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# THE LOCHABER DIARY

THURSDAY, 10 AUGUST, 1967

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# Sruth

SCOTLAND'S BI-LINGUAL NEWSPAPER

## CLOUD OVER DOUNREAY

The possibility of the indefinite closure of the £20 million experimental fast reactor at Dounreay has thrown the jobs of some 1,000 employees at the plant into jeopardy over the next few years. The trouble is a radioactive leak, the source of which experts have so far been unable to locate.

A spokesman for the Atomic Energy Authority in London said that it was not known how long the reactor might have to remain closed. If there was to be a closure a period of some two years might have to be envisaged.

Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Scotland, said, after talks with Caithness County Council and Wick Town Council, that there would be no sudden reduction of labour at Dounreay. It would be a gradual process. The present trend of unemployment in the area is about 6.8 per cent.

There have been several closures of the reactor plant since May, when abnormal readings were detected in

control instruments connected with the reactor cooling system. The Authority has emphasised that there was no hazard of contamination of the reactor building or the surrounding atmosphere.

It was confirmed that any possible closure would not affect the go-ahead of the new prototype fast reactor due to be completed in 1971.

[Sruth Note: In an article in a previous number of Sruth it was pointed out that the harnessing of atomic energy was attended by certain aspects which tended to act against the use of this source of fuel, though there were many advantages. The question now is if the plant is closed for two years, how long will it take the 'atomics' community to recover?

### MOTORWAY

Speaking at Mallaig at the week-end, Mr David Wathen, prospective Tory candidate for Inverness-shire, said that "Little short of a motorway would be required to carry all the traffic if either the Kyle or Mallaig railway lines were closed down.



VIEW OF GALLOWES HILL AND CUDDY POINT, STORNOWAY

The buildings on the Point are part of the facilities for the teaching of navigation at Lews Castle Technical College, which produces each year embryo Officers and Ratings for the Merchant Service. Often these students are "booked" before their studies are completed — an indication that the Islesmen are still maintaining their widely recognised position as the leading seamen of the world.

Photograph by Angus MacArthur, Stornoway.

## Youth Art Competition

Again, this year, there has been a large number of entries for the Youth Art Competition, which is run annually by the Art Society of Inverness. Thirty-seven schools, large and small, far and near, have sent works totalling well over 400. The selector, a professional artist from outwith the County of Inverness, was very interested in the work submitted, especially in the younger age groups. He commended very highly many of their paintings.

The Exhibition, which is held in the Art Gallery, is open during the library hours until the last week of August, and is free.

It should arouse much interest amongst young and old, for it shows about ninety selected works, which do great credit to the younger generation of Inverness-shire. The Society hopes that there will be many visitors to encourage these and other "up and coming" young artists. The prizewinners certainly deserve their honours, but the Society would welcome a larger entry in the senior group.

15 years and over—Janet Lawson, Inverness Royal Academy (no other prize or commended).  
12-14 years—1 Jane Boyd, Mallaig J.S. School; 2 Myles Muchan, Crown School, Inverness. Very specially highly commended—Malcolm Macrae, High School, Inverness; Joan Sprunt, do.; Aeneas Allan, Central School, Inverness. Very highly commended—Linda Robertson, Raigmore P. School; Rosemary Calder, Inverness Royal Academy; Peter F.

Grant, do.; Eileen Donnachie, High School; Eileen Ruxton, do.; Heather MacRae, Central School.

11 years and under—1 Ian Taylor, Clava School, Culloden Moor; 2 Catherine MacIntosh, Ferindonald School, Skye. Highly commended—Claire Matheson, Central School Inverness; Gillian Armstrong, Crown P. School, do.; Sam MacLeod, S. Laggan P. School; Marianne Clarke, Bishop Eden's School, Inverness; Murdoch Wilson, Ferindonald School, Skye; John MacLennan, Craigton School, Barra; Gordon Davidson, Bishop Eden's School, Inverness.

Two Special Prizes for under 6 years (age 4)—Gillian Grassie, Clava P. School; (age 5)—Kim A. Wolfe-Murray, Struy School.

Very specially highly commended (age 4)—Suzanne Smith, Clava P. School.

### FORT WILLIAM PUBLIC BATHS

#### Committee Agree On Site

The Town Council of Fort William has decided on the location of the proposed Swimming Baths for the Burgh. King George V Playing Field has the conditions required. It is in the Burgh, allows adequate space for car parking, and further recreational facilities can be developed as required.

## 41 Jobless Since Argyll Pit Closed

Forty-one of the 84 miners once employed by the Macbrannish coal mine in Argyll, which closed on March 24, are still out of work.

Latest Ministry of Labour figures show there are 234 men, 10.1 per cent, out of work in the Campbelltown exchange area. However, this is a considerable reduction on the 11.7 per cent unemployed after the mine closed.

Provost Duncan L. McMillan, of Campbelltown, said last week the employment situation in the area was still far from good, but several construction projects which had either started or were expected to begin before the end of the year would provide many new jobs.

These projects, which included a new airport at Macbrannish, a boat-yard at Trench Point, and a new school, were expected to employ more than 200 men by the end of the year.

A coal board spokesman in Edinburgh said last week that the Board's offer to re-employ the miners in other areas still stood. However, only nine of the men had transferred to other pits.

Wedding of the year in Inverness was that of Mr Russel Johnston, M.P., for Inverness-shire when he was wed to Miss Joan Menzies, 15b Bailiery Road, Inverness, at St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness, on Saturday.

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- Campbell, 24 Hour Service. Corpach 291.
- Ross, 24 Hour Service. Fort William 2810.

**Boats for Sale**

13 ft. Runabout, built-in buoyancy; road trailer, £75 or nearest offer. Cranston, "Kuling", Corpach, Tel. 201.

121 ft. Sports, 9th p. Johnson Outboard (approx. 30 hrs.), £140, or £50 boat, £90 engine. J. Edwards, 122 Glenkingie Street, Caol.

# Lochaber To-day

## GLENCOE and NORTH LORN MUSEUM



In austere aloofness the stone column outside the Glencoe Museum records in its Celtic scrolls the history of another day — almost another civilisation. Inside the Museum visitors will find many interesting relics to remind them of dark deeds and massacre but also of a time when people lived happily in the Glen and the laughter of children and courting couples was heard more often than the war-cry of a foraging clan — or the revving roar of present day civilisation.

## THE CAMERON MEN

### Clan Gathering at Achnacarry

Clan ic Ilonobhy, the Camerons of Lochel, the Sons of Donald Du, patronymic Macconnel Du, had a gathering on Saturday, the 5th August, to mark the occasion of Donald Angus, younger of Lochel's coming of age (21 years).

The Lochel family the hosts at Achnacarry welcomed their guests on the terrace of this Family Seat. One felt quite ready for the stiff shirt reception of the more publicised "Garden Parties." (This report comes from one who had never attended a gathering before).

Lochel, in Highland day dress, beamed from below his plumed bonnet. "That's funny" you thought "he is just supposed to smile." Donald, the Younger, (Hallo, there is a fair chance this chap will nod to you in the street); Miss Anne, neice; Mrs Cameron (she steps forward to welcome you, "pleased to meet you, how are you," "fine thanks," you forget to return the question, because you are about to meet the two youngest sons, open neck shirts, sleeves rolled up). These two are raring to go, they are pleased to see you, sure, the more merrier for this pair. You wonder if that long crook of Lochel's will be used for more than just leaning on before this day is through. Granny Cameron (you did not grab this hand, you let it rest in yours), smiled nodded and moved on.

That was how the day started, and how it continued, at the presentation to Donald, of his birthday presents. Lochel again welcomed his guests, it was supposed to be a speech, it never made it, the Chief was too happy, but for the benefit mothers lending much assistance

to those who did not know, he gave a short outline of the family, its 600 years of unbroken lineage, its fortunes and misfortunes, and its famous Chiefs. Mr Alex Cameron gave a short speech before his presentation on behalf of the Clan Cameron Associations at home and overseas. On congratulating Donald on his birthday, he referred to him as "inescapably a leader in his country" (comment — true, it is to be hoped will be true, his country could use a leader, it's been something we have been short of for 222 years).

Eighty-four years old Donald Kennedy, made a presentation on behalf of the tenor Crofters, and the estate workers. Douglas MacLachlan and Ian Cameron from the Kilmellie Shinty Club, and Provost Canon Henderson from the town of Fort William. Telegrams were read from the Queen, and the Queen Mother, and a letter from the Colonel, Officers and men of the Queen's Own Highlanders.

From there on the Gathering got under way with the Pipes and Drums of Fort William and District Pipe Band, a troupe of the Molly Cameron Highland Dancers, Six-a-Side Shinty, the Glen Nevis Crofters v. Clan Cameron tug of war — great fun, with the Crofters having an advantage, pound for pound it had bigger feet, and heavier boots — Crofters won with two pulls to nil. The young teenage competition tug-of-war had the crowd in an uproar, when good natured cheating took place, fathers and mothers were fending much assistance

to the youthful efforts, and the Hosts were no exception with young Donald roaring "Pull."

A display by shepherd Dougal Cameron, Corriebeg, of the art of sheep herding with his dogs Nell and her son Bill, an impressive show, with a commentary by Donald Cameron, Glen Nevis, on the principals of sheep dog handling, stressing the point that this is team work, not a bully making two dumb slaves work for him, but a true working partnership.

During all this time, tea was being served in a large marquee, soft drinks for the youngsters, balloons for the tots, and pony rides. In a far corner the shot gun enthusiasts, joined by the triers were having a great time with the clay pigeons.

A Ceilidh, started in the late afternoon, with many local artists giving of their best. Master of Ceremonies for the day was Walter Cameron, Banavie, with his worried look, to kid the public, because everybody who knows him knows he carries off this type of duty, "no bother at all."



The am beathaich agad cho caol ri Twiggie a Neil.

## Sport in Lochaber

### FOOTBALL RESULTS

Wednesday, 2nd —  
Camerons 2, S.M.D. 0  
Thursday, 3rd —  
Kilmillie Y.C. 8, S.P. & P.M. 1

### FIXTURES

Thursday, 10th —  
Dynamas v. Kinlochleven  
Monday, 14th —  
Kilmillie Y.C. v. Camerons  
Tuesday, 15th —  
S.P. & P.M. v. S.M.D.  
Wednesday, 16th —  
Kilmillie Y.C. v. Kinlochleven  
Thursday, 17th —  
S.P. & P.M. v. Camerons  
Friday, 18th —  
Scottish Pulp & Paper Mills Cup — Cup Final.  
Saturday, 19th —  
Beecham Cup — 5-a-side Tournament.

Entries will be received up to 2 p.m. on Saturday, 19th August. 5/ per team on entry.

### League Table

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Camerons	12	9	1	2	20
St Mary's	13	8	1	4	20
Kinlochleven U.I.	7	2	2	16	
Kilmillie Y.C.	10	7	2	15	
S.P. & P.M.	10	4	5	19	
Dynamas	13	3	8	2	8
S.M.D.	12	3	9	0	6
Kilmillie U.C.	13	1	11	1	3

### THE SHOOT

Fifty-six guns from all over Scotland attended the open shoot on Saturday, 29th July, held at Annat Farm, Corpach. Some excellent shooting was witnessed, and the results were as follows:

1. R. Halliburton, Berwickshire.  
2nd Competition —  
J. Taylor, Elgin.  
3rd Competition —  
L. K. Stewart, Inverness.  
4th Competition —  
L. K. Stewart, Inverness.  
Open Aggregate —  
1. L. K. Stewart, possible 180 pts.  
2. R. Halliburton, 179 pts.  
3. G. Stoddart, Invergary, 177.  
Youngest competitor — D. Munro, Elgin.  
Best lady — Miss Fleming, Elgin.  
Local Aggregate and Cup —  
1. G. Stoddart, Invergary, 177.  
2. G. Nairn, Jun. Fersil.  
3. A. Boyd, Tomdoun.

MORE LOCHABER NEWS  
ON PAGE FOUR

**Public Notice**

**MR WALTER P. CAMERON,  
BANAVIE**

Mr Walter P. Cameron has recently retired from the position of Group Scoutmaster of 33rd Invernesshire (Kilmalieu) Scout Troop. It is felt that his services to scouting over the past 30 years should be recognized. To this end subscriptions are invited from all those who wish to be associated with the project. These may be sent or handed to:

Mr Angus Ferguson, Struan, Banavie, Mrs E. Gibson, 14 Glenley St., Caol. Mr Ian Cranston, Kuling, Corpach. Mr Chas. MacIntyre, British Linen Bank, Fort William.

**Situations Wanted**

**Driver**, all classes, requires part-time employment. Box No. 15.  
**Home Service** — Carpet Sewing and Finishing. Cairney, 14 Fern Court, Caol.

**For Sale**

**Gen's Cycle**, excellent condition, £10. 10s. Lochy Road, Inverlochy (evenings).  
**17 ft. 2-berth Cabin Yacht**, valued at £300; offers £175. Stewart Turner Engine; Road Trailer; hire purchase available. Mr N. Macdonald, Lundavra Rd., Ft. William.  
**12 1/2 ft. Sports Boat**, 9 1/2 h.p. Johnson Outboard (has run approx. 30 hours); the lot. £140, or sell separately, £50 boat, £90 engine. J. Edwards, 122 Glenkingie St., Caol.  
**13 ft. Marine Ply Runabout**, built-in buoyancy; complete with road trailer; £75 or nearest offer. Cranston, Kuling, Corpach, Tel. Corpach 201.

**Pedigree Pram**, medium, detachable body; good condition. 4 Caledonian Road, Corpach.  
**High Churchill Pram**, with dark green bag, almost new; cost 30 gns, £8. nearest offer. Alexander, 12 Grange Terrace, Fort William, Tel. 2619.  
**Black Marmet Pram**, very good condition, £4. 16 Douglas Place, Plantation, Fort William.  
**High Pedigree Classic Pram**, grey and white, £12. Mrs McDonald, 24 Carn-dearg Road, Claggan.

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**Lochaber  
Gathering at  
Caol**

A crowd of over 2,000 attended last week's Highland Games at Caol. Good weather attended the event and a most enjoyable "day out" was capped by the fine performance of Arthur Rowe, the English heavyweight, who, in sweeping the boards in the open heavy records, set up two new ground records.

**Dancing (Local) — Juveniles**  
11 years and under  
Highland Fling—Kathleen Godsmann.  
Sword Dance — Kathleen Godsmann.

**Local — Juveniles 16 and under**  
Highland Fling—Mary Godsmann. Sean Truibhas—Elizabeth Bruce. Sword Dance—Mary Godsmann.

**Open — Adults**  
Highland Fling—May Falconer. Sword Dance—Wilma Grey. Sean Truibhas—C. Chalmers. Highland Schottische—Wilma Grey and Carole McKenzie. Sailor's Hornpipe—Sylvia Clerk. Irish Jig—Jillie Clerk and May Falconer.

**Open — Juveniles 11 years and under**  
Highland Fling—Jane Martin. Sword Dance—C. McKenzie.

**Open — Juveniles 16 years and under**  
Highland Fling — Rosemary McGuire.  
Sean Truibhas — Rosemary McGuire.

**Sword Dance** — Rosemary McGuire and Mary Godsmann.  
**Piping — Open**

**Piobaireachd — K.** McDonald, Glasgow.  
Marches—D. Ferguson, Islay. Strathspye and Reel—D. Bain.

**Piping (Local)**  
Marches — D. McDonald, Ballachulish.  
Strathspye and Reel — Duncan McPhee.

**Light Field Events (Open)**  
Long Jump—A. McNeill (a new ground record).  
100 yards—D. McIntyre. Hop, step and leap—J. Archibald. 880 yards—A. McGillivray.  
High Jump—C. Allen. Pole Jump—Bill Ross. 220 yards—D. McIntyre. One mile—A. McGillivray. 440 yards—K. Heggie. Short hill race—D. McGillivray.

**Heavy Field Events (Open)**  
22 lb. hammer—A. Rowe. 56 lb. weight for distance — A. Rowe.  
56 lb. weight over bar—A. Rowe (a new ground record).  
16 lb. hammer — A. Rowe.  
56 lb. shot putt—A. Rowe (a new ground record).  
Tossing the caber—A. Rowe. Cumberland wrestling—J. McColl. Tilt the bucket—Bill Ross and A. MacLachlan.

**Local Field Events**  
16 lb. hammer—A. McDonald. 16 lb. ball—A. McDonald. 56 lb. weight over bar—J. McColl. Weight for distance—G. Horne.

**Annual Challenge Trophies**  
The Lochaber Gathering Challenge Trophy for Piobaireachd presented by David MacBrayne Ltd.—K. McDonald.  
The John Lamont Challenge Trophy for local juvenile dancing, presented by John McDonald, Caol, was given to Mary Godsmann.  
The Lachlan Wynne Challenge Trophy for local heavy events, presented by L. Wynne & Sons, Fort William—A. McDonald, Inverlochy.  
The Co-op. Challenge Trophy for local piping events, presented by the Lochaber & District Co-op. Society—J. Henderson.

Large Studio Couch and two easy chairs, wine. £28 or nearest offer. MacDonald, 62 Carn-dearg Road, Claggan.

**Chimney Brush and Canes, new:** £3. 52 Drumfada Ter., Corpach.

**Out For a Run** — Remember to visit the **Glen Coe and North Lorn Museum**, in Glen Coe village. Open daily, except Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Improving  
Highland Roads**

The improvements being made to Highland roads are a help, but the road coats are still far behind in standards expected in 1967. The main artery is still the Loch Lomondside road, and improvements have been made there, but as an "A" road it is nonsense. Encouraging the troubles on this road is modern traffic. New public service transport, and touring buses, are very long and wide, they are built to a maximum standard, to give maximum modern comfort to the passengers. This is good and as it should be in 1967. But there is one thing wrong here. How do you get two of these buses to pass each other, when they are fourteen feet wide in total, and the road is only fourteen feet wide? This is even worse if they meet on a very slight bend, if they meet on a corner it is impossible.

Goods transport on this road is really suffering, the amount of damage to these vehicles, incurred during an operational year on this road must put the cost of delivery considerably higher than on a reasonable road. Large bulk tankers using this road are a menace, yet the transport of bulk liquids economically necessitates the use of these vehicles.

**RESULTS OF THE SCOTTISH  
CERTIFICATE OF  
EDUCATION**

Miss M. G. Robertson, Careers Advisory Officer of the Ministry of Labour will be at Fort William Employment Exchange, Fassifern Road, Fort William, on Tuesday, 15th August, 1967 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when she will be glad to meet any young person who has received results of their recent examinations and would like to have any help or guidance in choosing a career.

**FORT WILLIAM NEEDS AN  
AIRSTRIP**

The Town Council intend to see that the town (and Lochaber) have an airstrip. The following motion was passed at the last council meeting: "That the council press as a matter of urgency for a decision on the opening of an airstrip for Fort William, and seek a meeting with all interested parties."

**THAT RAILWAY LINE AGAIN**

The 7.25 a.m. train from Mallaig to Glasgow, left Mallaig at 8.00 a.m. on Saturday, the 29th July (end of Glasgow Fair Holidays). Four hundred passengers turned up for a "wee" train. The extra time was used up putting on two extra coaches, one of which a large luggage van, in which the passengers were accommodated on fish boxes.

**Places Of Interest In  
Gen Nevis**

At the entrance to Glen Nevis the "Roaring Mill" is always a pleasant spot at which to pause. The sound caused by the mighty rush of the waters can be deafening at times. It is interesting to

by D. G. W. Hurry

note that about a century ago, a brick-works flourished here, from which was obtained the building material used in erection of Fort William's older houses. No one seems to know when the works ceased.

About half a mile further into the glen, we come upon an enormous boulder or "Samuel's Stone", by the roadside. It was once believed that at certain times in the year, this mass made three revolutions, and that anyone finding it in motion could receive answers to any questions put before the action ceased.

Just slightly beyond the present cemetery there is "Tom-na-an-dinnain" or "Knoll of the wind-fall of the shoulder". The progenitors of the Camerons of Glen Nevis lie buried here. Giant beeches and firs surround it, while towering to the east, Ben Nevis overshadows all, almost seeming to guard this hallowed spot.

Before reaching the Youth Hostel, there stands Glen Nevis House, about which I have already spoken, with the "Hill of Evil Counsel" rather further on still. Just at the wall leading into the forest nearby is "Clachan-tarrain-rain" or the Rocking Stone. At one time, this boulder could be made to move by the faintest touch, but it is now a permanent fixture. Many such rock-stones are met with all over the Highlands. They seem to be finely poised on a powerful pivot, and are believed to be of Druidical origin.

Just over the top of the Soldier's Brae half a mile on by the roadway from the Youth Hostel and slightly down the brae is situated the "Soldier's Chair". It is a natural armchair of stone. No one is certain of its former use, but it is possible that it was used as a watchtower. The view from here is superb, and this

seems a good spot from which to scan the glen for approaching enemies, as in the 1743 days. It is a great pity that much rubble has been dumped beside this Soldier's Chair, and in fact, in the autumn of 1965, it was completely covered. On seeing this unfair act, I at once contacted the appropriate authorities and had the chair's once more exposed.

Directly above the Soldier's Brae rises Dundardoul or "the hill of the red eye". On its summit, the remains of an elliptical vitrified fort may be seen. This was used by the ancients as a means of signalling by fires.

Almost opposite, on the other side of the river, and slightly further on, there lies an ancient cemetery "Acha-nà-n-con" or "field of the dogs." No one knows why it has been named thus. Nearby are the remains of numerous dwellings. Many believe this to have been the original burial ground of the Camerons. Slabs of slate mark the graves, but they are completely indecipherable as regards names and dates.

Beside the Lower Falls of Nevis is the habitation of Achariach. It was here that a Cameron chief was once murdered by a local bow and arrow expert. We are told that as the tribal chief was drinking out of a horn, the murderer shot him dead, the arrow pinning the drinking horn and head together.

At the car park at the end of the road may be seen Samuel's Cave on the opposite bank of the river. If one goes through the gorge by footpath, there is a magnificent waterfall known as the "Higher Falls" or "Falls of Seall", a feeling of loneliness and solitude seems to haunt this place.

Truly, Glen Nevis is a wonderful place in which to wander on a fine day. In the present day came to see the world, to feel an overwhelming sense of peace. Ben Nevis towers above, across the river, while around this hallowed spot whisper the pine trees. To the south extends the whole glen, with the Mamore peaks rising in the background.

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**NORTH PRODUCERS' WINDOW**

There's to be another Highland Industries Exhibition at Moy next year—A marvellous opportunity to show (and sell) the rest of the country and the world what is being made in the Highlands and Islands. We're already getting in touch with some of the firms who were there last time. If you haven't heard from us, or weren't there last time, but want to know more, drop us a line at

**Highland Exhibitions Ltd.**  
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Tha an fheadhainn againne air a' Ghaidhealach duine mar is trice a Dhonnahall.

# The Common Market and Scotland

It would not be unfair to say of Government and Opposition that they either will not or cannot come clean on the fate of our agriculture and particularly hill and marginal farming as we go into Europe. At recent manifestations of this coy attitude was that of Mr Michael Noble, M.P. of Argyll, speaking at a Conservative Party Conference in Oban. Addressing his "jubiliant" audience primarily on the Common Market, he, nevertheless, could not retrace the usual politician's snide remarks about other parties thereby confusing this most important issue. *Inter alia*, Mr Noble expressed the view that for Scotland and Britain as a whole our going into Europe must be an act of faith, in whom or what he did not specify. Contrary to the view of Government and Opposition on the Market, we are entitled to assume that entry is essential for the extension and productivity of British Industry. That being so, there is no question of faith but of sound economic sense.

Mr Noble's act of faith can only relate to agriculture, a matter which concerns Highland people considerably when so many are involved and so many are crofters. One obvious method of getting an idea of what might happen would be to consider the state of agriculture in the Community to-day. This the Secretary of State has done somewhat sketchily in his recent White Paper, "The Common Agricultural Policy of the European Economic Community" (H.M. Stationery Office, price 2').

From this we learn that amongst members no protection of any national market is permitted as against the others. Producers must look to a managed Common Market and not to price guarantee and subsidies for their returns. Members are protected from non-member competitors by levies imposed on import. The Community sets "Tariff Prices" for commodities at regular intervals which apply through the whole Common Market.

The common agricultural policy is financed by the Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Section 92, of the Treaty of Rome, specifically prohibits any member state favouring its own agriculture at the expense of the other members. The paper makes some comparison between the community

policy and the present U.K. policy.

The Community does not in general give the same certainty of return to farmers as our own system of prices and deficiency payments. In the Community, agriculture is financed by the consumers through the prices they pay, while in the U.K., the taxpayer bears the cost largely.

The paper compares the costs of certain commodities, for example, cereals. The single market stage for these commences in July, 1967, when basic target prices for wheat and barley will be £38 12s 0d and £33 2s 0d per ton respectively. The present prices in Britain are £25 7s 0d and £24 10s 0d but the gain here would be offset by the higher cost of cereal food for livestock. No prices have been fixed for oats yet.

In the case of beef the single target price for beef and veal will begin in April, 1968, when they are expected to be £12 0s 4d per live cw. (cattle) and £16 4s 0d per live cw. (calves). No comparison is made with U.K. prices, but the Paper expects U.K. beef products to become more profitable than now, provided it can increase production. Higher cereal food costs, increase of cereal acreages at expense of grass acreage and anticipated shortage of finishing store cattle from Eire will make expansion difficult.

The target price for milk operates from April, 1968, at 41.3d per gallon (with 3.7 per cent. butterfat). The lowest level price for butter will be 5.9d per lb. The Paper forecasts falling profits and production if we enter and a scarcity of liquid milk in the winter. As to sheep, the Paper only deals with fat sheep, and with regard to poultry it forecasts a substantial reduction in profits, and the industry becoming restricted to large-scale specialist producers.

In general, the Paper forecasts that farmers' gross income could be substantially greater because of high profits, but that this would be offset greatly by the high increase in foodstuffs, so much so that any savings by further mechanisation would be nullified.

Net incomes, however, would be about the same level if those were we to stay out of the market.

All these considerations apply to better quality land, and in the section following on Marginal and Hill areas there is little optimism. In these areas the special considerations relating to the effects of entry to the Market would be especially acute, particularly in Scotland. The position of hill farmers would depend on whether the present direct grants could still be paid or comparable assistance be given in view of General de Gaulle's recent pronouncement and Section 92 of the Treaty of Rome this is problematical).

There is nothing in present Community policies to allow any assessment. This section does suggest that milk production could be difficult, and that the lower profitability of pigs, eggs and poultry might have particularly adverse effects in these areas. So sum up on entry to the market, farmers on good lands might expect the same level of net income. Hill and marginal farmers may do alright with cattle and sheep if they can persuade the Community to pay them direct subsidies. But they will suffer acutely in production of pigs, poultry and eggs.

Prices will be higher for consumers and milk will be scarce in winter. As far as hill and marginal farmers are concerned, there is no question on the basis of this matter of an act of faith, but rather of an act of sacrifice for British Industry.

If this is truly the case, then it would be better to tell us instead of covering up, which was just what Mr Noble did in his hill farming and marginal constituency. In fact, he never truly mentioned the matter, but plead the case for British Industry. As a

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le Dornhail R. Moirreadan

'S toigh leam eilean uaine

Scalpaigh

'S toigh leam eilean glas an

aigh;

'S toigh leam eilean uaine

Scalpaigh

eilean maiseach, tir mo ghràidh.

Chi mi caoraich anns na glinn ann

chi mi laoigh ann air 'chluain;

Gum bi còin a' seinn gu binn

leam

ann an innis-suinn a' chuain.

Gun cluinn mi 'chuthag ann a

Chéitein

smebrach air a' ghéig a' seinn;

Uiseag àrd an sìth nan speuran

na h-uain óg air feur le sgoinn.

Sud an tìr tha buadh-mhor

fallain

tìr an arain, tìr an fhoir;

Tìr mo ghaoil ri taobh na mara

tìr gun ghainne, 's tìr nan òb.

Gun cluinn thu fuaim aig sruth

a' chaoil ann

a' suathadh glan r' a thaobh

gun sgio;

Gun cluinn thu fuaran ann is

caochan

a' ruith luath fo fhraoch le spid.

Mo bheanachd gach là an

eilean Scalpaigh

eilean maiseach tìr mo ghràidh;

Mo bheanachd gach là an

eilean Scalpaigh

leis gach dùrachd gheal gu

bràch.

### PARA GLIDING

Land yacht racing and "para" gliding are two of the new sports being carried on in Benbecula this summer.

The yachts used are made of light tubular steel, carrying a large press of canvas, and practice runs are carried out at the aerodrome during off-service hours.

"Para gliding," in which a parachute is towed along by a land rover or car, lifts the car high into the air, and is a most exhilarating sport. It is to be tried out using a motor boat on some of the inland seaways round the islands.

SRUTH  
THURSDAY, 10 AUGUST, 1967  
DI-ARDAOIN, 10 AN LUNASDAL, 1967

## Gaidheil Is Cuimrich

Tha cumrann ann gu fann seachd seith dhè bhith cluinninn cho math is a tha na Cuimrich seach sinne air seansamhus airson an duthaich agus an canain ach air shon sin docha gun dean e feum dhuinn beachdachadh orra an drasdha 's a rithis.

O chionn ghoidh bha fear-stiùiridh a dhìth air na Cuimrich airson Bord an Luchd-turais aca. Chuir iad sanasan a mach ach an deaghaidh do choimint an fheadhainn a bha sìreadh na h-obrach a sgrudadh 's e Eireannach a thaghadh in. 'Nam beachd-san bha Eireannach a bha comasach airson na h-obrach nas fhearr na Cuimrich nach robh cho comasach ged a bha 'a Chanain Cuimreach aige.

Chuir seo an ceol air feadh na fìdhle agus leig Ceann-suidhe Bord an Luchd-turais suas a dhreuchd air a shàillibh. Tha esan 'a smaointeachadh, agus treud comhla ris, nach dean duine ach Cuimreach an gnòthach airson na h-obrach seo. Bha feadhainn eile a' ràdh gum bu chòir contract a thoirt dha 'n Eireannach agus am bitheadh Cuimreach aca a bhith eadhail fèagarrach.

A' nìs, co dhùibh tha na Cuimrich ceart no cearr 'nam baid, tha seo 'a sealltainn dhuinn cho fad 's a tha iad donach a dhòl air sgath an canain. Tha iad a' cheart cho treun an uair a tha iad 'a' bruidhinn ris an Riaghaltas air a sgath. Tha iad 'a' tuigsinn nòch eil moran a ghluaisne an Riaghaltas (ma tha cail eile idir ann) cho mor ris an smaoin gu bheil iad dol a chall troir sòntaichean aig an ath thaghadh naiseant. Tha na Cuimrich 'a' tuigsinn cuideachd gu bheil Westminster ceann carlath 'r cùid de bhùthannan. 'S e am fear as motha dh' eubhas as motha geibh a dh' aire.

Tha mu 600,000 anns 'a' Cuimrich a' bhruidhneas 'a' Chanain Cuimreach agus tha 78,000 a' bhruidhneas 'a' Gaidheil. Ach cha chreid mi gur e bu bheil airèarn na Cuimrich nas motha a' t-aon obhar gu bheil an aon inne aig 'a' Chanain Cuimrich agus a tha aig 'a' Bheurla ann an gnòthachan an Riaghaltas agus ann an cuirtean lagha, agus gu bheil an Riaghaltas 'a' toirt seachad fad a bharrachd a dh' airgead airson leabhraichean Cuimrich na tha iad 'a' toirt seachad airson leabhraichean Gaidheil. 'S i 'a' Gaidheil an aon chanain ann am Breatain 'a' nis aig nach eil aite ann an gnòthachan an Riaghaltas agus ann cuirtean lagha.

Agus rud eile. A bheil sibh 'a' smaointeachadh gu robh e air a bhith cho sìorbh do dh' Uilleam Ros dithis mar a tha Tomas Frisgal agus Sir Seumas MacAoidh (laghach) is comasach 's gu faodadh iad a bhith 'nan gnòthachan fhein) 'a' chur air Bord Leasachaidh na Gaidhealtachd nam e Bord Leasachaidh na Cuimrich a bha air a bhith ann?

## The Rights Of Man

There was scorn, ridicule, amazement, surprise and a few other reactions to the news that the Isle of Man was to petition the United Nations Assembly about the right to retain the pirate raid to ship in Manx waters—threatened with removal by the British Government. Such a mixture of reaction is not surprising. For most people have become so "mega-conscious" that the actions of small groups or individuals often seem out of place in society to-day. But . . . there are more than thirty UNO member-states with a smaller population than Wales, one of the British nations; most of these are contributing something to the working of the UNO towards a state which will be, ideally, world peace and co-existence.

Again, nations are comprised of individuals. Any self-respecting human likes to think of himself as an essential unit which counts in the make-up of the nation. If he were not there, the picture of the nation would be incomplete.

How true is this of to-day? Do we, as individuals, as elements in society, count as much as those of past generations counted in the society of their times. Perhaps the fact that populations were smaller, say, half a century ago, made the individual stand out more than he does to-day. It is a sad thought that in Britain at least the individual seems to count less and less as each day goes past.

Even those who rise to the top and become "famous men" are not quite the individuals they might think themselves to be. For all must conform to an ever-increasing rigidity of rules imposed by the laws and non-statutory systems of the land. Assume one of these top people dies. Immediately a temporary effect is seen, perhaps a little disruption of routine; then the place is filled by someone else . . .

In certain types of organised societies the individual can pride himself on his status. Not in cities, but in smaller collections of people, in towns, villages and townships. The pity of it is that to achieve the status of the individual

much of the trappings of sophisticated society must be shed. Not that this is a disadvantage; for some of these visible accretions of civilisation do add something to life.

In the Highlands, as in other areas of the world "remote" from the cess-pools of society, one does find the opportunity to be oneself and to know oneself, where the action of the individual is significant to the other members of the township. It is in such areas that one can perform an act, say a word, make a gesture or debate to create something of value for the spiritual and physical well-being of others.

Considering the state in which the world finds itself to-day, it seems that it has much need of individuals, more of them than amorphous, anonymous masses of creatures seen as wholes to be manipulated by legislation because there cannot be provision for any other method to acknowledge their existence.

It may seem puerile and naive to suggest that a poem, a painting, a song or a dance can make the world a better place. But who can deny that these very things, creations of the mind, or interpretations of thought, have not influenced the world of men to push forward towards hope and achievement?

## Smoke and Smoke Screens

(By a Special Correspondent)

Highland Development is in a mess and is in danger of becoming a sorry word. Any duty of the Secretary of State is we will be hearing Highland people blamed for the difficulties, and that no more money and effort should be spent on such an impossible race. One can almost hear our old friend, Alastair Borthwick, declaiming as he did in his TV talk in Lord Lovell's house: "A slump one may overcome. One may even cope a little with the Gaelic temperament. But not both." Never in a hundred years. He (Lord Leverhulme) just did it at the wrong time. About a thousand years the wrong time and with the wrong people.

There is a great danger, too, that the Highland people themselves will become confused, and will take sides on the issues which appear to have arisen such as the motives of members now retired from Highlands and Islands Development Board, the wisdom of their actions, the motives of the Invergordon Scheme, and the integrity of the Secretary of State. Political prejudices and motivations will add to the confusion and, in the general confusion the main issue will be lost sight of in a mass of irrelevancies.

That issue is the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the people of the Highlands and Islands, and is the primary purpose of the Board. This is quite clearly stated in Section 1 (j) of the Highlands and Islands Development (Scotland) Act, 1965, which established the Board.

This must be our standard and the one which we should apply on every occasion. If, for example, any proposal were to benefit one part of the Highlands to the detriment of say, the Islands, then we should oppose it as being bad and contrary to the spirit of the Act.

At the same time, we must accept that the others who move into our own country, but we do not accept that our people are pawns to be moved about, or that they are to become second-class citizens. We must accommodate the newcomers. First and foremost this Act is for us, and not for the millions of urbanites who are anticipated to come North to the future in search of "liebensraum."

It would at this time be wise to look beyond the Board and its personalities and beyond the Secretary of State and St. Andrew's House, for they are only staying posts on the road to Whitehall. At the moment it is fashionable to revile Mr. Ross as he has been the fate of every Secretary of State excepting Tom Johnston. Surely every one of them cannot have been a dud. In fact, Tom Johnston, while a great man, was a lucky one, for the confusion of war helped him greatly. Yet we dilly Scots always have been in the way, and time after time fail

to understand that an important duty of the Secretary of State is just to draw our fire.

Let us assume that the Board's planning has been in accordance with Sections 1(i) of the Act, and also on the lines of development for similar regions in the European Community which we intend to join this year as permitted (C.E.E. Report) 1959. That being the case, the Board would be planning a few large industrial complexes in suitable places and "a multiplicity of relatively small works" throughout the region. If this were true, then the Board would be sincerely trying to operate the Act with an eye on the coming entry into Europe, all with the purpose of improving our economic and social conditions.

Yet we know the Board is having difficulties, and these do not arise here. The question, therefore, is whether the Government's intentions are sincere. In assessing this, the following matters may give some indication:—

1. The dissatisfaction and resignation of Board members.
2. The policy of their replacement.
3. Mr. Ross's apparent predicament as a patriotic Scot and member of the Party man?
4. The refusal of S.E.T. The application of S.E.T. to depressed areas.
5. The refusal to afford tax relief or exemption to new enterprises as is done in similar area in the Common Market and Ireland.
6. The lack of reference to the successful Scandinavian policies for territories of similar terrain.
7. The White Paper, "The Scottish Economy 1965-70," which proposes a few large developments and little else, and is thus in conflict with the Common Market policy for depressed regions.

Such an examination must surely be beyond all Party considerations and loyalties. For that matter, none of the Opposition Parties seem to have anything worthwhile to say as yet.

We, the Highland people, the Orcadians and the Shetlanders, must familiarise ourselves thoroughly with the Common Market policy for similar depressed regions, and with the successful policies of the Icelanders and Faroese. If we do so, then we will not become confused, but will be more able to see that the Act and Board will always function primarily for the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the people of the Highlands and Islands.

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## Letters to the Editor

# Dear you:

## BEATNIK AND BADENOCH

Keith Murdoch,  
Kingussie,  
Inverness-shire

The idea of Badenoch harbouring beatniks may be a surprising one, especially out of the north.

While it is unlikely that the Aviemore "Mushroom" will produce many revolt-layabouts of its own, England's cities are still better at that! It could become a centre for international ones; such as are found in many other resorts, from Brighton to Barcelona; the Riviera to Istanbul. Foreigners do show an interest in the Highland areas.

Of course, cold weather will plea. Of the majority of potential social hangers-on and sleepers-out — but even an Aviemore winter dance has an atmosphere far removed from the district's healthy slopes. The district is famous for. City-dwellers, often in a city, or Carnaby clothes, take part in a weather activity which it is hard to distinguish from others of its kind throughout Britain, if not Europe.

Today's modernism seems an obvious and natural function in Badenoch under present conditions — bringing new life and ideas, as well as means of living more acceptable to many than struggling with the Spey marsh. With this, with a culture for commerce, come Culture, Quietness and Alternatives, and skating-stars. If Badenoch is to become a centre for commerce, sociability and culture, we may expect to see some of the tourist trade continue to flourish, a few beatniks.

One would hope that Highland societies might help direct such society scorners to a peaceful way of life.

It is unlikely there would be any beatnik at all. He doesn't live in dirt and mud. At worst, he is an amiable bar-hunter. At best — an accomplished performer in one of the arts. Probably, he is a mediocre entertainer.

The real beatnik, a lazy, or hazy, reaction against the dim social and political freedom a skilled performer. Or he would have broken out of his dirty discontent a little.

With the rise of personality-art rather than static-art, one may expect more performers in Badenoch. By personality-art I mean poets, singers and dancers, folk-singers, and other public entertainers, of which we already have a share. By static-art I mean art which doesn't involve the artist in a direct practical performance. His product is there to be seen, such as painting, handicrafts and writing. The artist is the singer and the song composer. The personality-art of the artist is only indirectly shown if he produces portable goods such as a song script or a sculpture. The work itself is static. Both forms have their place in Badenoch.

Both could well be expended in the best of commerce and culture. Culture in this case may refer to all arts, from light entertainment and dancing to serious work in painting, theatre and poetry-and-jazz.

The latter is often a follow-up to folk-singing, which is not unknown in Badenoch.

If Badenoch visitors seek entertainment after their day's sport on field-study, the demand for many of our artistic talents will see outside arrivals.

Already there is a wide field to choose from. Art in the widest sense, including entertainment like cello and cinema, is the antidote to the type of society which produces beatniks. It can bring both sides together in

understanding. It can also bring bring Gaelic and non-Gaelic speakers close together. Perhaps the Mod is the supreme example of this.

If Badenoch anticipates tourists, as it has done already, then it might do well to encourage more arts. And prevent the risk of subversive colonies of Badenoch-Beatniks!

Fetlar,  
Shetland,

Sir—Tha caraid de coin a' neachdadh an so d' an aim Caclach Oidhche an l-Sneachda. Seo am prìomh uair a tha na h-ìos sa ag arach an all ann an Alba agas usaid an fàidhe-dain a' cur curaim air a' charaid agus an alu agus bha seachd uigh an ga' chaillich oidhche. Na h-ìos sa agas usaid an fàidhe-dain a' cur curaim air a' charaid agus an alu agus bha seachd uigh an ga' chaillich oidhche. Na h-ìos sa agas usaid an fàidhe-dain a' cur curaim air a' charaid agus an alu agus bha seachd uigh an ga' chaillich oidhche.

The na h-ìos sa agas usaid an fàidhe-dain a' cur curaim air a' charaid agus an alu agus bha seachd uigh an ga' chaillich oidhche. Na h-ìos sa agas usaid an fàidhe-dain a' cur curaim air a' charaid agus an alu agus bha seachd uigh an ga' chaillich oidhche.

I hope you understand all this—the birds are a great sight—they normally are only found on the Arctic Tundras of Greenland, Spitzbergen and Scandinavia. One other bird which has settled on the Bass Rock (in the Forth) is the black-browed Albatross, for the first time in history. It comes from the Southern Hemisphere. There is only one record of this bird in 1880, which settled on the Faroe Islands for a number of years. It is known as the wanderer of the ocean—"Fear Seachran a' chainn".

The whole organisation in Fetlar is under the auspices of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Scottish secretary of which is Mr George Waterson, and the local operation here is in charge of Mr Bobby Tulloch, of Mid Yell, who is the first man to find the owls and their nest, and doing a grand job of organisation.

Some of these notes might be of interest for *Sruth*. I have been doing a water "arson chainn", so I can vouch for the fact. Le deagh dhurach—Yours etc.

PAT W. SANDEMAN

Sir—With all the talk of the E.E.C. in the Glasgow Herald's "Mid-Year Review" etc., there are two points in particular which I would be grateful if *Sruth's* "Business Intelligence" Department would expand on.

(1) The effect of Britain's entry into the E.E.C. on the Lobster Fishing Industry in Uist.

(2) The effect of Britain's entry into the E.E.C. on the Alginite Industry in Uist.

These are sincere questions to be taken at their face value with no political connotations.

Yours etc.

GRANT MCCORQUODALE

[The information available to *Sruth* indicates that these industries mentioned by our correspondent will not suffer too much if Scotland goes into the E.E.C. It is not the first time that there might well be an increase of activity. It is not the first time that Hebridean lobstermen have gone to an almost exclusive Continental market, often by chartering a plane. And because there are well over 100 items which have been produced in their base, it seems unlikely that a reader with further inland market would find itself at a disadvantage, in view of the E.E.C. being a much wider market. Any reader with further information on these industries is welcome to write in and give his views. What about it, Eileanach? — Ed.]

## THE LOWLANDS

When one picks up a topographical work on an area which has been written about many times before, one tends to expect a reheated hash, with nothing more to be said. This is the attitude of the reviewer. But almost from the very first pages it was evident that Ian Finlay, in his new book, *The Lowlands*, has written in a way of looking at old things, and found a very useful formula for painting pictures of what he saw.

It is a book which whets the appetite. In doing this, Finlay has done the Lowlands a service. For it will, no doubt, send readers scurrying to their libraries to do some "further reading." In this respect, perhaps a short selected bibliography could have been provided. But no matter. The book itself is an excellent broad brush canvas with more than enough interesting details to satisfy the general reader. The pages are peppered with "Archaeology rubs shoulders with the growth points of Scotland's industrial scene. Snippets of information are offered like seasoning to the main text by the reader and tasted with pleasure and surprise.

The folk who live in the Lowlands are not forgotten. For it was with their efforts, and those of their forebears, which made this part of Scotland as distinct as the Highlands as in our own time. One reads, on a constantly compares Finlay's *The Highlands*, and uses the comparison to increase one's wonder at the way contrasting areas and people could become one recognisable nation with definite ties.

All too often, in a book of this kind, the eye is set left out and the big towns and cities hog the page. By some miracle, the author has managed to avoid this. He has the time to mention all the visible spots off the beaten track. And not only these, but the places "all around us," which do the seeing eye those details which make them truly interesting.

Finlay helps us to find these winding byways of Scottish history. To mention many on the same page as history and architecture — and without making them awkward bedfellows — is the mark of a good writer.

One almost recommends Ian Finlay's *The Lowlands* as a standard literary model to future authors who want to write about an area. At least any one else who tries to write about the Lowlands of Scotland will be hard put to it to excel this volume.

*The Lowlands*, by Ian Finlay; Batsford, at 30/-.

## "EILEAN CHOLLA"

A long overdue guide book on the island of Coll has been published by Betty MacDougall (3/6, from 9 Kelbourne Street, Glasgow).

This is an excellent, readable little booklet, well produced and presented. Toists to Coll will certainly find it of great use. Each part of the island is treated in detail; highlights of history are brought in to set the scene.

A rather topical note is struck with a reference to Gallanach. With the recent closure of Hebridean Bulb Growers Limited, the author says: "We pass through Gallanach, once one of the best dairy farms in the island, now given over entirely to store cattle and bulb cultivation. Bulb culture is an innovation in the Hebrides, and every year more ground is used in Coll for this industry."

"The Hebridean bulbs are on the market a little before the

Dutch varieties. They are of high quality and the growing demand for them, even as far afield as Canada, makes an exciting prospect."

It is in this first-hand statement, it makes it even more of a pity that the Highland Development Board has seen fit to reject this enterprising effort out of its grants and loans basket into limbo.

A future edition of this book might well include extra material such as population movements, statistics and the like. The present effort is a good basis for a really good book on the island. Other islands might well follow on the lines of producing good guides. In fact, there would be no harm in approaching the Highlands and Islands Development Board for a grant towards printing Island Guides. In view of their pledges for tourism, they should be pleased to do this.

## MEMORIES

Often when one reaches a middle kind of age, one tends to look backwards at one's boyhood. And if that boyhood has been in the Highlands of Scotland, the memories are particularly pleasurable. Too often, however, the memories don't come back as clear and as fresh as we would like.

It is all the more credit to Donald Cameron who has such a good memory. He has indeed been able to take back to his boyhood flood back onto the pages of *The Field of Sighing* (Longmans, 30/-). There is much more than just mere recording in the book. Almost the pages come alive and one can, with the help of one's own boyhood memories, relive what Donald Cameron experienced three decades ago.

The prose is full of evocations and accurate descriptions of Highland and income characters. It is a practical book, too. The work of the land is always in the background of the experiences of enjoying the Highland landscape.

At the same time, one cannot help but wonder whether such boyhoods are available to the Highland youth of to-day. Has the pace of today's industrial and accurately-called "sophisticated" civilisation penetrated into the Highlands and Islands to make it much less possible for Donald Cameron, were he a boy to-day, to write a book about his Highland youth in thirty years time, just as he does now.

But at least he has recorded for us a beguiling picture. If he ever returns to his boyhood scenes, they will, indeed, be a field of sighing.

## ANGLING IN CAITHNESS

*Angling in Caithness*, by Duncan Speirs, is the work of lifelong experience in angling. Perhaps it is aimed at the devoted follower of Izaak Walton; but in no way is it a book for such an experience. The information can be used with effect by amateurs and beginners in angling. The Caithness of old and rivers are detailed for the fish they offer and for the flies they need to make them rise. Extremely valuable for the visiting angler is the information about permits and permission to fish. As the author says, it is always the better thing to do to ask whether, in fact, fishing is restricted in this way. Relevant angling information can always be solicited in a convivial atmosphere.

Sea-fishing is not neglected either. This sport is at present only in its infancy, and may well suit those who wish to try their

rods in a bustling sea atmosphere than to fish patiently by a quiet lochside under a slow-moving Caithness sky.

Prices of permits and boats and facilities are given. Though this may tend to date the book. However, as the book is assured of a good sale—if you hurry you can get a very good subsequent edition will keep the information up-to-date, and so make it a real asset to any angler who visits Caithness.

One thought—this is a booklet which could be studied by the angling associations of other counties of Scotland to produce a similar publication of their own. *Angling in Caithness*, by Duncan Speirs; 4/6d, plus 6d post. From Caithness Books, 1 Bank Street, Thurso, Caithness.

## STREAMS OF SILVER

The vast output of the Celts of stories, songs, tradition and men of letters and religion has still yet to be fully appreciated by the world at large. But it is good to know that editors and collectors recognise fair streams of silver when they come across them. Ann Moray, in *A Fair Stream of Silver* (Longmans, 25/-) has done the Celts a service. The book contains love tales from Ireland, Scotland, the Hebrides, the Shetlands and Wales.

Hers is an excellent selection, and her re-telling of the tales makes them quite fresh and as bright as silver. Rather than the usual Celtic literature attained, she has characters, Ann Moray's people are real, with all the spectrum of human feelings with which most of us are familiar, and in particular love. The collection here is comprehensive, and shows in part, at least, the height to which Celtic literature attained long ago. Very long before English literature, even perhaps European literature, reached up, and by sheer will and determination and advantage, supplanted its position.

To add an extra degree of value to this book there is a glossary of Celtic literature which forgets their Celtic heroes' names, and a bibliography for those who, undoubtedly, will be tempted by a whetted appetite to dig further into the store of Celtic literature.

## EATING FOR PLEASURE

"Scotland is the best place in the world to make an appetite," said H. V. Morton.

Well, if such an appetite be aroused, then one can recommend to satisfy it a good meal derived from the recipes of *The Home Book of Scottish Cookery*, by Aileen King and Fiona Dunnet (Falcon Press). The book contains familiar recipes which have been adopted and adjusted so that they can be made in an ordinary kitchen. The recipes are simple, the wife, using the amenities available in the shops and markets. Other recipes are new, typical Scottish, and well-liked by the authors, who have collected them from all over Scotland.

There are soups, fish, meats, game, jams and jellies and the like to tempt the kitchen-dweller. A section on sweets will be really useful when the time for children's parties comes round. Though, as the book says, it could well be made for passing round among adults, who would appreciate a change from the home-produced confectionery of to-day.

The reviewer's wife has taken this book to heart, and already it shows signs of the full use it has been given. And it will be published last May. And what is more to the point, the reviewer can say from a tasting experience that agrees with H. V. Morton, with *Scottish Cookery* on the kitchen book-shelf.

# The Hermit —

(By Iain Crichton Smith)

We were on a touring 'bus one morning and it stopped at a shed by the side of the road. A hermit lived there. The shed was made of tin and had a long chimney sticking out of it. The bus driver, very upright behind the wheel, tooted the horn a few times and then stopped. We were looking out the window at the hut. After the driver had stopped tooting a man came out. He was very thin, and white, bristly hair was seen not only on his head but on his cheeks as well. His trousers were held up by braces. He was carrying a chanter. He scratched his head and then came over to the 'bus. He stood on the step and said, "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, I'm afraid I was late getting up." He spoke in a sort of educated voice.

He looked down at the ground and then up again and, laughing a little, said, "Would you like if I played you some tunes to speed you on your way?"

He took out his chanter and blew through it. Then he took out a dirty white handkerchief and wiped it. He played "Loch Lomond" very badly, and put the chanter on a case beside him, a case belonging in one of the passengers.

"This is the day I go for my pension," he said, and someone laughed.

"I go down the road there to the Post Office," He pointed into the slight mist ahead of us.

The driver said, "He's been on TV, haven't you?"

The hermit scratched his head again, looking down at the floor, and then, looking up again with an alert bright look on his unshaven ravaged face,

"Yes, I was on TV," he said.

"What programme were you on?" someone shouted from the back, greatly daring. It was a woman's voice.

"It was called 'Interesting People.' I was interviewed."

"Will you be on again?" someone asked.

"I don't know. I may be. Depends if they like me."

Everyone laughed, and he grinned impudently.

"I was late getting up," he said to the driver. I was washing my clothes last night."

"You should get married," another woman shouted out.

"It's too late now," he said perkily. "Would you like to hear another tune? I must play for my money."

This time he played "Scotland the Brave." He put the chanter down and said — "It's too early to play." He had played it very badly. In fact, his playing was so bad it was embarrassing.

He handed his cap round.

When it came to my turn I debated whether to put threepence or sixpence in. After all, even though he was a hermit, he did play very badly.

As the cap was being handed round he stood on the steps and said — "No, I don't have a gun. Anyway, there's nothing here to kill, madam. I get my cheese and bread from down the road, and that's all I need."

When the cap was handed back to him he took out his chanter again and said — "I hope it'll behave better this time. I'll play you one for the road if my chanter behaves."

He played "I'm no awa' ta' bide awa'." "I'm afraid my chanter is playing up on me to-day," he said, laughing. He got down from the step on to the road. The driver let in the clutch just as the hermit was saying, "I hope you have a pleasant day." The 'bus picked up speed. I saw him turning away and going into his hut. He didn't wave or even look back, though some people in the 'bus were waving.

I didn't know whether I hoped he got on TV or not. Playing like that he didn't deserve to.

I heard a woman behind me saying: "Such an educated voice."

And another one: "Perhaps he's got a tragedy in his life. He sounded an intelligent sort of man."

If I'd had the courage I

\*\*\*\*\*  
OISEAN NA CLOINNE  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Catean agus Tomas air cairt anns na h-Eileanan air an drasda ach nuair a heir na gearmailtean air Catean cluinidh sibh bhnapa an ceann cola-deug.

\*\*\*\*\*  
would have spat on them. Who was he, anyway, making money from us just because he was a hermit? Anyone could be a hermit. It didn't take courage to be a hermit. It only took despair. Anyway, he was one of the worst instrumentalists I had ever heard. I'd have given the money to Bob Dylan if he'd stood there singing "Don't think Twice, It's All Right," but not to that faker.

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### MACLEOD HOTELS LIMITED

## Folk Song Competition

NATIONAL MOD, 1967 (GLASGOW)

Entries are invited for the Gaelic Folk Song Competition to be held on Thursday, 5th October 1967, at 11 p.m. in the Albert Ballroom.

Groups, with or without instrumental accompaniment, will consist of not fewer than 3 and not more than 6 members. Two songs to be sung. **NO GAELIC TEST.** Closing date for entries 22nd September, 1967.

Cash Prizes and Thistle Records Medals

Entries to:—The Director, An Ceann Gaidhealach, Abertarf House, Inverness.

# : woman to woman :

### HAIR HEALTH

(By MAIRI)

If you want your hair to look soft, shining and lovely, you will have to care about it, and care for it. Caring about it means studying it—its type and needs—and using that knowledge well. Caring for it means giving it attention—a little regularly, not just a lot in a rush when you happen to remember.

A professional hairdresser has to do the best he can with any head of hair, no matter what condition it is in. If you are your own hairdresser, then you can see to it that your hair is just as you want it.

When the condition is healthy and sound, your hair keeps cleaner, sets easily, takes willingly to a new style, holds its shape and cut longer, and "carries" its perm more kindly. Arrival of grey hair will be delayed, too.

Most important of all, the hair itself will look lovely, a plus to any pretty hair style. Here is all the basic information you need to help you care for your hair.

### GENERAL RULES

#### DIET

Did you know that your hair, just as much as your body, depends for its health on the food you eat? It, too, needs a diet including plenty of the rich-in-protein items which have such a good effect on general health, looks and energy. Top sources of protein? Milk, meat, eggs, fish and cheese. Plenty of Vitamin B also encourages strong hair: this is contained in wholemeal and brown bread, cereals, liver, yeast extract, cauliflower, cabbages, onions, potatoes and eggs.

### CLEANLINESS

Both hair and scalp must be kept clean by regular shampooing. Your choice of shampoo may depend on your type of hair, but in every case brush hair thoroughly but lightly first, to remove dust and dirt. After shampooing,

several rinses are a must; soap left in the hair will not only make it look dull but can encourage dandruff. Unless hair is over-oily, a one-a-month conditioning treatment with Poly Hair Conditioner is also helpful. Needless to say, there's no point in having clean hair and dirty brushes: both brushes and combs should be washed in warm, soapy water then rinsed at least once a week. Dry brushes with bristles downwards.

### BRUSHING

Since hair is nourished by the blood vessels in the scalp, it's obvious that poor circulation in the scalp itself is going to mean half-starved hair roots and therefore out-of-condition hair. That's why regular brushing, which stimulates circulation, is essential for gleaming, healthy hair. Try to make time for a brushing session every day if possible, brushing first downwards in the ordinary way, and then holding the head down to brush away from your face. Best brush to use? A pure bristle one, of medium stiffness, with bristles long enough to penetrate the thickness of your hair. They are more expensive, but it would be an investment—cheap nylon combs and brushes can scratch the scalp, split the hair.

### SUMMERTIME

Summer holidays can be hard on the hair. Strong sunshine, sea breezes, and, above all, the sail in sea water, can produce dryness and roughness in normally well-behaved hair, just at the time when you naturally want to look your best.

If you do a lot of swimming, to-day's flowery, frilly swimcaps are gorgeously pretty as well as practical: make certain that not a drop of salt water seeps in by tying a band of chamois leather round your hair first. If you don't like swimcaps at all, it's essential to rinse hair through several times with fresh water after each swim. To get rid of the salt. A pretty headscarf to match

your swimsuit, or a glamorous straw beach-hat, helps to protect hair from the harsh drying effects of too much sun or wind. Give the nourishing Poly Hair Conditioner treatment after every shampoo while on holiday at the seaside.

### WINTER

Hats and scarves make hair greasy more quickly, which in turn attracts soot and fumes from traffic. To keep hair looking nice it needs more frequent shampooing. Condition regularly and it will help give a boost to your skin tones which always look a bit faded in the bleak winter months.

### SLIMMING

(By J. WILSON)

Most ladies dread the middle-age spread which arrives at the showing double. Much cure at the show! Showing lines out of taste So causing a mountain of trouble.

A diet they try, cut out tasty fry, No milk and no gasher of bacon, Potatoes or chips Enlarges the hips And all fatty food is forsaken.

Dry (toast for a "piece," all sugar must cease.

To sweeten their one cuppa tea, Things they must hate Make them flat as slate While they fight for the figure to be.

The Doc's troubled sore for pills more and more To swallow three times in a day, Since slimming's the fashion They stick to a ration To melt all their troubles away.

Best Doctor I know did it foe, Advises stout Mary or Mabel, "If you want to be slim," "And be fuller of vim," "Sit further away from the table."

# AS NA SGOLTEAN

## 5. Sgoil Thigh a' Ghearraidh Uibhist-a-Tuath

Comhradh eadar Alasdair agus Niall-dà bhodach

Alasdair Mac Dhomhnaill Clas 7

Alasdair: Uill, a'Neill ciamar a th' ann an d' sgoil?

Niall: Chan eil ach truaigh le mo chasan.

Alasdair: A bheil thu a' dol thun an "election" an dugh?

Niall: Chan eil. Chan e 's th' agam ri a' dheanamh eadar treabhadh agus buntata a chur, agus na coarsach a' breith.

Alasdair: A bheil fein a' dol ann?

Niall: Thò d'ull agam a' dhol ann a nochd.

Alasdair: Thò d'ha a tha thu a' dol a' chòir na bho?

Niall: Cha bh' sin 'do shuiper agad?

Alasdair: Ciamar a tha a' bhean 's a' chlann?

Niall: Tha gu math, tapadh leith. Chan eil dad a' cur uallach oirre ach an glanadh.

Alasdair: Ciamar a tha an Nighean a' d'eanamh a' sgoil?

Niall: Tha math. Bi i an 's' fàchann na "Highers" air a' mhios so.

Alasdair: Latha math a'Neill. 'S fhearr dhomh falbh dhachaidh gu mo dhimeir. Bi duilg agad d'fhàicinn a maireach.

Comhradh eadar dà bhodach a' coinnèadh air an rathad mhòr. Domhnaill Mac Dhomhnaill Clas 6

Calum: Uill lain, tha thu fhein cho sunndach 's a bha thu riomh.

Niall: Tha mi fada uath a' Calum. Tha mi air mo sharachadh ri obair an Earraich, agus ri buan na moine.

Calum: Tha mise nas fèidhinn na sin. Tha mo mhac' ga dheanamh dhomh.

Niall: A bharraich air a sin tha mi a' dol mo mhàthair le losgadh braghadh. Tha mi air a' ghabhail do shota na mharbhadh an t-èigh uèigh.

Calum: Na biodh sibhse ag itheadh cus de bhuntata, sgradan, agus aran coirce. Gheibh sibh "Rennies" aig carbad a "Choo" agus bheir mi na ghealladh gun e beagan d'heath a bhios oirbh.

Niall: Gheibh mi a charaid.

Calum: Ciamar a tha a' bhean 's a' chlann?

Niall: Tha gu math. Tha a' bhean an deigh an tigh a' chur butar-cionn le glanadh an Earraich na b' chòir. Tha mi fada uath a' glanadh an t-samhradh. Eadar sin agus nighean nam plangidhean chan eil ri bh' beò aig duine.

Calum: Cha b' fàidhinn a' gearain air a sin idir.

Niall: Tha obair an dealain a' d'eanamh aghartas math.

Calum: 'S na tha a' d'èirigh an inne dhomh gun còsg trì "bulbs" dà cheud pùnnd Sasunnach.

Calum: Tha sin maslach. Bu chòir maire a bheith oirbh.

Niall: Ma tha sin ceart cha bh' mi fhein air mo bhodach-eadh ri.

Calum: Carson a bhitheadh? Tha na lampichean fhein ghe mthach agus 's iad a tha blath.

Niall: Tha an "election" seachad a' dol. 'S Co dha 'n d' thug thu bho?

Calum: Thug do fhear bha sar fheumach oirre.

Niall: Thò d'haairi air mar a tha Breataun airson a dhol a' stigh ris an "Common Market"?

Calum: Chan eil ach baraid bhodach. Bi am bian a' dol suas am pris.

Calum: An cuil thu gur d' fhuair an Dotair Mr an O.B.E.

Niall: Clò a' bheir a' mha riachais. Is math a' airidh e air.

Calum: Uill mata, tha an t-am agam falbh.

Niall: Fèagar math leath.

Comhradh eadar Domhnaill agus Ealasaid a' falbh do Champa Commun-na-Oigrich

Fionnghail Seonaid Mac Dhomhnaill Clas 6

Domhnaill: Tha paipearan 's Champa

air tighinn nu d'hearsadh. Bha mi fada a' gabhail fadach.

Ealasaid: Tha agus 's mi tha toilichte. Nach ann aginn a' bhith-eis an latha d'heath?

Domhnaill: Is ann air turus trath na "Hebrides" a tha sinn a' falbh. Sinn a' dh' fheumas eirigh trath 's a' mhàduinn.

Ealasaid: Is e sin 's fhearr. Cha bh' sinn cho fada gun an Champa 's ruighinn.

Domhnaill: Nach sinn a' bhithes toilichte 'sa Champa. Chan eil dad as fhearr leam fein na ball-coise.

Ealasaid: Tha chusa 'g obair 'nad chùis air fhein. An sinne ag ionnsachadh snamh, danmsa is iomadh rud eile.

Domhnaill: Tha mi fhein coma fhad 's a' fàch iad orm oran a' ghabhail.

Ealasaid: Nach tu a tha gorach. Na 'n bhithinn-sa cho math gu seinn riut bhithinn ag gabhail oran fad an latha.

Domhnaill: Tha mi 'n dochas gun toid iad sin a' chòimheadh air an latha is eise an bliadhna.

Ealasaid: Feumaidh mi camera a chòir leam feuch am faigh mi dealbh dhith airson a' shealltainn a' bhàil aig an dachaidh.

Domhnaill: Feuch na bi sallean "siletto" ort no narachadh tu mi.

Ealasaid: Feuch gun bi thu fhein modhail air neo narachadh tu mise.

Domhnaill: Feumaidh mi falbh a' nì.

Chi mi 'san spoil a maireach thu.

Ealasaid: Mar sin leat, a Domhnaill.

### GOBHA 'U' BHAILE BHIG Le H. W. Longfellow

Fo chraobh mhòir gheann-chnò seasaidh i, Ceardach 'u' bhaile bhig. An gògh' gu cumnachdach near-thron meur, Le crògan cnagach tugh, Na fèithean mara laidir aig', Cho cruaidh ri iarann dubh.

Tha fhait cho fad 's cho duhb 's cho cruaidh. Tha chràitean mar an leathar, Tha 'mhàla làn de fhallus buan, A' cosnadh mar a gheibh, Gun nàir air graidh gun seas e air.

Gun fhàich aig duine air. Seachduinn gun agrò 'n mhoch gu d'èilbh, Ceardach 'u' bhaile bhig. Cluinneidh t'ù a' bhòlg a' sèideadh, Cluinneidh tu slac an ùir mhòir thugh, Le buille shocair chinnteach, Mar fhear cluag a' bualadh clag a' bhàil aig duine air.

Gu moch 's aig dol fodha na grèine. Bi' chlann a' tighinn as an d'gò, A' coimhead a' stigh dh'òir, A' cheardachadh a' d'hl' fhàicinn an teine mhòir a' d'hl' 'S' 's' cluinneinn na bolg is anrann, A' glacadh sradag sud 's an so, Mar mhòil air urraib' lathach.

Chi an t-Sabaid esan anns an t-seath, 'Na shuidhe measag nam balach, Ag' a' seachadadh thruagh agus leasgaidh, Cluinneidh e guth a chailleig, A' seinn gu binn 's' chòisib' bhig, A' d'eanamh a' chridh' cho toilicht'.

Ag obair troimh thoilceachadh is troimh bhronn a' d'èilbh, Tha g' madainn obair tu an d'horn, Gach fèagar i air doigh, Oldh'p air a' dheannadh, obair a' d'èilbh, Chaidh a' chadal cosnadh dha!

Ceud mile tugh mo charaid chòir, 'S' an t-èigheidh thug thu dhùinn, Mar a' g' taine' mòr ar beath', Tha ar fortan 'ga d'healb' dhùinn, Is air an innean chumhachdach, Gach smuinn is eudh n' sin.

# STOP THEIR NONSENSE!

## YOU AND YOUR CAMERA

On a recent scorching Sunday I drove down to the coast with my three children. Immediately they reached the sand they darted off in all directions and were soon involved in "nonsense" games. My son waded through a pool — splashing away gaily. One daughter rushed into the sea and began

by George Hughes

to jump up and down in the mild waves; the other found delight in racing along the damp sand by the water's edge.

Around them other children played leapfrog, chased dogs, played rounders. And a host of children constantly raced across the sand; yet I still saw people taking pictures of poor little souls standing there, buckets and spades dangling, itching to get off again.

What's wrong with taking pictures of children while they're galloping around enjoying themselves? They'll look far more

The third method is only for those of you with quite versatile cameras. It consists simply of using your highest shutter speed! With 1/500th of a second you are safe taking action shots from any angle, without panning; but you may still get just a hint of blur in arms and legs — as is likely with the first two methods.

Blur like this won't be too objectionable; in fact it will help heighten the impression of natural movement in your pictures.

Pressing the button at the right time is important in action shots. Take leapfrogging; the leap is over in half a second, and tucked into that time are several positions which wouldn't look very good and a few which would make a winner of a picture. The best position of all is when the leaper is high at the mid-point — with hair flying, mouth open, and fingertips outstretched just leaving the earthbound one's back. But if you shoot when you see this you'll



Here's four happy children—looking much livelier than if they'd been standing all in a row. Children move fast and frequently; so photograph them that way.

like children than will the petrified variety, with high-spots of action "stopped" there in your snapshots.

Probably many of you are thinking "but my camera's in the shoe says that it's photographing moving subjects." Perhaps it does — if you camera is very simple, and only has a slowish shutter speed. But remember that the shutter is intended only as a brief guide to using the camera; it can't possibly go into all the ifs and buts which might prove the exceptions to the rule.

In fact taking pictures of children at play is easy enough; and there are three ways of doing so.

The first is to take your picture from a head on angle. With little leapfrogers, for example, you'd get a blurred picture by shooting from the side unless your camera has a high shutter speed. But shoot from the front — so that Junior jumps towards you — and any camera's shutter speed will be fast enough to give you a lively action shot. Do the same when they're playing rounders or cricket; stay close to the wicket, and sooner or later you'll have a youngster dashing straight towards you with that lovely, lively, excited look you'll never get with the "stand still and smile" picture.

The second approach is from the side, and is by swinging your camera to follow a moving subject. This is called panning. The idea is that as your speeding child moves you "frame" him in the viewfinder and swing the camera so that he stays there. As you swing, you click. But keep it smooth; don't jab the shutter button or you'll spoil all. Properly done, panning gives you a crisp subject with the background blurred into a streak. It looks good and really suggests the liveliness of youngsters.

### WEATHER IN WESTERN ISLES

July has been very wet in the Western Isles, and there have been very few dry days throughout the month.

Hay-making and peat gathering have been carried under very difficult conditions, and many fields are still uncut.

The corn crop is looking very well and, given some sun, there are signs that the harvest will be an early one.

## Gaelic Broadcasts

- Thursday, 10th August
- 12 noon News in Gaelic.
- 12.05 p.m. Dà Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus)
- 4.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. Colin I. MacLellan, Stornoway (recorded).
- 7.00 p.m. V.H.F. "In the Highlands"—An all sorts magazine—comment, interview, music and song from Gaeldom (rec.).
- 9.15 p.m. "Expò 67": An account by Dr George MacDonald of Toronto of this Exhibition in which the countries of the world are co-operating in Montreal (recorded).

- Friday, 11th August
- 12 noon News in Gaelic.
- 12.05 p.m. Dà Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus)
- 6.35 p.m.—"Seinn an Duan So": Concert of Gaelic songs requested by listeners (recorded).

- Sunday, 13th August
- 4.00 p.m. Gaelic Service from Iona Abbey, conducted by Rev. John MacDougall, Falkirk (rec.).

- Monday, 14th August
- 12 noon News in Gaelic.
- 12.05 p.m. Dà Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus)

- Tuesday, 15th August
- 12 noon News in Gaelic.
- 12.05 p.m. Dà Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus)
- 5.25 p.m. "Camp Communn na h-Oighridh": Songs, music and conversation from this year's Gaelic Youth Camp which was held in Inverness at the beginning of July (rec.).
- 6.35 p.m. "Ceol is Conaltradh": Martin Macdonald presents a selection of songs and musical items.

- Wednesday, 16th August
- 12 noon News in Gaelic.
- 6.35 p.m. Piobrach: "The King's Taxes" and "The MacDonald's Salve," played by Hector MacFadyen (recorded).

- Thursday, 17th August
- 12 noon News in Gaelic
- 12.05 p.m. Dà Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus)
- 4.15 p.m. Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. Colin I. MacLellan, Stornoway (recorded).

- 7.00 p.m. V.H.F. "In the Highlands"—An all sorts magazine—comment, interview, music and song from Gaeldom (rec.).
- 9.45 p.m. "Troimh Uinnean na Gaidhlig": William Neill discusses the usefulness of Gaelic in studying the history of Scotland (recorded).

- Friday, 18th August
- 12 noon News in Gaelic.
- 6.35 p.m. Ceilidh from Tarbert, Harris, with John M. Morrison as your host and with him Alma Kerr, Donald MacRae, Donald John MacEwen and Ian Lrichton and His Band (recorded).



# An Comunn Gaidhealach and Gaelic

An Comunn Gaidhealach was established in 1891 and its remit is:

- The teaching and use of the Gaelic language.
- The study and cultivation of Gaelic literature, history, music and art.
- The social and economic welfare of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.
- The wearing of the Highland dress.

A very quick look at some of the work undertaken by an Comunn Gaidhealach in the past, although it does indicate a certain preoccupation with the National Mod, and the organisation itself has been based outside the Gaelic speaking area, shows that in spite of a general attitude of passive opposition to the language and culture, progress of various kinds was made.

In the publications field statistics can be produced to prove that it was not entirely unsuccessful. No other Gaelic organisation has produced so much of practical value in the same period.

What we are concerned about at this stage in Gaelic Scotland is to try and overcome any residual prejudice that remains against the language and its culture in Scotland as a whole and try to create an understanding among Scots in general that Gaelic is very much a living minority language, and that there are other minority languages and minority cultures which are slightly more favoured in the treatment that they receive, and some which have even less recognition than Gaelic has gained. Gaelic and Gaels have made a notable contribution to European, as well as Scottish culture, in the period since the fifth century, and it has survived, and still survives, in spite of policies which certainly have not encouraged the language or appreciation of our native culture. If a kind interpretation is placed on past historical events they have at the very least tended to discourage the perpetuation of the Gaelic language and ignore its contribution to Scottish culture.

If one examines the history of Europe there were Gaelic speaking monks and scholars whose teachings had far-reaching effects on the religious and educational development of early Europe, and even in the eighteenth century the translations of the Gaelic Ossianic poems by James Macpherson (according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica) did more than any single work to bring about the romantic movement in Europe, especially German literature.

The culture of Scotland as a whole is no less influenced by its Gaelic background because to the making of culture go all the elements that create personality to the individual Environment, history, music, religion, traditional values, and a sense of continuity. If we exclude the Gaelic background what is it then that gives Scottish culture its individuality?

Can we completely ignore the 16th century historians who referred to Gaelic speaking Scots as those who had best preserved the original language and customs of Scotland — or that the idea of national education began with the Gaelic Columban Church?

In the uphill fight to preserve Gaelic, An Comunn Gaidhealach continues to explore various possibilities in regard to (a) Status for the language (b) Assistance for publishing text books and general literature (c) Extending the teaching of Gaelic and (d) Financial assistance for the activities of An Comunn itself. Its "Shop Window," the National Mod goes from strength to strength. This year Glasgow play host to the thousands who will make this such an unforgettable occasion and in 1968 Dunoon, in its centenary year, welcomes Gaeldom's greatest festival.

Here is an opportunity for all those in the Cowal area who are interested, and some perhaps who have an obligation to Gaelic, to work for it and help to re-introduce it to a much wider community.

# INSIDE VIEW ON CROFTING

The Report of the Highlands and Islands Development Board contains much to interest crofters, and even something to comfort them, for not only does it state in paragraph 27 — "No matter what success is achieved in the Eastern or Central Highlands... the Board will be judged by its ability to hold population in the true crofting areas," but in paragraph 25 it affirms "that if one had to look now for a way of life which would keep that number of people in such relatively inaccessible territory... it would be difficult to contrive a better system" (than crofting). Although (paragraph 156) the Board disavow any intention to involve themselves in the day to day functioning of the industry, they express their intention (paragraph 158) to pursue this matter (multiple purpose development of croft land including large-scale improvement schemes) in 1967 in consultation with other bodies concerned.

When (in paragraph 161) they say — "We welcome the initiative taken jointly by the Crofters Commission and the Forestry Commission to encourage crofters to release Common Grazing" for afforestation, they do a little less than justice to the crofters themselves, who submitted to the Crofters Commission in 1963 an analysis of the situation relative to planting parts of Common Grazings which this could be justified in the manner outlined in the Zuckerman Report.

Consideration of these proposals led eventually to the scheme worked out by the Crofters Commission and the Forestry

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Tha suaipèirean glanaidh air an uimneig thoiseach agus socrachaidh na lampaichean aghaidh an dearsadh thein Gheibh thu mulach greine mas math leat thu fhein a bhlianaidh. Ma tha grian agad!

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Commission. More important and significant than any action already taken by the Forestry Commission, and more to the benefit of the crofters, is the arrangement worked out by Lochiel, the Crofters Commission, and the crofters concerned to plant over 700 acres of hill land up to 1,200 feet, and to compensate the crofters for the loss of grazing by re-seeding and improving other parts of the grazings, and by deer-fencing the good grazings, the cost being met from a fund created by the first instance by a payment of £4 an acre made by Lochiel, who by the scale and scope of his proposals sets an impressive example to the Forestry Commission and other landholders.

Perhaps paragraph 129 holds much significance for crofters as any other. The Board wisely emphasises the importance of tourism in the Highlands, and in paragraph 120 they express their willingness to co-operate with the Crofters Commission in encouraging crofters "to develop suitable parts of their common grazing land as properly equipped and regulated camping and caravan parks."

In certain areas crofters are already substantially interested in tourism in this way; and certainly there will be further development. What is most significant in this paragraph is that what is envisaged is the use of common grazing land for this purpose, not arable land. It is unfortunate that the Inverness-shire County Planning Committee follow a different course — they recently took by compulsory purchase the arable land of a croft, and then obtain a Direction from the Secretary of State enabling them to take out of crofting tenure a vacant neighbouring croft, in

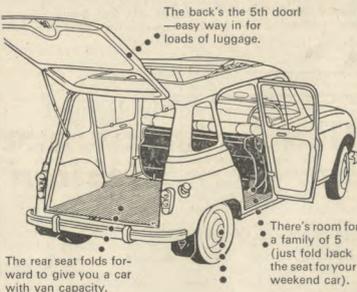
order to rent the land to a private caravan site proprietor. The arable land of these crofts is among the best in Lochaber. They have recently given planning permission for another well-worked and fenced croft to become a caravan site.

Whenever an impartial, objective study is made of crofting in the Highlands, as by Sir Thomas Taylor and his Commission, and now by the Highland Development Board, the result has been an affirmation that "the retention and development of crofting is in the public interest. That this is official Government policy the 1955 Act shows. It is to be hoped that the County Planning Committee of Inverness-shire may not remain oblivious of this accumulated mass of informed and intelligent evidence.

It is already evident that crofting is being pursued more successfully where ancillary employment is available, and Crofters Unions will have noted with satisfaction the clause in paragraph 24, which states "we will pursue, however, a more methodical programme of building small industrial growth-points in scale with the possibilities of the West and Islands." The Crofters Unions have always urged that if major growth-points are established there must be compensation by the establishment of minor "growth-points" to provide employment and hold population in the more remote areas. Crofters must welcome the first Report of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, and hope most fervently that the Board and its Chairman may be enabled to pursue their task freely and fruitfully.

WALTER CAMERON, Secretary,  
Lochaber Crofters Union.

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