separate publication would also enable direct and invidious comparisons to be made between the frequency of choice of English and Welsh terms, and would, we expect, provide ammunition for those who would argue that the demand for separate publication. Furthermore, separate publication would open the way to the division of Wales into separate zones of administrative purposes. The language would thus become a real divisive factor.

The W.L.S. has undertaken the present campaign for separate automatic issue of bilingual summonses; for the equal recognition of Welsh in the activities of the General Post Office in the field of bilingual car taxation forms. It is fair to say that in each case it has achieved more or less partial success.

In the summonses campaign, W.L.S. activities (which included its first law-breaking protest) culminated in 1963 in the opening of the Home Office that there was nothing positively illegal about a summons in Welsh. Such a summons still has to be specifically asked for. Whether one will get it or not still depends upon the goodwill of Clerks of Court, or other officials. Some Clerks even send one to the "black" legal office to issue such summonses.

In the G.P.O. campaign, which has been carried on mainly by means of sit-down protests against Post Offices in various towns, there is little success to report. The G.P.O. has put up a bilingual sign outside its Machynlleth premises, in accordance with the terms of its announced and very restrictive policy on such matters. It is in the field of taxation campaign that the most real success

has been achieved, after members of the W.L.S.'s Committee had filed applications one for the second time. Just before the National Eisteddfod of 1966, while the Society's then Secretary, Greville Jones, was serving his second term in Swansea Prison, the Ministry of Transport announced publication of a monoglot Welsh application form for Vehicle Taxation Licences, to be available and usable under restrictive conditions. There was a general outcry, and most of the restriction were then lifted. Some remain, in virtue of the G.P.O.'s refusal to accept such applications over the counter, even there are Welsh-speaking staff.

It would be very misleading, however, to leave the present situation at that. I have taken the strictest view of the Society's achievements. But one must note in Wales a continuing and general interest in the official status of the language, a steady feeling that time has come to improve it to most knowledge. Whether or not this is the result of the restriction of the Status of the W.L.S. is the sharpest expression of this feeling is not to the present purpose. The London Government has in the last few years recognised this feeling by commissioning two Reports *The Welsh Language To-day (1963)*, and *The Status of the Welsh Language (1965)*.

The present Government is committed to enacting most of the recommendations of this second Report, above all the recommendation that the Welsh language should have equal legal validity as English in Wales. This means that any act performed in English should have the same legal validity as that which it would have had if it had been performed in English. It will be immediately realised that this does not of itself guarantee any increase in the actual use of Welsh, either by official or private. This is a point to emphasise, in face of the widespread, but unbiased, view that equal validity will be an important contribution to the cause of the language.

Nor have I said very much about the temper of the W.L.S. It is extremist in expression, touchy, suspicious, anti-personality, and totally independent. Its greatest danger is that it should lose the habit of realistic assessment of its policies and achievements, and settle for the tedious role of *enfant terrible*. But the dangers of such a temper are matched by its virtues, which are mainly (and have to be in the present situation) dedication and self-sacrifice. It is difficult to assess its future, but of one thing there can be no doubt: it is there a part for it to play.

(Acknowledgments to the *Celtic League*.)

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Leaghadar Aluminim 'sa Ghaidheatachd

Chunnaic buidhean de na Soicsealach Mgr U. Ros, Kinnaird ma 'Sleum air a' t-seachdainn sa chaidh. Bha iad den bharrair nach seasadh air pàirtidh sa cheann a tuath no thada mura feigheadh iad an fhonnagail no Nem maeag bha Mgr R. MacIlfhinnein is Mgr D. Dewar.

Bithidh e coltach gun robh Mgr Ros barantas dhàbhig gu tìbe, a' cur aghaidh air a' chuir air. Bha a' bhoirson cuideachadh le a' gairidh Thionnsgail mu choinneamh Tigh nan Cumantair air an t-seachdainn a' cur aghaidh air a' chuir air. Bha a' riaghalas calp a' gairidh a' chuir no seirichean a' ghabhail ann an tionsgnail ma ni sin leasachadh air an cur a' mha 'bheir e cuideachadh dhàbhig airson feadh a' dheanamh de adhartas sna healeanan uair ma theicnolag.

'Se Alcan a' cur a' mha' na companaidhean a' tha a' sùileachadh Inghairdean agus chuir air an cur an ceill gu robh urbh a' casan cuairt thair chon luchd obraich ag

sa ghnothuch cuideachadh nach seasadh sa casag b'hih air an obair an t-ochbar is an Ceann.

Loch Lìobhain. Tha an Ecomomist cur rinn gu feum leaghadar aluminim air a' Ghaidheatachd a' bhi' proifeidhach gur e seo a' bhoirionn uail mar Ghaidheal (Shaileadh tha nach robh proifeidh fanead do dhruine a' chuiridh rinnogal air Ghaidheatachd). Bithidh 250 meagat de dhealain againn a' Dunrothid de dhealain smuineach ach cha b'hih seo cunbhalach a' chinn sgum feum air a' reactor a' dhunadh 'mhu gu am. Se Obraichdhan — 269 mile air falbh-an aon aite an ceart uair a' buairran na tha so de dhealain chuir gu feall. Nan sùideachaidh iad an leaghadar aluminim an Inbhirgordon's nam biodh dealain cunbhalach is saor tha ceatair tionsgnail cile a' tha deonach brath a' ghabhail air na cumantair an an sùideachaidh tha iad uile cocheangailte ri eilectrolais.

Tha an gu leir fhathast an crochadh air coinneamhan eadar an riaghalas is na companaidhean. Chan urrainn dhùinn a' bhi' cinnteach nach ann a' dh' aite eile a' theid gach duil mur saas an riaghalas ar n' aite. 'Sann an 1970 a' bhih a' cheud leaghadar a' toiseachadh agus an aith fear e. 1975. Bithidh luchd obraich Dhunrothid gu math sgapte ann a' 75.

START LIKELY ON £80,000 LOCHINVER PIER

After years of delay, work on the Calg Pie extension at Lochinver is expected to start early next year. Sutherland County Council last week invited tenders for the scheme, estimated to cost £80,000.

It will more than double existing landing and berthing space and ease the serious congestion created when a fleet of some 30 vessels are trying to land their catch.

The port is ideally situated for vessels fishing in the Minch, and the annual value of landings has risen from £18,000 in 1950 to £530,000 last year.

Expansion Forecast

There are only seven locally-registered boats employing about 50 men. The bulk of the landings are made by Moray Fish crews who tie up their boats from Friday till Monday so that they can spend the week-end at home. Mr George Mackay, a director of the Lochinver Fish Selling Company, welcomed the announcement that tenders were now being invited for the work, and said he was confident that when the scheme was finished there would be an expansion of the fishing industry led by Lochinver. Many boat-owners were only awaiting improved facilities before making Lochinver their base. The port for the work, and plant, and Mr Mackay said another larger plant was "in the offing." The harbour extension must also lead to the building of a processing factory.

At present the fish, after the pier-head sales, are sent to Aberdeen and other big fishing centres for processing.



Tud! De ni De Gaulle chuir an Obrishteach Co-Dhùibh ?

THE THOUGHTS OF MACMAO

23. Duncan Ban Macintyre and William Ross are paper tigers. Jaim Lom is not a paper tiger.

24. Sir Walter Scott is a running jacket of imperialism.

25. William Ross is a romantic deviationist in love with a member of the petty bourgeois, instead of the President of an An Comunn Gaidhealach, and Mr Hugh MacPhee, past president, who have given loyal support to the branch.

26. Why is there no Chinaman on the Highland Board?

27. The bagpipes must be used as an instrument of the proletariat. The Jews have, however, is a "Trojan Horse" designed to betray the people.

28. The period of the 1000 Flowers has been successful. All Gaelic poets using more than a fixed quota of English have been issued with special kits, containing blank verse, metaphors, similes, and a selection of alliteration. The pun is outlawed.

29. "Sluth" is an imperialist lachry.

30. The Communn Gaidhealach is a front for the CIA.

31. All copies of "Sradag" to be confiscated as seditious, treasonable, double-dealing and examples of right-wing deviationism, reminiscent of Rosa Luxembourg.

32. F..... W..... to be renamed the City of the Thousand Flowers, O..... and A..... to be killed in the interests of the Revolution. Kiltis to be worn in all opium dens.

33. Peat is the fuel of the future.

34. "Sas leis a' Ghaidhlig" to be sung at all party functions. Chests to be thrust forward, medals to be worn, and dictionaries to be open at all times. Confessions of bourgeois sentimentalism to be extracted from all followers of Kennedy Fraser.

35. Dugald Buchanan's poem "The Skull" to be sung on ceremonial occasions.

36. Robert Burns a right wing deviationist. The lines "O the airts the winds can blow" to be deleted, the west," suggestive of capitalist sympathies.

37. "Sluth" is a paper tiger, and a running imperialist hypocrite. Editorials in both Gaelic and English are indicative of code.

38. Granny's column in the People's Journal to be taken over by Comrade H.I.-I.

39. The Mod to be infiltrated by Red Guards disguised as a Girls' Choir from G..... (all pendants, cups, shields, to be melted down and used in the interests of the Revolution).

40. Poem by Chairman Mac'Mao

The sun rises in the East. I stand in my collective. The Highland Board report my hand.

And polish my "brose" style.

41. Last Poem by Chairman Mac'Mao

I swim with strong stroke the Great Loch Ness. What do I see appearing? It is the monstrous face of the western capitalist system. We grapple in the dawn.

I C S.

PRAWNS

Small catches of prawns are being made off the coast of North Uist, well inshore. The catches are in the nature of an experiment to see whether the prawns do come inshore. A full survey of prawn fishing between Ullapool and Skye and North and South Uist is to be carried out by the Fishery Dept in the near future when two vessels will be employed over a period of several months to ascertain where good catches are likely to be made, and to find out, if possible, how far inshore prawns can profitably be fished.

Largs Branch Ceilidh

At the opening ceilidh of the Largs Branch held in MacKay's Rooms on Thursday, 19th October, the President, Mr W. MacIvor, extended a warm welcome to a capacity audience. Among those present were the Rev. A. Kidd, solicitor, vice-president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and Mr Hugh MacPhee, past president, who have given loyal support to the branch.

Fear an tìghe was Mr Alex. Clark, who introduced our very talented artistes, with a specially warm welcome to Mr Norman MacLean, Bard and Gold Medalist, 1967. Other artistes taking part were the Lairg and District Junior Gaelic Choir, under the direction of their very accomplished conductor, Miss Norma Campbell; Ann MacQuarrie, runner-up to the Gold Medalist, 1967; Mrs Grant Kidd, soloist; Mr T. Wood, accordionist; solo and duets by Ailsa MacKinnon, Nicola MacKinnon and Shiela Gordon, members of the choir. Accompanist was Miss Norma Campbell.

Mr Alastair MacDougall proposed a very comprehensive vote of thanks to all who made the evening such a success.

THA FEUM AIR DOTAIR

Tha muinntir eileanan Rum, Eige, Chanaidh is Eilean nan Muc a' casaid gun do mhol comatair Romair Birsay an dotair a' bharrach a' seirbhis na eileanan beaga. Tha iad den bharrair gun bi Dotair a' Mallaigh car fad air falbh ma tha e dol a' dheanamh a' chobhair agus na tinn. Chan iad a' mha, na eileanan eile gu bhith air an aon mar a' tha iadsan a' gearran gu cruaidh. Se sin Pa Westray, is Flaidhaidh an Arcairb.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"Today I gird myself with great strength, the invocation of the Trinity, belief in the threeness, confession of the oneness, on my way to meet the Creator. Today I gird myself with the strength of the order of the cherubim, in the obedience of the angels, in the service of the archangels, in the expectation of resurrection to reward, in the prayers of the patriarchs, in the prophecies of prophets . . . in the acts of just men.

Today I gird myself with God's strength to guide me . . . God's shield to guard me . . . (St Patrick's Breastplate Number One, Early Irish, 8th Century A.D.)

BAHA' FAITH
"This is the Day in which God's most excellent favours have been poured out upon men, the Day in which His most mighty grace hath been infused into all created things."
DISCUSSION MEETING
November 11th
ROYAL HOTEL, INVERNESS
Further Information:
42 Island Bank Road, Inverness.

TIGH-OS DA PHENTLAND INBHIR-THEORSA
Air leth feagrach airson teaghlachan air thurus is aibhneachan 'sa Taobh-Tuath.
Am biadh as feurr.
Gabh gur maith ruib.
le
Fear an Tìghe 'sa Bhean
SEORAS IS FREDRA SUTHARLAN

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DOUNREAY ESCAPE

No Hazard

Mr Hector Hughes (Lab., Aberdeen, North) has asked the Minister of Technology, if he will make a statement on the cause of the escape of chemical which caused the time closing for a time of Douneay Experiments Station at the end of July, indicating the extent and nature of the escape and its effect on the work of the station. Dr Jeremy Bray, Parliamentary Secretary, in a written reply, has said—"The Douneay Materials Testing Reactor was shut down for a short period at the end of July because of the failure of a capsule containing specimens of materials under irradiation.

"This resulted in a small local release of short-lived airborne radioactivity confined entirely to the reactor containment building.

"There was no significant interruption to the work of the reactor and none at all to the rest of the establishment.

"Non-essential personnel were evacuated from the building. The reactor staff remained wearing breathing apparatus, but there was no necessity for other protective clothing.
"There was no hazard to the establishment or the immediate district."

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CORPACH AND BANAVIE VILLAGE COUNCIL AGM

The attendance at the Annual General Meeting of the Corpach and Banavie Village Council held in Corpach Church Hall was disappointing. Poor reflection on a full year's work by a diligent Council who are working against odds that are seldom come across in other spheres of civic work.

This year's Annual General Meeting dealt almost entirely with matters that came up for discussion at the 1966 A.G.M. and one of the items then was the years old. (Requesting a bus shelter one mile from one school and two miles from the other two).

Mr William Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, and his staff at St Andrew's House could well do with a visit to the village halls on A.G.M. night.

Chairman, Dr Allison, Tommie, in his opening remarks said: "The year has been one of patient and persistent negotiation. Now the road is almost complete, and we are waiting for the Electricity Board to complete the work."

At this point, as they say in Hansard, "a titter ran through the floor, and matters of 'not today' and 'every other day' could be heard."

"On the whole, I think it has been a reasonably satisfactory year. There are a lot of things we would have liked to have seen completed; a lot of things are still in the pipe line, but we will learn more fully of these from our Secretary."

Secretary, Mr J. Skinner went through the year's business, starting with the attendance figures. At an average of 9.7 they were better than last year. In addition there have been many meetings attended by members of the Hall Fund Committee. He went on to relate the progress of the negotiations regarding the new hall, meetings with the Education Authorities, the architects etc. He pointed out that there are a lot of things we would have liked to have seen completed; a lot of things are still in the pipe line, but we will learn more fully of these from our Secretary."

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The flue gases leaving the mill and the cause of the "small nuisance" which had been attended to and Scottish Pulp was installing apparatus that would automatically correct this.

Dr Rustin, a member of the committee, has been asked innumerable questions about this topic. He gave us whatever information he was at liberty to give and displayed a frankness which is gratefully Dr Rustin is leaving.

The election of office bearers followed the secretary's report, and the rest are as follows:

Hon. President: Col D. H. Cameron of Lochiel.

Chairman — Dr D. K. M. Alison.

Vice-Chairman — Mr D. Cameron.

Treasurer — Mrs Allison.

Secretary — Mr J. Skinner.

During the discussion that followed the election of office-bearers, many subjects were brought up, including the general condition of the village, broken fencing, untidiness and lack of maintenance. Mr Hector Kennedy, county councillor, and Mr Cameron, district councillor, were asked who was responsible for the upkeep of the burial places. Road signs, including the question of the 30 mile limit, were asked for some time, but the overall impression seemed to be that motor traffic using the road through the village is at least at excessive speed, and that it is high time someone was doing something about it. An improvement in the lighting is soon to be started. The main road is now classed as an arterial road, and there will therefore have the latest in street lighting.

When the playing field situation was again raised, the district councillor informed the meeting that negotiations with the Church authorities who own the land at Drumfada where the playing field is to be situated, were well advanced.

The hall fund-raising sub-committee reported to the A.G.M. Since the last A.G.M. much progress has been made and before long the people of Corpach and Banavie should be able to watch their new hall being built.

All the legal documents are now in order, including the feu charter and deed of trust, and we are grateful to our lawyer who donated his services for this work, as well as "equipping" to a large donation to the fund.

After much consultation, and also much trial and error, a final plan was drawn up. This is a very comprehensive plan which will be able to cope with all the needs of the community. Application for grant aid was made first to Lochaber District Council, and then to Inverness Education Authority. Both these applications were successful and we are to receive very favourable terms. The estimates have been drawn up and sent to several building contractors, and estimates have been received. These estimates, along with other documents and information, were sent to the Scottish Education Department in Edinburgh when we applied to them for grant aid. They are still waiting for final word from Edinburgh about grant aid, and when we do hear we will be ready to start building.

During the year fund raising efforts were continued and we have now passed our original £2,000 target, but we will need to continue raising money to complete the hall. We now have just over £9,000 of our own money to contribute to our new hall — that is excluding any grants.

We expect next year's A.G.M. to be held in the new hall.

What will it be? Will the Celt sit brooding, like Hopu on a monument, while the industrious Saxon rolls up his sleeves and gets on with it, and keeps the Celt down to tools, plough and enterprise? It will be no use sitting around, waiting for hand-outs — God helps those who help themselves.

That the best of the Highlanders were those who had the get-up-and-go to get out of the Highlands and conquer new lands, is beginning to wonder. Yours etc. J. G. SMITH

59 Woodland Road, Naiside, Bristol.

A Challenge and a Dare

Sir, — Further to my letter written earlier, I have far from finished what I have to say. I have done a lot of your making my blood boil. After all the effort I have put in to make a useful contribution, by means of the application of my own training to the development of Highland agriculture, the dozens of letters I have written to this one and that, (the quite literally) hundreds of pounds have spent in trips to Scotland; to read such an article has roused me to a bloody fury. Just whose side are you on? Do you not want to see the hundreds of thousands of acres of old worn-out land brought back to fertility, and reseeded with good ryegrass and clover leys, and fattening thousands of cattle? It can be done, you know — I have taken part in such work in Yorkshire and Lancashire on soggy peat moss land, and poor millstone grit soil, and you would never have expected to support weary, lush grass, and good fat cattle.

What has got into the Highlands and thence to the country's affairs? Those I have spoken to, especially in the H.&I.D.B., were maddeningly apathetic and hopeless. I want to go to the Highlands and do a valuable job, that I well know I can do — I have muck out cow byres, and pull pits in a bar, although I have had experience of both these jobs, especially the former. I was working on a dairy farm, and became quite an expert at catching it in the shovel before it even hit the ground and flinging it onto the nearest one's back action, at quite an early age.

And what has got into the Highlanders themselves? When I was in Sutherland, near Saxford Bridge, I spoke to two of your in their twenties, who were waiting away at the peat cutting. They told me that they thought my grandfather was right to get the mill and go to Australia, if he had to do that kind of job.

My retort to them was screaming in the throat of me — if that was how they felt, why the hell did they come to Australia, and get the hell out of there themselves — after all, it would only cost them ten quid each. But I left them to go to poor bloody Australia, more convinced than ever that, if the Highlands and Islands are ever to join the modern age, and seize its benefits with both hands, they will have to be dragged into it, kicking and screaming.

I have just been asked to join the Clan Chattan Association, and to help to start a well organised upkeep of a vigorous national culture in any land — it can do nothing but good — but I have a sad feeling that the two main things the Highlanders are obsessed with the idea that wearing the tartan, tracking down clan history, and bawling out Gaelic songs constitute the whole of Scotland's glorious heritage. I cannot agree. To my mind, the only sane and glorious thing that can happen to the Highlands is that they should be (and are, in fact, already) and sweat — particularly the last — one of man's most valuable commodities. These also need to have added to them the good earth, the down tools, plough and the good strong seed of grass, cattle and men.

None of this will come about until we have a far greater emphasis on the efforts of a parcel of gaudy old theorists, with their fat backs settled in too-comfortable chairs in centrally-heated offices in Castle Wynd — morning coffee aid

(Continued on previous column)

Scottish National Party

Lochaber Branch of the Scottish National Party held a public meeting at the Masson Mill on Friday (27th) for the purpose of forming a new branch. Membership of Lochaber Branch has grown to such an extent, especially in the surrounding villages, that it had become desirable, for administration purposes, to localise it. Corpach and Banavie, with a membership approaching 80, are off to a good start.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr Barden, B.V.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.C.V.S., of Edinburgh. Dr Barden spoke of the choice Scots have before them to-day — a "crossroads". Complete national annihilation, national destruction or a national revival through our own dignity, and performing our own government within our own borders.

He went on — "Failure to develop and expand is tantamount to creeping back into history; creeping back into a state of economic ruin, to moral uncertainty, and certainly the loss of all vestiges of nationhood."

Dr Barden drew attention to the large numbers of our people who are leaving Scotland, and to the publicity given to Government expenditure in this country; and he is out of proportion to the amount of money involved.

Unemployment, unnecessary charity, that we should not be in a position to require, the amount of development going on, and definitions of the required developments.

I do not believe it when some say that Scotland is economically inefficient; it is in London and the south-east of England, where

Pulp Mill Wages

The "Evergreen Award" of £20 for 12 consecutive months of accident free working has been presented to the wood yard section of the mill.

The mer who would have been richer from this award decided however to spend the two chairs on the Bellhaven Eventide Home, Fort William and the Cancer Research Campaign.

The award was recently made to Lochaber sawmills, and the power house is to receive its award soon. Mr D. Anderson, the safety officer, commenting on the accident free year, said that this represented a considerable achievement by the men as the wood yard men, in particular, work under difficult conditions.

Further news being eagerly awaited regarding the second phase of the Pulp Mill development, and an announcement is expected this month from the Town Council and the Scottish Special Housing Association are particularly interested in an early decision so that the proposed housing scheme can be started. Weekly output from the mill has now reached 1,000 tons of pulp, and 600 tons of finished paper.

The introduction to the Mill of some of the redundant English employees of Wiggins Teape, has aroused some speculation as to the possibility of employment of workers for the Scottish Pulp Plant. In Caol, a nearby village, it is the considered opinion of the villagers and their country councillors that it is much easier for an Englishman to become an employee, than a Lochaber Highlander.

It has already been an increase in the number of unemployed registered in the Fort William Labour Exchange. The percentage of English workers in the mill is high, at all levels. In one department 30.1 per cent. of the craft strength was recruited in England, or are Englishmen.

people cannot get to work until ten o'clock in the morning, that there is economic inefficiency. Buses, cars and trains are jammed, and when one gets to work at ten, from ten to eleven is taken up discussing how you got there — this is economic inefficiency "par excellence."

"It is a peculiar thing that shipping in Scotland is a 'declining industry', yet in other shipping building countries it is a 'growth industry'. Highland development is unlikely to get very far without the exacting framework of the United Kingdom. We have seen bold attempts — Highland Development Councils, boards, little bodies here and there, and big ones, but the seat of the trouble lies in the nearness of the seat of government. It depends on the mental attitude of the people who govern. It is too much to expect of ordinary human beings who are elected by a whole lot of other people in the south-east, to look after the interests of the south-east, to take more than a passing interest in the development of the Highlands."

"Small growth industries, developing and growing within the area, must be encouraged in the Highland area."

Gaelic Broadcasts

Thursday, 2nd November
12 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus) Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Mrs Shaw and Wm. J. Campbell, students of the Free Church College.

Friday, 3rd November
12 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus) "Sainn an Duan So"; Concert of Gaelic songs requested by listeners (recorded).

Saturday, 4th November
10.55 p.m. T.V. "Se Ur Beatha: A Gaelic Welcome to the Edinburgh Singers and The Albanachs, with Rhona Macleod as guest artist" (recorded).

Sunday, 5th November
3.15 p.m. Gaelic Service from Duke St. Free Church, Glasgow. Minister, Rev. A. Macleod (recorded).

Monday, 6th November
12 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus)

Tuesday, 7th November
12 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus) "Children's Day at the Mill" Selected recordings from the Junior Competitions and the evening concert.

12 noon "Choral Gaelic": Campbell, Gairn, and others under their conductor, Rose MacConnachie, with a selection of favourites from the junior repertoire (recorded).

Wednesday, 8th November
12 noon News in Gaelic.
6.35 p.m. Young Talent: A programme about the younger members of the piping world, compiled and introduced by John MacFadyen.
8.45 p.m. "My Church": The history and doctrine of the Churches of Gaelicdom. Rev. Norman Macleod talks about the Free Church of Scotland (recorded).

Over 100

COUNTER DRIFT

Sir.—As I often do read with interest, "Sruth," I am prompted to write in response into your front page issue on Counter Drift.

May I firstly say why I am back on the mainland after two years in the Isles. To be kind in approach or statement I recommend a review with Russell Johnson, M.P.

In short the Isles have recently rejected, evaded the subject of your front page.

There is, one would say, little point in pressuring the H.I.D.B. or trying to blame them for which they are not to blame.

The first step to the Islands economy is to relieve Messrs Macbraynes of their stranglehold on island transport communication with the mainland.

The Western Isles cannot progress while this transport stranglehold is maintained. The first step to development of the Islands is to permit private enterprise and competition in sea transport of all competitors and goods in and out. Once this has been done down to internal transport and road system must be dealt with.

Having achieved this the water and power supply will be stepped up then permit private competition in housing facilities of all types.

It is without doubt the way of improvement and progress and under the National Dock's Commission. The expense in the port is too high for its local Harbour Committee to take on for too much to burden them with, and the more prosperous part of the U.K. support this development.

These matters are findings from research completed.

Another factor is this right Sunday way of life which is out of date, in fact 30 years behind the times, in all things.

The Highlands and Islands Development Board have been obstructed from proceeding with (a) Political bias (b) Selfish attitudes and fear of new ways and changes (c) Local island unnecessary suspicions. The H.I.D.B. is there to help, not to obstruct the projects on offer to the Isles.

There is no need for further investment of capital in the islands. Stormy weather fleet. These vessels are out of date in design and capability. The need is for investment in a new all-round type vessel.

Before a flourishing employment can be had in fish processing, frozen foods, sea and land products, the earlier mentioned matters must be dealt with first and foremost.

Furthermore Stormway is NOT the only place in the Isles where fishing vessels should operate. It is this that is drawn, aquays and jetties required in other ports if not new ports.

The Market Research has been done in the Isles and is completed. It is known what is wanted from within the Isles, and where to sell what and the price for it is known.

U.K. and Exports

Another factor or stumbling block is that the Isles are forced under will of: Civil Services Local Government, Land Owners (including Crofters' Commission) and the Department of Fisheries, and Secretary of State office workers.

Many more island young folk from 16 to 45 will leave the Isles and follow by reason of earlier mention here.

The establishment of the H.I.D.B. has been mis-constructed and is a hindrance to Civil Services and the Board's staff have not yet found their

feet in this unique act of Parliament.

In concluding "An Commun" may well be the cause of further depopulation as too much emphasis is put on language and culture. It is to be noted that out with in business, commercial or industrial fields, the emphasis on ancient tradition is of antique value.

In domestic and social fields the work of "An Commun" is vital to the mixing etc., new and old, existing changes which will come with increased internal and external economic prosperity.

A very modern step the weavers could take is to form a "Weaver's Co-operative." In fact they would keep their independence, enjoy better conditions of self employment in a new way, and have stronger powers of negotiation with the mills in the Harris tweed industry.

Before the last fishing vessel scheme started the D.A.F., W.F.A., the Secretary of State of the Conservative Government, the present M.P. and fishermen fell down on not forming a fishery co-operative.

But again attitude in many circles was to blame for this not having been done.

As to the Western Isles in the main this project is in fact too far ahead of other needed attention. For under this project, Scots and Lewisians will hang back and before leaving security and high-living ways, let new communitarian ways.

It is under this project "The Islands have already rejected an early attempt" that the H.I.D.B. must be very careful and understanding and very frank and honest. If this project flops then the Board will become "saw dust."

The charge of this production line of labour forces must be a very experienced and travelled Welfare Officer. Also his second must be someone in social and domestic science. There must be a Labour Relations Trades Officer.

The Highland Development Board is faced with all these and many more problems and to illustrate the view is:

"You can't run a Rolls Royce car on motor bike economy."

As yet the H.I.D.B. has not sufficient funds and channels open to them.

The Western Isles alone represent an estimate of over £60 million. Let alone £50 millions for Inverdorran.

The Isles must have mainland "roads and routes." And on this account we again become forced with the Government's "Red Face," for they know not what faces them yet in requirements.

Macbraynes's stranglehold of one item £10 per ton in and out.

In the main the question is, has the Scottish office got the guts to fight.

The best place for Dover House is right across the Straits of Dover out of the way altogether.

Yours etc.

PATRICIA R. G. FARRER
No. 29 Burgess Residential Caravan Site,
Muirtown, Inverness

GALIC USAGE

Sir.—Since your correspondent "Gaidheal" takes refuge in anonymity, I shall follow suit and repeat that personal offence is certainly not intended, but linguistic matters are dealt with which his or her letter is "bewievelled" suggest that it would have been better written in Gaelic than in English. Here, then, is a diverse view. The beginner in Gaelic must surmount at the outset formidable hurdles of pronunciation and spelling. He must try to master to enable him to read—

something that even some instinctive fluent speakers cannot do. Most students would rather learn to speak, but Gaelic conversationists, with time and talent being scarce, are not to be had. The only answer until tapes and records became available. Even here, local variations in pronunciation are permissible. Take the word—fire. An *djenny* or an *chjenny*. Bewievelled by such minor difficulties, small wonder that one's keenness is finally blunted when it comes up against the further obstacle of grammar.

Modern English has cast off genders and genitives, modern American has streamlined spelling. And who would aver that colloquial conversation is always grammatically correct? If spoken, Gaelic is to survive, it must adapt. A basic Gaelic need not necessarily be debated, but it might be used.

Finally, re the high standard of Gaelic conversation. As set by an Commun for competitors at the Mod, one native speaker is reported to have told the examiner, "I am glad your grandfathers have failed your test." Yours etc.

GALL

THANKS TO THE LADIES

Sir,—I ask the courtesy of your columns to enable me to express my warm thanks to those many Gaelic women who made it possible for my Council to be associated with an Commun in the Feis Albanach at the opening of the Mod.

The generous contributions of famous firms and Boards in the Highlands and the Lowlands were essential ingredients in the happy mixture. The most essential were the time and the boundless energy of the ladies who prepared, cooked and served the good food in most difficult circumstances.

In many things, the Gael has had his full portion of misfortune. But in many others he has been exceptionally favoured. And not least in his womenfolk.—Yours etc.

JOHN LEESE, Officer for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

British Farm Produce Council,
11 Torrion Avenue,
Glasgow, S.1,
October 10th, 1967.

GALIC SONGBOOKS

Sir,—I read Mr Brian McD. Duxbury's letter with mixed feelings. While I agree with him that such a collection of Gaelic songs as he envisages is greatly wanted, I also recollect what has happened to such things in the past. Many editions were made to publish Gaelic song books, but they were more or less failures from a selling point of view.

In the 1880's of last century Henry Whyte published and published the "Celtic Lyre," an excellent collection of songs that were popular. He gave the airs as well as the translation, or rather paraphrase, of the Gaelic, which had the merit that it could be sung to the air; it being impossible to sing the Gaelic properly into English poetry. This had a moderate success and is now out of print. Some years later he offered to edit an Irish Gaelic song into English. This was a failure. James Munroe's "Am Fìdhil" a collection of songs and their airs which was very popular in its day. The price was set at £10.00. It was never published about half-a-dozen and the project fell through.

For some years the same gentleman, Henry Whyte, published "Clarsach nan Ghael" in a Highland newspaper. He gave a song with its air and history if there was any, and where known in Gaelic, translating many of them into English at the same time. He intended to gather the best and

most interesting of these into book form, but received no encouragement and dropped the idea. By this much valuable information has been lost as Mr Whyte collected his information in a wide range of instances at first-hand from Highlanders who were flocking to the shipyards on the Clyde and other works in his early years. In addition to the collection Whyte published in the columns of other newspapers and periodicals many songs and their airs, in most cases with an English translation. All this work lies buried in the files of long defunct publications.

Mr Whyte was also a hard and composer though he did not publish much of his own work. After his death his daughter gathered her father's original work and published it in book form. If my recollection is right only about one dozen copies were sold.

Calum MacFarlane started the issue of Gaelic songs and their airs in serial form at a cheap price. As far as I can remember only one number was issued, there being no demand and it went no further. He also, like Mr Whyte, published much interesting information about songs in newspapers and periodicals which is now lost.

After the first world war a lady, Jeanie Given, published a collection which had no great success though it was well edited in words and music.

Such is a short account of Gaelic song collections well known to me. I could go on to mention other branches of Gaelic literature which suffered similar results. Enough has been said to explain why publishers lighted up on Gaelic works, and who can blame them?

Reverting to the "Celtic Lyre," a moment I do feel the copyright of this work but I will neither spend time or money in having a new edition printed. If anyone else is interested in it, I welcome to go ahead, I shall not stand in his way. When originally issued there was no Mod and the songs in it were intended to supply singers to dress in clan garb, concerts and ceilidhs, with suitable songs. A song of part of it is in the burgh library.

It is a pity that the Council does not think I am throwing a damper on his ideas but I thought that what has happened in the past should not be forgotten. The same thing would probably happen again, more so as printing costs and other expenses are today so high that it would be almost impossible to compile a collection to sell at a price within the reach of most people.

The fate of Gaelic publications in the past has been a sorrowful experience, but I think the future is much brighter. Yours etc.

JAMES E. SCOTT

16 Planfield Road,
Inverness

From General Sir Philip
Christison, Bart.

ECCLESIASTICAL STATE OF GALIC

Sir.—I was much interested to read on page six of your 5th October issue of the "Ecclesiastical State of Gaelic." It would be interesting to have similar reports on the Gaelic tongue in other parts.

You may be interested to know that Trinity College, Glenalmond, recently awarded two scholarships to students attending the Scottish Episcopal Church Theological College in Edinburgh in recognition of their being able to preach in the Gaelic tongue. One of them joined the ministry.—Yours etc.

PHILIP CHRISTISON,
The Croft,
Melrose,
10th October, 1967.

P.S.—It might be interesting to record that classes in elementary

Gaelic are now held for the first time in a public school, i.e., the Edinburgh Academy.

1320 CL2B

Sir.—The 1320 Club has as its main object the furtherance of the drive to Scottish Independence.

The Executive appreciates that there are many talented people who, for one reason or another, do not belong to The Scottish National Party, but who nevertheless wholeheartedly desire Independence.

The Club wishes to afford such people an opportunity to take part, either publicly or anonymously, in the massive research which must be a prelude to Independence.

The Club has established a number of expert committees which are engaged in research into the problems involved, and is constantly in search of fresh talents and ideas.

The Club is in no sense a political party. It will not contest any form of election whatsoever, while the investigations of its research are at the disposal of any individual or organisation which seeks the independence of Scotland.

The investigations of the Club are directed by Professor Brown, O.A., M.A., F.I.L.; and the organiser Major F. A. C. Boothby, F.T.E.M.

Yours etc.

MAX BANCROFT

Secretary

S.N.P. POLICY

Sir,—I refer to your unsigned article in the issue of SRUTH (19th October), in which your contributors say: "The S.N.P. should not discuss the matters that they could do better to (remedy Scotland's ills) unless they are prepared to go to the 'root of the trouble.'" As your contributor rightly says, it is the philosophy of the present Government which is at fault, not its location.

So far as the S.N.P. is concerned, progress is being made in Scotland. Through the efforts of the S.N.P. the S.N.P. has only become politically significant in the past three years or so, therefore the solutions offered by the party may not be seen for a year or two yet.

On the other hand, the other political parties have been in existence for a very long time. Yet troubles today stem from their inability to remedy Scotland's problems or perhaps they are dismissed as "Scottish affairs."

One of the functions of this Council is to ensure that the Highlands area is the suggester of remedies to, specifically, Highland farmers, crofters, the fishing industry, development, fishing, and so on. The ultimate solutions will be valid—because they will have been formulated by the branches which have representation on the Council.

This Sir, S.N.P. policy for the Highlands will be based on the needs of the Highland people, because the Highland people themselves will have suggested the remedies for their own problems.

Self-help will go a long way to remedy our own ills, in order, and this applies not only to the Highlands, but to the north-east, the northern isles, the borders, and Scotland as a whole. Yours etc.

F. G. THOMSON,
The Croft,
Melrose,
10th October, 1967.

P.S.—It might be interesting to record that classes in elementary

