

Scruth

SCOTLAND'S BI-LINGUAL NEWSPAPER

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

incorporating

THE LOCHABER DIARY

DI-ARDAOIN, 5mh AN DAMHAR 1967

THURSDAY, 5th OCTOBER 1967

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Peace In Our Time

In a letter to Mr Russell Johnston, Liberal Member for Inverness-shire, Mr William Ross, Secretary of State, has confirmed that the Highlands and Islands Development Board "are not precluded from seeking to encourage the establishment of large-scale industry within their area."

Mr Johnston wrote to the Minister after the recent controversy over the Board's role and powers in the Highlands, sparked off by remarks made by Dr J. Dickson Mabon.

Mr Ross has also confirmed that the board "must be the main apparatus for economic growth" in the Highlands area.

In a comment Mr Johnston said that the Board could not seek to insulate itself from criticism. He thought that the Board should be given peace to work with their job.

"How long they will have peace must inevitably depend on their own success and on the support the Government give them."

It has been made clear, however, that this definition of the Board's powers indicates that it can encourage, or seek to encourage, large-scale projects

into the area — but it cannot act for itself, which is, as most Highlanders will agree, a vitiating factor.

The Board in fact has to consider many other Government bodies Mr Ross says "When one comes to the promotion of large-scale projects involving — besides the Scottish Office — the Board of Trade, Department of Economic Affairs, and so on, clearly there comes a point beyond which the Board themselves cannot carry matters forward."

In sum, the Board must actively involve itself in small-scale activities, and leave the final decisions on large-scale industrial activity to the Government.

It has come to the attention of SCRUTH that the Board has, in fact, tended to discourage active investment in large-scale industry through unwillingness to co-operate with Commonwealth firms who have expressed a desire to operate in the Highlands.

Details are not yet fully known. An attempt is being made to negotiate with these firms for permission to release their dealings with the Board in recent months.

Mod Flashback



The Mod Gold medalists being carried shoulder high. Miss Catherine MacArthur and Mr M. F. J. MacLeod

DONALD JOHN MACKAY



Donald John Mackay, Director of An Comunn, took up appointment at the same time as the H.I.D.B. came into being. There the similarity ends. For during the past two years Mackay has engendered a new atmosphere in the Highlands and Islands. Gaelic is now "in" and things are moving in Gaeldom. The Board could well take a leaf of example out of Donald John's book.

The number of houses completed in Scotland during August was 3,818 compared with 2,634 in August, 1966, reports the Scottish Development Department.

In the first eight months of 1967, 28,611 houses were started and 23,883 completed compared with 22,286 and 20,826 in the same period of 1966.

MILK MARKETING BOARD MEMBER REAPPOINTED

Mr William Ross the Secretary of State for Scotland, has reappointed Mr R. A. McWilliam, B.L. (C.A.), as a member of the North of Scotland Milk Marketing Board for a period of three years with effect from September 1st, 1967.

Board Pleases Crofters

As the MacBryne's boats, Hebrides and Lych Broom, sailed from Lochmaddy on Tuesday with more than 250 calves, bound for feeders on arable farms in Ross-shire, Fife and the Borders, they left behind their farmer owners in a happy frame of mind.

The almost unanimous opinions of crofters from Berneray at the north end of the Uists to Eriskay at the south was that this, the fifth weight-and-grade scheme sponsored by the Scottish Agriculture Organisation Society, was every bit as great a success as its directors had hoped.

Mr J. MacDonald, the airport manager at Benbecula and chairman of the Outer Isles Crofters' Association, expressed disappointment, however, in the fact that calves were graded for their beef potential as opposed to their breeding usefulness as future cows and also felt that with more than 600 calves to be handled over the two days there was bound to be a big tail, many of which would be better sold at a later date.

Mr Pat Ford, the local vet and one of the honorary organisers of the sale, said that the high standard of cows presented was a tribute to the foresight of the Department of Agriculture in arranging the introduction of an A.I. scheme into the Uists in place of the former system of township sales.

Despite heavy rain, the new stance built near the pierhead at Lochmaddy from money donated by the Highlands and Islands Development Board made a tremendous difference to the appearance of the cattle before the grader, and more especially to the appearance of the sellers and officials engaged in the hard day's work.

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Inverness Cream SCOTCH WHISKY

BIRTH

TAYLOR—At Oban Maternity Hospital, on 14th September 1967, to William and Violet (née Traynor), 1 Morrison Crescent, Kinlochleven—a son. Thanking matron, doctor and nursing staff.

MARRIAGE

WILKINSON—MACKENZIE. — At St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh, on 12th September 1967, by the Rev. John MacQueen, M.A., the late Mrs. Wilkinsons, of Tordomon, Lancashire, to Mari, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Murdo Mackenzie, 49 Garraobast, Isle of Lewis.

DEATHS

CAMERON—At Beach View, North Ballachulish, Onich, Invernesshire, on 18th September 1967, James Cameron, aged 64 years, beloved husband of the late Mary Cameron, and son of the late Duncan Cameron, of Kinlochleven, Onich, and Mrs Margaret Cameron, 1 Parkan Dubh, Inverloch, Sully missed.

MULLEN—At the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness, on the 24th September 1967, William Maxwell Mullen, of the late William Maxwell Mullen, Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S.A., and of Mrs J. Welsh, 27 Craigton Avenue, Inverness, and beloved husband of Ruth Mackenzie, Interred Tomnahurich Cemetery, Sadly missed.

Text for the Times

Anns gach uile thughbh buidhe air is le tuil Dhe an n losa Crois do 'ur tabha.

I Tesalonianach Ch. 5 r. 18,

In everything we thank for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

I Thessalonians Ch. 5 v. 18.

AON AOR GHUI

Mhol a mhor chuid de chomhairle foghlum Cataibh nach biodh san t-siorraim achadh a' Ard sgoil agus gu' biodh i' an t-sgoil bhith. Cha' bhiodh Dor-nach ma fhuichead m'le air falbh ach na h-lar sgoil airson clann gu' re 'O. Thubhairt iad cuideachd nach bu' choit do sgoillean na Leargaidh is Bettyhill a thoail gu' air re 'O' agus aighean fuirich a bhi ri laimh airson chloinne far na duthcha. Bhiodh e mar fhaicibh air parantan s' gach coimhearsnachd an clann a chur do no sgoillean sin air sin do bhliadhna co' dha' bhiodh a' ruigeadh iad 12. Tha na ruinlean so a nis ri aonta Roinn an Fhoghlum fhaghainn. Bho chionn bhliadhna bha aithneil gu' leor eadar an taobh an iar san taobh an ear chionn gu' roibh gach sgoil sgoil goireas gu' bhi sin san ear s' gu' sin d'ad san iar ach sgoillean is tighlean falamh. Bha iad a faicinn ghe' ghorach seantearan bhon iar sa tuath a bhi cumail da Ard sgoil fogsaille san ear. Tha an t-annasach an dachaidhean a ruighinn no bhi laimh ri'n caireadan.

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On the other hand... A HAGGIS IS A MEALIE PUDDING

In the last issue, we considered in a critical manner the death of kilts in the Highlands. There are also other difficulties in living up to our required image. One holiday-maker recently expressed disappointment with the Aviemore Centre and said: "We expected some bagpipes or traditional dancing or something." Readers familiar with the Centre's establishment may have noted the prevalence there of the English accent, both live and recorded. Traditional dancing will probably be thought a jolly topping wheeze and we look forward to madrigal singers, mummers and morris dancers.

The Centre has much to commend it and above all it provides indoor entertainment in bad weather. Much can be done at even the more remote holiday centres to provide some form of indoor recreational facilities for tourists during wet spells and amenities provided, however modest, can serve both a practical and social purpose by catering for visitors in the summer and the local population in winter.

Aviemore is best known as the capital of the Winter Sports area and just as the sport of ski-ing has boomed in the High-

lands in the last few years it seems probable that the next pastime to increase rapidly in popularity will be sailing. Accordingly there is a strong argument for the provision of marinas, complete with low cost chalet accommodation, restaurants, possibly solar-heated swimming pools, water ski-ing amenities and comprehensive boat-hire facilities. Initially one might be sited in the Black Isle and another at Gairloch or Lochinver.

Returning to the subject of visitors' complaints, one tourist was quoted a short time ago as saying that Inververie Garden had "too many weeds for the money," an observation simply overlooking the fact it is no mean achievement to grow even weeds on the West Coast. Furthermore weeds are the "in thing" to grow and it's not all that easy with having to keep the flowers down and everything. The same visitor was depressed by "the chronic litter of Ullapool." We doubt if the locals will admit to the justification of this complaint, but if they do they will almost certainly blame it on the tourists anyway.

Another tourist made the interesting complaint/observation that searching for the Loch Ness Monster is only slightly more difficult than searching for a public convenience on the loch-side. The Monster should be one of our greatest attractions but all our tourist associations display a marked lack of courage to publicise it seriously.

It is little wonder it is still looked upon as a joke by many people. We find consequently that Sassenachs generally regard both the Monster and the Haggis with equally guarded suspicion, the more supercilious being ready to smirkingly dismiss the Monster as a leg-pull while at the same time being less committed about the other legendary creature the Haggis. We might for the record state that what is commonly known as the Loch Ness Monster is almost without doubt a species

of long-necked Plesiosaur, the number of such creatures in the loch must be at least 25 on genetic grounds and the colony's habitation in Loch Ness has been continuous since at least the Ice Age.

Much more could be made of our natural fauna and we would like to see similar projects to the small but successful exhibition of live wild animals at Inverinan. Highland cattle alone are a great draw. A herd was grazed in the Bught Park, Inverness some summers ago and this gesture was appreciated by visitors. Wild life centres could be built and maintained at a not outrageous cost and some obvious centres for these projects might be Glenmore, Inverness, Torridon and Buth William. The Marquis of Bath has met with great success with his Longleat lions but we do not advocate anything on this scale and anyway Stornoway and T'lapool have both had sheep in the streets for years; it's all been done before.

Having dealt with some tourists' complaints we might just mention in an unrelated but topical vein the Ombudsman's non-acceptance of Mr Alistair MacKenzie's complaint re relations between the Highlands and Islands Development Board and St Andrew's House. We are reminded of the question asked when the office of Ombudsman was set up, "Who does one go to with complaints about the Ombudsman?"

To Be Continued

R. M. M.

'S E Alasdair Am Boidh

The Alasdair MacGillIosa a deaghaidh oran ainmeil eile a chur air clarr ann a Gaidhlig. An turus seo 's e an t-oran 'Puppet on a String' a tha ann agus bu' choir gun bithhead feill mhor air a measg oigridh na Gaidhlig.

Chaidh an t-oran seo a nis eadar-theachadh gu' ceud canan.

Air taobh eile a' chlàir th' oran ainmeil eile "The Carnival Over" air a bhionnadh gu' Gaidhlig. Ged is ann amns a' Bheurla bha faclan an orain seo an toiseach bha saighdearan Polanach a' chaidheil air an fhonn aige aig amns a' chogaidh mu dheireadh. B' e Abhainn Bhoiga ann an Russia cuspair an orain ris an robh am fonn seo air a chur agus seo agasbhar ma' bha oran rann a' dol:

Bholga, Bholga maid radnaidha Bholga, Rusgaidh-dhia reaga Ni' d' bhi-dheal' ti podraga. O' Doin-sogbha Cosaga.

CEITHIR MULLEAN A THA AONARANACH

Bu choir seachdainna a bhit air an cur air leth feadh na bliadhna airson cor na feadhainn ann Breatain a tha aonaranach a thoirt fa chomhair an-sluaigh. 'Se e seo a thiurt Mgr. Armand Georges a sgrìobh an leabhar, 'Lonelyland and Bedstierland' comhla ri Mgr. Cyril Donson. Thuir e gu' bheil ceithir muilean duine ann an Breatain agus an staid seo, gur e boireanmach a tha ann an tri muilean dhuibh agus gu' bheil da' mhuillean dhuibh a' fuireach ann an taobh-a-diùbs Shasainn.

Faodaidh clann a bhith aonaranach cho math ri feadhainn eile, ach is ann am measg seann daoine a gheibhear a' chuid as motha a tha mar seo agus an fheadhainn as miosa. Tha mu dha' mhuillean dhuibh seachad air trì fichead bliadhna agus a cog.

Tha an leabhar 'Lonelyland and Bedstierland' air a chur a mach le A. J. Chapple Ltd, agus tha e a' cosg no' le comhadh cruaidh agus seachad tasdan agus sia sgìllinn le comhadh pàipear.

Sluagh A Sior Fhalbh

San aithrig a thainig a mach air a t-seachdainn a chaidh thair air a Reigistear a cuir an ceill gun do thair aithrean an t-sluaigh ann an siorrachdan nan creitrichean mu 3700 eadar 1961 is 1962. Thainig beagan piseach air Cataibh, Gallaibh is Arcaibh ach chail an cor beag no mor. So na h-aircarran: Cataibh 13,650 suas 143; Arcaibh 18,800 suas 53; Gallaibh 128,470 suas 100; Ear-raghaidheadh 57,910 call 1,480; Inbhrisim 81,780 call 1,700; Ros 56,570 call 72; Sealtainn 16,990 call 822;

Bho 1951 gu' 1961 chaidh a Ghaidhealtachd 34 den t-sluaigh. Chail an t-sluaigh achadh ro gheal. Thainig a dh'aindheon gaidhealtachan is seimichich. Cha' buairrinn don Bhor'd Leasachaidh moran a dheanamh mu na h-aircarran so ach tha iad a deanamh feum thall sa bhos le gnòitheachan beaga mar na speulcrairean ann Bataidh is obair nan cuileagan lagach an Inbhrisim. Ach dia chum so an sluaigh is feumar barrachd fhainne de dh' obrichean cuimseach mur mun creid daoine nach ann ri meallach a bha an da' riaghadh nuair a shuidhich iad am Bord. Chan fhada gus am bi fos ceta bheil an obair aluminium ur gu bhi na tha sinn adal a' bhàbhalaidh airgid air tarraing a steach a rioghachdan eile. Feumaidh so dealan saor no leasachadh cogsais. Ma, tha an riaghadh da' riaghadh bheirgadh so cefrom dhaibh gnìomh a dheanamh air a Ghaidhealtachd far a bheil daoine aig a bheil colas air an obair feum oirre. An ceart uair chaneil cuid-eachadh sam bith a barrachd ga thoirt do ghnìomhachas ur air a Ghaidhealtachd nach fhaighidh iad ann bu' eile de dh' Alba ach Duneidenn a mhan. Mur a faigh sinn so faodaidh sinn togail oirran mar a rin leithid bho ghealtachd ceartas dh'inn an toiseach.

Sneorach le Clann Dornhaill mi.

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DUNCAN MACLEOD



Duncan Fiosraiche MacLeod. A hard-headed Lewisman who combines a faith in Gaelic with a realism which has shattered many critics of An Comunn since he was appointed last year to the difficult job of getting Gaelic across not only to Gaels but to cynics as well. If you're enjoying the Mod this week some of the credit goes to him.

BILINGUAL NEWSPAPER'S OFFER

PRIZES TO NATIONAL MOD

Scotland's bilingual newspaper, SRUTH, has offered the following prizes to be awarded at the National Mod in 1968, at Dunoon next year. The objects of the donations are to increase 'Gaelic Journalism' to prove the language capable of tackling subjects suitable for press presentation.

1. An article, not exceeding 2,000 words, on a subject based on a social, cultural or economic aspect of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Prize: £5, and publication in SRUTH (the prize to be known as 'Duais an t-Sruth'). The entry to be in Gaelic. For the runner-up entry a prize of £3 and publication in SRUTH. The main condition attached to the award of the prizes is that all entries show the ability of Gaelic to be a suitable medium for journalism. This competition is intended for senior competitors and for inclusion in the senior section (Literature) of the Mod.

2. A short story, not exceeding 1,000 words, on a contemporary aspect of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Prize: £5, and publication in SRUTH (the prize to be known as 'Duais an t-Sruth'). The entry to be in Gaelic. For the runner-up, a prize of £3 and publication in SRUTH. The main condition attached to the award of the prizes is that all entries show an awareness of Gaelic as a suitable medium for the contemporary short story. This competition is intended for senior competitors and for inclusion in the Senior Section (Literature) of the Mod.

3. A short story, not exceeding 600 words on a contemporary aspect of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Prize: £2 and publication in SRUTH (the prize to be known as 'Duais an t-Sruth'). The entry to be in Gaelic. For the runner-up the prize will be a book token and publication in SRUTH. The main condition attached to the award of the prizes is that entries show a literary awareness of Gaelic as a suitable medium for the contemporary short story. This competition is intended for the Junior Competitors and for inclusion in the Junior Section (Written Competitions) of the Mod.

Portree High School; 2 (equal) Mairi Macritchie, Nicolson Institute and Marietta Mackay, Nicolson Institute.

Reading at sight—Children 13-16 — 1 Anne MacLean, Portree; 2 Christine Macaskill, Nicolson Institute; 3 Marina MacLean, Oban High School.

Reading at sight—Children under 13 — 1 Christine Campbell, Portree High School; 2 Mairi Macritchie, Nicolson Institute; 3 Marietta Mackay, Nicolson Institute.

Reading the prose, Dornhall Ben — Children 13-16 — 1 Maudie I. MacDougall, Bainsford; 2 Lorna I. MacDougall, Bainsford; 3 (equal) Catherine E. Macfarlane, Glasgow and Katrina Ann MacDonald, Forres.

Reciting the poem, An cùilean bég — Children 13-16 — 1 Maudie I. MacDougall, Bainsford; 2 Lorna I. MacDougall, Bainsford; 3 Duncan Macinnes, Dunblane.

Reading at sight — Children under 13 — 1 Lorna Forsyth, Conton School; 2 (equal) Marion Dingwall, Conton School and Diane MacLean, Conton School.

Reading the prose, Tigh-eiridinn na g'iomach — Children under 13 — 1 Morag F. A. Robertson, Kiltarity; 2 Mairi C. Douglas, Glasgow; 3 Ewan Macdonald, Dunoon.

Reciting the poem, O gur mis' tha ionabel — Children under 13 — 1 Isabel M. Lamont, Glasgow.

(Continued on Page Twelve)

M GLASGOW 1967 D

High, high into the list of trophy winners at this year's Mod soared the Nicholson Institute Junior Choir, to almost sweep the boards in the Junior Choir competitions. It was an act of faith, and indeed a great tribute to the members of the choir — the choir which, because of a lack of funds, almost missed appearing at the 1967 Mod. And what a tragedy that would have been!

To their rescue came a local Stornoway business man, who raised the money to send the Institute choir to Glasgow and resounding successes. His faith in the youngsters was fully justified when, on Tuesday, the 'Nicholson' took the Mrs Campbell Blair Trophy with a first in unison singing; the Oban Times Challenge Trophy with a first in Choral singing, and the Belle Campbell Trophy with another first in unison singing. A wonderful performance! For conductor Mr R. Scott a memorable and happy finale to the Mod of practice and patience.

Off to an enthusiastic and optimistic start with the opening speech of Mr Donald Grant, President of An Comunn Gaidhealach, ringing in their ears (see page seven), the Glasgow Mod will be memorable in showing once and for all that the Gaelic Movement is marching forward with all of the faith expressed so completely at the Inverness Mod of 1966 and with a great deal more purpose added to its deliberations and planning. The torch of the Gaelic movement is borne these days in the hands of youth guided by the vast experience of those who remained true to the Cause over the long years! A time of going to press the following Trophy winners had been announced:

Graham Croll Cup (for Gaelic Essay) — Donald A. MacEannan, Portree.

Dr MacKav Cup (for highest aggregate mark for fluent speakers) — Oral — Anne MacLean, Portree.

Schoolmote and District Highland Association Quich (for Solo Singing) (former 1st prize winners) — Janet C. MacDonald, Granton.

Miss Jennie M. B. MacLean Kilt Pin (for playing solo Gaelic a) and march on pianoforte) — Iain MacKenzie, Helmsdale.

Margaret Hill-Boyle Memorial Trophy (for playing solo Gaelic a) and march on pianoforte) — Iain MacKenzie, Helmsdale.

Roderic Mauro Trophy (for March on Bagpipes) — Iain Duncan, Pitlochry.

Robert MacCallum Trophy (for March, Strathspey and Reel on violin) — John Martin, Cambuslang.

MacTaggart Memorial Trophy (for playing Strathspey and reel on Bagpipes) — Iain G. Macfarlane, Glasgow.

Silver Medal for Solo Singing—Girls — Fluent speakers — Kathleen A. MacLeod, Nicolson Institute.

Silver Medal for Solo Singing—Boys—Fluent Speakers — Murdo MacKenzie, Bainsford School.

Mrs Schroder of Dunlois Islay Silver Cup (for highest mark for Gaelic in silver medal Solo competition) — Kathleen A. MacLeod, Nicolson Institute; Murdo MacKenzie, Bayle.

Alexander Hamilton Trophy (awarded to girl gaining highest marks in Gaelic solo competitions, learners) — Isobel Lamont, Glasgow.

James C. MacPhee Memorial Medal (awarded for Solo singing — Girls over 13 and under 16 — Learners) — Isobel Fraser, Kiltarity.

James C. MacPhee Memorial

Medal (awarded for Solo Singing — Boys over 13 and under 16) — Mitchell Reid, Portree.

Turiff Trophy (for Solo Singing — Boys and Girls 16-18) — Anne MacIver, Glasgow.

Shiant Shield (for action song) — Bowmore Junior Gaelic choir.

Rona MacVicar Trophy (for unison singing—learners of Gaelic) — Caberfeidh Junior Choir.

Miss Olive Campbell of Inverheidh Trophy (Unison — Rural Choirs) — Tarbert, Loch Eynol Junior Choir.

Mrs Millar Trophy (for two part — Learners) — Breadalbane Academy Girls Choir.

Dugald MacDonald Quich (Highest marks in Gaelic — two part — learners) — Largs and District Junior Choir.

Reading the Prose: Air an atriugh. Children 13-16 — 1 Ann MacLean, Portree High School; 2 Christine Macaskill, Nicolson Institute; 3 Iain Kennedy, Oban High School.

Reading the Prose: Latha na Féile. Children under 13 — 1 Donna MacLeod, Nicolson Institute; 2 Christine Campbell, Portree High School; 3 Marietta Mackay, Nicolson Institute.

Story — Children 13-16 — 1 Mary MacLeod, Portree High School; 2 Isobel Matheson, Nicolson Institute; 3 Anne MacLean, Portree High School.

Story — Children under 13 — 1 Christine Campbell, Portree High School.

Reciting from memory prose or poetry — Children over 16 — 1 Anne Macdonald, Nicolson Institute; 2 Patricia Campbell, Portree High School.

Reciting from memory prose or poetry — Children over 16 — 1 (equal) Patricia Campbell, Portree High School and Annie Macdonald, Nicolson Institute.

Reciting the poem: Camanach na Bialadh' Uiré — Children 13-16 — 1 Anne MacLean, Portree High School; 2 Agnes MacKenzie, Nicolson Institute; 3 (equal) Marina

poetry — 1 Iain Kennedy, Oban High School; 2 Christine Macaskill, Nicolson Institute; 3 Joan Kennedy, Nicolson Institute.

Reciting from memory prose or poetry — 1 Christine Campbell, Portree High School.

Conversation — Children over 16 — 1 (equal) Patricia Campbell, Portree High School and Annie Macdonald, Nicolson Institute.

Reciting the poem: Camanach na Bialadh' Uiré — Children 13-16 — 1 Anne MacLean, Portree High School; 2 Agnes MacKenzie, Nicolson Institute; 3 (equal) Marina

Maclean, Oban High School and Kathleen A. MacLeod, Nicolson Institute.

Reciting the poem: Coileach Iain Chiohair — Children under 13 — 1 Donna MacLeod, Nicolson Institute; 2 Christine Campbell, Portree High School; 3 Marietta Mackay, Nicolson Institute.

Conversation — Children 13-16 — 1 Anne MacLean, Portree High School; 2 Iain Kennedy, Oban High School; 3 Jane Mackenzie, Nicolson Institute.

Conversation — Children under 13 — 1 Christine Campbell,

Mod Flashback



The Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir with their conductor Sheelah Nicol after winning The Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup

SRUTH

DI-ARDAOIN, 5mh AN DAMHAR 1967
THURSDAY, 5th OCTOBER 1967

1891 — 1967

Tha am Mod an seo a rithis agus chan eil teagamh nach eil e air aite sonraichte a dheanadh dha fhein ann am beatha na Rìoghachd. That e a nis air a chunntas mar aon de 'thachartasan na bliadhna ann an Alba agus tha a h-uile bliadhna a' meudachadh na h-àire a tha an tebhisean, an reidio agus na paipearan-naidheachd a' toirt dha.

Thug sinn suil mar tha an "Sruth" air na h-oidhirpean agus na h-adhartasan a rinnadh o chionn bliadhna ann an obair a' Chomuinn. Canaidh feadhainn, mar is abhaist, gu bheil a' Ghaidhlig a' basachadh a dh'aindeoin inneachdais is othail a' Chomuinn agus nach dean a bhith sinne oran aig a' Mhod moran feum dhi.

Doch a nach dean ach m' an doigh anns a bheil am Mod a' glacadh aite an t-sluaigh feum mar a' Chomharrachd ann gu bheil parantan Gaidhealach a' toirt barrachd speis dha 'n Ghaidhlig na bha iad riann roimhe bho 'n tha iad a' faicinn gu bheil feadhainn eile a' toirt speis dhi agus chan eil teagamh nach e An Comunn Gaidhealach a' bu choirach, ann an tomhas mor, airson na speis seo a dhuasadh.

Le bhith beachdachadh air cananainn beaga eile chisinn gu feum tri rudan a bhith ann ma tha canainn bheag dha mhaistris fhè. Is iad sin: anns a' cheud aite, luchd-buidhne na canain iad fhein a bhith toirt speis dhi, anns an dartha aite, cothrom a bhith aice air na modhan crabhach-sgaoiligh agus clo-bhualaidh (reidio, tebhisean, leabhraichean agus paipearan-naidheachd) agus anns an treas aite, guideachadh agus deagh-thoil bho 'n Rìoghachd.

Tha a' Ghaidhlig a nis a' faighinn barrachd speis bho a luchd-buidhne. Eil fhios am faigh i an da rud eile mho a bu choir nach?

Chan eil fhios de shaoileadh an fheadhainn a bha aig a' cheud Mhod ann a' bhliadhna 1891 agus aig iomadh Mod an deidh sin nach tadhaileadh aig Mod na bliadhna seo? Bu choir dhainn cuimhneachadh nach bitheadh Mhod idir ann mur b' e iad. A measg oran agus aigheir a' Mhod cuimhneachaid air na seoid a chum suas bratach na Gaidhlig a' uair nach robh e idir cho soirbh no cho fasanta sin a dheanadh.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOD

This issue of "Sruth" sees the 1967 Glasgow Mod halfway through its programme of Gaelic activities. It is, it seems to us, a not inopportune time to have a close look at the Mod. To dissect it. To subject it to a direct form of investigation to reveal its raison d'être. If it has one.

First. Is it not a fact that in this day and age of Governmental support (in other countries, however!) for minority language groups, the Mod is a living anachronism? Therefore, it should not be held. But the hard fact is that while the British Government is in London and even when it may be in Edinburgh — the Gaelic language requires a splash of publicity to get Gaelic into newspaper headlines. Indeed, to become a nine-days' wonder. To come in like a comet with a tail long enough to reach the following October.

It is a sad state of affairs when the Gael requires this kind of do-it-yourself treatment to help him keep his mind on the fact that he has a living language to speak, to use and to insist on its use when those who govern him wish to communicate with him. Sad state, indeed. So is this the reason for the Mod?

Again. Is the Mod really a facade for An Comunn's lack of ability to get money for its propaganda efforts from sources other than hard-working Mod Committees? A good point here. So in this world of commercial activity, Gaelic should be made to make a profit for itself. A little headway has been made in this direction. But what is £1,700 compared with the possible £20,000 to £30,000 that could be made if full-time attention were given to commercial activities, the proceeds from which would be used to replace the Mod with something a little more fitting for to-day's Gael?

Not without reason, the convivial atmosphere of the Mod has been criticised. A writer in the "Stornoway Gazette" once described the Mod as an excuse for spiritous libation and lachrymose incantation. Well, is it?

Yet another criticism of the Mod is that it has a plethora of music competitions and too few competitive media for the promotion of the written and spoken language. This is a just criticism. The problem, of course, is to effect the necessary change to give the spoken language its place at the Mod.

Again, how many will return home this week-end — even without attending the A.G.M. of An Comunn on Saturday — to put their Gaelic and their racial pride away for a twelvemonth to bring it out of the mothballs at Dunoon? We suspect a goodly number. If they do not, we should like to hear from them to prove us wrong.

Well, Mod, Happy birthday anyway.

'ECCLESIASTICAL' STATE OF GAELIC

by TORMOD MACLEOD

I have obliged the following information from "The Year Book" of the Church of Scotland (i.e. the official statistics of the Church of Scotland, published annually).

The statistics given show a decline in the language.

A section of the "Home Board" of the Church, named and known as the "Committee on Highlands and Islands" is charged with the responsibility of inspiring all possible efforts to further the witness of the Church in the Gaelic speaking areas.

The committee employed a Gaelic Evangelist at one time (the late Rev. Lachlan MacLeod) who conducted Gaelic Services at the request of parish ministers and Presbyteries, throughout the Highlands — especially in outlying and secluded areas.

Comparing the case with that of a few years back, there is an evident decline.

To support this, I make the following contentions:

Regarding public worship two clauses are used, viz: that there are parishes in which worship should be conducted in Gaelic and secondly, that there are parishes in which it is desirable that the Minister should speak Gaelic. In the one case the language is essential, in the other it is not.

Here, then, is an instance of what happens in this connection. A charge takes the necessary steps to fill the vacancy, and if a Gaelic Preacher is available (at this particular time) it leads them to call an "English" minister. Gaelic in such cases is made a barrier, is incidental and their only solution is to send for the next best — an English-speaker!

The question arises: "How many Gaelic-speaking ministers preach in the south, when their people in the north starve on an English Gospel?" Some of our own Highlanders and Islanders serve in the Lowlands of Scotland in the wide length of their ministry. It is quite unfair, when the north is so poorly supplied with Gaelic-speaking ministers.

To look at it in another light, it looks as if the churches (or some churches) think anything might do for the Highlands of Scotland. When a candidate responds to the call for the Foreign Mission, he is dedicating his life to a special country, a special tribe or class of people whose language he must learn. A minister is being made to have the student educated in the language in which he is spared, intends to preach.

Now, then, shall I question why his effort is being made to learn the language of the Highland people? Oh! Anything will do for them — we will send them a minister who can understand the Gaelic — is it not time to awake and realise what is happening?

A minister should not have the boldness to take upon himself a Highland Parish without having a "preaching knowledge" of Gaelic.

Our language seems to be a fearful "bogue." They teach students Arabic, Urdu, Sanskrit, etc., but Gaelic . . . No . . . No. The figures of "points" in this matter as in the "Year Book" are as follows:

- 1. The Presbytery of Inverary**
There is one Gaelic charge, that of Inverary and Glenary. A preacher who speaks Gaelic is desirable in Tarbert, Ardsheila and Cumloiden and Lochyneside congregation, although not essential.
- 2. Presbytery of Dunoon**
There is no Gaelic mention made in Dunoon Presbytery.
- 3. Presbytery of Kintyre**
The only place desirous of having a Gaelic minister is Gigha and Carsa, the other places — of old Gaelic parishes

— such as Campbeltown, Southend, Killenan and Skipness, are no longer "Gaelic."

- 4. Presbytery of Islay**
Mention is made of the Isle-of-Jura as a Gaelic congregation. The others: Portmahomack, Colonsay, Bowmore etc., just desire a Gaelic man.
- 5. Presbytery of Gorn**
Two Gaelic charges here i.e. Glenorchy and the Old Parish Church of Oban. In the remaining places like Appin, Connel, Glencoe, Ballachulish and Isle-of-Lismore the language is not necessary.
- 6. Presbytery of Mull**
There are four Gaelic Stations. The rest including Tobermory, Ross of Mull, and Isle of Coll are "desirable."
- 7. Presbytery of Lochaber**
There is not a demand for Gaelic speaking ministers in this Presbytery. Congregations such as Acharacle, Fort William, Small Isles, Mallaig are classed in the desirable category.

8. Presbytery of Dundeel
Blair Athol, Grantully, Strath-tay and Killin (Ardeonaig), prefer a Gaelic man, but it is not essential that he should have Gaelic.

9. Presbytery of Abernethy
Gaelic preacher desired in seven charges. They are — Abernethy, Boat of Garten, Alvie, Dathill, Kingussie and Aviemore.

10. Presbytery of Inverness
Gaelic is necessary in two places — Dores and Bona, and also Daviot and Dulnichity. In Foyers, Glenmoriston and Drumadour the language is classed "desirable." There is one church in Inverness itself, I understand, having a Gaelic service once a month.

11. Presbytery of Dingwall
Peebles and Ullapool is the only charge in which it is necessary for the pastor to speak Gaelic. It is preferable regarding Dundonnell, and Strathgairn congregations. (Incidentally in the Free Church in Ullapool there is no Gaelic Service.)

12. Presbytery of Sutherland
Assynt and Store, together with Kinlochbervie are essentially Gaelic charges. Lairg, Altnaharra, and Melness desire that the minister should have Gaelic.

13. Presbytery of Lochcarron
This is a Gaelic Presbytery for the exception of Kintail and Lochalsh — the two charges that have in the past few years moved from the "heavily Gaelic" language of Eden which is still preserved in the Gospel loving Presbyteries of Skye, Uist and Lewis. Yet there are some ministers in these areas who do not yet hear or speak Gaelic to their children.

Finally, something ought to be done in all churches, including the Roman Catholic church — religion should not enter into the cause of the Highlanders have at heart — so that the language can thrive.

"Suas leis a Gaidhlig."

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Discussion Meeting, Royal Hotel, Inverness, October 14, 8 p.m.

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

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AM MOD NASEANTA GLASCHU, 1967

Oraid A' Chinn-Suidhe



ro thoirbe agus gu robh i ro thrang. Is toigh lean cuimhneachadh gu robh iad a' gabhadh a' tighinn feagas an t-seachdain a' Balmhaigh Glaschu gu bhith aig clas Gàidhlig.

Chòrd e rium cuideachd a chluinntinn gu robh an t-ionmhaisr trang seo againn, Mgr. Harvey MacIleathain agus a' bhean air a' chaidheadh a' cheannach deich clàir nan leasan ur Gàidhlig (agus cha b' ann à ionmhais a's Mhòid a thàinig a' chosgair).

Dh' ainmich mi dithis, no trì, ach tha mòran eile ann a dhainnigheas mo bheachd—ged a tha fàgaidh prìsail, nach gabh prìs a chur, an sùilean A' Chomunn, air duine ag ionnsachadh na cànan gu dìcheilich.

Cha chum an t-àirgead a' mhàin a Ghàidhlig beò. Cha chum ni beò i ach a bhith ga cur am feum. Mur eil agabach ach beagan dhìth, b' fheàrr air am feum an beagan sin thèin seallaibh sibh, mar nach seall sibh air doigh sa bhith eile, gu bhèil sibh a' crèidsinn ann an ruinntean A' Chomunn.

Donald Thomson

Chaidh obair A' Chomunn a chur mu 's coimeimh gu cothromach mar tha anns an aithisg bhliadhnail, ach bu mhaith lean, aig fogsaidh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta 64, beagan a ràdh as mo leth fhin.

O chionn dha bhliadhna guabha An Comunn dha fhèin chur ur. Bhà feum an uair sin air earbsa Iadair, ach cha robh sinn air a' mealladh a' Rinnachd solèir, ma bha An Comunn a' dèanamh agus comasach air iad fhèin a chuidheachadh nach b' eadh dith chuidheachadh ann o' na taobh a' mugh.

Foghnadh na nithean a thàinig a mach fo ghàidhars A' Chomunn ainmeachadh — clàir a' Mhòid, leasain air clàir, leabhar leasan, duilleanach cachruidh, *Scruth*, cairtean Nollaig, cairtean dèalbh, na pàpàin sgùird is searbhachd, a' chaneil an seo a' chaid toiseach-toiseachaidh. Aig coimeamh an Ard Chomhairle o chionn cealla-diag chluinntinn sinn ainmean Ghàidhlig agus gu sheorsa leabhar-sgoile. Chuala sinn cuideachd mu oidhirp ur, Club Leabhar, airson geib leabhar-sgoile, Chuala a' chinn mu Chruinne, còmhlan airson luchd - ionnsachaidh a' bhrosnachadh.

Tha An Comunn a' sìor-fhachainn ri ibhe na cànan àrdachadh. Saoidh mi gu bheil dè na sìonraiche mu ar tagraidhean. Tha iad air an cur air adhart gu comasach agus tha iad a' gintinn spiorad càirdel, agus air a' cheann thall, buannachdail, eadarinn fhin agus a' bhrosnachadh sùidheach eile. Ann aig an Fhear-Stiùirdh, Mgr. MacAoidin, a' cha taing airson sin.

Chan eil gu bheil sinn an comhnaidh riarachaidh leis na sìnn a' faotainn. An ruid a' dh' iarr sinn, gun bithedh fear a' Ghàidhlig, an ruid Leasachaidh na Gàidhlicheachd. Fhèarraig agus gum cumadh iad a' chuis fo 'n comhair ach ged a' bhrosnachadh ann, dè an t-àirgead. Dè an coitricheachd. An e nach eil needh freagarrach ann measg luchd a' Ghàidhlig leis fhèin an gnothach, ach dha sìnn an dòchas nach cumadh e duine gun chothrom seasaimh idir.

A thoadh a' Bhòird fhèin chaneil mise cho-eudhasach ri cùis. Tha mi a' crèidsinn gu bheil e comasach air ath-bheòthachadh a thoir air cùis na Gàidhlicheachd. Ged a chòrr ann Bòrd Feadhainn, tha treibhdeachas na feadhainn a' th' air fhagail, le b' eadh an t-sluaigh air an cùil, na dhearbhadh nach bi iad riarachaidh dè leasanas nas suarache na chaidh earbsa ruid air tuis.

An ciad bhliadhnachan A' Chomunn bhà aire ri bhith air a' chànan. Fàgadh iad cor aimsireil

an t-sluaigh aig feadhainn eile. An sin thàinig beacadh eile. Ciamar a' ghàidhlig cànan cumail mur bithedh daoine ann na ginn a bhruidheadh ? Tha sinn a' cluinntinn a nise gun gabh na ginn a' seachadh a' rithis. Nuair a thachras sin ni An Comunn gairdeachas còmhla ri càch. Ach cuimhneachadh nach cum seo leis fhèin a' Ghàidhlig beò. An àite sinn sàna a' dh' fhaodadh e a' h-eug a' ghrasaid.

A' cur meall-naidheachd air na plainearan bhithedh e' glè shearbh dha 'n Chomunn a' dèanamh gu robh an ni a' chaidh earbsa riutha fhèin, se sin gleidheadh na cànan, air fàirich leachadh ora. Mar sin cuideichidh na plainearan gun teagamh. Ach, mar a rinn iadson a' bha romhainn, thoirmeaidh a' h-àite fhèin o' na chànan.

Tha sinn toilichte fhacinn gu bheil ughdarsach tuath is deas a' toirt cothrom do 'n Ghàidhlig anns na bunsgolean agus na iad sgoilean agus an clasaichean teagasg. 'S bhòcht an sgeul luchd-teagasg ri fhòtaim an iomadh àite. Anns na h-àrd sgoilean is a' Fhèarraig mar as trice roghainn na cloinne no, s dòcha gun bu chòir a ràdh, roghainn nam pàrantan. Tha mòran de 'n bheachd gu bheil bhith àraidh anns a' chànan seo a' tha a' cur loinn shònraichte air foghlum. Farsainn clùiteach sga bheil litreachas na Frainge sìomadh a' bithedh seann chànan na dùthcha seo fhèin na b' ionmhadh. Tha mòran de 'n bheachd ann na bunsgolean agus na iad sgoilean ann na Frainge sìomadh a' bithedh seann chànan na dùthcha seo fhèin na b' ionmhadh. Tha mòran de 'n bheachd ann na bunsgolean agus na iad sgoilean ann na Frainge sìomadh a' bithedh seann chànan na dùthcha seo fhèin na b' ionmhadh.

Cha leig sinn a leas a bhith dèid. Dhearbhadh sinn duinn ann bhliadhna fhèin leis an t-àite a' thaghadh do Chomhairle Ionadail a' Mhòid an Glaschu. Nuair a' thoir Bean Iain na Brataich naoi mìosan air ais gu robh £14,000 a' dith oirre cha b' ionghadh ged a' chlisgeadh a' luchd-cuideachaidh. Cha d' chlisg agus an nochd is urrainn do 'n ruid a' chlisg a' chlisg (thair cuid an-ochd-mhor) againn. Mgr. Harvey MacIleathain innse dhainn: chan e mas gun air ruidinn sinn a' suim ach gun dachaidh sinn seachad air.

Fhuir mi, ged a' dh' fheumas An Comunn geis a' thoir do bheas na dùthcha, nach fhad iad stad aig a' sin. Anns an aon dòigh, feumaidh An Comunn sealltainn na bhàid na staid an ionmhais ach a' fheum.

Is toigh leamhsa fios a bhith againn, nuair a' bha Bean Iain na Brataich a' cur an t-àite a' suim airgid a' thionail, nach b' e daoine eile ag ionnsachadh Gàidhliche a' mhàin a' bh' aice san amharc. Cha d' thuir i gu robh a' chànan

VIEWPOINT ON QUEBEC

by J. J. MacEachern, Nova Scotia

The Government of Canada was recently annoyed by General de Gaulle when he openly encouraged French nationalists in Quebec. Reaction from British Canada was both expected and bitter. The view of this writer is that Canada and Quebec are in the same position that the United Kingdom and Ireland were in for years. Canada is taking the same British attitude that was typical during the days of empire. Such an attitude will only lead to bitterness and complicate the situation when Quebec does become independent.

When Quebec is independent of Canada, Nova Scotia will be a detached portion of the Canadian Dominion along with New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island (both created from the 18th century partition of Nova Scotia) and Newfoundland. Nova Scotia must plan for the day when she will be cut off from the area that supplies her present economic needs. How will Nova Scotia be affected?

If Quebec remains within the free trade area of the dominion there will be little change, but once the barriers are raised the situation will change radically. It is the latter contingency that Nova Scotia must prepare for.

Nova Scotia will be one of three provinces, once united but now partitioned, unable to supply her own needs and depending on a country not even contiguous. What will she do if the life lines are cut? How can she prevent the life lines from being cut?

If the life lines are cut Nova Scotia will be forced back on her

own resources, resulting in a lower standard of living for a time. In the long run this could result in Nova Scotia becoming self-supporting and having little need of the Canadian connection in the economic field.

In order to ameliorate the worst effects of economic isolation from Canada, Nova Scotia and her former territories must end partition and unite as they were before 1769 and 1783. Following this, a reunited Nova Scotia must make known the historical position that a part of Quebec is rightfully Nova Scotia's. Regaining possession of this territory would be strategically favourable to Nova Scotia. Another territorial adjustment might be made with the United States which now administers former Nova Scotia territories. To regain this it might be worth considering Commonwealth status within the U.S. along with the lines of Puerto Rico's association. Better still would be some sort of association with Canada, Quebec and the U.S. If some Nova Scotia statesman could arrange this our economic problems might be solved.

Although the economic problems are over-riding to some, others would consider the presence of another territorial adjustment basis of unrest. The belief of some is that Quebec would encourage these people to seek union with Quebec. To offset this thought, Nova Scotia might grant semi-autonomy to the Acadians which might lead to a similar right being granted to the Highlanders of Nova Scotia.

Stewart Gael

Donald Thomson not only has his native language and its welfare deep in his heart, but in his head as well. For he knows that only hard work will produce the kind of results which will keep Gaelic not only alive but kicking as well.

Mr Thomson is a Past President of the Executive Council, the Advisory Committee, Publications and Education Committee, and is Convener of the Mod and Music Committee. In addition, he is President of the Oban Branch of An Comunn.

Always hard-hitting in his speech, he pulls no punches when it comes to getting things done for Gaelic.



The evergreen Donald Thomson

Aberdeen Gaelic Choir

Conductor COLIN SANGSTER

Aberdeen Gaelic Choir was formed in May, 1951, as a result of a proposal made at an informal ceilidh in the home of Mr Kenneth Urquhart, who became the choir's first president. For the next three years, the choir progressed under the leadership of Mr Marshall Draper, husband of Mod Gold Medalist Ann MacLean.

It was not until 1955, however, that the choir, under its new conductor, Miss Wilson, competed at the National Mod. In competing for the Margat Duncan Trophy, the choir gained fourth place and

were awarded the highest marks in Gaelic, a tribute to the work of Gaelic Tutor, Mr I. K. MacDonald, a native of Skye. The choir has competed at every National Mod since that time.

In Inverness in 1957, the choir won its first prize, taking third place in the competition for the Margat Duncan Trophy.

In Glasgow in 1958, competing for its first time under its present conductor, Mr Colin Sangster, and with the late Mr John MacDonald, a native of Lewis, as Conductor, the choir gained third place in both the Margat Duncan and Puirt a Beul competitions and were awarded the John McNeil Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic in the Margat Duncan Competition. A year later, in Dundee, the choir moved up to second place in both competitions and retained the McNeil Trophy.

In Edinburgh in 1960, the choir won the Greenock Gaelic Choir Trophy in the Puirt a Beul competition and was again second in the Margat Duncan Competition. A year later, in Stirling, at its first attempt in the Lovat and Tullibardine Competition, the choir was placed second equal and gained the highest marks for music.

In Largs in 1965, with Mr I. K. MacDonald again as Gaelic Tutor, the choir was placed second in the Puirt a Beul competition.

The choir at present consists of just over thirty members, a mixture of youth and experience from all walks of life, only four of whom are native Gaelic speakers. There is, however, an enthusiastic group of learners of the Gaelic language who are sufficiently fluent to take the Gaelic test for the Lovat and Tullibardine Competition.

In addition to competing at the National Mod, the choir organises an annual concert and performs both at ceilidhs organised by the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach and for charitable organisations in and around Aberdeen.

Over to you:

Letters to the Editor

A Dhùine Choir — Chualas gu leor o chionn beagan uine mun àbhaithachadh nàiseantach air feadh Alba, an da chuid air a' Ghalltachd far nach do mhùchadh buileach i riamh agus a nis air a' Ghaidhealach far an robh i uair cho math ri sgadan. Tha an Partuidh Nàiseantach a' seinn nàich, mar a' thair oipachadh sin Eileanan air fìr leach gun tighinn air an Tìr-Mhoir. Shraoith gun bhithidh dhà Phartuidh gun tighinn air fìr leach sin. Eileann ruinn a nis air cuspair na canuine. Cha mhor gun leiginn a leas a radh nach d' fhuair s' Ghaidhlig bh' fhadachd sam bith aig na partaidhean nua (agus na cur-cadh na spruilleachan spòicant a chaidh iad uatha nan comain sinnt). B'e sin an dolamach a bhàca a' choiseach gu dèireadh air chor 's nach d'fhuilicmaid an corrap. Ach a thaobh a' Phartuidh Nàiseantach nan robh ann aite sam fadhbaidh, bha eiltean a' fàilte nach b' e sin ? Sin is coireach mata gu bheil mi to' iognadh fhastach nach d' fhuair mi for air aon tagradh dhà sa phrogram a' fàilteach. Bheir cho orm sinne uaineachadh nach eil sgaradh sam bith eatorras na cofhar puiseich air a' chuspair chuidhroim a' seo. Ma e' choireach mi air ionnraib bh' choma leam ged a' dheidhinn-sa chur ceart nur duilleagan le cuideigin a bhriagadh na sgròibh mi. le meacs

CAILEAN SPENCER
Sgarastadh
Na Hearadh

Gaelic Song Book Wanted

Sir—Some months ago Mr D. Stevenson of Mr James' Records was bemoaning the fact that many Gaelic songs heard on records and at Ceilidhs are unobtainable by being "out of print". I have suggested that An Comunn Gàidhealach should publish a Gaelic Song Book. This suggestion was put forward a quarter of a century ago but was never acted upon.

There is a real need, however, for such a book or rather a series of such books. Year after year An Comunn produces two Mod Booklets 'Orain-an-Neach' and 'Orain na Cloinne' containing the new pieces for the Senior and Juvenile competitions. Some songs appear at frequent intervals in the publications while others remain unpublished. Unless one has been an active competitor or has attended Mods for many years, the contents of these booklets are not generally known to the public. They are in fact limited editions to the extent of the copies of authentic Gaelic song books were published at intervals and the Mod Competition pieces were chosen from these books thus obviating the necessity of producing Mod booklets annually.

These song collections could also serve a most valuable educational purpose and the first step would be not only publishing the tunes in staff and sol-fa notation but also by appending notes on the songs and the writing of the poem to which they are set. A third and his or others set his poems to old tunes. This knowledge is of great importance for posterity. It is known by certain Gaelic Scholars at the School of Scottish Studies in particular. This information should be made available to the general public. The

Gaelic Texts Society has produced several books on the Songs of various Bards but they contain no note of music either in Staff or Sol Fa, and these are the reasons why to me which the poems are set. To a seeking musician this is just ludicrous.

There is yet another aspect to these songs — the historical background. Many songs have interesting backgrounds which are known to some of the older Gaelic scholars. This must be recorded for posterity ere it is too late. Duncan Johnstone in 'Cromann Tonn' did just this. It would be a most valuable service if An Comunn Gàidhealach did likewise. Yours etc.

BRIAN McD. DUXBERRY
42 Cisbury Ring South
Woodside Park, London N. 12

A Satisfied Reader

A Charaid—I enclose my subscription for SRUTH for a further year. I have been getting it since its inception and look forward immensely to its arrival here in Glasgow. My copy is passed round to many other Manxmen and also to my Scottish friends on the mainland.

As a lover of the Gaidhealtach and a teacher of the Manx Gaelic I congratulate you on this wonderful newspaper which I am sure will go from strength to strength.

We who are engaged in the struggle for Manx Freedom send our greetings to our fellow Gaels in Alba and pray that some day the two countries will not only be free, but Gaelic. Mish.

DUBHGHLAS
MACFHEARACHAIR
Purt Tighearna
Eilean Mhannain

Arm-Chair Choir Practice

Sir, The Manchester Gaelic Choir have recently adopted a method of enabling their members to practice which, if not unique, is certainly novel and may be imitated by other choirs. A large proportion of the members have tape-recorders of one sort or another and, following on one singer's success with the method it has been decided to equip as many members as possible with pre-recorded songs and parts for songs. Six songs, all of them new to the Choir, were chosen and were recorded as follows: The appropriate book and page are announced and the words are slowly and distinctly recited by Miss Gloria Macdonald who is a native Gaelic speaker from Mull. Then the song is played in four-part harmony on the piano by the Misses Hoyle and finally the individual single line is played for the singer for whom the tape is intended. The formidable job of making the actual recordings and copies was undertaken by another choir-member Mr Keith MacCallum and a friend.

The tapes were distributed at a recent rehearsal and the first reactions of the members have been most enthusiastic and favourable. All say that they can now practice their parts at home and that they do not feel that they need ever worry over the possibility of their fellow-members being held up by the slowness of an individual to learn his or her part.

It remains to be seen whether this system will result in the Manchester Gaelic Choir learning their songs more rapidly and accurately than all other choirs. Every success and some may imitate their example.

Le gach deigh dhurachd
LEE COLLIN
41 Wallace Drive
Huyton, Liverpool

A Challenge and a Dare

Sir,—This is directed at the writer of the article *Counterdrift* in your current issue. Of course, one understands his point—there are a few restless immigrants here—where—the Australian and Canadian Immigration Officers will give anybody chapter and verse about people who came to B.A. a few weeks, and then waited for home and mother. Always, the attitude—the only possible one—is "let them go, they are not worth bothering about if they have not got the guts to stick out a bit of inconvenience and hardship at the start."

I am an Australian-born, but of completely Highland blood. During the past two years I have been pestering everybody I thought could help me to a job in the Highlands, and have been met only with long faces and gloomy forecasts. I am one of that 6,000 on the list that the Manx Government so proud of but has neither the guts nor the ideas to use. I am an agricultural and food chemist; but I will tackle any job that has offered to me. My most recent major effort to get work of any sort in the Highlands was a 2,400 mile tour in June; that was so fruitless that I seriously began to wonder if I had B.O. or bad breath—or was just too damned ugly—next time. I will shove off again myself!

Now—that challenge and that dare.

I hereby publicly challenge anybody who will find me a job in the Highlands.

I dare—to do that job to the best of my ability, for *no pay at all, except my bed and board*, for 12 months, after which my employer will offer to keep me on at the proper rate for the job, provided I have lasted the course to his satisfaction.

I have the guts—who will match them for the honour of the Highlands? Or are my people becoming a race of miserable cowards?—Yours etc.

T. G. SMITH,
59 Woodland Road,
Naislea,
Bristol,
(Continued on Page Twelve)

First Prize — Competition 66

Style

mf 2. Bha e laghach aigeanach a' gearradh leum 's a' sinteag; Is gheob' bu shunndach spòrsail e. Cha robh e riamh ri mhòd.

mp 3. Is ming' thug mi bainne dha 'sa mhadain air an t-sithean; Is dh' fhàs mi fhìn cho measail air 's nach reicinn ris an righ' e.

mf 4. Tha seana chaoira dhùb'-cheannach A mhuigh air cùl na crìche; Tha aon adharc chruim obrach. 'S an adharc eile dìreach;

p 5. Rùsg fada, riobagach. Ris an làr a' sìobhadh; Cò, an diugh, a chreideadh Gum b' e na m' pheata, Sìle ?

RHONA C. MACKAY

AID FOR SCHOOLS IN DEPRIVED AREAS

Additional £1½ to £2 million for Improvement Programme.

Additional capital investment of £1½ million to £2 million is to be made available for work to be started in Scotland under a school improvement programme in the two years 1968/69 and 1969/70. This will be additional to the £20 million worth of school building work which education authorities will be putting in hand in each of those years under their normal programmes of major projects.

Education authorities have been asked by the Scottish Education Department to submit proposals for improving conditions in schools, particularly primary schools in old congested industrial areas which lack social facilities and amenities.

This special programme is likely to cover projects which would aim at improving or replacing sanitary facilities and staff accommodation, fitting out older schools for new educational needs and adapting parts of existing schools for youth and community purposes or for nursery classes or supervised play groups.

BRUSH UP YOUR GAELIC with Tormod

(A Series of lessons on basic Gaelic)

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

Thù=singular or familiar form. Sìbh=plural or polite form.

Lesson 12

The plural of most nouns is formed by adding -an or -ean e.g.:

an tigh na tìgean
the house the houses
an tie na tie-an

Examples of other plurals are:

am balach na balacha am bord na boirds
the boy the boys the table the tables
im bailich na baillichean
to build an dorus na dorsan
the tables the door the doors
na boird na boirden
an sgian na sgeinean an latha the day
in skee-an na skay-nan an la-uh
na laithean na soitheach
the days the dishes
na seach-an na seach-an
na soitheach
the dishes
na seach-an
Comhradh
Conversation
Co-ragh

Cuir gual air an teine, a Dhonn-chaidh, ma's e do thoil e.
Put coal on the fire, Duncan, if you please.
Koor gooral air tchee-nu, Ghoo-na-che, ma's e do hol e.

Carson ? Tha an rum bladh.
Why? The room is warm.
Karson? Tha an rum bladh.
The fire is warm.

This fìos again, ach bithidh Martainn is Seonag a' tighinn air cheilidh I know, but Martain and Jessie will be coming to visit.
Tha easack-an ach beinne Marsean us Shonach a' tchee-inn air cheilley

oirn an nochd agus tha Seonag daonnaan fear. De an uir a tha e? us tonight and Jessie is always cold. What time is it?
oirn a nochd agus tha Shonack doonaan fo-oir, air noy-oor a ha e?

Leth-uair an deidh seachd. Half-past seven.
Leth-uoir an deidh seachd.

Uill, bithidh iad an seo aig ochd. Well, they will be here at eight.
Well, bee-ee eat an shò eck ochk.

Faite Do Lybter

THE PORTLAND ARMS extends a warm welcome
Salmon Fishing, Trout Fishing
See Angling
Good Food and a Fine Cellar

Review Order

THE MAGIC AS BEFORE

In 'Candlestick No More', Jane Oliver, the Scottish novelist, gives us a good stirring story of the Forty-five, and, in particular, Prince Charles Edward. The book opens with a chapter which seems at first to be out of place, but is not. It reveals the middle-aged Chevalier de St George hopelessly drunk, living in squalour and being descended by a serious, well-known and her little, blameless, daughter. One wonders what in fact is in store for us in the second volume. In fact, we will with the Prince landing in Scotland, and at the beginning of the Rising. The tale moves, like a documentary, from Glenfianon to Skye. The vignettes of the campaign at Prestonpans, Falkirk and Culloden, are drawn well, with the hand of experience which all readers of Jane Oliver will know. There are no clashes of temperament between Charles Edward and Murray, and an aggravating O'Sullivan on the tache-queue, is demonstrated to be the ultimate reason for the defeat.

The principal is revealed in this book: the man, the idealised dream of restoration, the qualities of leadership, the blindness to advice, the humanity shown to enemies, the desire to risk and share the hardships of his men. Good reading here. But in the end, the results are fatal. It is a pity that which direction one's loyalty lies — even after more than two centuries have passed

"MIST-COVERED MOUNTAINS"

Calum Cameron, the Thistle Records singing star, is being seen frequently on Saturday nights by his friends up in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland—even though he never leaves Glasgow.

Thanks to TV, Calum's fine voice is heard along with the Innes Gaels singing group on B.B.C.—TV's Saturday night programme, "Our Heath" (a Gaelic Welcome). It brings him considerable fan-mail from friends and admirers in the Highlands.

"We're apt to forget that an awful lot of new viewers are now Gaelic-speaking people in the lonely glens of the north," says Calum, and I agree.

His Thistle Record E.P. (R.W.E.P. 648), "Mist-Covered Mountains," is selling well all over Scotland, and has brought him invitations to sing at concerts from Thurso to Inverness, Aberdeen to Edinburgh.

Calum, who spent a lot of his childhood in Skye. He began his singing in Aberdeen, where he met his wife.

He has taught his wife to speak Gaelic, and finds she has become quite proficient.

A lover of the Highlands and music, and of the great Gaelic tradition in language and song, the Thistle Records star is now encouraging his four children, three boys and a girl—to take up the Gaelic language. "In fact they're already singing bits of the songs from my new record," he says.

The Sort of People We Need For The Highlands

(By IAIN MACNAIR)

Over and over again we hear people complaining that "the more we do for these people the less they appreciate it." Has it ever occurred to these worthies that this ingratitude is only apparent, and that, without knowing it, they may be far from beneficiaries of our "tolerant" ministrations? This may often be more through ignorance than bad will. It is because they judge others by their own standards and think that they give to others what they want themselves that is for the other's good. Now, if they were not so superficial, they would realise that it is commonplace to say that one only starts giving when one gives oneself. But this gift of oneself is really a misnomer. What is meant is not oneself but self-effacement. It is to be reborn to another's needs, with a clean slate, utterly washing out one's own prejudices and preconceived ideas.

As long as their minds are set in the same old groove, nothing they do will be really durable. They will be continually depressing and deprecating to come to the conclusion that all one has done hitherto has been a complete error and it is necessary to start all over again. But this is the sad case with the Highlands. We have a great number of well-meaning people who do not understand the Highland character; that is to say the typical character, because there are no two individuals who are alike. It is a mistake in thinking that the Highlander and the Scot in general is radically different from the traditional Celt. In fact, Scott is for an axiom that Scott is only a product of 19th century romanticism, and might even consider an author like *MacArthur of Scotland* as being hopelessly old-fashioned.

Well, gold is not in the surface, and if they thought that they take it they might find that what a Scot loves is far from what they are trying to impose from outside. In this the Scot, and especially the Highlander, is quite different from the Viking type of adventurer. The latter is not content with what he has at home, and yearns for new horizons and faraway lands to conquer. The Scottish brand of romanticism is not bound up with curiosity and craving for innovation, but with a desire to cherish what he has got, and sets great value on associations of people and places to make an atmosphere, and looks at the future with suspicion. Only the past for him has a reality. That does not mean to say that the Highlander is not progressive in his own way. There is a difference between improvement and change. No true Highlander would be against improvement and yearning for a better world with change. The Celt has more maturity than Nordic nations. He doesn't really want to invent something totally new, he gratefully accepts what the Creator has made in the past, and only seeks to develop what is not yet clear and primitive. Anything that has not its roots in the past is something alien and unwanted.

Can these so-called lovers of progress understand nothing of the real Scottish character prove to us that their material changes involving greater comfort, speed and rationalisation of transportation are really what we need with the Highland way of thinking and betters him if happiness is to be taken into account? If the native's happiness is to be considered, no account, then these innovators better pack their boxes for good and leave us in peace. Do we really want to be a more comfortable or do we prefer virtue frugality and harmonious adaptation to our surroundings? How long is

Mod Flashback



Members of the Laxdale Gaelic Choir making merry after er winning the Dalriada Cup for the highest marks in Gaelic

MACNAIR's magnificent scenery to be spoilt and deteriorated through putting up hideous erections that do not fit in with the surrounding. It is sad for the Highlands to-day there is hardly a picturesque house left. Gone is the, thatch and stone or white-washed walls that so attract tourists and artists. Gone are the fine Highland dress in everyday life, so that we hear many people declare that they like the country as long as they don't see the people and their dwellings.

The would-be benefactors of the Highlands, the people that all we want is to earn more, be better fed and have every material comfort. Well, man does not live by bread alone, and as long as they seek to give us things that do not foster our identity, they are like ostriches hiding their head in the sand and not appreciating realities. Now these realities cover more than what they seek to foist on us. We don't want luxuries and superfluities that are quite unnecessary to sustain life and products of snobbery and fashion.

In this we agree with St Paul, who says that if we have enough to eat and a roof over our head, we should not yearn for riches in addition. Apart from the question of moral merit, it is debasing in the shape of to put an idol in the person of a machine in its stead.

We are fighting a double warfare: on the one hand to preserve the human law, the other principles of putting God first, and basing our principles on the Scriptures and on the other defending the human law against the machine that have not respect even for the natural law.

What respect had authorities for the human law in the last century with the Highland Clearances? Is it better now? Perhaps they are less tyrannical, but they are still fostering our identity yet; this is left to isolated individuals and to associations like the Comunn Gaidhida. Were it not for the Scots, what culture would there be to incarnate Scottish culture?

We were warned some time ago by a Canadian that Scots seem to be losing their grip and becoming fatalistic. They no longer react against those who want to wipe Scotland off the map under the disguise of a series of ordinary benefits that leave no impression on our soul.

Why not learn a lesson from the much despised Waverley of the *Waverley Novel*. Here we have an Englishman who so well understood Scotland that he identified himself with our own life in fact naturalised himself. Of course, we want a Waverley in modern dress who can help to supply us with our economic as well as our sentimental needs, but the economic part should just be sufficient to sustain life and not only our physical existence, but also a culture based on our historical and typical background.

This will cost them much less than what they are trying to palm off on us like voodoo on a farouche but naive. For the Lord's sake let them drop their patter and listen for a change; listen to what is typical of the Highlands and of Scotland!

PRIOHM PHOIBAIRE

Sann a Beinn a Faoigla a tha am Phòbair a th' ann an claid an Inbhir Nis ann bliadhna, Choisinn c am bonn air sun Oban as c'fhoghar. San t-àim - Uilleam Domhail a' buntainn air an Creag an Duncun. Tha sinn a cur air mealladh naidheachd air agus air Uibhist air fad. Chanell a' dol do th' àm a' t'èiridh. Uilleam am bonn air an Inbhir-nis a reir coltas n' a' ann dha fhein thàist.

Peat in News

Russia, with a yearly output of 100 million tons, is the world's largest producer of peat. Ireland, with four million tons a year, is the world's second largest producer. However, the Russians believe that they can learn something from us.

The Soviet Minister for Fuel and three other peat experts have just toured Ireland. They visited Bord na Mòra installations and made a special study of the machines, methods and practices used.

One item was of special interest to them. Known as "Little Sod," it is a machine developed by the Irish Peat Development Authority to turn milled peat into small sods so that the turf can be dried properly in wet weather. They visited it at Boora Bog in Co. Offaly.

The world's largest peat resources are in the Soviet Union. They cover 1,000 million acres and represent more than half of the world's total peat deposits. Many of the Russian bogs are covered by forest, and before they can be developed the timber has to be removed.

LOWLAND ENTERPRISE

A Border firm has recognised that Gaelic is a useful element in their publicity activities. The firm is Andrew Stewart, well-known for the "Dancing Highlander" figure which appears in its advertisements. They attach a guarantee ticket to all their garments, with the text in both English and Gaelic. This is an example which could well be followed by the many firms who produce and sell Harris Tweed.

The text on Stewart's Guarantee label reads:—

URRAS — Tha an t-airteagal so air a thaillearched ann an inbh bhunndhatsach anniel AF13 aig Andrew Stiùbhart. Tha an snath reinne min air a thaghadh agus air a chair air dluth de chloimh ur noth. Airteagal Breacan Tomhas Prìs

MY DEAR: I sent my old fur coat to Ferguson's and got a most marvellous result. My old fur coat wouldn't know it from a new one and the price was really moderate. I am certainly going back to them when they do their next job. D. A. Ferguson Ltd., 90/94 Easter Road Edinburgh, 7. Tel. AB 4055. Estab 1897.

Highland Book Club

Club Leabhar (the Highland Book Club) has been founded to fill a long felt need for an agency through which Gaelic and English literature about the Highlands and Islands could be obtained at realistic prices. Club Leabhar acts as a publishing agency to authors who write solely in Gaelic. At the present time it is not easy for the Gaelic writer (poet or novelist) to find a commercial publisher who will take on a financial risk in view of the limited readership of Gaelic works.

Stated briefly, the aims of Club Leabhar are to act as a publishing agency for authors who write solely in Gaelic; to commission works both in Gaelic and English on Highland subjects from writers of talent and to issue out-of-print works in English and Gaelic and those which do not interest the larger commercial publishing firms.

The Club will also issue paperback editions (novels, short stories, poetry, anthologies, etc) at a reasonable price and at a discount to subscribing members. All profits derived are to be used to subsidise further Gaelic literary efforts, books in English on Highland subjects, and to encourage young writers.

At least four paperbacks each year are expected to be produced. Subscribers, classified as regular members of Club Leabhar, will elect to buy at least four publications per annum, each publication at an average cost of 6/- to 7/6.

At present the Highland Book Club is making progress towards being registered as a Company with a limited guarantee.

SRUTH NOTE: At last something positive is being done on the offer Highland writers, both in

English and Gaelic, an outlet for their works. In particular, the Northern Regional Council of an Comunn Gaidhealchaid is to be congratulated in starting the Committee which looked into the possibility of a Gaelic Book Club. The Committee was in action for about a year under the guidance of Mr. Stormoway-born Tom MacArthur, who now teaches in Forties. In an interview with Mr MacArthur last night, said of Club Leabhar:

"At first I had some misgivings about whether such a Club could in fact justify its existence. But judging from the support the Committee have had, I have now nothing but confidence about the future of Club Leabhar."

"We have had excellent advice from all the major Book Clubs in Britain, and in Ireland, and I would like to place on public record my thanks to the officials of these organisations. I also thank two members of the Committee for the hard work which they put in to lay the foundations of the Club: Captain le Chevalier J. Harvey MacPherson of Newtowers, and Frank Thompson, Inverness."

Asked about the first publications of the Club, Mr MacArthur said:—"We have some M.S.S. from Iain Chrìstion Smith, who has offered his first novel in Gaelic to the Club. Then we hope to have an anthology of Gaelic short stories which have been broadcast by the B.B.C. We are in the process of negotiating with authors like Nigel Tranter and Neil Gunn who have shown an interest in the Club. In particular we hope to obtain the reprint right for some of the best of Neil Gunn's early novels."

Please fill in the following if you are interested:

NAME

ADDRESS

- I wish to become a reader member of Club Leabhar and elect to either
- * pay for each book received on receipt
- * or I enclose 30/- to cover the cost of four books, on the understanding that any balance of this sum which remains outstanding will be placed to my credit as a refund or towards next year's subscription.
- * Please indicate the method of payment you wish

Highlanders in No-way Houses for Repatriates

FORT WILLIAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

A Brighter Outlook

With about 50,000 people leaving Scotland this year the Crofting Commission is likely to have decreased in population by such a low figure as 4,377, considering how unattractive life is in the 1967 Crofting Counties. To be an outsider in this technological, mass production, computerised age is hardly an inducement for the go-ahead youth of today. Two instances come to the fore when discussing the advancement of the area into this ultra-scientific age. One of Lochaber's most prominent is a world-famous electronic company in Birmingham. When asked if he would consider a branch factory in Lochaber he said he would not consider it under any circumstances.

Frank Thomson, winding up the forward thinking industrial units he had created in the Highlands, said he would never again invest in the Highlands. Seldom a week goes by but at least one industry in the Crofting Counties closes its doors and gives up the struggle for survival. The Highlands and Islands Development Board has the job of encouraging industry into this wilderness, and an simply manage to keep a steady level in the unemployment figures, already above the national average even for Scotland. Or, along with emigration, can it reduce the unemployment figure? Invers-shire is an example of this. Inversness, Argy Fort William District show an increasing number of emigrants. County total was 1,706 less than in 1961. Did all those who left the country areas go to live in the town and the Fort William area or did they not?

What is the matter with the Highlands, Scotland and Lochaber in particular, that the folk who live there are desperate to get out? Have the news headlines above got any bearing on the subject? Always it is the same depressing news, seldom does one get a lift when reading the news of what takes place in the Highlands. Let us play with these headlines and see what we can imagine, and the news that follows the headlines.

Decreasing Population in the Crofting Counties

This would have been a "stooter" if it had read "Population Explosion above the Highlands Line". Today the Government approved of the Crofting Counties proposed plan to build eleven new towns in the Highlands. The first, with tenders already submitted by the contractors is to be at Kinlochell. The plans have been drawn up by the Highland area students at Strathclyde University, Architectural Department. The Civil Engineering Department has carried out a survey of the West Highland area and are putting forward plans for connecting the new towns with roads to Lochaline, Kilchoan, Mallaig, and Glen Elg. The industrial site has been given to the new University of Aberdeen. The stipulation that industry must be set in the opposite glen from the residential area. Aberdeen University let it be known that they wish to be associated with the new town, and are expected to be given the task of planning the Railway and Dock Facilities. The first of the 6,000 immigrants to come to the New Town are expected to arrive in January, 1967."

Federal Powers of Landlords, Crofters Union Buck Sky Lawyer

A maximum price of three-farthings a square foot. This is the set value of land in the Crofting Counties, the final decision on the land Land Valuation Committee, set up by the Government three weeks ago. The speed at which

the Commission worked showed how urgent this decision was required. Again on the same subject of speed, the land being generally of the same quality and condition made the Commission's job very easy. Land Court sittings will have a much different aspect now, as the main finding of the Commission was that should a crofter, farmer or any other resident of the Crofting Counties wish to purchase land from the present Principal, he need only prove that the purpose he is going to put the land to will be of more benefit to the community, the county, or the nation, than the use which its present owner has for it, and a compulsory purchase order will be made in favour of the pursuer. The keeping of vermin on land (i.e. deer, rabbits, etc.) will no longer be classified as a necessary commodity. The usual or unusual argument about poaching deer and rabbits from someone's garden that normally turns up when a poacher is being fined and his gear confiscated, will no longer be tolerated. These animals are vermin. If your next door neighbour would a nest of rats, residing in his front garden, multiplying year after year until they threatened the health and agriculture of a whole street of course you would be entitled to take steps to reduce the menace.

If on the other hand rabbits and deer are being bred, nourished, and looked after for certain purposes, as is the case with beef cattle, then they can be protected. The present system of leaving deer to fend for themselves summer and winter so that in the spring hundreds die after their first feed for months, should have been investigated by the R.S.P.C.A. It is again a matter of fact as they would investigate the ill-treatment of farm animals. The proposals put forward by the Commission are well understood if you can lay claim to the ownership of any animal, keep it properly, if it interferes with other peoples property you are responsible for it, and the same holds true for the vermin is not yours then it becomes fair game for anybody, be it on your land or not, prevention is the best cure, and the applies equally to public funded tree plantations, as to sewers."

"Empty Crofts in Sky"

"Ministry of agriculture Small Holding Scheme for Sky." All the large land owners on the island of Sky have been protesting for a winter so that in the island of 300 smallholders over the next two years. 30 units of 10 holdings are to be let to tenants now unemployed (some 8,000 names have been on these lists for up to twenty years). Home and Health Department, Agricultural Department, and Scottish Council will all be working on the scheme, as housing, and outbuildings will be completed, to coincide with the reclaiming and draining of the holdings ten acres (approximate). The intention behind the scheme is to have a plentiful, cheap supply of market garden produce on the island, and to be able to export to nearby islands and the immediate mainland."

SWIMMING POOL

Messrs Atkins & Partners, consultants in swimming pools at Fort William, have informed the Town Council that the site at Tormore is admirably suited to this construction. Now that the preliminary survey is over, bores are being dug to study the sub-soil. The results of this investigation and the cost of various sizes of pools will be supplied to the Council by the end of October.

A motion by Bailie E. C. Campbell, the Council should give active consideration to applications for houses received from natives wishing to return on retirement from occupations which had necessitated their leaving home in early life, started an incident in the Council meeting last week.

Provost Canon Henderson asked the Bailie if he would withdraw his motion. Bailie Campbell declined, and went on to speak for the motion, saying that because of the lack of employment oppor-

Highlanders In Emergency

A German couple, motoring in Lochaber, on Monday ran up against one of the features of the district that really endears Lochaber to the heart of the tourist. Coming North through a glen (and boy was it some rain), the motor that drives the windscreen wipers of the car broke down, and the car went to the laithy, to have this repaired on reaching Fort William. By the time they had been directed from one garage to another, and on to the laithy, they were not successful, because they could not get a suitably qualified mechanic, in the district. In anger, and his wife was in tears, he said, "What do you think of this? The Highlanders to whom there is an emergency? A very good question—*What do Highlanders do when there is an emergency?*" On the same subject, the owner of a very popular small car decided it was time he renewed the clutch. On removing the clutch was worn he discovered that the pressure plate was cracked. Rather than put the car together again with a suspect part, he decided as his mind to replace both the clutch and the pressure plate, and this is where he ran into difficulties. The trial locally he tried the distributors, he contacted suppliers near and far within the Highland line, naturally without success—his car is three years old. On the 1st of August he increased the Post Office Telephone Department's profits, contacted a Glasgow distributor, and asked if by chance they had the elusive part. "Sure, we have our shelves full of them." "You're quite sure it will fit this model?" asked, our exhausted motorist. It arrived by first post next day. C.O.D. God bless Bell! If he had not invented the telephone we would be at a standstill.

Snippets

Lochaber Camera Club has their first meeting of the winter season on Tuesday (October 3rd). The Club have a very busy syllabus this season.

Car Park Profitability—An increase of £437 in takings from Fort William's Car Parks this summer with a total of £4,048.

Kilmalie Scout Troop, 33rd Invers-shire, were again in form on the rifle range at the Territorial Hall, Fort William. When the new and improved Dunn's Challenge Shield for rifle shooting. Junior Section winners were: 1—Wanganui East Scout Troop, Newland, with 765 points; 2.—2nd Waltham Scouts; 3, 33rd Invers-shire (Kilmalie) Scout Troop. With two new rifle ranges being planned the district, one in the new Corpach and Banavie Village Hall, and the other in the new almost complete "Park" and Park 765 Social and Recreation Club, would not think the lads need worry too much about losing their present facilities in the Territorial Drill Hall. There is a possibility that the Scouts will be off this range by the end of the year.

unities in the "30's" people were forced to leave Fort William. Now, on retirement, they would want to come back if they could be housed. A debate followed, and the Provost managed to get into the thick of it by remarking—"We cannot be the housing authority for the whole of the area, perhaps Bailie Campbell will go to the Development Department in Edinburgh himself and get the houses."

This brought prompt retaliation from the Bailie and from Dean of Guild Daniel Ryan. Not liking the Provost's attitude to the debate, Mr Ryan told the Provost so. "There is no reason to be annoyed. As Council members we are entitled to say what we wish without being shouted down."

The flexible housing allocation rules be adhered to was carried by six votes to two.

CORPACH DISTRICT COUNCIL

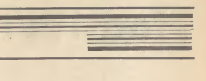
At the last meeting of the District Council, it was brought to the notice of the Council that there were acts of vandalism previously unheard of, being committed in the district, namely, damage to the graveyards, where markers and stones were removed, vases and ornaments broken, and flowers either scattered or disappearing. Some of the inhabitants who were upset at this report, having no knowledge of a previous report on the same subject. This came from the District Clerk. Mr Dawson who recruited the help of the *Weekly Diary* to try and stop the children of the village from using the graveyard as a playing-field. Since that request the Council in the vicinity have been most vigilant in this matter, and report that few, if any, children are allowed to roam this area. They also report that they have had to clear sheep out of the new graveyard at the top of Caledonian Road on several occasions. This has been many weeks since a large break in the fencing was reported. This has, to date, not been attended to. Those who were under the first report read the second and, knowing of the sheep, were rightfully disturbed at the word "vandalism" being used on "carelessness" would have done just as well.

CORPACH AND BANAVIE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Members were pleased to hear from Mr Hector Kennedy on Friday, September 27th, that the County Council officials had last agreed to site the Drumfada 'sh' shelter among the houses that it is supposed to serve. It is reported to be built at Giebe Park in the near future.

An acknowledgment has been received from the County Clerk on the question of sewerage discharging on the beach at Corpach. An investigation has been promised, and it is hoped that this investigation will be unearthing to allow those householders concerned to connect up to the main sewer. Some stories, has been received, that the Pulp Mill, the report from Professor Mair and Mr Sanderson, of the Industrial Health Research Society, has been received. It was noted that the Pulp Mill is about to install an automatic monitoring system, which should make serious emissions of untreated gases much less likely. It was agreed to wait and observe the result of this installation.

The Haul Sub-committee had a very pleasant surprise last week. A donation of £18 was received from Mrs Sutton, senr., towards the New Hall Fund. Mrs Sutton raised this money by selling her garden produce throughout the summer.



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Mod 1967—Results

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

over to you:

gow; 2 (equal) Mairi C. Douglas Glasgow and Morag F. A. Robertson, Kiltarity.

Receiving from memory—Children 12-16—1 Morag C. Macintyre, Bellahouston Academy; 2 Marian MacDougall, Oban High School; 3 Mary Matheson, Oban High School.

Conversation—Children 13-16—1 (equal) Joan Kennedy, Nicolson Institute and Chrissie Macaskill, Nicolson Institute; 3 Iain Kennedy, Oban High School.

Versè-spèking, Moch-thrath—Children 13-16—1 Nicolson Institute Group 'B'; 2 Nicolson Institute Group 'A'.

Solo Singing, Failil ò a gus hù ro eile—Girls 13-16—1 Isabel Ferris, Kiltarity; 2 Katrina MacCallman, Ardriahgach; 3 Betty MacCallman, Ardriahgach.

Duet singing—Children 13-16—1 Lorna J. MacDougall, Bainsford and Maudean J. MacDougall, Bainsford; 2 Jennifer MacKenzie, Brora and Carol Norris, Brora; 3 Moira McCall, West Kilbride and Winifred Sloan, West Kilbride.

Action Songs—Open—Children under 17—Shiant Shield presented by Sir Compton MacKenzie—1 Bownmore Junior Gaelic Choir; 2 Ardberg Junior Gaelic Choir; 3 **Solo Singing**, Oron na maighdinn mhara—Girls 10-13—1 Janette C. MacDonald, Grantown-on-Spey; 2 Sheena Gordon, West Kilbride; 3 Isabel M. Lamont, Glasgow.

Solo Singing—Own choice—Boys and Girls 16-18—Turrill Trophy—1 Anne MacIver, Glasgow; 2 Celia M. Davidson, Inveraray; 3 Jean H. MacInnes, Dunblane.

Solo singing, Ho ò rò ille bhig—Girls under 10—1 Eileen Docherty, Camelon; 2 Margaret Anne Mills, Largs; 3 Karen Murray, Invershin Primary School.

Solo singing, Fàilte Rudha Bhaithain—Boys under 13—1 Duncan K. MacRae, Golspie; 2 Henry McEwan, Dunoon; 3 James Fraser-Jack, Fort Augustus.

Duet singing—Children under 13—1 Grace Higgins, Dunoon and Maureen McNicol, Dunoon; 2 Janette C. MacDonald, Grantown-on-Spey and Lyseth MacArthur, Forres; 3 Sheena Gordon Largs and Nicola McKinnon, Largs.

Solo singing, A Mhor, A Mhor, Girls under 13—1 Donna Mac-

leod Nicolson Institute; 2 Christine E. Macleod, do.

Solo singing, An Gaidheal a fagail a dhùncha, Boys 13-16—1 The Nicolson Institute; 2 Murdoch Mackenzie, Bayble J.S. High School; 3 Iain MacPherson, Portree High School; 3 Kussel Campbell, Oban High School.

Solo singing, Fagail Liosmor, Girls 13-16. The Silver Medal of An Comunn—1 Kathleen A. Macleod, Nicolson Institute; 2 Catherine Macintyre, Oban High School; 3 Mary M. Mackenzie, Nicolson Institute.

Solo singing, Eilean mo eiridh, Boys under 13—Kenneth MacIver, Glasgow.

Duet singing, Children 13-16—1 Ola Sutherland, Sandra Maclelland, Portree High School.

Playing a slow Gaelic air and march on the piano/forte, Children 13-16—1 Iain Mackenzie, Helmsdale; 2 Beth MacAnachan, Milngavie; 3 Gordon Walker, Bearsden.

Playing a slow Gaelic air and March on the piano/forte, Children under 13—Iain Burnside, Glasgow; Janette C. MacDonald, Grantown-on-Spey; Norman Johnston, Clarkston.

Playing a March on the Bagpipes—children under 18—1 Ian Duncan, Pilochry; 1 Ian G. MacFarlane, Glasgow; Duncan MacPhee, Forr. Wilmam.

Playing a Strathspey and reel on the bagpipes, Children under 18—1 Ian G. MacFarlane, Glasgow; 2 Ronald Elmiste, do.; 3 Robert Wallace, do.

Playing (a) slow Gaelic air and march, (b) Strathspey and reel on the fiddle—1 John Martin, Cambuslang; 2 Oona M. MacPhee Bell, Ayr; 3 Alexis Smith, Dunrossness.

Unison singing—Smeorch Chlann Donnhaill and Till an croch, Iochainn—1 I Cabarfèidh Junior Choir; 2 Largs and District Junior Gaelic Choir.

Unison singing, Caidal cha dean mi agus A Chalum Bhig—1 I Tarbert Loch Fyne Junior Gaelic Choir; 2 Bownmore Junior Gaelic Choir; 3 Ardberg Junior Gaelic Choir.

Children's Choirs

Unison singing, Oganach an òr-fhùid bhuidhe and Dòmhnall an Danann—Mrs Campbell Blair Trophy, Angus M. Ross Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic Junior Choir; 2 Oban High

School Gaelic Choir; 3 Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

Choral singing, Chunna m'in damb donn's na h-eidhan and An Gaidheal's a leanann, Oban Times Challenge Trophy. Mrs Hobbs Cup for the highest marks in Gaelic—1 The Nicolson Institute Junior Choir; 2 Oban High School Gaelic Choir; 3 Portree High School Gaelic Choir.

Unison singing, Ho rò na ribean and Thèid thu air an fhadhad, Belle Campbell Trophy—1 The Nicolson Institute Junior Choir; 2 Oban High School Gaelic Choir; 3 Portree High School Gaelic Choir.

Unison singing, A mhaighdean na chòire dhùibh and C h-uilleann, Mrs phòib e, Donald D. McIsaac Trophy—1 Largs and District Junior Gaelic Choir; 2 Bownmore Junior Gaelic Choir; 3 Inverness High School Gaelic Choir.

Junior Literary Prize List

Pupils from the following schools were awarded prizes—Bellahouston Academy, Bownmore J.S., Broadford J.S., Cornaigmore J.S., Dalburgh J.S., Dingwall Academy, Dunvegan, Loch A' Chlònaig J.S., Lochaber High, Lurebost J.S., Nicolson Institute, Oban High, Pabie J.S., Portree High, Inverness Academy, Scalpay J.S., Sir E. Scott J.S., Woodside School, Levenhulme Memorial High.

Certificate of Merit—Dalburgh J.S., Dunskeith, Iochdar J.S., Kallin, Levenhulme Memorial J.S., Lurebost J.S., Scalpay J.S., Sir E. Scott J.S., Tigharty, Torlum, Gaelic Essay on the Life of Daniel—children 13-16—1 The late Mrs Stewart Smith Prizes—1 Annie M. MacEwen, West Kilbride; 2 Christy M. Mackay, Sir E. Scott J.S.

Children under 13—1 H. Stewart, Kallin School; 2 A. MacInnes, do.

3 Gaelic Essay on a local personality, a local incident, or a place of historical interest (children over 16), retention of Graham Groll Cup for one year by the winner—D. A. MacLeanman, Inverness Royal; 2 Christie MacAskill, Inverness Royal Academy, Children 13-16—1 C. Dillan, Dalburgh J.S.; 2 Christina MacDougall, Inverness R.A., Children under 13—1 Rebecca Morrison, Northton School; 2 Jessie MacDougall, Dunskeith School.

Senior Literary Prize-List

Short story—The High MacCorquodale (Fingal) Memorial Prize—Miss Margaret Johnson, Tarbert, Lochfyne.

Essay on any subject—Mr H. Cameron-Vin, Greenyard Schools—1 Vernehulme. Composition of melody suitable for a prescribed Children's Song—1 Miss Rhona C. Mackay, Clarkston; 2 Miss Mary Cameron, Kyle of Lochalsh; 3 Miss Isabel T. MacDonald, Parkick.

Poem on any subject—The Alisa Trophy and gold medal presented by the Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association and (5)—1 Mr N. McK. MacLean, Cambuslang; 2 Mr D. J. MacDougall, Glasgow.

History and Folklore Competition—Primary Schools—Whys & Mackay Prizes—1 1 Dunskeith School, North Uist; 2 (equal) Bunavonnedar School, Harris, and Kallin School, North Uist; 4 Lochportain School, North Uist.

Junior Secondary Schools—1 Levenhulme Mem. J.S. School, Harris. Senior Secondary Schools—1 Inverness Royal Academy.

Continued from Page Eight

AM FAIGH A' GHÀIDHLIG BAS?

Sir—I have listened with keen interest to the Gaelic Broadcast in the Scottish Home Service on the evening of Tuesday, 26th September, on the subject of the 1967 National Mod. There is no doubt that An Comunn deserve both our sympathy and active support for their laudable objective of promoting, or at least preserving, the Gaelic language and culture.

The broadcast in question brought back to mind a previous radio discussion on the survival of Gaelic. On this occasion one of the speakers—an islander, I remember rightly—expressed the view that holding a National Mod would be, in his opinion, the focal point of the Society's efforts in this direction. Other possibilities should, this person maintained, be explored.

It is, I do not, say unorthodox views ar not often openly discussed in discussions of this nature, and constructive alternatives are numerous for forming.

However, any realistic approach to the matter will reveal that the Gaelic language is on the decline—and that in the most of our placent statistics brought forward which prove this incorrect. True, the financial returns of provincial branches of An Comunn may be setting new records, but let us be quite honest with ourselves and face the fact that the quality of Gaelic spoken in the so-called "Gaeltachd" is in a state of decline. Mainland and in the Islands, has deteriorated even within the last thirty years. It is surely the experience of not a few of us that good Gaelic conversationalists are becoming increasingly rare.

It appears that An Comunn are not so much concerned with the preservation of good idiomatic "instinctively"—grammatical Gaelic as with the introduction of Gaelic terms for up-to-date appearances and such like. Let us hope they are aware that the evolution of ingenious Gaelic formulae for modern inventions is no criterion of progress in the advancement of the Gaelic cause.

To exemplify what has already been said, how does one hear such phrases as "eul am taigh" (instead of "eul an taigh") used in present-day Gaelic conversation? In fact, I was amazed while listening to the Broadcast referred to in the opening paragraph of this letter when a person whom I took to be President or Chairman of An Comunn, set the fashion for this lamentable trend by using the term "A' cur na clann an t-òiseach" (no cnoine, of course). But then, maybe, I am an old-fashioned person, my criticism, and this mode of expression has come to be accepted!

Personal offence is certainly not intended, but linguistic usage in the Broadcast was beuelwhelled with them—approach what disparage-

ingly be righted to so many years ago as "brisdach caidhlig."

Many of my readers will, no doubt, recollect ludicrous references to the more impressive types of short-term absentees to English-speaking areas who when they returned home had developed what they considered to be a more cultivated form of diction—"brisdach Gaidhlig"—broken Gaelic.

In better terms—and in using terms which are not quite pessimistic—the intelligent Gaelic-speaking boy or girl who took up the serious study of Gaelic, would find grammatical rules comparatively easy to follow. This was because they lived in a community where idiomatic Gaelic was spoken, and Grammar-book instruction only confirmed usages in which they were already accustomed. (For instance, they did not need to ponder over the rule that in Gaelic a compound proposition governs the Genitive Case).

It might be a rather more profitable pursuit for An Comunn if they were to focus their primary concern that there remained in Gaelic-speaking areas a strong core of the community who had an inherent command of the idiomatic Gaelic language. Let us preserve what we already have—or, should I say, had! a section of the community who speak a language with instinctive fluency and grammatical precision. Perhaps in doing so the organisers of our Gaelic Society might set a personal example.

Now to digress from the main subject of this correspondence—an eminent Gaelic lexicographer once set his face to avoid what was termed "Gaidhlig leathain thuthach." It would not be fair to enlarge extensively on this point as, in my opinion, euphony is a matter of individual judgment. Nevertheless, as a regular listener to our Gaelic radio programmes, it is obvious that what this scholarly man sought so assiduously to by-pass has now become well established by the contemporary Gaelic press as best advocates of the Gaelic tradition.

As a reader of *Struth*, I would be pleased to hear diversities of views on these topics.

GÀIDHEAL

AN COMUNN GÀIDHEALACH

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SEANN OIR — CLAR DE MHOD 1966

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TEAPAICHEAN de Phìobairèachd — seann ruidhinn nach cluinnear ach tearc

LEASAN GHÀIDHLIG AIR CLAIR

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Togabhi i. Togabhi i.