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AN GAIDHEALACH

An Gaidheal:

(Formerly AN DEO GRÉINE)

The Monthly Magazine of An Comunn Gaidhealach

Volume XLIV.

January, 1949, to December, 1949, inclusive.



AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH,
65 WEST REGENT STREET, GLASGOW.

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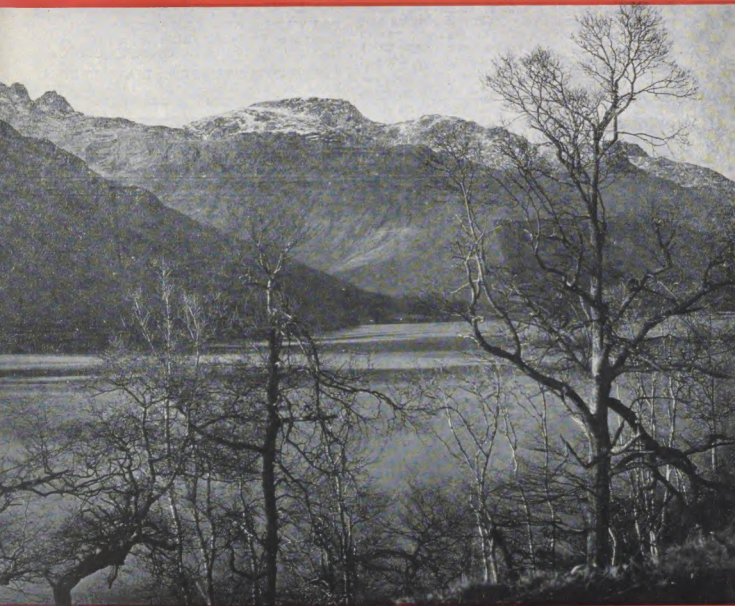


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Our Cover Picture

"ARROCHAR ALPS"
The Avgyll Forest Park

(By courtesy of 'Scotland's Magazine' Copyright by R. M. Adam)

Leabhar XLIV (Seòrsa Ur)

AM FAOILLEACH, 1949

Aireamh 1

Thall 's a Bhos

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Knoydart

Nothing has so stirred the Scottish people in recent weeks as has the "land raid" incident at Knoydart. It is not for us to comment on that particular matter, but we should be doing less than our duty did we fail to call attention to the much bigger issue of which the Knoydart incident is but a symptom.

Increasing Desolation

The most vital fact in regard to the Highlands and Islands at this present time is not the extraordinary speed with which the Hydro-Electric Board has brought electric power to some of the more isolated areas, nor the plethora of "plans on paper" and "blue-prints" that emanate from local authorities and State departments, but that there are areas—on the western seaboard especially—where the process of depopulation is accelerating rapidly, and where, according to Dr. Fraser Darling and Dr. Robert Barclay of the West Highland Survey, in twenty to thirty years' time not one human being will be left.

Depopulation and Gaelic

Some of us feel that, while Gaelic may survive as a field of study for scholars, as an accomplish-

ment for those who like it so, and as a concomitant of what is known as "Highland music," the battle will have been utterly lost and the aims of An Comunn will have been wholly frustrated if the Gaelic-speaking (or, indeed, the non-Gaelic-speaking) Highlanders totally disappear from their native parishes.

Repopulation and Gaelic

We know, of course, that—if certain schemes now being mooted come to fruition—certain areas of the Highlands may well be repopulated in the years to come. But, if it is a hard fight to keep Gaelic in the ascendant in the areas where it has through long centuries passed from parent to child to this very day, it is going to be infinitely more difficult to plant it anew among a newly settled population drawn from different parts of the country and mostly with a non-Gaelic background. In a reconstructed and repopulated land we must see to it that the continuity of Gaelic tradition is not broken. That is why we ought to be concerned, even genuinely alarmed, at what is now happening before our very eyes in the west mainland parishes and in some of the islands.

“Our New Look”

In its forty-fourth year (the first number appeared in October, 1905) this Magazine goes out to its readers in a new form. We have retained the same size of page, but we have increased the number of pages from twelve to sixteen.

The four extra pages are inserted as a “youth supplement,” under the title of *AN GAIDHEAL OG*. For the present *An Gaidheal Og* will not be issued apart from *An Gaidheal* itself, but our younger readers may, if they so desire, remove *An Gaidheal Og* and file it by itself, as it is a self-contained little magazine with its pages numbered separately from those of *An Gaidheal*.

While the matter in the first number of *An Gaidheal Og* may be rather too advanced for the younger children, we hope to be able in the following issues to provide something for our very youngest readers, including cartoons and drawings. Our hope is that eventually *An Gaidheal Og* will fare forth on its own, but children must learn to walk before they run.

As for *An Gaidheal* itself, its forty-four years of unbroken history is something to be proud of. In that time it has both recorded and undergone many changes. At first its name was “*An Dèd-Gréine*,” then, for a brief period, it was called “*Gàilig*.” For many years past it has carried its present name, “*An Gaidheal*,” and we can think of no better title.

Early in the war the strict rationing of paper and rising costs compelled us to dispense with the cover of the Magazine and to reduce the number of pages very drastically. For a time we were limited to six pages. It was at that time that we found ourselves under the necessity of printing most of the material in small (8-point) type, no easier for the printers and proof-readers and editor than for the ordinary reader. Now we are changing over to a new type face which, we hope, will be more kindly to the eyes of our readers. We are also trying to arrange a more attractive layout.

More important, of course, than the appearance of the Magazine are its contents. While continuing to keep our members and the public informed of the various activities of An Comunn and its Branches, we shall try to provide varied fare for our readers in both Gaelic and English.

This periodical, the only one of its kind in the world we may claim, is read not only in this country but overseas, and copies reach some rather remote corners of the globe. May *An Gaidheal*, in its new form, forge a stronger link between all those, wherever they are, who cherish our ancient culture and our fine traditions and who believe that the Celt has something to say and do which the modern world greatly needs.

Important

Gaelic Manuscripts

In our June, 1948, issue we drew our readers' attention to the Rev. John Mackechnie's praiseworthy efforts to seek out Gaelic manuscripts which have not yet been catalogued. It is very probable that a number of manuscripts are lying in the hands of private persons, possibly neglected and even forgotten.

A strong appeal is made to all who may have old papers in their possession to look through them and see whether or not they have any containing Gaelic writings. The holders of manuscripts will not be put to any expense, and full arrangements will be made to ensure the safety of manuscripts while they are being examined.

We cordially support Mr. Mackechnie's plea, and we earnestly hope that his appeal will call forth a response. He is engaged on compiling an up-to-date catalogue of Gaelic manuscripts in Scotland or of Scots origin, a most valuable and very onerous task which deserves the utmost support.

Please communicate with the Rev. John Mackechnie, B.D., 3 Eldon Terrace, Glasgow, W.I.

Gliocas nan Gàidheal

An rud a nithear gu math chithear a bhuil.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Is beannaichte an duine sin . . . aig a bheil tlachd ann an lagh an Tighearna. . . . Soirbhichidh leis gach nì a nì e.

Salm i. 1-3.

The Editor regrets that, because of the change-over to the new form of the Magazine, this month's issue is late in appearing. The February issue may also be late, but thereafter, we hope, the Magazine will be issued on the 1st of the month, as previously.

DO AR LEUGHADAIREAN:
BLIADHNA MHATH UR LE
SONAS IS SOIRBHEACHADH

The Development of Musical Talent in the Highlands

Some Thoughts and Suggestions

By ROSE ETHEL BASSIN

[Miss Bassin is teacher of music at Dingwall Academy. She has had a long experience of music teaching in the Highlands and Islands and in Canada. She has also served as a mod adjudicator. This interesting article raises rather important issues and makes valuable suggestions which we hope will be followed up.]

Undeveloped Talent

Anyone who has known the Highlands and Islands over a long period of years cannot but feel sorry to see so much musical talent going to waste. It is common elsewhere to hear older people regret that they did not learn to read music or to play an instrument in their youth, but nowhere is the regret more touching than when heard in the Highlands. Talent is widespread, but how seldom does the opportunity to develop it come early enough. A child who is old enough to learn the multiplication table is old enough to be learning music in some shape or form. It is this early start that makes the musician.

Some years ago Dr. R. Vaughan Williams, speaking at the founding of one of the Rural Music Schools that have been so successful in the south of England, remarked that to find out whether a country was musical or not he would go, not to the big centres, but to small country places, to see whether there was active participation by the whole community. Everyone had heard of J. S. Bach, but not of Bach's uncles and cousins who were musicians in small towns. It was from a number of small musicians, from a musical background, that a musical genius arose.

What to aim at

What would be the present-day equivalent of such a type of life in the Highlands? What do we visualise as a desirable state of things musically? Is it too much to aim at the following?—

- (a) A high standard of individual singing.
- (b) Good congregational singing in churches; more and better choirs.
- (c) The ability among singers to read music and hold a part.
- (d) The opportunity for the study of string and wind instruments, leading to individual performances of a good standard and to small orchestras and groups of players.
- (e) A certain number of competent pianists—particularly accompanists—and church organists.

There is sufficient talent to provide for such a state of things. What, then, is lacking?

Lack of Teachers

The answer can be given in two words—**TEACHERS** and **INSTRUMENTS**.

The difficulty is partly financial, but that is a difficulty that can be overcome. Teachers of Music (Singing) in schools are far too few. This is not entirely the fault of Education Committees for there is at present a shortage of qualified teacher-musicians, a matter that will right itself in time. It is a pity that the few Gaelic-speaking musicians who train as teachers prefer to take posts in the south. The objection of good musicians to teaching in rural districts is that they will be "too far away from things," that is, away from music-making with others of equal skill, away from concerts and opera.

This is not a matter of a musician's luxurious or highbrow tastes, as some would think. A good musician in a small place—particularly if, as so often happens, he is the only musician of his type there—usually gives ungrudgingly of his own playing, singing, conducting and so on for the benefit of the residents. They have the pleasure and inspiration of hearing music beyond their own powers, but the musician himself needs fresh inspiration from time to time, and the continual giving-out and hearing no music better than his own is what he dreads. I dwell upon this because it is the real drawback to rural teaching from the musician's point of view.

Native Gaelic speakers with musical gifts should be given the opportunity of musical training and encouraged to take advantage of it. Not only should there be a good proportion of students taking the full course at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, but it should not be uncommon for students to take both Music and Celtic in a University Arts degree. Taste and culture are such important ingredients of music, and our prospective teachers should combine musical talent with brains and a capacity for hard work. Music as a career is not for those who are no good at anything else.

"An t-Ionnachadh Og"

As a preliminary to an R.S.A.M. or University course in Music, a student would require a Leaving Certificate pass or its equivalent in the subject. For one or two reasons this is at present not always possible, even for the musically gifted. A musician must play an instrument, and the important thing is for instrumental training to be begun young. In the case of the most obvious instruments, piano and violin, the years from eight to twelve are those in which the foundations of a good technique are laid. At that age the fingers are supple and the mind is receptive. This is also a stage when a good deal of time can be given to practice, before the heavier curriculum of secondary school is reached. The secondary stage is too late for anyone aiming at being a performer of the first class.

This does not mean that twelve is too late to start. A late beginner may become a competent amateur and perhaps that most desirable person among pianists, a good accompanist. If a boy or a girl is already a good reader there is much to be gained by learning any instrument. Good teachers realise the difference between the amateur and professional type of pupil and adapt the work to each.

Tuition in Instrumental Music

If musicians of the first class are to come from Gaelic-speaking districts something must be done to provide good tuition and suitable instruments while they are young enough. It might, for instance, be possible, in the case of a child in a more remote place showing exceptional talent, for that child to be allowed to proceed earlier than he otherwise would to the nearest secondary centre, presuming that good piano or violin tuition was available there.

There is a great future for string-playing in the Highlands. The violin is pre-eminently the Scottish indoor instrument, and a renaissance in violin-playing is due. Not only the violin but the viola and 'cello should be played. String instruments have the advantage of comparative cheapness (although they can be bought at fabulous prices), they are portable, tuned by the player, and combine well with each other and with other instruments besides. A string ensemble—anything from a trio of the instruments named to a larger group—gives music that can be performed in any room or small hall, music that is completely satisfying and enjoyable both to players and listeners. Wind instruments would be very popular, particularly with boys, if only there were teachers and instruments.

Importance of the Piano

Pianos are another story. Unfortunately many pianos that one meets in the Highlands have not been of the best quality or tone in the first place. The damp climate played havoc with them, particularly as so often in the past they were kept in unwarmed rooms. Visits of tuners were few. In this connection there are many owners of pianos everywhere who do not know that a piano should be tuned three or four times a year and kept continually in a warm, *dry* room. There has been a shortage of piano tuners since the war. Would this highly-skilled trade appeal to some Highland boys?

A good piano is essential for musical development. The musician who hopes to go far as composer or teacher—without any thoughts, even, of becoming a concert pianist—must know music through the medium of a keyboard instrument. Also, a person who can play the piano can without much difficulty play the reed (American) organ, and has a foundation for learning the pipe organ. It is possible to teach a certain amount of choir music without a piano, but better results are obtained—and certainly more quickly—if a good well-tuned instrument is available.

If I have said little about singing so far it is because a first-class singer must be a trained musician as well as having a pleasing natural voice—and to be a musician implies knowing an instrument.

A Temporary Solution—Holiday Teaching

Instrumental teaching is the real difficulty—but difficulties can usually be answered. Let us face the present—and possibly continuing—shortage of teachers both for school work and private instrumental teaching, the shortage of living accommodation, and the problem of attracting good musicians to remote places.

There is one temporary solution that suggests itself—summer holiday teaching. Good students from the various recognised academies and colleges of music might be given the chance to do some instrumental teaching in the long summer vacation. A teaching holiday in the Outer Isles, for instance, might appeal to many young teachers, even from over the Border. Instruction for only a few weeks in the year is not the ideal, but it is a great deal better than nothing.

Rural Music Schools

As for expenses, something on the lines of the Rural Music Schools already mentioned might be done. These Schools, operating from various centres, send qualified

(Continued on page 9)

Ann's a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

MIOSACHAIN GHÀIDHLIG

Air a' mhìos seo tha *An Gàidheal* ag cur aghaidh air an t-saoghal le deise bhriagha ur air. Tha còrr is dà fhichead bliadhna bho 'n' rugadh e, ach nach ann a tha e ag iarraidh a bhith ag ath-nuadhachadh òige agus a leithid de dh'obair 'ga fheitheamh anns na làithean ri teachd. Ri linn a' chogaidh b' fheudar dha a chòta a chur dheth agus cumail air as a léinidh. An diugh tha e 'ga chòmhdach fhéin as 'ur agus ag 'urachadh a neirt air chor 's gun gabh e ceum air aghaidh a chum leas na Gàidhlig.

Is mór agus is lìonmhor na h-atharrachaidhean a thàinig air an t-saoghal anns na bliadhnanachan bho thàinig *An Gàidheal* am follais an toiseach, "a' togail an Deò-Ghréine ri crann." Is mór an t-atharrachadh a thàinig air a' Chomunn Ghàidhealach fhéin. Nach bu chòir duhinn a bhith taingeil, am feadh 's a tha uimhir de dh' 'aobharan mòralach air crìonadh as, gu bheil an Comunn Gàidhealach air slor fhàs, an dà chuid am meud agus am buaidh!

Is iomadh Gàidheal còir—is ban-Ghàidheal cuideachd—a chuidich leis a' *Ghaidheal* a' bhratach a chumail ri crann, agus tha iomadh sgrìobhadh prìsel taigse anns na leabhraichean bliadhnaile—còrr is dà fhichead dhiubh—anns a bheil am mìosachan air a chumail air mhaireann.

* * *

B'ann an 1803—faisg air ceud gu leth bliadhna air ais—a chuireadh a mach a' cheud mhìosachan Gàidhlig. 'S e *An Rosroine* an t-ainm a bha air, agus 's e Mgr. Tòmas MacDhonnchaidh, an Margadh an t-Salainn an Glaschu, a chuir a mach e, ach tha do mhair e barrachd is ceithir mìosan.

Bha làmh aig "Caraid nan Gàidheal" (an t-Ollamh Tormod MacLeòid) anns an *Teachdaire Gàidhealach* (1830 gu 1831) agus *Cuairtear nan Gleann* (1840 gu 1843), le còmhnadh bho Iain MacCoinnich, fear-deasachaidh *Sàr-Obair nam Bàrd*. Bha *Fear-Tathaich nam Beann* (1842 gu 1850) fo stiùradh an Ollaimh Gillesbuig Mac a' Chléirich, cliamhainn "Caraid nan Gàidheal."

Tràth anns an naoidheamh linn deug bha àireamh eile de mhìosachain Ghàidhlig a thàinig am follais agus an sin a chaidh á bith an ùine gheàrr—*An Teachdaire Ur Gàidhealach* (1835-36) fo stiùradh Lachlainn MhicGhilleathain; *Teachdaire nan Gàidheal* (1844) fo làimh an Urramaich Iain Foirbeis, ùghdar a' Ghràmair Dhùbailte: *A' Bheithir Bheuma* (1844) fo làimh Iain MhicChoinnich; *An t-Aoidh Mìosail* (1847-48); agus aon no dhà eile, a bharrachd air *An Teachd-*

aire Gàidhealach (an Astràlia, 1857) is *Cuairtear na Coille* (an Canada, 1840-41), agus *An Cuairtear Og Gàidhealach* an Albainn Nuaidh (1851).

* * *

'Nan déidh sin thàinig *An Fhianuis*, mìosachan Gàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Saoire. Thòisich seo an 1845; an 1850 sguir e; bho 1875 gu 1893 thàinig e mach mar ràidheachan, agus an 1893 thòisich e a rithist mar mhìosachan, agus chum e fhéin 's a shliochd air adhart bho sin gus an latha an diugh—mar mhìosachain Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Saoire, na h-Eaglaise Saoire Aonaichte, agus Eaglais na h-Alba.

O chionn iomadh bliadhna 's ann mar dhuilleagan Gàidhlig an ceangal am broinn mìosachan Beurla nan Eaglaisean sin a tha *An Fhianuis* ag cumail a' dol. Thòisich na duilleagan Gàidhlig ann an *Life and Work*, mìosachan Beurla Eaglais na h-Alba, cho fada air ais ri 1879, agus bho aonadh nan Eaglaisean an 1929 tha *An Fhianuis* aig an t-seann Eaglais Shaoir Aonaichte agus cuibhreann Ghàidhlig mìosachan Eaglais na h-Alba air a dhol còmhla.

Dh'fhaodamaid mar an ceudna an fheadhainn seo eile ainmeachadh—*An Gàidheal* (1871-77), leth am Beurla is leth an Gàidhlig; agus *The Celtic Magazine* (1876-88), *The Highland Monthly* (1889), agus *The Celtic Monthly* (1892 's air aghaidh)—bha iad seo am Beurla le cuibhreann an Gàidhlig.

Cha chòir dòchuimhne a dheanamh air *Mac Talla* a thàinig a mach an Albainn Nuaidh bho 1892 gu 1904, no air *Guth na Bliadhna* is *Alba* is *An Sgeulaiche* is *The Celtic Review*. Thàinig iad seo a mach 'nar dùthaich fhéin anns an dà fhichead bliadhna mu dheireadh. Bha feadhainn eile ann cuideachd.

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Bu mhath fios a bhith aig Gàidheil an latha an diugh air a liuthad oidhirp a rinn Gàidheil an latha an dé air litreachas Gàidhlig de 'n t-seòrsa seo a chur an taigse sluagh na Gàidhealtachd agus muinntir na Gàidhlig aig an taigh is thall thairis

Gidheadh is duilich fhaicinn cho gearr-shaoghalach agus a bha na mìosachain sin uile. Bha feadhainn ann nach tug a mach fù aon bhliadhna fhéin. Bha feadhainn eile ann a dh'fhan beò fad àireamh bhliadhnanach, ach mu dheireadh fhuair iad uile bàs.

'S iad an fheadhainn as fhaide a mhair, agus a tha fhathast a' tighinn a mach mìosachain nan Eaglaisean agus *An Gàidheal* seo againn fhéin.

Gu ma fada a mhaireas iad!

Bas Chairdean

OBITUARIES

Rev. William MacPhail

The Rev. William MacPhail, who passed away at Oban on 3rd December, was a member of An Comunn for many years. He served on the Executive Council and on the Education Committee and was for two terms a Vice-President.

Mr. MacPhail gave valuable service to the cause of education and local administration as a member of Argyll County Council, and was particularly active on the former School Board and Parish Council.

A native of Tیره, he was ordained to the ministry in 1902 and was minister of the parish of Kilbrandon and Kilchattan for twenty-five years. Thence he was translated to the charge of Ardrishaig from which he resigned a few years ago because of failing health.

Mr. MacPhail was an excellent Gaelic scholar and acted as an adjudicator at national and provincial mods. He was also a bard of no mean ability, and three of his Gaelic compositions appear in *Na Baird Thiridseach*, the volume of Tیره Gaelic poetry compiled by the late Rev. Hector Cameron.

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Miss Margaret MacInnes

The passing of Miss Margaret MacInnes on 6th December has removed from our midst one of our best traditional singers. She had a quality of voice which suited the type of songs she loved to sing and which gave much pleasure to a wide circle of friends.

Miss MacInnes was a niece of Father Allan MacDonald of Eriskay ('Eilean na h-Oige'), and she inherited many of the qualities of that much esteemed pastor and poet.

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Major Iain Stewart (Fasnaclloch), T.D.

Major Stewart passed away at Camserney, Appin of Dull, Perthshire, on 10th December. For many years he had been a Life Member of An Comunn and along with Mrs. Stewart he took a very keen interest in its activities. The strong Branch of An Comunn in Ayr was founded by Major and Mrs. Stewart when they were resident there.

Major Stewart was well versed in Celtic lore and had a wide knowledge of the literature of the Highlands.

Miss J. C. MacLaren

By the death of Miss J. C. MacLaren, Blair Atholl, on 11th December, Perthshire has lost one of its most ardent supporters of Gaelic. For many years she taught at Strath Tummel School and always gave Gaelic a prominent place. Many of her pupils competed successfully at the Perthshire provincial mods.

Miss MacLaren retired to Blair Atholl a few years ago but she maintained her interest in the work of An Comunn.

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Mr. H. H. MacKenzie

Mr. Hector Hugh MacKenzie, J.P., died in Edinburgh on 4th December, at the age of eighty-one, and thus there has passed away a well-known Highland personality.

Born at Dunvegan, Skye, in 1867, Mr. MacKenzie was the eleventh representative of the family of MacKenzie of Ballone. His father, Mr. John Tolmie MacKenzie, was factor for the MacLeod Estates, and he himself was for almost fifty years factor for the North Uist Estates.

Mr. MacKenzie held many posts and appointments in addition to his factorial duties, and was well-known in the Islands and indeed in the Highlands generally. He was also a keen churchman, being Session Clerk of the parish church of North Uist and also a member of the General Assembly and of Assembly Committees, especially the Home Board and the Highlands and Islands Committee.

A keen Gaelic scholar and with an extensive knowledge of Highland lore and history, especially family history, he frequently wrote on Highland themes, but his most important literary work was his volume on *The MacKenzies of Ballone*.

* * *

Mrs. Christina Turner, Glasgow

We would express our deep sympathy with Miss Chris. Turner, of the staff of An Comunn's head office, on the recent death of her mother. Mrs. Turner belonged to Bridgend, Islay.

We record our sympathy with the relatives of all those whose passing we have noted and whose service and friendship we commemorate.

AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AM FAOILLEACH, 1949

Aireamh 1

Do Ar Leughadairean Oga

Seo dhuibh mìosachan Gàidhlig dhuibh fhéin—nì nach robh riaghailteach air a chur an tairgse òigridh na Gàidhliche (cho fad 's is aithne dhòmhsa co-dhiubh).

Tha e fìor gu bheil *An Gaidheal Og* an ceangal ris an t-seann *Ghaidheal*, ach chan 'eil sin ach nàdurra. Chan 'eil anns a' *Ghaidheal Og* againn ach mar gum biodh leanabh òg ag gabhail a cheud cheummann coiseachd. Feumaidh e taic-làimhe athar gus am fàs e beagan nas misneachail air a chasan fhéin. Tha sinn an dòchas gum bi *An Gaidheal Og* uair-eigin—agus nas luaithe na tha dùil ris—comasach air aghaidh a chur air an t-saoghal mhór leis fhéin.

Anns na ceithir duilleagan seo a tha dol fo 'n ainm, *An Gaidheal Og*, gheibh sibhse, a mhuinntir òga, naidheachdan is sgeulan is iomadh seòrsa fiosrachaidh a bheir (tha sinn an dòchas) an dà chuid eòlas is toileachadh dhuibh. Feuchaidh sinn ri nithean ùra is annasach a thoirt am follais, agus cuimhne ùrachadh air seann nithean cuideachd. Feuchaidh sinn ri rud-eigin a bhith againn a fhreagas air a' chloinn as òige as urrainn leughadh agus mar an ceudna orra-san a tha 'nan Làn-Ghàidheil agus 'nan Sàr-Ghàidheil ann an Comunn na h-Oigridh.

Cumaidh ar deagh charaid, Mgr. Eachann MacDhùghail, air a' sgrìobhadh na litreach aige fhéin anns a' *Ghaidheal Og* mar a bha e deanamh o chionn ùine mhóir anns a' *Ghaidheal*. Tha dùil againn ri còmhnaidh fhaotainn bho fheadhainn eile cuideachd. Ach bu mhat leinn nam faigheamaid fiosan bho ar luchd-leughaidh òga. Tha fhios gu bheil naidheachdan beaga agaibh ri innsadh—mu 'n àite anns a bheil sibh, an sgoil a tha sibh a' frithealadh, na cluichean a bhios agaibh, agus mu 'n fheachd de Chomunn na h-Oigridh d'am buin sibh. Tha fhios gu bheil toimhseachain is sgeulan beaga agaibh is duain is orain. Siùthadaibh, ma thà. Cuiribh thugam-sa iad.

Tha dùil againn cuideachd gum bi dealbhan againn anns a' *Ghaidheal Og* bho am gu am a chuireas dreach air agus a bheir togail-inntinne do ar luchd-leughaidh.

Beannachd leibh, ma thà, an dràsda, agus buaidh is piseach air a' *Ghaidheal Og*. Gu ma fada beò e!

AM FEAR-DEASACHAIDH.

Rubha Robhanais

Tha Rubha Robhanais (Am *Butt* a their luchd na Beurla) a' sìneadh a shròin chreagaich, chruaidh mu leth-mhìle a mach do 'n Chuan Siar. Aig fìor cheann a muigh an Rubha tha Toll a' Ròigh—toll bho thaobh gu thaobh de 'n Rubha cho àrd is cho leathann ri taigh cuimseach. Ris a' mhuir-làn tha an fhaige a' taomadh gealtroimh an toll "le beucaich bhuirb"—sealladh oillteil!

Nuair a bha na fàmhairean a' deanamh a' chabhsair bho cheann a tuath na h-Eireann gu Albainn, bha buidheann dhiubh a' tarraing Leòdhais bho Lochlann gu Eirinn. Is ann troimh Tholl a' Ròigh a bha an càball-tarraing. Bhris an càball, agus bho 'n latha sin tha Leòdhas 'na laighe anns a' Chuan Siar, agus tha Cabhsair nam Fàmhairean ann an Uladh na h-Eireann gun chrìochnachadh gus an là an diugh.

Mu mheadhon an Rubha tha Luchruban—àite còmhnaidh nan daoine beaga (*pygmies*). Tha an Deadhan Mac-an-rothaich (1549), Màirtinn Màirtinn (1695), agus seann sgrìobhaidhean eile a' toirt cunntais air "Ylen Dumbeg." A' bruidhinn air meud nan daoine beaga, sgrìobh Mac-an-rothaich: "The thrie banes being measurid is not fullie twa inches lang." Dh'fhoighnich mi de charaid á Nis cìod e meud daoine beaga Luchrubain. Thuir e, "Tha iad ag ràdh gu robh iad mu mhead *sleapan*" (*slate-pencil*). Nuair a bhiodh fear dhiubh a' togail dias eòrna no craobh choirce dh'èigheadh e ri nàbaidh, "Trom, trom, thig fo cheann na sail!"

Ma tha sin fìor, cha b' iad a thog leacan balla Luchrubain. Tha na ballachan air an deagh chlachaireachd.

Tha e annasach fàmhairean is daoine beaga fhaotainn air an suidheachadh an taic a chéile le beul-aithris, mar a tha iad ann an Rubha Robhanais. A.M.

Seanfhacail

Taigh gun chù, gun chat, gun leanabh beag, Taigh gun ghean, gun ghàire.

* * *

Na chlà na big 's e nì na big;
Na chluinntean iad 's e chanas iad.

* * *

Is fhasa deagh ainm a chall na chosnadh.

Litir Eachainn

A nis, leis gum bi an Nollaig Mhór seachad mun ruig mo bhriathran an dràs sibhse, chan 'eil agam ach mo dhùrachd a leigeil ris, agus mo dhòchas, gu robh Nollaig chridheil, inntinn-each agaibh, is gu robh eallach a dhroma air Bodach Liath na Nollaige an ám a chuairt oirbh, le rud-eigin aige do gach aon agaibh. Agus leis gum bi an Nollaig Bheag, seadh Latha na Bliadhna Uire, aig an dorus, mur bi i eadhon air an ùrlar, thoiream dhuibh an dùrachd cheudna, is gach soirbheachadh a bhith leibh, chan ann a mhàin a thaobh an aon latha so ach ré na bliadhna uile gu léir, is gach bliadhna eile a thig 'na déidh, mar a theireadh ar daoine, "an là a chì 's nach fhaic." Is e ar dòchas gum bi craobh Comunn na h-Oigrìdh daonnan an dà chuid fo bhlàth is ag giùlan toraidh, is toradh a bhios ag cinntinn an suspainn is an tomadas mar a ruitheas ùine thar ar cinnt. Sin, ma tà, mo dhùrachd dhuibhse, a chlann, aig an ám seo.

Bidh smuaintean annasach a' bualadh a steach air inntinnean dhaoine—is cloinne—air uairean, agus is cinnteach gu bheil sinn uile, sibh féin is mise, a' fiosrachadh a leithid seo. Faodaidh nach 'eil an ní a tha mise an dùil buntainn ris an dràs annasach no ùr air sheòl sam bith; theagamh gur e a theireadh cuid nach 'eil ann ach gòraiche. Biodh sin mar a thogras sibhse a ghabhail, ach is è a tha mi a' dol a bhuntainn ris na facail-ghairme, agus na facail ruagaidh, no cur air falbh bhuainn, a bhìotair ag cleachdadh a thaobh nan creutairean ceithir-chosach is eumlaith de an do rinn an cinne-daonna an cuid féin: tha mi ag ciallachadh ainmhidhean is eumlaith air an do rinn sinn càlachadh gu ar math no ar toileachadh féin.

Tha mi de'n bheachd anns an t-sùil seo a bhreig sinn air ar cuspair gum biodh e uile gu léir freagarrach tòiseachadh aig a' bhoin, oir is dòcha gur ann oirre féin is a gnè as èolaiche sinn agus gur iad as feumail dhuinn. A nis, is è a tha mi a' dol a thoirt dhuibh na facail-ghairme is na facail cur-air-falbh a tha air an cleachdadh anns an eilean san d'fhuair mi féin m'arach. Ma tha atharrachadh facail no ràidhteanas sam bith eile aig aon agaibh, no a gheibh sibh bho bhur pàrantan, bu ghasda leam nan cuireadh sibh chugam e. Tha fios agaibh uile càit am faighear mi! Tha mi an dùil, tha mi eadhon cinnteach, gum bu chòir na facail seo a ghleidheadh againn gu cùramach is gun an leigeil air dì-chuimhne, nì a thachras dhaibh mur bi sinn 'nar faireachadh.

Cuid mu'n bhoin, ma tà? Is e am facal-gairme a bha againne an uair a bhiodh a' bhò aig làimh, "pruidh, pruidh;" agus an ám a bhith 'ga ciùineachadh no 'ga tàladh aig ám a bleoghain,

no a' deanamh nì sam bith eile rithe mar a tha a cuideachadh an ám breith no a leithid sin, "tirist, tirist." Nam biodh bó no beathach mairt sam bith astar bhuainn, is e "pruidh-ó, pruidh-ó" (cuid na "h-ó" dheth fada, is na bu chruaidhe) a bhitheamaid ag cleachdadh. An uair a bha mise 'nam bhalach, is na croitean anns a' cheann againne de'n eilean uile air an àiteach leis na ghleidheadh iad de thuath, bhiodh na beathaichean òga Gàidhealach is beathaichean seag eile air an gleidheadh a mach anns a' mhonadh a' chuid a bu mhò de'n gheamhradh. An corr uair a thig-eadh sneachd no aimsir ghailinneach, bhiodhte a' dol a mach do'n mhonadh le ceannagan beaga fodair chuca, agus cho luath 's a chhìtheadh iad air astar 's a dh'euabhadh am biathadar "pruidh-ó, pruidh-ó" àrd a chinn, b'ann orrasan a bhiodh an sùrd a' tighinn, agus is iad a dheanadh an sodan ris a' ghréim a bhiodh air a chur 'nan tairgse! Is e "progan, progan" am facal-gairme a bhiodh againn ris na laoigh. An ám a bhith ag cur a mach a' chruidh as na bàthaichean no bho na taighean, a mach no a staigh do fhang, is e am facal cur-air-falbh a bhiodh air a chleachdadh "hoth-hoth, mach an crodh."

Tha e annasach nach robh facal sònraichte sam bith againn gu an cur air falbh nam biodh iad ann an cron, am measg a' bharran no an geall air a dhòl ann. Cha robh an uair sin ach an cù a chur riù, agus is ann ris a' chù a bhiodh an seanachas uile! Agus an cù fein? An uair a bhiodhteadh 'ga ghairm cha robh ach ainm féin a ghlaodhach, "Gleann," no ciod air bith an t-ainm a bhiodh air, no "cuilean, cuilean, a laochain" (no "a ghalad," nam bu ghala a bhiodh ann). An ám a bhith a' druilleadh coin as an rathad, no 'ga chur a mach, is e "druis" an facal a chleachdte.

An ám a bhith ag gairm nan each is e "pruis-oth, pruis-oth" am facal-gairme. Agus bho'n a thug mi iomradh air an fhacal-ghairme seo, nach faodainn innsadh dhuibh gum b' aon de na dearbhaidhean air aon a bhith 'na dheagh sgoilear Gàidhlig gun rachadh aige air an fhacal seo a litreachadh. Chan 'eil mi an dùil gu bheil e 'nar faclairan Gàidhlig idir, agus tha mise 'ga litreachadh an seo mar a bhiodh e air fhuaimneachadh, le cudtrom an fhacail air "oth." Bhiodh birichean, lothan, is eich òga eile mar an crodh seag air an cumail a mach ri monadh ré a' chuid a bu mhò de'n gheamhradh, agus bhiodh iadsan cuideachd a' faotainn gréim fodair no sll an ám sneachda, agus is e seo am facal-gairme a bhiodh air a chleachdadh riù. Bu mhath a thuigeadh iad féin gur ann dhaibh a bhiodh an gréim, is

nach b'ann do'n chrodh, an uair a chluinneadh iad "pruis-oth, pruis-oth" agus is iad a thigeadh air luathas nan ceithir spadagan gu itheadh. Nach 'eil an sean-fhacal féin ag ràdh gur "minig a dh'ith loth fhiaidhaich siol á boineid."

Tha mo cho-eileanach nach beò, Lachainn na Gàidhlig, ùghdar an leabhair, "*A'hamh agus Eubh*," ag gabhail beachd air an fhacal-ghairme seo, "pruis-oth." Tha e a' toirt fairear gu bheil am facal "prus" ann an *Sanscrit*, leth-phiuthar do'n Ghàidhlig againn fhéin, ag ciallachadh "each." Tha e mar sin a' faotainn anns an fhacal-ghairme seo a tha aca an eilean Cholla aon de na tinneachan a tha ag ceangal an dà chàinain aosmhor seo r' a chéile.

An ám a bhith a' ruagadh nan each air falbh, gu monadh no bho bhàrr, no 'gan cur 'nan ruith, is e "huis-huis," no "huis, an t-each," a chluinnear. An cuala sibh riamh rannan a' bheadagain? Bha aon dhiubh mar seo—

"Tha Beadagan is each aige,
'S gur iongantach a mharcaicheas e;
'S e 'huis' a chluinnear seachad aig',
'S a chasan an dà ròpan."

Bhiodh "huis, an t-each" mar an ceudna air a chleachdadh an ám altrum cloinne le pàisde air bac na coise 'ga shìdanachadh a null 's a nall, mar gum biodh e air muin eich. Bha rannan freagarrach, le "huis, an t-each" is an t-each 'na chruinn-leum a' tighinn a staigh ann; agus is e am pàisde a bhiodh air a dhòigh leis a' chluich seo.

Glé bhithheanta bhiodh peatachan uan mu na taighean, agus is e "sogan, sogan," no "sog-sog" am facal-gairme a bhiodh againn dhaibhsan. Is e "ciri, ciri" am facal tàlaidh no ciùneachaidh a bhiodh air a chleachdadh ris na caorach, agus is dòcha leam gu bheil a eachdraidh féin fuaighte ris an fhacal seo, cho math ri deagh sgeul a chualas mu chagailt na céilidh, ged nach faod sinn maille a dheanamh an dràs gu a h-aithris. Ma bha facal ruagaidh againn air son nan caorach cha chuimhneach leam e.

Cha robhas ag gleidheadh ghobhar anns an eilean againne, 'nam linn-sa, co-dhiubh, mar thread, ged a tha *Airigh nan Gobhar* is ainm àite no dhà eile againn air an ainmeachadh air an ainmhidh sin, agus ma bha facal-gairme air a chleachdadh rithe cha chuala mise e; ach is cinnteach gum biodh sin aca, agus ma tha aon agaibh a chuala e, nach faodadh sibh innseadh dhomh, is dh'innisinn-sa e do'n chòrr de'n chloinn. Feumaidh mi stad an ceartair, ach tillidh mi ris a' chuspair seo air an ath mhios, is cuiridh mi crìoch air. An dràs, slàn leibh, agus a rithist, Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh, agus mòran dhiubh.

Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

1. Niall MacLeòid

Bu chaomh leam beagan fiosrachaidh a thoirt do'n òigridh a bhios a' leughadh a' *Ghaidheil* mu na bàird Ghàidhealach a b'aithne domh fhéin 'na mo latha, agus tha mi an dòchas gum bi an òigridh againn a tha faighinn teagaisg Gàidhlig anns na sgoilean a' leughadh agus a' meòrachadh air obair nam bàrd a chuir loinn is grinneas air ar cànan.

Tha bàrdachd air uairibh nas duilghe ri a thuigsinn na rosg an cànan sam bith, agus is ann am bàrdachd ar cainnte a gheibhear fìor mhaise nan gnàthasan grinne a tha fuaighte ri ar cainnt mhàthaireil, agus tha lionsgaradh intinne a tha ro fheumail do ar n-òigridh ann a bhith cnuasachadh cho tric agus is urrainn iad ann an raon na bàrdachd Ghàidhlig.

Am measg nam bàrd a b'aithne dhòmhsa 'na mo latha fhéin cha robh duine a b'fheàrr leam na Niall MacLeòid, ùghdar *Clàrsach an Doire*, agus tha mi an dòchas nach 'eil balach no nighean, an Eilean a' Cheò co-dhiubh, nach do leugh an leabhar taitneach sin o cheann gu ceann.

Is ann an Gleann-dail anns an Eilean a rugadh Niall MacLeòid anns a' bliadhna 1843. B'e "Dòmhnall nan Oran" a athair, agus bha spiorad na bàrdachd annsan cuideachd, oir an uair nach robh e ach bliadhna ar fhichead a dh'aois chuir e leabhar òran an clò anns a' bhliadhna 1841.

Dh'fhàg Niall Gleann-dail an uair a bha e dà bhliadhna ar fhichead, agus fhuair e fasdadh o Ruairidh MacLeòid, caraid da fhéin an Dùn-Eideann, a bha 'na mharsanta *tea*. An latha a dh'fhàg e air an "*Dunara*" thug a athair dha dà leabhar—*Biobull Gàidhlig agus Sàr-Obair nam Bàrd Gàidhealach*, agus seo mar a thuir a athair ris: "A nis, Nèill, chan 'eil airgead agamsa a bheir mi dhuit anns an dealachadh, ach seo dhuit *Biobull Gàidhlig agus Sàr-Obair nam Bàrd*, agus ma gheallas tu dhòmhsa gun leugh thu an dà leabhar seo gach là a dh'èires tu, théid mi an urras nach 'eil diabhul an iutharna a gheibh làmh-an-uachdar ort fhad is beò thu."

Thuir Niall rium fhéin gun do chùim e an gealladh sin gach latha, agus nach b'aithreach idir leis gun d' rinn e sin.

Tha bàrdachd Nèill blasda, sèimh, agus eireachdail anns gach smuain a chuir e air bàr. Bha gràsan an fhìor Chrìosdaidh dheanadaich am fochar beatha Nèill riamh, agus is ann le bhith greisean 'na chòmhradh mar a bha mise iomad

(An còrr air taobh-dùilleig 4)

Naidheachd a Inbhir Asdal

Le IAIN AN FHEILIDH

I—DAIBHIDH RUAIRIDH DHAIBHIDH

Bha e 'na thoileachas-intinn mór dhuinn Daibhidh Ruairidh Dhaibhidh fhaicinn a rithist shìos aig a' Mhòd. Cha robh mórán ann, aon uair, a thug bàrr air Daibhidh an sgrìobhadh agus an cur an cèill deagh sgeulachdan. Eadhon an diugh, coimhidibh air "*Deirdre*," an sgeul grinn sin a chaidh a chur a mach le Daibhidh agus a chàirdean bho chionn thrì bliadhna, agus leughaidh sibh obair shònraichte.

Tha faisg air deich bliadhna ar fhichead a nis ann bho an chuir sinn eòlas air Daibhidh. Tha cuimhne againn fìor mhaith fhathast air an latha ud; b'e Dòmhnach grianach anns an t-samhradh a bha ann; bha Bàrd Thùrnaig, Daibhidh, agus mi fhéin ag coiseachd le chéile air ar socair ri taobh Loch Ìubh, air dhuinn Eaglais Shaor Pholl-Ìubh fhàgail. Sheall am Bàrd a mach air an loch. "Cha chreid mi nach bi sgadan ann, an diugh," thubhairt e gu h-ìosal, mar gum biodh e a' bruidhinn ris fhéin. Agus dh'aontaich Daibhidh, gu h-ìosal, leis a' Bhàrd, "Cha chreid mi nach bi."

II—MAIRGHREAD ANNA LUSAIDH NIC IOMHAIR

Chan 'eil Mairghread ach deich bliadhna de ais, agus is caillin bheag, ghaolach, mhaiseach dà-rirebh i. Chunnaca sinn i 'na seasamh leatha féin air an drochaid aig bun an uillt an latha roimhe. B'e latha frasach agus latha grianach fa seach a bha ann, agus bha iomadh bogha-frois àlainn ri a fhaicinn fad an latha. Cha robh fhios aig Mairghrid, có dhìubh, gum faca sinn i 'na seasamh aig an àm sinn fo fhìor mheadhon bogha-fhrois mhóir, eireachdail; cha robh fhios aice-se idir gum b'e sealladh cho iomlan agus cho bòidheach agus a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann a bha sinn a' faicinn—an loch a muigh air a cùl, na faoileagan agus na gillean-brìghde air an tràigh, na monaidhean taobh thall na mara, an t-allt, an t-àr-bhair air an t-slios, a' ghrian ag òradh neòil nan speur, an drochaid, am fraoch agus an raineach, am bogha-frois dealrach, agus Mairghread féin am meadhon nan uile.

III—COIN INBHIR ASDAL

Is i "Ness" a tha ag gabhail cùram de an mhaighdin-uasail Caitriona Ruairidh Aonghais shuas anns an taigh as àirde anns a' bhaile, agus is e "Montaidh" a tha ag cuideachadh le a bràthair, le Iain Ruairidh Aonghais, beagan nas fhaide a bhàn. Tha "Ness" agus "Montaidh" a' faicinn a h-uile ni a tha a' dol air adhart bho cheann gu ceann a' bhaile. Is "Montaidh" cù cho dileas do a mhaighstear agus a chunnacas riamh—agus tha e a cheart cho glic agus a tha e

dileas. Tha "Montaidh" eile ann cuideachd—abhaig bheag, ghlic—agus is ann anns an taigh aig càirdean Iain Dubh Mhic Dhòmhnail 'ic Iain nach maireann a tha esan a' fuireach. Is ann aig a' "Mhontaidh" seo a tha fios cuin a bhios a' mhòintich ri bhith air a toirt a nuas as a' bheinn—agus cuin a bhios na cearcan air an leigeil fa sgaoil!

Tha "Scott Mór" aig Rhoda Néill Ruairidh Aonghais, agus tha "Don" agus an "Scott Nuadh"—cuilean òg—aig Seònaidh Eachainn Iain. Tha sròn dearg air an "Scott" seo, a thug e leis an uair thàinig e a nall á Gearrloch an latha roimhe. Tha "Don" gu maith sean a nis, ach tha e tapaidh agus sundach fhathast. Chaidh a chiùrradh le carbad air an rathad mhór an uiridh, ach cha mhór nach 'eil e cho luath a rithist agus a bha e riamh.

Tha "York" aig Iain Mór, tha "Vic" aig Dòmhnall am Post, tha "Frank" aig Coinneach Iainsan, tha "Flossaidh" aig Dòmhnall a' Chlochdair, agus tha "Flossaidh" eile aig Dòmhnall Dhonnchaidh Dhòmhnail Iain Mhóir; tha "Glen" aig Ruairidh Mac Iomhair, a fhuair e an uair fhuair Hitler bàs; tha "Glen" eile aig a' Chosachan, agus tha "Collaidh" aig an Tàillear, ach nam biodh iomradh air a dhèanamh air coin Inbhir Asdal air fad, lìontadh fichead duilleag leò.

(Ri leantainn)

Na Baird Ghaidhealach (Air a leantainn)

uair a chitheadh neach sin. Sheinn e agus rinn e bàrdachd dìreach a chionn nach b'urrainn da gun a bhith anns an eileamaid sin. Bha tàlantán móra agus feartan iongantach air am foillseachadh anns gach òran, agus tha e toirt dhuinn a mach á mòrachd agus gràdh caoin a chridhe nithean nuadha agus sean. Có riamh a chuir subhailcean a' ghlinne anns an d'rugadh e am bàrdachd cho tlàth carthannach agus a tha againn anns an òran, "An gleann san robh mi òg"? Cha chadchail spéis do'n òran sin cho fada agus a bhios aon Sgitheanach comasach air a' chànain fhéin a labhairt. Is iomadh uair a bhiodh e fhéin ag gearan air cho beag agus a fhuair e de fhòghlum litreachail, ach neach sam bith aig am biodh am Bìobul Gàidhlig agus *Sàr-Obar nam Bàrd* maille ri sealladh air glòir obair Nàduir mar a dhlùth chompanaich gach là, cha robh dìth oideachaidh air, agus nach cubhaidh am feum a rinn e de na h-oideachan-fòghlum sin?

Is mise a tha uailleil gu robh e 'na charaid agam, agus bheirinn a' chomhairle air gach Sgitheanach òg eòlas a chur air le bhith leughadh *Clàrsach an Doire*.

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

Northern Committee

The meeting of the Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee on 27th November was well attended, some members having come over sixty miles to be present. The work of the new session was reviewed and various suggestions were made to further the cause in the North.

Portree

On 12th November the Organiser was at Portree and he attended a representative meeting called for the purpose of re-constituting the local Branch. This was successfully accomplished. The new Branch President is Mr. D. S. MacMillan, a member of that noted family who have done so much for the Gaelic cause. It will be remembered that, at the recent Camp of Comunn na h-Oigridh, his sister, Miss Helen T. MacMillan, was honoured by the Camp girls and Staff in recognition of the most excellent services she had rendered at these Camps year after year. We wish the new President all the best in his new post. A Gaelic music choral class was also formed that night and it is to be conducted under the auspices of the County Education Committee as a continuation class.

Kyle of Lochalsh

On the following day the Organiser was present at a meeting of Branch representatives at Kyle of Lochalsh. This meeting was called for the purpose of arranging a place and date for the South-West Ross and Glenelg Provincial Mod, 1949. It was unanimously decided to hold next year's Mod at Kyle on 10th June. A mod syllabus was prepared and adjudicators were chosen.

Cannich

On 15th November the Organiser was present with a Party at Cannich Camp (Hydro-Electric Works) where a fine concert programme was submitted. A special donation was made to the Inverness National Mod funds.

Glenfinnan

A new Branch was formed at Glenfinnan on 18th November. There was a representative attendance at this meeting, which was arranged by the local priest, Rev. P. J. O'Regan, D.D., The Organiser stressed the need for a Gaelic continuation class, and fourteen members enrolled. This class is now functioning under the auspices of the County Education Committee.

Croy

There was a large attendance at a concert held at Croy on 19th November in aid of the Inverness

National Mod Funds. This concert was organised by Mr. Peter MacLeod, M.A., a member of the Northern Committee. The Organiser gave a short address in Gaelic and English and moved the votes of thanks.

Nairn

An address in Gaelic and English was given by the Organiser when he presided at a concert sponsored by the Nairn Branch on 25th November, and a feature of this concert was the beautiful rendering of Gaelic songs by the children. Mrs. MacDonald, Branch President, is doing grand work with the children and, judging by the happy expressions on their faces, they enjoyed singing these songs and choruses.

Glenurquhart

A meeting of the Glenurquhart Branch was held at Drumnadrochit on 29th November, when arrangements were made for the work of the new session. A ceilidh is to be held on 14th January, 1949, and the Gaelic Choir is to commence immediately after the New Year holiday.

Inverness

Mr. Donald Graham, M.A., Convener of the Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee, made an ideal Fear-an-tighe at a ceilidh held in St. Mary's Hall, Inverness, in aid of the National Mod Funds. There was a large attendance, testifying to the interest being taken by the people in next year's National Mod.

Under the auspices of the Ladies' Committee (Convener, Mrs. J. A. Mackintosh), a most successful Coffee Morning and Sale was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, on 11th December. There was a large attendance and the committee is very satisfied with support given by the public to this effort, which was also on behalf of the National Mod funds.

Tomatin

Mrs. John Leslie, Tomatin, is to be congratulated on the success which attended a function she organised on behalf of the National Mod funds. The Organiser brought a party from Inverness and he also presided.

Lochinver

Mr. MacPhail was present at a ceilidh under the auspices of the Lochinver Branch on 10th December. Despite a wet night there was a very good attendance over which the President presided. An address in Gaelic and English was given by the Organiser.

(Continued on page 9)

Leabhraichean Ura

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

New Gaelic School Readers

LEABHRAICHEAN LEUGHAIHDH, air an deasachadh le Lachlan MacFhionghuin, M.A., clodh-bhuailte fo Ughdarras a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich le Blackie agus a Mhac, Glaschu: A' Cheud Cheum (80t.d., 1/6), Leabhar na Cloinne Bige (96t.d., 1/8), Leabhar I (112t.d., 2/6), Leabhar II (160t.d., 2/8), Leabhar III (176t.d., 3/3), Leabhar IV (224t.d., 3/9).

A quarter of a century has passed since Blackie's original series of six graded Gaelic Readers—"Leabhraichean Sgoile Gaidhlig"—was published. These were edited by the late Mr. Donald Macphie (except book IV, which was prepared by the late Mr. John Macdonald), with the late Professor W. J. Watson as editor-in-chief. These have been much used and greatly valued, not only by pupils and teachers but also by adult learners and Gaelic readers generally. The time had come, however, for a new and revised edition. An Comunn undertook responsibility for arranging for the new edition, and Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon, with the assistance of the Gaelic Committee of the E.I.S., undertook the task of editor.

The results of Mr. MacKinnon's work are now before us in the new set of six Gaelic Reading Books, and he is to be congratulated on the splendid work he has done, while Messrs. Blackie also deserve cordial thanks for the very high standard of production achieved. These books are pleasant to the eye, with beautifully clear print and many good illustrations.

While some of the material in the original series has been incorporated in the new series, there is much new material, and the arrangement and grading of the material is different. The subject matter is both interesting and instructive and provides the reader with a good stock of information about Highland history and Gaelic literature and many other subjects. Books III and IV have a glossary of place-names, while the latter also has a glossary of words not in MacEachen's Dictionary.

Pending the publication of the new edition of MacEachen's Dictionary (on which, we understand, the Gaelic Committee of the E.I.S. are at work), those of us who do some writing in Gaelic will get from these Readers some guidance about the Gaelic orthography now approved by the Gaelic teachers, and in this connection it is interesting to compare pieces in the new Readers with the same pieces in the original series.

It is (it would seem) almost impossible to produce an immaculate Gaelic text, and, despite

the great care taken, there are occasional inconsistencies of spelling in the new Readers. In Bk. I, p. 17, "Rìgh nan Eun," paragraph 1, the word "eun" is displaced from its correct position at the end of the preceding line. One curious feature is that, rather frequently, words are wrongly divided at the end of a line. When an English compositor has to divide a word, he generally separates two consonants coming together in the middle of the word. Thus in the Readers we find, for example, "leabhraichean," "shnaid-headairean," "thubhairt," "fam-hair." In such cases "h" is not really a consonant, but rather the symbol that the preceding consonant is aspirated, a fact which could be quite well indicated (as indeed it is in Irish Gaelic) by placing a dot over the aspirated letter. "H," therefore, in these instances goes inseparably with the preceding letter, "leabh-raichean," "shnaidh-eadairean," "thubh-airt," "famh-air."

However, mention of these points of criticism must not be regarded as detracting in any way from the deservedly high praise which we gladly bestow upon this series of books. The books carry a note commemorative of the service rendered to the cause of Gaelic in schools by the late Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, President of An Comunn Gaidhealach from 1912 to 1919 and for many years Convener of the Publication Committee. T.M.M.

The Highland Garb

HIGHLAND DRESS, by George F. Collie, with colour plates from McIan's "The Clans of the Scottish Highlands" (32pp., 24 plates, 2/6), published by Penguin Books.

There was a time when the wearer of "Highland Dress" was most certainly a Highlander, or at least a Scotsman, but nowadays in most cases the kilt is no sure sign that it is Scottish knees that it graces. It is a curious fact that the kilt is least worn among those most entitled to it. Highland dress, when not made ludicrously elaborate and "over-dressy" (as it sometimes is), is both serviceable and comely—but only for those with a suitable figure and physique.

Whether we wear the kilt or not, Mr. Collie gives us in some thirty pages all that most people need to know, and all Scots people would be the better of knowing, about the origin and history of the Highland garb. The twenty-four colour plates of tartan-clad figures are themselves worth the price of the book.

It is unnecessary here to summarise Mr. Collie's already compact survey of the subject, nor to

discuss any of the many interesting points connected with Highland dress and clan tartans. I merely make two points.

The first is that neither Mr. Collie nor any other of the writers on Highland garb with whose books I am familiar seem to have made any use of, if indeed they were aware of, the Gaelic poetry inspired by the proscribing of Highland dress in 1746. Yet the best of our bards have devoted long and in some cases masterly poems to this theme—Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair, Duncan Ban, MacCodrum, Rob Donn, Macpherson of Strathmashie, and William Ross. With bitter satire they deplore and detail the physical disadvantages and moral and spiritual degradation of having to exchange "am breacan uallach" for "a' bhriogais Ghallda," and with joy some of them hailed the repeal of the odious enactment.

Neither have I seen any reference to the description of the Highland garb in Saint Fond's "Journey through England and Scotland to the Hebrides in 1784." Here is the garb worn by the Highlanders whom the Frenchman met at Dalmally—a military jacket with collar and cuffs, of woollen cloth with large checks, red, green, blue, and white, a large cloak of the same stuff, tucked up and fastened on the left shoulder, called the plaid; and a kind of petticoat, short and plaited like the lower part of the military dress of the Romans, which serves them instead of breeches, but does not come down below the middle of the thigh; on their head a blue bonnet, with a narrow border of red, blue, and green, and decorated with one long and waving feather. Their money is kept in a waist-belt of otter skin, so formed that the animal's head was placed in front, the head decorated with coloured ribbons and threads covering a pouch.

T.M.M.

Development of Musical Talent

(continued)

teachers—chiefly of strings—to the villages round about. The pupils pay a small fee per lesson and usually buy their instruments by a series of weekly payments. Each Rural Music School is supported by subscriptions and donations from persons interested and from the proceeds of concerts given by the pupils.

Would it be possible for the many Gaelic bodies and associations to work out some scheme for the development of Gaelic music along the lines suggested? As a preliminary it would be advisable to make a sympathetic survey of the whole field of Gaelic musical requirements and possibilities, at the same time considering the means available to meet the needs.

Gaeldom has a musical tradition second to none. What of the future?

Northern Organiser's Notes

(continued)

Lairg

On the following day Mr. MacPhail attended a meeting at Lairg of representatives of Branches in the County of Sutherland. This meeting was called for the purpose of making arrangements for the 1949 local mod. It was decided to hold this mod at Lairg on 24th June, 1949. Adjudicators were selected and a mod syllabus was prepared. Representatives were present from Oldshoremore, Kinlochbervie, Lochinver, Helmsdale, Brora, Golspie, Embo, Dornoch, and Lairg.

The Farr Stone

The Organiser was requested to bring to the notice of the appropriate authority the condition of the Farr Stone in Farr Cemetery, Bettyhill. This stone is very old and is in such a state that the Celtic designs are not at the moment visible. A member pointed out that visitors have difficulty in tracing the stone at all, because of a covering of moss and lichen. It is hoped that this matter will receive early attention from the proper authority.

Skye

At a meeting of the Skye Provincial Mod Committee, held at Portree recently it was decided to hold the Skye Mod on 28th and 29th June, 1949. Adjudicators were selected and a mod syllabus was prepared.

Local Mods

For the information of our readers, we append a list of Provincial Mods arranged in the Northern Area to date:—

BADENOCH-STRATHSPEY, at Aviemore, 3rd June.

SOUTH-WEST ROSS AND GLENELG, at Kyle, 10th June.

LOCHABER, at Fort William, 24th June.

COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND, at Lairg, 24th June.

SKYE, at Portree, 28th and 29th June.

LEWIS, at Stornoway, 23rd and 24th June (date to be confirmed).

Dingwall

The Dingwall Branch is honoured by having as its President such a notable person as Dr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.I.S. (retired). The first Ceilidh of the session was held recently and it proved most successful. As a story teller, "Dr. D. J." is supreme, and he narrated some of his favourites at the ceilidh. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Jean Campbell, a daughter of the President, and with such stalwarts at the helm we can look forward to a most successful session.

Annas a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

A' Ghaidhlig an Eirinn

A Charaid,

Is mithich dhòmhsa, mar bhun ceartais, casaid àraidh a fhreagairt. Ni mi sin le dùrachd, gu tighinn cruaidh air aon de "ar càirdean."

Chuireadh chugam am bliadhna leabhar Gàidhlig á Eirinn—"Cuairt ar Albainn"—a sgrìobh dà bhan-Eireannach le iomradh air cuairt bheag shamhraidh a bha aca an Albainn. Chan fhios domh có iad. Chanainn gur dìthis òga iad a dh'ionnsaich an cuid Gàidhlig, agus canaidh mi gu bheil i maith aca. Bha iad an Glaschu agus an Dùn-éideann, anns an Oban Latharnach agus air feadh na tuatha. Thachair aon duine a mhàin riutha aig an robh Gàidhlig!

Seo agam, anns a' *Ghàidheal*, gearain aig fear àraid air bristeadh-dùil a fhuair e fhéin an Eirinn. Is bochd leam sin. Cha d'fhuair e móran Gàidhlig, ma is fìor an litir. Tha i ann air son sin!

"Tha taobh eile air a' Mhaoil." Chuir mise làithean saora samhraidh seachad, le buannachd is le toileachas domh fhéin, cuide ri gillean is nigheanan aig Carraig a' Chobhaltaigh air a' Chlàr, agus cha chuala mi Beurla aig a h-aon aca! Is e òigridh far na Galldach a bha anna—cuid á Tiobrad Arann, cuid á Cathair Luimnigh, is cuid á Cathair Chorcaigh—clann a dh'ionnsaich a' Ghàidhlig anns an sgoil aig baile, agus gun i idir aig am parantan. Agus is ann aca a bha a' Ghàidhlig bhinn, shìubhlach. Faodaidh mi bhith de'n bheachd gur e a' chuid bu sgiobalta de'n òige, am bàrr agus an taghadh, a thachair rium, ach faodaidh mi seo innseadh, leis, gu robh iomadh sgoil-shamhraidh de'n dearbh sheòrsa aig an dearbh àm an caochladh àitean an Eirinn. Cha robh a dhìth air an t-seòrsa ud ach an cothrom gu bhith labhairt na Gàidhlig.

Sin, gun amharus, aon de cheistean na dùthcha thall: ciamar a chuirear muinntir aig a bheil a' chainnt air a fòghlum gu bhith 'ga labhairt? Chan 'eil sin uile gu léir soirbh agus Beurla aca 'na cainnt mhàthaireil, agus a' Bheurla nis 'na gnàth-chainnt tìre ri an cluais anns gach baile. Chan 'eil an ni do-dheanta, ach chan 'eil e seodheanta. Cha tìg e as duinne an Albainn a bhith dì-measach no tarcuiseach. Tha an t-saothair mór agus tha i duilich, éiginneach. Tha an cath agus a' chòmhrag dìon. Agus chan 'eil dad de'n dearbh sheòrsa againne ann. Cha do chuir sinne riamh romhainn rud as ionann is seo—a' Ghàidhlig a thoirt air ais mar phrìomh-theanga na tìre. An uair a chluinneas mise gu bheil a'

Ghàidhlig 'ga teagasg air Machair Lobhdaidh gach latha anns gach sgoil do gach neach, chì mi am manadh maith ceudna an Albainn. An duigh chan fhaic mi a thuar, O! a thuar!

Chan 'eil againne dheth fhathast, 'nar tìr ionmhuinn féin, ach a bhith sìor-chall. Nach mór an searg a thàinig air an fhìor-Ghàidhealtachd, an Steòrnabhagh, an Tobar-Mhoire, anns an Oban, agus am Port-ruigheadh o chionn deich bliadhna fichead? Cha do chuireadh stad air a chlaonadh gu h-ìomlan, eadhon air an fhìor-Ghàidhealtachd, an Eirinn. Ach, thugamaid seo fairear, tha a' Ghalldachd an Eirinn a' togail na Gàidhlig. Tha i togail ceann anns na cathraichean agus anns na cùrtean, ged a tha i fhathast nàireach, sgàthach anns na cùltean! Seo, an cainnt eile, an t-eadar-dhealachadh as motha: tha call is buannachd an Eirinn; an Albainn, mo leòn, chan 'eil againn fhathast ach an call. Is mór an truaighe leam sin.

Is i ceist nan ceist an Eirinn—a bheil de thàbhachd is de leanmhainneachd anns an t-sluagh na ni iad air an son féin an ni a chuir iad rompa a dheanamh? Tha cuid an dùil gu bheil is cuid an dùil nach 'eil. Tha meall dileas an Eirinn.

Ma ghabhas "Niall Aonghais" mo lethsgèul, faodaidh mi innseadh gun do ràinig mi Eirinn air tùs an 1918. Agus, ma cheadaicheas e domh e, canaidh mi gu bheil e 'na chùis an ionghnaidh leam na rinn eadhon an Eirinn ri linn deich bliadhna fichead air son a' Ghàidhlig a shaoradh agus ath-bheothachadh.

Is toigh leam mo dhùthaich is mo luchd-dùthcha. Is ann de Chlann Ghilleathain a tha mise! Chan 'eil fhios agam nach deachaidh "Niall" a cheart cho fada air an sgàth agus a chaidh càch. Gidheadh, fhuair mi fhìn Gàidheil Eireann cho còir agus cho laghach agus nach nàr leam sin aideachadh!

Thuirtd bodach Sgitheanach latha, "Tha crodh mór air na h-adhaircean a tha fad as." Agus tha crodh ann, agus chan 'eil adhaircean idir, idir orra!—Gàidheil Albannach.

CALUM MACGILLEATHAIN.

Agusan: Tha mi an dòchas gun dean "ar càirdean" geur-sgrùdadh air an eòlas a tha am follais an *Alba* a thaobh nithean Gàidhealach an Eirinn; cuid dheth aig "Calum II" (mar a chanadh òigridh Bhaile Atha Cliath ris—Calum Iain MacGilleathain a tha gu samhach a' sìor-chur ris eadar Alba is Eirinn), agus cuid aig "An

Seabhac," duine a rinn, agus a tha deanamh, obair feachd an Eirinn.

C. McG.

(Fóghnaidh na dh'fhóghnas. Chan 'eil adhbhar leantainn air a' chuspair seo an drásda. —F. D.)

Songs and Settings

Sir,—The following songs, among others, have recently been the subject of controversy, the point at issue being their fitness to represent Gaelic music on an international occasion. It may be useful to enquire into the antecedents of airs to which they are set.

(1) *An t-éid thu lean, a ribhinn òg?*—When this song first appeared, it had as its air a close variant of *Loch Erroch Side*, and it may still be heard sung in this style in the remoter Hebrides. Subsequently, it was touched up; for example the last two bars or so were transposed an octave higher. I believe the late Malcolm Macfarlane was responsible for the final form, now familiar to concert-goers.

(2) *Chì mi na mòr-bheanna*.—This song, at its first publication, was directed to be sung to the air of *Johnny's so long at the fair*, and the music which was afterwards printed with the words is either a variant or a deliberate adaptation of that air.

(3) *Hi ri ri, tha e tighinn*.—The setting now in use appears in the Gesto Collection with the note, "*Air by P. McIntyre*." Who he was I cannot say. But the note is sufficient to cause doubt as to whether this is the traditional air. In fact, it is not, though it has a traditional basis. Those to whom the song has been passed on orally sing it to the same air as "*Nam biodh agam bàta biorach*." The first nine bars in the Gesto Collection version have some relation to the traditional air, though there are reasons for hesitating to call it a genuine variant. The remainder is modern, and is no doubt to be ascribed to P. McIntyre. The setting fails to deal correctly with the rhythmic problems involved in the metrical structure.

(4) *Thug am bàta na caoil oirr'*.—The liberties taken with the natural word-rhythm betray the modern character of this piece, as far as the music is concerned. *The Songs of the Hebrides* contains at least four elements: (a) very competent transcriptions made from traditional singing or recordings of the same, printed (usually without words) in the introduction to each volume; (b) pieces in which the vocal line has been left practically in its traditional form, with pianoforte accompaniment added; (c) pieces, with pianoforte accompaniment, in which the vocal line has been deliberately remodelled; (d) pieces, with pianoforte accompaniment,

which are original musical compositions by Mrs. Kennedy Fraser's collaborator, Kenneth MacLeod. It requires more information than the Collection itself vouchsafes to distinguish between these elements. *Thug am bàta na caoil oirr'* belongs to the last class above-mentioned. Most of the verses given are old, and belong to a song said to have been composed by a Skye girl to her sweetheart as he was leaving for the wars with a band of fellow-lesmen in the time of Montrose. The refrain is not the original one. The traditional air (a very beautiful one) is still extant. Patrick MacDonald published it in his Collection. An unpublished version shows a variation of time, probably to be accounted for by supposing that an original *iorram* has been adopted for use as a waulking-song.

I would add that thus far our only claim to notice in the musical world is that we have (or had?) a splendid tradition of folk-song. It has been shown that the above are not Gaelic folk-songs. On these premises, the conclusion is one adverse to their suitability for a representative programme. Not that every air must be shown to have a pure Gaelic provenance before being approved. The point rather is this. People whose cultivated taste entitles them to respect question whether certain songs do us justice; their doubts are supplemented by facts of the kind indicated above; and the total result we cannot safely ignore if we wish to convince the world that we have a musical heritage worthy to be preserved by ourselves and shared with others.—Mise, le meas, U.M.

Glasgow and the Gael

Sir,—Apropos of your most interesting article on this subject, it may be relevant to quote George Chalmers who says (*Caledonia*, III (1824), p.608): "Glasgow is often called by the Gaelic Highlanders *Glasach*". This seems to point to the Gaelic interpretation of the name a century and a quarter ago.

The various guesses that have associated the origin of the name with the Molendinar Burn or St. Mungo would appear to be without foundation, for besides the Lanarkshire Glasgow there were two Glasgows in Aberdeenshire (one of them on record in 1490-1500), and there may have been others of which I have no knowledge.

In my book on Scottish place-names, I discussed the name fully, and reached the conclusion that the probable meaning of this class of name (apparently a plural form) is "green fields."—Yours faithfully,

W. C. MACKENZIE.

**War Memorial and
Thanksgiving Fund**

Organiser:

Miss Normanna MacAskill, 74 Berkeley St., Glasgow, C.2
(Douglas 0609).

In Glasgow the ladies of the Work Party have been meeting on alternate Tuesdays since October. They have already held a Christmas Bring and Buy Sale in the Highlanders' Institute. Now they are beginning to work enthusiastically for the GRAND FEILL, which is to be held in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, in the first week of June 1950.

In addition to their Work Party activities, the Glasgow ladies have also held several functions in aid of the Fund this season. On 16th September they had a Whist Drive in the "G.T.C. House," 74 Berkeley Street, and on 30th November Mr. J. M. Bannerman was Fear-an-tighe at a ceilidh in the Highlanders' Institute.

The "Hebrides Quiz," held in the Highlanders' Institute on 10th December, proved to be the most popular of this winter's functions. Teams of four, representing seven different Island Associations, took part, with Mr. John M. Bannerman as Question-master. The Lewis and Harris Association and Lewis Society (incorporated) team were the winners.

A "Mainland Quiz," to which the Mainland Associations have been invited to send teams, will be held in the Highlanders' Institute on Tuesday, 18th January. This Quiz will be followed later in the season by a final contest between the Island and Mainland Associations.

A GRAND HIGHLAND BALL will be held in aid of the Fund on Friday, 11th February, in the Ballroom Suite of the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, and tickets will be 21/- each. Mrs. Wilson Dowie and Mrs. Wilfrid Scott, who have been doing a great deal of charity organisation work in Glasgow, are kindly undertaking to organise the Ball.

We should like to thank most cordially all who have helped the Fund during 1948 by organising local Flag Days and Collections, and by having collecting boxes in their homes, hotels, and shops.

The splendid effort of Miss Black, Broch-Roy Farm, Taynuilt, who, in four months, collected over £13 in one box, deserves special mention.

We have still far to go to reach our target, but we look forward to a New Year in which Highlanders everywhere will give the Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund their enthusiastic support, and so help fulfil the pledge we have made to honour the Brave by providing for the children of the Highlands and Islands the best facilities possible, so that they may be worthy of their race and of those we seek to commemorate.

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Miss Catherine Black, Taynuilt (money collected on Pleasure Boat "Darthula" on Loch Etive, during the Summer Season)		13	13
Proceeds of Whist Drive in G.T.C. House		6	5
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Collecting Boxes:—			
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Port Charlotte Hotel, Islay		—	10
Balmacara Hotel, Kyle		1	19
Per Mr. MacPhail, Balmacara ...		—	10
Bridgend Hotel, Islay		—	11
Hotels in Dornoch, Sutherland ...		1	7
Flag Day Collection in Tarbert, Argyll		13	11
Proceeds of Raffle at Work Party Meeting, 4/6 and 3/6, amounting to		—	8
Flag Day in Lochcarron, Ross-shire		6	2
		£3,409	— 7

National Mod, Glasgow

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Individual Efforts Campaign (de- tailed contributions listed on this page)		10	—
		£2,432	6 5

Individual Efforts Campaign

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Tarbert Gaelic Choir, per Miss McDougall, Post Office, Tarbert ...		10	—
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The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

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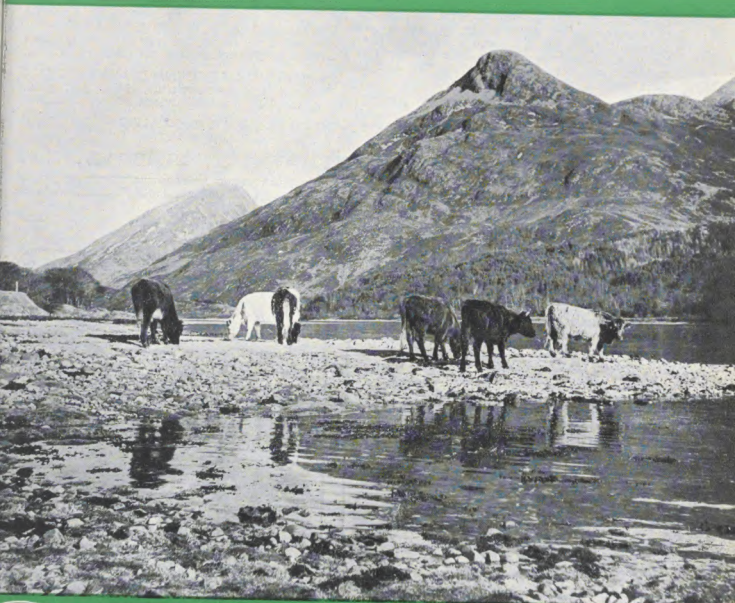
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131 West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2

Telephone: Douglas 1433

Leabhar XLIV (Seòrsa Ur)

AN GEARRAN, 1949

Aireamh 2

Thall's a Bhos

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

We learn from a Highland newspaper that "there are many who think that the fund could be put to better use than in developing the Youth Movement." It would be very interesting to have even one instance given us of the "better use"—from the point of view of the furtherance of Gaelic (which is An Comunn's chief concern)—to which the fund could be put. We are also told that folks who contribute—but who are not members of An Comunn—"will want to have some say" in the disposal of the fund. It should be made quite clear that the Fund Committee consists of representatives not only of An Comunn but of a large number of Highland and Clan Associations, and it is this representative body that, at the outset, approved of "Cuidich an Oigridh" as the best fulfilment of "Cuimhnich na Laoich." The details of the scheme are, of course, tentative as yet, but we are quite clear about the general intention. There can be no going back on that.

Gaelic and the Mod

Mr. J. N. MacLeod's Gaelic letter in this month's "Postbag" again raises an issue frequently discussed—whether the Gaelic Cause

Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

"THE PAP OF GLENCOE"

(Copyright by Walter Rintoul)

is really furthered by opening the Mod competitions and awards to people who not only do not know any Gaelic but make no effort to learn it (other than to acquire a meagre smattering, in order to pass the Gaelic Test). We have come across people who have been competing at Mods for years but know no more Gaelic today than they did when they began. They may, of course, be word-perfect in their test pieces—"Gàidhlig nam Pioghaidean," Mr. MacLeod calls it ("Parrot Gaelic"). A recent letter in *The Oban Times* raises the same issue—of people unable to converse in Gaelic being allowed to compete.

The Gaelic Test

There is, of course, a Gaelic Test. Its value depends largely on those carrying out the test, and thus one year the test may be severe and another year lax. It is difficult for even the most conscientious judge to apply a thorough test when a long queue is waiting impatiently at the door—as happens when the choir members are being tested. I, and others, have urged that a more satisfactory system can be devised. The present system, however, is to continue for a while longer.

Gaelic and the Universities Prelim

A correspondent tells us that a person wishing to sit Gaelic in the Scottish Universities Preliminary Examination must pay, in addition to the examination fee of £1 11s. 6d. (which covers English, Mathematics, Science, Latin, Greek, French, German, Italian), an extra fee of £4 4s. (as for Armenian, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Gujarati, etc.)! THIS WANTS LOOKING INTO!

Gaelic in Scottish Schools

The same correspondent asks why, in this "free" country, every Scottish child should not be able to take Gaelic at school, if desired. An Comunn Gaidhealach has urged "that Gaelic should have complete parity with other languages in all the secondary schools in Scotland." The Scottish Advisory Council on Education rejected this claim. For their reasons see p.92 of their Report on Secondary Education. We, of An Comunn, reject these reasons. However, in their Report on Primary Education, the Council recommended "that all Scottish children should learn something of Gaelic life and legends and traditions. Some pupils as they grow older may wish to learn the Gaelic language and read its literature; and, for these, opportunities at selected schools may one day be provided." Their Secondary Report recommended that "in large centres, where there is a considerable population of Celtic origin, facilities for learning Gaelic should be available in one school at least." The Gaelic courses at Woodside School and Bellahouston Academy in Glasgow are, we hope, but the beginning of the provision of the facilities which our correspondent demands.

Gaelic in St. Andrew's University

The same correspondent, raising another important issue, asks "why isn't there a chair of Gaelic in St. Andrews University?" We don't know why. We have heard it said that Gaelic may soon find a place in our oldest university. We understand that St. Andrews University has a very good Celtic library. In 1936, the Executive Council of An Comunn, on the suggestion of the Education Committee, suggested to the Carnegie Trust that they should establish a Chair, or at least a Lectureship, in Gaelic at St. Andrews University. Years earlier, An Comunn suggested that there should be a Gaelic-speaking member on the staff of St. Mary's College, St. Andrews.

Gaelic in Cape Breton

Rev. D. MacLean Sinclair, Halifax, Nova Scotia, writes that he has read Mr. Charles W. Dunn's article on "Gaelic in Cape Breton" with interest and appreciation, but, in regard to

Mr. Dunn's statement that at the union of the Canadian Churches in 1925 all the Gaelic-speaking congregations remained "continuing Presbyterian," Mr. Sinclair says that not all Gaelic-speaking Presbyterians remained with the "continuing Presbyterian Church;" "a great many of them in every Gaelic-speaking congregation in the island entered the United Church of Canada along with their Gaelic-speaking ministers."

A' Ghàidhlig anns a' Chùbaid

Tha suas ri deich ar fhichead de sgìrean Gàidhealach Eaglais na h-Alba bàn an ceartair, agus gun lorg ach air ministear Gàidhlig. Is bochd an suidheachadh sin. Chan ann o ghainne mhinistearan a mhàin a dh'èirich seo, oir tha mòran de mhinistearan Gàidhlig air ceann choimhthionalan Beurla, eadhon air a' Ghàidhealtachd fhéin. Tha comhairle shònraichte a shuidhich Ard-sheanadh na h-Eaglaise a' gabhail dian-bheachd air a' chùis, agus faodaidh sinn an gnothach fhàgail gus am faicear buil an cuid rannsachaidh.

Sluagh gun Chanain, gun Anam

Taing do ar caraid, Alasdair MacEach-Thighearna, air son a sgrìobag litreach: "Leugh mi an diugh na thubhairt Goethe: *Des Volkes Seele lebt in seiner Sprache*—Tha anam gach dream beò 'nan cànan fhéin."

Faite Nollaige a California

Taing do Sheumas MacGaraidh air son a Chàirt Fhàiltich aig àm na Nollaige. Seo mar a tha e ag ràdh: "Guidheam faite na Nollaige air mo chàirdean uile, agus air na fìor Ghaidheil; guidheam dhuibh-se gach dùrachd, beannachdan as gile dhuibh, chan ann air son latha no eadhon mìos ach air feadh na Bliadhna Uire, agus gu Là Luain. Guidheam dhuibh-se Slàinte agus Sonas agus Soirbheachadh. Sibhse a tha dileas, sibhse tha deanamh 'ur beagan a chum ar cànan a ghleidheadh slàn an aghaidh gach nàmh. Gun nertaich Dia bhur làmh; cumaibh ris an deagh obair; agus buaidh leibh-se, dìreach mar a tha an seann ràdh 'gar brosnachadh—Buaidh leis na Seòid.'"

Gliocas nan Gàidheal

Faodaidh fearg sealltainn a steach ann an cridhe an duine ghlic, ach còmhnaichidh i an cridhe an amadain.

Firinn air son a' Mhìos seo

Na deifrich ann ad spiorad gu fearg a ghabhail; oir còmhnaichidh fearg ann an uchd amadan.

Ecles. vii. 9.

John Roy Stuart

“Soldier-Bard of the Forty-five”

By J. E. S.

Among those who played a leading part in the “Forty-five” the name of Colonel John Roy Stuart does not stand out prominently. Yet he was one of the very few who possessed the ability and skill to lead and direct the military operations of that enterprise.

Other men, with much less ability, or no ability at all, stand out as leaders and advisers to the Prince. Their names are ever before us, such as Gordon of Glenbucket, a man of small means and of no great intelligence, but one who liked to be in the limelight.

On the other hand, like many men of genius, Stuart did not push himself forward. He was a shy and retiring man, one of those who hide their light under a bushel. He possessed an equable temperament, and, even if he disagreed with the advice offered by the Prince’s military council, as he frequently did, he could remain on friendly terms with them. In fact, he was one of the very few who never quarrelled with his comrades. It is well known that the Prince held him in high estimation.

His Ancestry

Colonel John Roy Stuart was born about the year 1700 in the house of Knock, in the old parish of Kincardine in Badenoch, distant about two miles from the present Aviemore railway station on the Inverness line. The house has long since become a prey to time, but up to a few years ago its *lòrach* could still be traced.

His father was Donald, grandson of John, the last of the barons of Kincardine.⁽¹⁾

Donald, John Roy’s father, was twice married. His second wife was Barbara Shaw, daughter of John Shaw of Guislich, a descendant of the Shaws of Rothiemurchus. She was advanced in years at the time of her marriage, and John Roy was their only child. He received a good education.

Goes to France

Adopting a military career, John Roy Stuart received a commission as lieutenant and quarter-master in the Scots Greys. When the

Black Watch was raised in 1730 he applied for a commission in that corps, but, another gentleman being selected for the vacant commission, Stuart took the refusal so much to heart that he threw up his commission in the Greys, and he made his way to France where he received a commission in the French Army.

In the next few years he saw much active service. He is with the army before Philipsbourg under the leadership of the Marechal Duke of Berwick⁽²⁾ when we find him writing his first letter to John Edgar.⁽³⁾ He was already beginning to have leanings towards Jacobitism, later to become more pronounced. In his letter, dated from “In the army before Philipsbourg June ye 12th 1734,” he writes:

“I am compas’d with boundes and unconsolable greaff by the greatest loss yt. could befall our army in generall and those of our nations yt. are in this Kingdom in particular. As for my own part, his protection was all I hop’d & all I desired in this service pleased with the aproch of warre & having ye protection of that grat & good man Whom God hath takin to himself. I bult my hops on what hiving is pleased to frostrat By the death of his Grace the Duke of Berwick who was kild in ye tranches Before Philipsbourg this morning at eight o’Cloke by a cannon ball from ye town which took his head from his body our army of 100 Batallions of fotte & 124 of hors beside both hors and fotte that are yet to arive. We have only lost the greatest & best general in ye world. We have been on ye emperers side of ye Rine this six weks. We forsed Prince Eugins lines & drove him & his army three days & when we could not com at him, they knowing ye Country, we laid seige to Philipsbourg, a strong towne near ye Rine on purpse to draw ye Enemy to give us Battall. They are sixty-thousand strong cam’d within 12 leagues of us. I doubt not but as soon as they heire of our onreparable loss yt. theyle some pay us a vizeit. I am sory yt. I have so dismall a subject & I to be author. I take the liberty in order yt. yow may inform the King the tradjcaal affaire naturally as it is. I end praying while I live for ye

⁽¹⁾ The founder of the family was Walter Stewart, third son of Alexander Stewart, “the Wolf of Badenoch” (grandson of King Robert II., founder of the Stewart line). Walter Stewart received the barony of Kincardine in 1400 from his grandfather, King Robert II. Cf. J. L. Campbell: “Highland Songs of the Forty-Five,” p. 165.

⁽²⁾ Half-brother of Prince Charles Edward’s father.
⁽³⁾ Private Secretary to Prince Charles Edward’s father.

priservation & restoration of my king & ye royal famely. If you are curious to know the sertanty of ye extraordanerys of our army during ye caymeine you have only to honnr. with your comans.

Dr. Sir, your most obedient humble servant

JO. Stuart.

In Scotland again

Stuart appears to have had leave of absence two years later, as we find that he was in Scotland in 1736. The authorities, ever on the alert, had him arrested and placed in the prison of Inverness. Through the connivance (it is said) of Lord Lovat he made his escape and went immediately to Rome.

He was now whole-heartedly a Jacobite and kept up a regular correspondence with the party both in Rome and Scotland. He also resumed his military duties and was soon again on active service. He took part in the defeat of Cumberland at Fontenoy on 11th May, 1845. He and the Duke were again to cross swords, though probably neither of them was aware of it. Some time after this engagement he again obtained leave of absence from his military duties, as we find him writing from Ghent under date 16th August, 1745, to Edgar.

Following the Prince

This is a long and important letter. It begins: "As I am to part in a few minutes to follow my dearest Prince whom throw God's grace I'll joine or perish in the attempt." This is the letter erroneously printed by Browne (History of the Highlands, 1849 edition, III. 443) as being from Sir James Steuart of Goodtrees, who was still in Scotland at that date. The letter is printed in full in Browne and may be consulted there. In the letter Stuart gives particulars of his efforts to help the Prince and hopes when he arrives in Scotland to raise a regiment.

He arrived in Scotland a few days later and joined the Prince's army at Blair Atholl on 30th August. If he did not, as he had hoped, actually raise a regiment in Scotland for the Prince, he recruited a number of men and was given command of the six companies which formed the Edinburgh regiment. He remained with the Jacobite army throughout the whole campaign.

When it was resolved by the leaders of the Jacobite army to move into England, Colonel John Roy Stuart protested most vigorously, giving as his reason that it would only lead to defeat and disaster if they made this move without first making certain that they had consolidated their victories in Scotland.

He was not listened to. Indeed, he was debarred from the military council on account of his views, being the only colonel to be thus treated. As he could not speak in the council he made his views very clear to Sir Thomas Sheridan and John Murray and declared that by moving into England in such a precipitate way they were throwing away all chances of a Jacobite victory.

(To be continued).

The Late Mr. Duncan MacLeod

"Fear Sgeabost"

Generous Friend of Good Causes

A wide circle of friends heard with a sense of great loss of the death, on 9th January, of Mr. Duncan MacLeod, C.B.E., of Skeabost, Skye, a few months after his wife's death.

Mr. MacLeod was born in Breakish, Strath, Skye, in 1876, and early came to Glasgow where, in the course of time, he achieved great success in the line of business to which he gave his energies. His business interests were varied and extensive.

He gave of his means generously and unobtrusively, and many causes and many private individuals benefited from his kindness. In particular, he established a fund to enable necessitous Skye "exiles" to revisit their native isle. His fund for providing scholarships for Skye pupils proceeding to higher education has borne good fruit in enabling a number of able scholars to devote themselves to advanced studies. He also played a prominent part in the public life of Skye, and was keenly interested in shinty.

An Comunn Gaidhealach also enjoyed his support, and he was a trustee of the Feill Trust and a member of the Executive Council.

Elsewhere in this issue we print the President's tribute to Mr. MacLeod at the last meeting of the Executive Council.

To the family and friends we extend our sincere sympathy.

The Editors of "An Gaidheal"

1905-1906	Malcolm MacFarlane.
1906-1909.	Rev. Dr. Malcolm MacLennan (Gaelic Editor).
	Rev. D. MacGillivray (English Editor).
1909-1912	Duncan Reid.
1912-1922	Donald Macphie.
1923-1936	Rev. Dr. Neil Ross.
1936-1946	Rev. Malcolm MacLeod.
1946-	Rev. T. M. Murchison.

Ann's a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

TARRAING A' BHAILE-MHOIR

Is e nì iongantach a tha ann, ged a tha tarraing anabarrach an diugh aig a' bhaile-mhór air slughan na Gaidhealtachd agus nan Eileanan, agus ged a bha an tarraing sin ann o chionn còrr is dà cheud bliadhna co-dhiubh, fhathast (cho fad 's is fiosrach mise) chan 'eil ann an litreachas na Gàidhlig, aon chuid rosg no bàrdachd, mòran molaidd air a' bhaile-mhór.

Thug Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair greis 'na oileanach an oil-thaigh Ghlaschu, agus chuir Donnchadh Ban seachad cuid mhath de a bheatha an Dun-éideann, ach 's e Allt an t-Siùcar is Beinn Dòbhrain is Coire Cheathaich as motha a ghluais iad gu bàrdachd.

* * *

Tha e fìor gun do rinn Donnchadh Bàn òran-molaidd mu Dhun-éideann:

“ 'S e baile mòr Dhun-éideann
A b'èibhinn leam bhith ann,
Aite fialaidh farsaing
A bha tlachdmhor anns gach ball.”

Tha e ag aithris air ionadan ainmeil a' bhaile—Abaid na Croise Naoimh le dealbhannan seann rìghrean na h-Albann, “taigh mòr na Pàrlamaid,” an taigh-leigheis “a dheanadh slàn gach dochartas a bhiodh an corp no 'n cré,” agus an caisteal le “gearsdan is bataraidh is rampairean gu teann.” Tha e a' luaidh mar an ceudna air na Dun-éideannaich—na fleasgaich uasal le “fùdar air an gruagan suas gu bàr an cinn,” agus na ban-tighearnan:

“ 'S mòr a tha de bhan-tighearnan
A null 's a nall an t-sràid,
Gùntaichean de 'n t-sioda orr'
'Gan slìogadh ris a' bhàr;
Staidhse air na h-ainnirean
'Gan teannachadh gu h-àrd;
Buill-mhais' air aodainn bhòidheach
Mar thuilleadh spòrsa dhaibh.

“ A h-uile té mar thigeadh dhi
Gu measail am measg chàich,
Uallach, rìomhach, rìbeanach,
Cruinn, mìn-gheal, giobach, tlàth;
Trusgan air na h-òigheannan
'Gan còmhdachadh gu làr;
Bròg bhiorach, dhionach, chothromach,
'S bu chorrach leam a sàil.”

Chan aithne dhomh ciod an t-eòlas a bha aig 'Uilleam Ros air a' bhaile-mhór, ach b'fheàrr leis ceileirean còisridh nan eun air madainn shamhraidh seach “gleadhraich éitigh chabhsairean.”

* * *

Tha e fìor nach robh Dun-éideann no Glaschu ri linn nam bàrd a dh'ainmich mi 'nam bailtean mar a tha iad an diugh. Aig deireadh an ochdamh linn deug cha robh an Glaschu ach baile beag air a thogail mu'n cuairt air an Eaglais Mhóir agus sìos air gach taobh de 'n t-Sràid Aird gu Margadh an t-Salainn agus Abhainn Chluaidh. Bha achaidhean gorma aig na dorsan-cùil, agus bha an Oil-thaigh fhéin, far an do chaith MacMhaighstir Alasdair ùine, air a shuidheachadh gu grinn an ionad seasgar grianach, feurach, craobhach far nach 'eil an diugh ach togalaichean àrda grannda is sgreid is toit nan trèanaichean.

Fhathast ged bu bheag an t-atharrachadh eadar am baile-mór agus an dùthaich aig an àm ud, seach mar a tha an diugh, 's i an dùthaich a bu docha leotha siud. Eadhon Donnchadh Bàn fhéin, ged a mhol e Dun-éideann, 's e “an t-uisge glan 's am fàile th'air mullach nam beann àrda” agus na h-àirighean a b'aithe dha a bha gu tric air aire anns na làithean deireannach.

Is iomadh Gaidheal air an tug an éiginn togail air gu baile-mór, mar a thachair do Dhonnchadh fhéin. A bharrachd air na cothroman-cosnadh a tha e deònachadh, tha goireasan is comhfurtan is fearas-chuideachd is sàsachadh do iomadh feum anns a' bhaile seach mar a tha air an dùthaich. 'S e sin a dh'fhàsaich a' Ghaidhealtachd agus a mheudaich na bailtean mu dheas.

* * *

An diugh, tha dà nì a' tachairt a dh'fhaodas buaidh-tharraing a' bhaile-mhóir a lùghdachadh agus barrachd dhaoine a dheanamh toileach fuireach anns an dùthaich mu thuath agus anns na h-eileanan.

'S e a' cheud nì gu bheil na h-àitean dùthchail a nise a' faotainn barrachd is barrachd de ghoireasan a' bhaile—taighean is uisge-a-staigh is solus-dealain is iomadh comhfhurtach eile—a chòrr air na goireasan a bha riann air an dùthaich agus a bha am baile a dh'èasbhuidh—slàinte is fallaineachd.

'S e an dara nì gu bheil—dhaibh-san leis am miann beatha a' bhaile-mhóir os cionn gach nì eile—bruidheann air bailtean-móra a thogail anns a' Ghaidhealtachd. Faodaidh “Dòmhnall an Dànnsair” is gach Dòmhnall eile ruidhle a dhànna air cabhsair a' bhaile fhéin: cha ruig e leas dol a Ghlaschu no eadhon gu Steòrnabhagh a shireadh cabhsair air an danns e!

Executive Council

Thirty-seven members attended the meeting of the Council held in the Christian Institute, Glasgow, on 14th January, 1949, the President, Dr. John Cameron, LL.B., presiding.

Dr. Cameron made appropriate reference to the many members and friends who had died recently and expressed sympathy with their relatives. The obituaries of the following appeared in last month's Magazine—Sir Iain Colquhoun, Rev. William MacPhail, Miss Margaret MacInnes, Major Iain Stewart (Fasnacloch), Miss J. C. MacLaren, Mr. H. H. MacKenzie, and Mrs. C. Turner. More recently the following had passed away:—Rev. J. M. Menzies, formerly minister at Tobermory; Mr. Finlay M. Shaw, Gourrock (a native of Jura and a life member and generous supporter of An Comunn); Mr. Gilbert MacIntyre, who represented the Killin Branch for many years and was leader of the Killin Gaelic Choir, the first winners of the Lorn Shield; Mr. Donald B. Watson, late headmaster of Kent Road School, Glasgow, a native of Kintyre; and Mr. Duncan MacLeod of Skeabost.

Mr. Duncan MacLeod

The President referred to Mr. Duncan MacLeod as "one of the most outstanding Highlanders of our time." Well known as a very successful businessman with vast interests, and also as the benefactor of many good and deserving causes, the full extent of his benefactions would never be known, for "he gave quietly and he gave generously." Always his inspiration was his native Isle of Skye. There his heart lay. For aged Skye-folk desirous of revisiting their native isle he provided aid to do so. For young people of ability and promise, proceeding to higher education, he founded bursaries and scholarships. He was keenly interested in An Comunn, served on the Executive Council, and was a trustee of the Feill Trust. He would be remembered as a Highland gentleman of great charm and kindness.

The Finance Committee reported that the estimated surplus from the Glasgow Mod would be about £5,000, the largest surplus since the Mod was instituted. Thanks was accorded to all who had helped to achieve this record sum.

Summer School

The Education Committee reported on efforts, in conjunction with the Art and Industry Committee, to arrange a Summer School. Some members said that insufficient notice was given about the School, and people who might

attend had already arranged their summer vacation. However, it was decided to arrange for a School this summer.

Plans to publish suitable Gaelic plays and other plays translated into Gaelic were mentioned in the minute of the Publication Committee, and proof copies of the current issue of *An Gaidheal*—now appearing in a new format—were shown to the meeting and favourably commented upon.

Gaelic in Mull

The Propaganda Committee, having considered Mr. Neil Cameron's offer to provide prizes for mothers in Mull with Gaelic-speaking children under ten years old, accepted this generous proposal in principle and were authorised to work out the details of the scheme with Mr. Cameron.

In presenting the minute of the Mod and Music Committee, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Convener, explained the printing difficulties which were delaying the issue of the music for the Inverness Mod, but the work was now well in hand. Mr. Donald MacPhail reported on the energetic local preparations being made for the Inverness Mod. All the choirs which had already applied had been accommodated, but choirs and individuals who had not yet applied should do so immediately, as late-comers might have to be accommodated in Nairn and Dingwall.

Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon, Convener of the Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee, mentioned the shortage of camp equipment, and General Sir Philip Christison said that army camp equipment could be hired very cheaply.

Thanksgiving Fund

The War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund Committee reported that posters and leaflets would soon be issued explaining the objects of the Fund and appealing for public support. The Organiser, Miss MacAskill, was congratulated on the splendid work she had already accomplished.

The question was raised of securing more suitable office accommodation for An Comunn's headquarters, and the following committee was appointed to deal with the matter without delay:—The President, Secretary, and Treasurer, along with Messrs. Farquhar MacRae and Donald MacLean.

The next meeting—the Gaelic meeting—having been fixed for Friday, 8th April next, at 6 p.m. at Inverness, the meeting ended with a cordial vote of thanks to the President.

AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AN GEARRAN, 1949

Aireamh 2

“Robin Hood” Bhearnaraidh

“GED BHA E BEAG CHA ROBH E BOG”

Le MURCHADH MAC-AN-TUAIRNEIR

Their na Sasannaich nach robh duine riamh an Albainn do am b'urrainn bogha-saighde a laimhseachadh mar a b'urrainn do chuid de na Sasannaich, ach, ma dh'éisdeas sinn ri beul-aithris ar dùthcha, chì sinn gu robh corr fhear-bogha an seirbhis nan ceann-cinnidh.

An uair a bha Aonghas Beag MacAnndaigh 'na ghille òg chan abradh neach gum bitheadh e 'na fhear-bogha ann an Albainn cho math 's a bha “Raibeart Hood” ann an Sasainn. Bha Aonghas cho beag, meanbh 'na thogail agus gur e “Aonghas Beag” a theireadh iad ris ann am Beàrnaraidh far an do rugadh 's an do thogadh e.

Dh'fhàg Aonghas Beàrnaraidh 'na dhuine òg, agus dh'fheuch e ri cosnadh fhaotainn dha fhéin ann an Taigh a' Gheàrraidh ann an Uibhist a Tuath 'na bhuaichaille laogh. Chan 'eil eachdraidh ag innse ciod e cho fad 's a thuinich Aonghas Beag an seo, ach 's fheudar nach do chòrd Uibhist ris bho 'n dh'fhàg e agus thog e air do Shrath Spé far an d'fhuair e obair aig na Granndaich agus bha e a' buachailleachd chrodh dhaibh.

Phòs e agus bha e fhéin cho beag ri taobh na mnatha agus gun saoleadh duine gur e mac dhi a bha ann. Bha an taigh-còmhnaidh aca ri bruaich aibhne agus bha craobh a' fàs air taobh thall na h-aibhne. Bha a' chraobh seo gu math feumail, mar a chì sinn.

Mar bu dual do na cinnidh thàinig Siosalaich Shrath-Ghlais agus thog iad creach air spréidh nan Granndach. Dh'fhalbh buidheann de na Granndaich air an tòir agus rugadh air na Siosalaich am beul-dorcha na h-oidhche.

Bha Aonghas Beag Mac Anndaigh aig na Granndaich agus chuir iad a sgil gu feum. Chuartaicheadh na Siosalaich ann an gleann agus thòisich Mac Anndaigh air an leagail le a bhogha sgaiteach.

Cha robh na Siosalaich a' tuigsinn có am fear ealanta a bha aig na Granndaich, agus an uair a fhuair iad a mach gur e Aonghas Beag Mac Anndaigh a mharbh na h-uibhir dhiubh bhòidich iadsan a fhuair cothrom teicheadh gun tigeadh

iad ri beatha Mhic Anndaigh. Bha an càirdeas cho blàth am measg nan luchd-cinnidh 's gun do dh'fhalbh a dhà-dheug de na Siosalaich suas do Shrath Spé a dh'iarraidh Mhic Anndaigh.

An uair a ràinig na Siosalaich taigh Mhic Anndaigh dh'fheoraich iad de'n mhnaoi an robh Aonghas Beag aig an taigh. Thuig a' bhean nach robh gach nì mar bu chòir agus thubhairt i nach robh, ach nach robh còir aige a bhith fada air falbh agus gum faodadh iad fuireach a staigh ris.

Bha Mac Anndaigh 'na shuidhe ri taobh an teine ach shaoil iadsan gur e mac dhi a bha ann, agus air son am mealladh thug a bhean sgleog dha agus sgonn arain.

“Falbh,” ars ise, “agus feuch am faic thu t'athair!”

Dh'fhalbh Aonghas a mach agus chaidh a bhean suas do cheann shuas an taighe agus chuir i am bogha-saighde agus am balg a mach air toll aig bun bac nan cabar. An ceann ùine ghoirid chaidh bean Aonghas chun an doruis agus thubhairt i gu robh Aonghas Beag Mac Anndaigh a nall chun an taighe ma bha gnothach aig duine ris.

Dh'éirich na Siosalaich a mach agus cha deach a' cheud fhear seachad air an stairsich an uair a thuit e agus saighead ann. Thachair an aon rud do chàch fhad 's a bha iad a' feuchainn ri Aonghas Beag a lorg. Mharbhadh na dhà-dheug agus chrom Aonghas a nuas as a' chraoibh air taobh thall na h-aibhne.

Ged a mholar sgil Mhic Anndaigh cha dì-chuimhnichear tapachd agus teòmachd na mnatha. Cha robh bogha an Aonghas air cur as do na Siosalaich mura robh a bhean air a bhith cho seolta 's a bha i.

Seanfhacail

Seachainn mo chluas 's cha bhuail m'adharc

* * *

Is minig a bha droch laogh aig deagh mhart.

* * *

Chan fhaodar a' bhó a reic 's a bainne òl.

“Leum an Eich”

Le CATRIONA NICDHOMHNAILL

(Choisinn an sgeul seo a' cheud duais an comh-fharpais litreachais aig Mòd Nàiseanta 1947.)

Ann am Beinn Hoighnis ann an Tìrìodh tha
“Leum an Eich.”

“Leum an Eich!” arsa Dòmhnall Beag,
is e air laimh aig athair. Bha iad a' toirt
sùla air caoraich anns a' bheinn. Bha e soilleir
gu robh teagamh aig a' ghiullan gur h-e each a
leum siud.

“S e gu dearbh,” ars athair. “Ghabh mac
na Caillich Bheur gaol air nighinn, ach, a mhic,
ma ghabh, cha robh sin dhàsan no dhi-se an
asgaidh. Gu dé a rinn a' Chailleach eudmhor,
dhona ach prìosanach a dheanamh de'n mhaigh-
dean ann an uaimh fhuar, dhorcha ann am
fàsach nam beann!”

“Nan robh mise an àite mac na Caillich,”
arsa Dòmhnall Beag, “cha do leig mi leatha.”

“Stad thus' ort, a bhalaich,” fhreagair
athair. “Nuair a thigeadh an t-earrach, gu
dé ach gu robh a' Chailleach an uair sin ag
call a spionnaidh. An sin ghabhadh a mac 's
a leannan an cothrom fhéin, is siod air
theicheadh iad! Ach, mo chreach, bliadhna as
deidh bliadhna, thigeadh an t-àm anns an
sgaradh an droch Chailleach bho chéile iad, is
cha robh an sin dhaibh ach am bròn 's an gul
a rithist.”

“Car son nach do theich iad a Thirìodh?”
arsa Dòmhnall.

“Sin agad dìreach mar a rinn iad aon earrach.
Bu shona, sòlasach a chaith iad an t-earrach
's an samhradh ud air machraichean còmhnaidh,
torach, fùireach Tìr an Eòrna. Bha an uiseag
bheag, chèdmlhor, ruadh—dìreach ceart mar
a tha i an diugh fhéin—a h-uile latha a' seinn
a h-òrain molaidh an àird nan speur, is bha a'
ghrian a' deàrrsadh 'na glòir air muir is tìr.
Bha an cupan làn, agus a' Chailleach ghrannda
ann an tàmh-neul cadail, i gun chli a dheanamh
uilc.”

“Ach, mo chreach, a mhic, thig a h-uile
rud gu crìch. Bu luath leatha a thàinig nìmh
sa' ghaioith agus cìrean geala air na stuadhan
cho fad 's a chitheadh an t-sùil. Thàinig cìos
air an uiseig fhéin. Gun dàil bhiodh a' Chaill-
each 'na dùsgadh le a neart ath-nuadhaichte.”

“An do lean i do Thirìodh iad, athair? An
do rug i orra?”

“S'ise a lean! Ach gabh thusa gu réidh
is cluinidh tu mar thachair. An toiseach
feumaidh mi innseadh dhuit có ris a bha a'
Chailleach coltach.”

“Athair, an robh i coltach ri—”

“Cha robh, a nis, i coltach ri duine a chunnaic
thu riamh. Bha a h-aodann lachdunn,
duaichnidh, agus gun innte ach aon sùil agus i
sin ann am fìor mheadhon a mala phreasaich.
Ach, a bhalaich, chitheadh i leis an aon
t-sùil sin fhéin troimh bheinn is troimh choille.
Nuair a bhiodh i doirbh—agus cha b'ainneamh
sin—leigeadh i ris a fìaclan fada, biorach,
meirgeach, ceart mar a ni cù olc. Sìos m'a
cluasan an còmhnaidh bhiodh a falt glas,
ceigeach, 's e a' ruigheachd a guaillean a
bha suainte ann an cleòca ruadh thairis air
gùn fada, stiallach, ciar. Bhiodh, a ghnàth,
sìlag 'na laimh, agus chuinn. seo: nam
beanadh an t-sìlag ud do luch sam bith,
sheargadh an luch air bonn.”

“Saoil mi an tig i do Thirìodh tuilleadh,
athair?”

“Thàinig i an uair ud co-dhiubh, agus chuir
a faileas duibhre air an eilean gu h-iomlan.
Nach b'ion dhaibh-san air an robh i an tòir
teicheadh, agus 's e sin a rinn iad.
Dh'fheumadh iad each uaibreach, colgach,
bras, agus bha sin aca, each a ruitheadh mar a'
ghaoh.”

“Nach bu ghlan fhaicinn, athair?”

“Thug e, ma tà, a' cheud bhoc as bho thràigh
Bhaile-mhuilinn. Agus siod agadsa, a Dhòmhn-
naill Bhig, làrach a chasan deiridh, far an do
sgealp e a' chreag air taobh thall an t-sluic.
Creid e no na creid, ach tha an làrach ann an
siod.

“Air an ath leum, siod thar cuain le sìn-
teig e! Chreanaich Eilean Cholla agus cha
b'ionghnadh e. Fuireach cha robh ri bhith
ann, agus siod le stadag ann am Muile iad!
Nach b'e réis i, 's a' Chailleach Bheur air an
sàil, an darna tacan a' seòladh anns na neòil
agus an tacan eile ag cur air chrìth an talamh
air an cùlthaobh no a' riasgladh na mara mun
cuairt orra. Ach mu dheireadh thall shàraich
iad a' Chailleach; mu dheireadh bha a'
Chailleach air a cìosnachadh, agus sin aig a
mac fhéin.”

“Mo laochan e!” arsa Dòmhnall Beag.
“Dh'fhàs e làidir ann an Tìrìodh, nach d'fhàs,
athair?”

“Cò aige tha fios? Co-dhiubh, 's e fhuair a'
bhuaidh, ach coma leatsa, faodaidh a' Chaill-
each Bheur fhathast a seirbhìsch a leigeil mu
réir corr uair a dheanamh a toil. Ach ma

(An corr air taobh-duilleig 8)

Litir Eachainn

B'ann air facail-ghairme is cur-air-falbh nan ainmhidhean is nan eun a chàlaidh sinn a bha mo sheanachas anns a' cheud àireamh de'n bhliadhna, agus ged nach 'eil *An Gaidheal* fathast air aghaidh an uair a tha mi a' sgrìobhadh, tha mi an dùil gur ann aig a' ghobhair a stad mi. Thug mi fainear nach 'eil facal-gairme againn an Colla idir air son na goibhre, air an deagh aobhar nach 'eil gobhair air an gleidheadh anns an eilean idir anns an linn seo, ged is cinnteach gu robh aig aon àm. Tha ainmean-àitean, mar a tha Aigh-nan-Gobhar, Sloc-nan-Gobhar, Carraig-a'-Mhinn is ainmean eile a bhuineas do'n ghobhair againn, is bha ann an linn mo sheanar boireannach a' fuireach leatha fhéin ris an abairte "Mór nan Gobhar," a chionn gu robh tuadh de na h-ainmhidhean sin aice. Is ann laimh ri Glac 'Ille-Bearbhaig a bha an taigh aice, agus ma ghabhas am facal sin freumhachadh a dheanamh air, chan urrainn dhòmhna a dheanamh !

Bha facal-gairme againn air son nam mucan féin. Cha bhiodhteadh 'ga chur an cleachdadh ach an àm a bhith 'gam biathadh. Bha dà fhacal-gairme againn, is ann mar a bhà, "gromphaidh" agus "giusaidh." Tha mi a' litreachadh a' cheud aoin mar seo a chionn gu bheil fuaim an fhacail fada shìos am bun na sròine is anns an t-slugan. Is cinnteach gur ann bho'n ghromhthail a ni a' mhuc i féin a thogadh e, mar a tha a thaobh iomadh facal eile co-cheangailte ri ainmhidhean is eòin; chan 'eil fios sam bith agam càit a bheil freumh an fhacail "giusaidh" r'a fhaotainn. Sin am facal-gairme a tha aca far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig air a labhairt an Siorramachd Pheairt.

Tha mi an dùil gur e an cat an aon bheathach ceithir-chasach a tha a nis air fhàgail, a mach bho'n chù, am beathach air an eòlaiche sinn, oir tha e an taighean a' bhaile-mhòir cho math ris an dùthaich. Tha dà fhacal-gairme againn air son a' chait mar an ceudna, "pusaidh" agus "tiodaidh" no "tididh." Tha mi an dùil gu bheil "pusaidh" coitcheann do'n chuid as motha de ar cànaicnean Eòrpach, ach ciod mu "tiodaidh?" Tha mo bheachd féin agamsa air seo, ach a bheil beachd sam bith agabhshe? Feòraichibh de bhur maighstir no bana-mhaighstir-sgoile e, feuch a bheil beachd sam bith acasan. Ma thà, leigibh fios chugam. Tha facal cur-air-falbh againn air son a' chait cuideachd, "cut," no "cut a mach." Is cinnteach gu bheil càrdeas aig an fhacal seo ri ainm a' chait e féin. An cuid de àitean is e "cut," is chan è "cat" a their iad ris an ainmhidh sin. Bha e air a chur air eileanach

àraidh—chan 'eil mi dol a dh'innseadh dhuibh ciod a' cheart eilean as an robh e—a thubhairt rud-eigin mar seo.— "Anna mi (chunna mi) na h-anna mi, is iomadh rud a h-anna mi, ach 'bheat' an cut sin na h-anna mise riamh!"

Gabhamaid a nis beachd air a' chirc; is chan ann dlùth air an deireadh a bu chòir dhi bhith. Ann a bhith ag gairm circe, no nan cearc uile, is e "tiug, tiug" am facal-gairme a bhios againn; ach co-dhiubh a tha no nach 'eil càrdeas aige ri tiugainn, mar ann an "tiugainn leam," chan 'eil mise dol a ràdh. Is e "big, big" a chleachdar ris na h-eòin òga; agus le dol ceum beag a leth-taobh ri linn an fhacail seo a tharraing a steach, is e "bigeanan," is chan è "iseanan" mar a theirear an àitean eile, a their sinne an Colla ri eòin òga nan cearc. Is ann ri eòin nan tunnag is nan gèadh a mhàin de na h-eòin chàlaichte a their sinn "isean." An àm a bhith a' ruagadh no a' fuadach air falbh nan cearc, is e "siug, siug" a chleachdar. An àm a bhith ag gairm nan tunnag no nan gèadh is e "chaoid, chaoid" a theirear, agus "gur cur air falbh, "fàmgh, fàmgh." Tha mi a' litreachadh an fhacail mar seo air an aon aobhar a chionn "gromphaidh," a litreachadh mar sin, seadh, gu bheil fuaim an fhacail fada shìos am bun na sròine. Cha riochdaicheadh "fàg" an fhuaim idir. Abairibh gu robh na tunnagan a' tighinn a dh'itheadh biadh nan cearc, is aon agaibh a' dol 'gan ruagadh air falbh, theagamh gun abradh e; "fàmgh, fàmgh, a mach á seo—fàgaibh biadh nan cearc aca fhéin."

A nis, mar a thubhairt mi mar tha, bu ghasda leam nan cuireadh sibh ris na 'acail seo a thug mi dhuibh, no nan cuireadh sibh soillearachadh sam bith air freumh, ciall, no tùs nam facal, no nan cuireadh sibh rù. Tha fios gu bheil eadar-dhealachadh anns na facail-ghairme is fudaich a thàtar ag cleachdadh anns gach eilean fa-leth is an roinnean de thir-mòr.

A nis, chan e sgeul ùr sam bith a tha mi dol a thoirt dhuibh a nis, mar chrìoch air an litir seo, oir is seann sgeul i mun ruig i bhur sùil-sa. Is e am prionnsa òg a thàinig oirnn bho chionn ghoirid a tha a' tighinn fainear dhomh. Is tric a dh'fheòraichear a' cheist, "a bheil nì sam bith ann an ainm?," agus is è a theirear am bitheantas nach 'eil. Ach chan e sin mo bharail-sa idir. Tha ainmeanann againn a dhùisgeas àrd-rùn is dealas uair sam bith 'gan cluinne sinn iad. Ma tà, rugadh am prionnsa beag seo bho chionn ghoirid do'n Teaghlach Rìoghail, agus rinn na Gàidheil,

mar mhuinntir na dùthcha uile, fìughair ris. Tha an deagh fhuil Ghàidhealach anns an Teaghlach Rìoghail, is thàinig beum làidir eile a steach anna an uair a thagh am Flath a tha an diugh air a' Chrùn Ealasaid chaomh mar chéile dha, agus is e ogha dhàibh le chéile a tha anns a' phrionnsa òg. Bha sinn a' feith-eamh gu faidhinnneach feuch cìod an t-ainm a bhàtar a' dol a thoirt air. Bha mi féin, is mi a' tarraing á muinntir an taighe seo, ag ràdh gur e "Eachann" a bhàtar a' dol a thoirt air, ach cha do rinn iad ach gàire! Ach saoil sibh, nach e deagh ainm, eadhon do phrionnsa rìoghail, a bhiodh ann an "Eachann," ged nach fhiosrach mi e bhith air prionnsa no flath riamh, ach Eachann Mór na Tròidhe a mhàin; agus gu cinnteach cha bu leibidean e féin.

Leigeadh ris cìod is ainm dha mu dheireadh, agus nach bu sin an sgeul a ghluais ar mac-meanmna, "Teàrlach, Prionnsa Dhun-éideann!" Feumaidh mi aideachadh gun do bhlàitich mo rùn féin do'n Teaghlach Rìoghail gu mór ri linn an t-ainm seo a bhith air a thoirt do'n diùlnach òg, a bhitheas an coimh-ionadh na h-aimsir, is le toil an Fhreasdail, fathast air Rìgh-chathair Bhreatann. Tha còrr is dà cheud bliadhna bho'n a rugadh prionnsa do an tugadh an t-ainm seo. B'esan am flath òg anns an do chuir na Gàidheil an ùidh, agus air son an do dhòirt iad am fuil is an d'fhuiling iad iomadh cruadal is sàrachadh, agus an do choisinn iad cliù cuideachd. Gu ma buan a bhios am Prionnsa òg, Teàrlach, agus gach soirbheachadh a bhith leis. Càit a bheil am Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair a bheir dhùinn annas a laimhe mar fhàilte do'n fhùiran is do'n fhìlath òg seo a thàinig oirn?

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Coin

Is soilleir cù dubh air liana bhàin;
Is soilleir cù bàn air liana dhuibh;
Nam bithinn ri fiadhach nam beann;
Be 'n cù riabhach mo roghainn.

"Leum an Eich" (Air a leantainn)

chluinneas tus' an fhead aca anns a' ghaioith air oidhche dhorcha ann an dùbhlachd dhubh a' gheamhraidh, 's tu a' dùsgadh as do cheud chadal, faodaidh tu tionndadh air do chliathaich agus cadal gu socrach. Ge b'e oidhich a ni a' Chailleach Bheur, tha a mac anns a bheil tlus is ciall nas tréine na ise, agus chan fhaigh i leatha ach mar a cheadaicheas esan."

"Seo agaibh Calum Ailein a' tighinn 'nar còmh-dhail. Tha mi falbh a dh'innseadh naidheachd na Callich dha. Ho, a Chalium!"

Naidheachd a Inbhir Asdal

IV—MURCHADH CHOINNICH RUAIRIDH—AN FHAOILEAG

Tha sinn ag ionndrainn Mhurchaidh gu mór. B'e "an Fhaoileag" a bha aig muinntir na dùthcha air. B'e coimhearsnach ciùin, sàmhach a bha ann, agus mur an robh e eòlach air duine chan abaireadh e mórán. Ach tha cuimhne againn air a aodann grinn air nach robh riamh uail no cealg; tha cuimhne againn air a shùilean, air a ghruaidhean, air a shròin, air a chluasan. Cha bhiodh fiamh-ghàire air aodann Mhurchaidh ach fìor ainneamh; gidheadh, ma bha a h-uile ni do a réir, lasadh e a phìob, chuireadh e an còmh-dach oirre, agus ghabhadh e rithe car tiota.

Tha cuimhne againn fhathast, cuideachd, air an dòigh coiseachd a bha aige. Dhèanadh e coiseachd mar gum biodh uallach trom air a cheangal air a ghuaillan. Cha robh a ghuaill-ean mór no leathann idir, agus bha a chom tana gu leòir, ach a dh'aindeoin sin bha Murchadh cho rìghinn ri gad seilich air a thoinneamh ceàrr. Bha làmh an anabarrach làidir aige—dh'fhuasgladh e an t-snaim a bu chruaidhe á slabhraidh mheirgich no á ball fiuch, agus togadh agus ghiùlaineadh e cudthrom sam bith. B'e deagh sheòladair a bha ann, agus bha e maith mar an ceudna anns a' bheinn. Bha a thaigh féin an còmhnaidh cho glan agus cho dòigheil ri nead smèraich. Mar Ghàidheal bha e barraichte, agus mar charaid bha e air na barraibh, mar theireadh Calum Dhòmhnail Oig. Air mo shon fhéin deth, b'e neach a bha am Murchadh air nach b'airidh mise air barr-iall a bhròige fhuasgladh.

V—LATHA NAN CLACH MORA

B'e latha fiuch, fiadhaich a bha ann an uair chaidh Màiri laghach, bean-ussal Inbhir-Ìbbh, Ruairidh a' Bhàird, Dòmhnall a' Chlochdair, Coinneach mac Fhionnlaigh Dhòmhnail Choinnich, agus Iain an Fhéilidh a mach a thional chlach air son Carragh a' Bhàird. Bha uisge trom ann, gun teagamh, agus bha iad uile air am fliuchadh ceart gu leòir, ach cha robh iad air an sàrachadh. Chruinnich iad tòrr mór chlach brèagha á iomadh àite—as a' Ghleann, á Naast, á Inbhir-Asdal, agus á Bruaich an Fhuairin Ruaidh shuas ri taobh an rathaid mhóir eadar Loch Thollaidh agus Loch Mha-Ruibhe. Thaitinn an latha gu mór riu air fad, ach, mar thubhairt iad ri càch a chéile uair no a dhà, bu mór am beud nach robh am Bàrd féin còmhla riu. Ged nach 'eil e fhéin beò, tha Ruairidh a' mhac beò, có dhùbbh. Is e deagh bhàrd a tha an Ruairidh cuideachd, agus is maith dh'fhaoidte gun cluinn sinn fhathast òran grinn air Carragh a' Bhàird.

(Ri leantainn)

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dunoon

The Mod Committee, recently formed, has got down to work with a will and already several money-making efforts have been planned. The Campbeltown Gaelic Choir are to give a concert in the Pavilion on 11th February, and are sure to attract a large audience. Various sub-committees have been formed, and Mr. James T. Graham, General Treasurer, and Mr. Alasdair Matheson, Assistant Secretary, who recently visited Dunoon, were greatly impressed by the indications of local initiative and energy which augur well for a successful Mod in 1950. Mr Alex. P. Shaw has been appointed Joint-Secretary along with Mrs Jenny M. B. MacLean.

Bute

The Bute branch, with the Very Rev. Canon John MacQueen as President, has resumed regular meetings and had Miss Margaret MacCallum, Glasgow, as guest artiste at the opening meeting. The branch has continued, almost without interruption, since its formation in 1906.

Dumfries

After some difficulty in securing a suitable hall for their ceillidhs, this branch has now been able to arrange monthly meetings, and the membership has been well maintained.

Motherwell and Wishaw

On 8th January the General Secretary paid his annual visit to the Motherwell and Wishaw Highlanders' Association, and presided over a large gathering. He was accompanied by Miss Jean Cameron Greer and Mr. Iain R. Douglas, who, with local talent, provided an excellent programme. This Association, under the genial leadership of Mr. Lachlan MacLachlan, gives splendid support to An Comunn and other Highland causes.

Gaelic Classes

Interest in Gaelic and a desire to learn the language seem more wide-spread than ever this winter. Classes are being held at Dunoon, Helensburgh, Knightswood, Woodside, Garscadden, Paisley, Greenock, Motherwell, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Edinburgh, Ayr, Campbeltown and Ardrrossan, and several in Glasgow. At the evening classes at Glasgow University the Beginners' Class is conducted by Mr. Alexander Nicolson and attracts an average attendance of 120, and the Advanced (Conversation) Class has been led by Rev. T. M. Murchison.

Govan

The Govan branch continues to attract large audiences to the weekly ceillidh, and Mr. Coll MacDougall, President, and his enthusiastic committee, are to be congratulated on being able to provide for the many Gaels in this part of the city a meeting-place with a real Gaelic atmosphere.

Glasgow Local Mod

Mr. Finlay G. MacKeachen, the new Secretary of the Glasgow (Central) branch, reports that the syllabus for the Glasgow Provincial Mod is now available and may be obtained from him or from An Comunn office.

Oban

The Oban branch had a full house for the visit of Petrine Stewart and Alasdair Matheson, supported by local singers, to their all-Gaelic ceillidh on 8th January. In the absence of Mr. Angus MacLeod, President, Mr. Donald Thomson, Vice-President, occupied the Chair. This branch combines youthful enthusiasm and mature experience among its officials, a good augury for the future.

Vale of Leven

An Comunn's headquarters staff was out in full strength when Mr. Shaw, Mr. Matheson, and Miss Turner visited the Vale of Leven branch on 19th January. Mr. Shaw presided over a happy ceillidh, an excellent programme being provided by Dorothy Hunter, Margaret MacCallum, Iain MacMillan, Alasdair Matheson, Donald Johnston (violin), Chris Turner (piano), and Piper Jackson. This branch has done excellent work since it was re-formed last year, and much of the credit is due to the energetic and efficient Secretary, Mr. William Grant. It was a delight to renew acquaintance with two stalwarts of the branch, Captain Angus MacDonald (President) and Mr. Donald Aitken, who was Secretary before the war and is still ready to help. There is much enthusiasm in the Vale: long may it continue!

Local Mods

Provincial Mods in the Southern Area have been arranged as follows:—

KINTYRE, 12th and 13th May.

EDINBURGH, 21st May.

GLASGOW, 27th and 28th May.

ISLAY, 2nd and 3rd June.

DALRIADA, 14th and 15th June.

PERTHSHIRE, 17th June.

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

Mallaig

From 15th to 18th December the Organiser was engaged in the Lochaber area. At a well-attended meeting in the West Highland Hotel, Mallaig, the local branch was re-constituted. Mr. Archie MacLellan was elected President and Mr. John MacLean, M.A., Hon. Secretary. The Organiser gave an address in Gaelic and English, and a ceilidh programme of songs, sgeulachdan, and instrumental music was sustained by a talented company. A Gaelic music class was also formed and will be conducted by Mrs. Simpson under the auspices of the County Education Committee.

Arisaig

On the following night a similar meeting was held at Arisaig, when the local branch was re-formed, with Mr. Simon MacDonald, Headmaster, as President, and Mr. Lachlan Gillies as Hon. Secretary. In appreciation of the excellent work done by her over many years, Miss Gillies was appointed Hon. President.

Fort William

To raise funds for the local mod and also to help the National Mod a concert was held in the Fort William Town Hall with the Rev. Dominic MacKellaig, Roy Bridge, as Chairman. A splendid programme was submitted by local artistes, and the Organiser paid a warm tribute to the good work done for Gaelic and Shinty by the Chairman.

Comunn na h-Oigridh

A regional committee has been formed to supervise the work of Comunn na h-Oigridh in the Lochaber district, the members representing a wide area. Another meeting is to be held soon.

Lochcarron

On 22nd December the Organiser was at Lochcarron and gave an address in Gaelic and English in the club-room. A programme of Gaelic songs, Gaelic quiz, and "amladh-cainnte" was much enjoyed. The new President is the Rev. R. Robertson, M.A., and the Hon. Secretary is Miss Margaret MacKenzie.

Portree

At the annual meeting of the Skye Provincial Mod Committee a donation of £50 was made to the Central Fund of An Comunn. Sincere thanks is due to the Committee for this very handsome donation.

Sutherland

The County of Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee have made the following donations:—Central Fund £5, War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund £5, National Mod £5.

Kyle

3rd January found the Organiser at Kyle where he presided over a branch ceilidh. Despite very severe weather, over two hundred attended. The programme was entirely in Gaelic. The Hon. Treasurer, Rev. John MacDougall, made a strong appeal for support for the local mod next June.

Dornoch

The Dornoch branch is having a very successful session and the membership is now over a hundred. At a ceilidh on 4th January Mr. Ronald MacLeod, M.A., H.M.I.S., was Fear-an-tighe, and there was a very good attendance. The programme was sustained by local talent and members of neighbouring branches.

National Mod Funds

The National Mod Funds will benefit considerably from a series of concerts to be held in East Sutherland during the week ending 27th March. Mr. Iain R. Douglas and Mrs. Petrine M. Stewart, both Mod Gold Medallists, are to be the guest artistes.

Beauly

Mr. Donald Graham, M.A., F.E.I.S., Northern Convener, was the lecturer at the December meeting of the Beauly branch. His subject was "The clans and their territories," and, with the aid of a large-scale map, he dealt with the subject in a very interesting manner and was heartily thanked by the President, Mr. J. N. MacLeod (Alasdair Mor).

Portree Gaelic Choir

This newly formed choir is meeting weekly under the guidance of Mrs Aline MacKenzie. In order to raise funds to enable the choir to compete at the Inverness Mod a very successful ceilidh was held recently. Mr. Donald Graham, on holiday in Skye, presided.

National Mod Finance

At a meeting of the National Mod Finance Committee on 6th January satisfaction was expressed with the progress so far made, and the Entertainments and Ladies' Committees were thanked for their efforts to raise funds.

Leabhraichean Ura

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Irish Folklore Journal

BEALOIDEAS, The Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society; edited by Seamus O Duilearga, Vol. xvi (Dublin, 1948 (1946), 282 pp., 10/6 post free).

The latest volume of *Bealoideas* is, as always, "a feast of fat things." Among the many contributions to, and articles on, folklore—in Irish and English—we may make special mention of three:

Caoimhin O Danachair writes exhaustively of "Hearth and Chimney in the Irish House." The different types, varying from area to area and even within areas, are described and illustrated, and the point is made that the Irish house "may be said to have grown up around the fire." "In Ireland the functional value of the hearth is not greater than its social importance." Dr Ake Campbell of Uppsala studied Lewis dwellings some years ago. There are similarities and also differences between Hebridean and Irish building customs.

Dr. Reidar Th. Christiansen of Oslo, who lectured in Glasgow for the Folklore Institute of Scotland in December, 1947, writes on "Regional Survey and Local History". Parish and district history has been a favourite subject of research among ourselves. There are few parishes in Scotland whose history has not been written, well or ill, by some former or present minister or schoolmaster. An excellent example of local history is the Rev. Ian Carmichael's recent "*Lismore in Alba*." Dr. Christiansen has much good advice to give to researchers in this field.

A most interesting article is "Focail agus Tearmaí i dtaobh Oina" by Sean O Dubhda. This paper won the prize at the 1943 Oireachtas for a collection of words, terms, sayings, and folklore relating to wool-working, spinning, etc. Here are listed the technical terms, while the processes also are explained. Some forty years ago An Comunn awarded prizes at the National Mod for a similar competition, and the prize-winning papers, published in *An Gaidheal*, contain much valuable information. It is interesting to compare the Irish and Scottish Gaelic words and terms for the various articles and processes.

A Clan History

THE HISTORY OF THE CLAN MACKINTOSH AND THE CLAN CHATTAN, by Mrs. Margaret Mackintosh of Mackintosh (W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh; 130 pp., 15/-), traces the story of

this ancient and important clan from their origin in the twelfth century up to the present time. The authoress, of course, favours the Mackintosh claim to the headship of Clan Chattan, a claim which the MacPhersons dispute. A special feature of the book is the fifty splendid illustrations, photographs of Chiefs and of historic places and relics. There are also eight tartans reproduced in colour and four maps. This is an excellent piece of work.

Crofting Life

ONE-HORSE FARM, by Raymond O'Malley (Frederick Muller, 1948, 12/6).

Mr. O'Malley tenanted a croft in Wester Ross for three years during the war, and this fine book, well illustrated by photographs, describes "crofting in the West Highlands," in the same district, incidentally, as provides the setting for Margaret Leigh's *Highland Homespun*, first published before the war.

"What matters is not the amount of food which can be squeezed out of a day's work but the amount that can be coaxed out of an acre of ground." Therefore, the author urges, crofting would be a much more satisfactory undertaking were crofters to go in for intensive cultivation and specialisation rather than mixed farming.

Apart from the authentic descriptions of the yearly round of crofting work, there are comments on social life, with some shrewd remarks that ought to stir us Gaels to some hard thinking. "In London, Glasgow and other haunts of relatively prosperous Highland exiles, the ceillidh is a concert and dance where the musical execution is faultless, and everything goes according to plan." The "Highland exiles" meet "to enjoy the music and to talk wistfully of the heather and the crofts to which they would never think of returning except on holiday." The true ceillidh, however, is marked by spontaneity and is the real core of social life in the Highlands but outside influences are killing it. "There is a widespread longing for the cinema . . . a feeling that the world has outgrown home-made amusements, and everywhere is the insidious *wee boxie*" (the radio).

The crofting system, thinks Mr. O'Malley (who, by the way, is a schoolmaster), may belong to a world that will never return, but it embodies values that have been ignored at heavy cost. "Sooner or later they will regain their hold."

Ann's a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

Gaelic in Mull

Sir,—With reference to the suggestion which Mr. Neil Cameron of Sutherland has made to An Comunn Gaidhealach, I submit the attached survey of the school population of Mull for last session.

If we assume that one third of the 57 children who profess Gaelic are under the age of ten, Mr. Cameron's inspiring offer will find only 19 cases in the whole of Mull.

And those figures tell a sadder tale than the decline of the Gaelic. When one considers that in 1837 there were 103 children *under the age of five* in Ulva alone, that these children were born into a cultured and prosperous community, that there is no child of any age in Ulva to-day, and that all the school children in Mull number less than three hundred, it is obvious that the decline of the race has been going on apace with the decline of the language.

A.N.McL.

School	Roll	Families Gaelic repress. by		Pupils with Gaelic speaking Parents.		
		Roll	Pupils on Roll	Both Parents	Either Parent	Neither Parent
Bunessan	36	21	6	23	11	2
Creich	17	13	4	11	5	1
Dervaig	11	7	1	1	6	4
Erraid	13	6	0	0	2	11
Fanmore	11	8	8	9	1	1
Gruline	13	6	4	4	0	9
Iona	5	4	0	0	3	2
Kinlochspelve	6	5	1	2	2	2
Lochdonhead	14	8	1	5	5	4
Mornish	10	7	4	4	4	2
Pennyghael	9	6	4	5	3	1
Salen	22	13	6	6	8	8
Tioran	16	5	4	4	8	4
Tobermory	98	69	13	32	30	36
Ulva Ferry	9	4	1	4	1	4
Total	290	182	57	110	89	91

An Seann Mhòid Gaidhealach Air Seinn

Fhir na Stiùrach.—Is fheudar aideachadh gu bheil tomhas de bhuaidh agus de tharraing a' Mhòid anns a' cheòl, agus is maith gu bheil, ged bu mhaith leinne gum biodh fàs is toradh air a' Ghàidhlig nach 'eil oirre, araon 'na buaidh mar chànan agus 'na fàs mar chaint. Is i a' chaint mhàthaireil, tha mi an dùil, ar prìomh-chùram mar Chomunn. Is iad na h-òrain agus an ceòl na sgiathan a thog am Mòd agus a thog cho àrd e ri nì Albannach a tha 'nar tìr eadar dà cheann na bliadhna. Nach mór an nì duinn gu bheil seachdain againn de Ghàidhlig agus de cheòl ar àrd-ùrlar ar rioghadh? Tha mi an dùil agus

an dòchas, ged a tha ar dùthaich, Alba, air gabhail ris gu maith, mar a tha, gum bi àite as ro-fheàrr, as ro-chliùitiche, agus as ro-bhuadhaiche aige fhathast 'nar measg mar Albannaich.

Ma is fìor nach 'eil an fhéill a dh'iarramaid air ceòl Gaidhealach agus air Gàidhlig aig Féis Chiùil is Dhràma Eadar-nàiseanta Dhùn-éideann, chan 'eil an latha ach òg fhathast! Tuigidh eadhon Dhùn-éideann, luath no mall, gur iad na nìthean fìor-Albannach a tha luchd-cuairt is luchd-turuis a' sireadh an Albainn, agus ma is e rud Sasannach no rud Frangach no rud Eadailteach a tha bhuaipa sin, gur maith a tha fhios ach càite an téid iad air a thòir, agus nach e Dhùn-éideann an dearbh àite.

Thogadh ceist nan òran Gàidhlig a chaidh a sholar, mar bhàrr maitheis, aig Féis Dhùn-éideann. Tha feadhainn an dùil nach 'eil an taghadh a thàtar a' deanamh air fheabhas. Ceart gu leòir, ma tà, deanamaid taghadh as fheàrr is roghainn as fheàrr. Tha sin mar fhìachaibh oirnn. Tha nìthean àraidh an intinnean cuid de ar muinntir as fìù a bhith aithnichte agus follaiseach duinn uile. Is e cuid de ar bochdainne-ne cho beag agus a chuireas daoine de dhragh orra fhéin air sgàth nì air bith; agus cha chòir dhuinn a bhith diombach do'n fheadhainn a tha deanamh molaidh no gearain le ceartas. Chan 'eil roghainn is taghadh an còmhnaidh soirbh, agus feumar an caisteal a thogail leis na clachan a tha ri làimh. Chan e a h-uile duine a sheinneas "Beinn Dòbhruin!"

Uibhir de'n Mhòd Mhòr a bha an Glaschu agus a ràinig mise thàinig e air an ràdio. Bha cuid dheth nach cuireadh na h-eòin a chrann-aibh agus bha cuid dheth a bheireadh gluasad air cridhe agus ceòl air sùil. Is e an nì bu mhotha a thog m'aire fhéin an t-òranaiche Uibhisteach a sheinn a réir an t-seann chleachdaidh. An uair a chuala mi sin chuala mi nì a tha dol air chùl agus air chall; agus chan 'eil mi riarichte annam fhéin, gur buannachd idir no uile gu léir gach nòs ùr eile agus gach seòl cumanta eile a tha, gu ìre bhig, air an dòigh Ghaidhealach sin a chur á cùirt. Bha dòigh aig na Gàidheil air òran is ceòl a dheanamh 'nan ealdhain nach ionnan agus mar a tha an àbhaist a nis. (Gheibhear sin aig cuid de na Goill, an tomhais, agus tha iad a' deanamh feum ùr dheth).

Tha mi an dùil gur còir duinn sùil bheag a thoirt a steach an cridhe na chùise seo. Tha sinn an cunnart a bhith an crochadh ri modh

Gallda air òrain Ghàidhlig a sheinn. Tha tomhaisean is àireamhan nach robh ann air tùs air cuid de shaorsa agus de ghrinneas a' chiùil a ghoid bhuiainn a cheana. Cha bu chòir agus cha bu cheart gun cuireadh na seinneadairean as fheàrr a tha againn cùl ris an t-seann chleas air na h-òrain Ghàidhlig a sheinn. Bidh a' chùis nas gealltanaiche an uair a thilleas iad sin ri nì a thug "an leabhar" bhuaipa. Tha mo bheannachd aig an Uibhisteach seo agus tha mi fo chomain aige. Thug e leasan dhuinn.

Aig a' Mhòd mu dheireadh a bha againn an Inbhir-nis bha aon bhean ann agus i fìor eòlach air an t-seann ealdhain. Thuir Eireannach fiosrach, Fionan uasal MacColuim, rium gum bu chòir a h-uile òran a bha aice siud a bhith air clàr far nach caillte e. Chan 'eil car no "car a' mhuiltein," mar a chanadh Coinneach MacLeòid, gu bhith air fhàgail againn ach "Left, right, left, right: halt, one two," cleas an airm!—Do dhùine dileas,

CALUM MACGILLEATHAIN.

Gaidhlig nam Pioghaidean

A Charaid Chòir,—Saoilidh sibh gur h-e cuspair neònach air a bheil mi tighinn—"Gàidhlig nam Pioghaidean," ach, ged a' b'athne dhòmhsa pioghaid uair aig an robh beagan Gàidhlig (agus b'e sin a' Ghàidhlig dhrabasta ris nach b'urrainn ministear éisdeachd!), is ann bu mhaith leam beagan a ràdh mu na co-fharpaisich aig mòid bheaga is mhóra a bhios ag ionnsachadh òrain Ghàidhlig air an teangaibh agus gun aon fhacal de'n chainnt aca nas motha na tha i aig na pioghaidean fhéin.

A nis, bha mise ag ionnsachadh òrain Ghàidhlig do chloinn aig nach robh aon lide de Ghàidhlig fad cheithir bliadhna fichead anns an sgoil mu dheireadh anns an robh mi, agus fhuair mòran de'n chloinn sin duaisean aig iomadh mòd beag. Chòrd an iomairt sin rium fhéin, agus abradh sibhse gu robh a' chlann déidheil, dùrachdach, diorrasach ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh nan òran sin, agus is tric a bhios mi faighinn fios o fheadhainn de'n chloinn sin a tha nis air thigheadas daibh fhéin, ag cur 'nam chuimhne an toileachas a fhuair iad o bhith seinn nan òran sin air a bheil cuimhne aca fhathast. Ach chan urrainn daibh eadhon deoch uigse fhéin iarraidh an cainnt nan òran sin.

Agus nach iomadh co-fharpaisich air na mòid mhóra gach bliadhna a tha dìreach aig an aon ràmh ris a' chloinn sin! Tha iad ag ionnsachadh nan òran a tha iad a' seinn dìreach mar na pioghaidean, agus cuid aca faighinn dhuaisean mar "learners," mar a chanar riutha an clàr-eagair nam mòdan; ach chan 'eil a' chuid mhór aca deanamh oidhirp sam

bith air a' chainnt ionnsachadh. Gun teagamh tha fios agam air aon nighean ghrinn a bhios mi fhéin ag cuideachadh anns a' chùis sin, agus a fhuair moladh mór aig Mòd Obar-dheadhain air son cho cuimhir agus a sheinn i, agus tha i nis comasach air a' Ghàidhlig a leughadh agus a thuigsinn gu dòigheil. Ach is mór m'eagal gur h-ann teur a tha a leithid am measg "learners" a' Mhòid.

Ma tà, a charaid, a bheil co-fharpaisich de'n t-seòrsa sin ag cur ri leas ar cànaire? Bheil e gu maith na Gàidhlig a bhith toirt dhuaisean do an leithid sin aig na mòdan móra? Nach biodh e na b'fheumail do ar cànan nam biodh duaisean a' Mhòid gu léir air an cumail riutha-san a mhàin aig a bheil a' Ghàidhlig, gu h-àraidh an uair a tha cosdais a' Mhòid mhóir a nis air fàs cho trom agus na co-fharpaisich ri fàs nas lionmhoire gach bliadhna mar a thig?

B'fheàrr leam gun toireadh bhur leughadairean am beachd fhéin air na ceistean sin, agus cha bu mhisde sinn bhur beachd fhéin fhaighinn orra cuideachd.

IAIN N. MACLEOID.

Thanks from Holland

Back in my own country may I hereby express my grateful thanks to all who have made my stay in Scotland an unforgettable memory—foremost to Mrs. W. Marjoribanks, the widow of my late teacher, and Miss Helen MacMillan, who both did what was in their power to make my visit a pleasant one. Not only did I get an excellent clarsach built by Messrs. Briggs, with a full, rich tone, of lovely wood, and with a strong canvas bag, but I was also very fortunate in getting harp lessons from that most accomplished teacher and harpist, Mrs. Begbie of Edinburgh.

When at Rahoy Mrs. Newton and her friend, Miss Edith Taylor, became excellent friends, untiring in their help with notes on local legends and songs; and Mrs. Mairi Gillies, a native speaker, continued the work begun by my teacher at Sonachan before the war by going over my songs and helping me with Gaelic pronunciation. Rahoy, by its peace and its care for the welfare of weary travellers, fulfilled to the letter the ideal of Highland beauty and Highland hospitality.

May I also congratulate An Comunn on the efficiency of its helpful staff. Not for naught one of the doors of the temporary quarters of the staff proclaimed to everybody who wanted to avail himself of the kind invitation, "Thig a steach." It seemed that by walking in all one's difficulties were—if not solved—at least greatly diminished.

May I also hereby pay a debt of honour of five years' standing to a grateful *In Memoriam* of the

late Mr. J. R. Bannerman, one-time President of An Comunn, and the late Mr. G. E. Marjoribanks (better known by his Gaelic name of "Seoras Gallda"), loved throughout the Highlands—two men who by their generosity and enthusiasm fulfilled to the letter the first two objects of the Gaelic Association. The former, notwithstanding the fact that his health, at the time that I came to know him, must have been already failing, always stood ready to explain difficulties cropping up in my studies of Gaelic music, and by a long, interesting correspondence proved to be of invaluable help—his letters so full of a lively, somewhat dry, humour held a veritable treasure-mine of Gaelic song and legend. During the occupation of Holland by the Huns these letters, alas, all got lost.

It was "Seoras Gallda" who taught me the first principles of Gaelic grammar and idiom. From the very first he insisted on my writing letters in Gaelic to him, resulting at last in "Sgeul na h-Ollaind."

With the consent of the censor the lessons by letter were continued till the Huns broke over the frontiers of the Low Countries and all communications stopped. Perhaps the most gracious gifts he ever sent me were a huge stack of Gaelic music, volumes of *Coisir a' Mhoid*, *A' Choisir-Chiuil*, *The Celtic Lyre*, *The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Highlands*, etc., and the setting to music of two of Father Allan MacDonald's Prayers and the ancient "Oran an Eich-UISge." Owing to the fact that Holland for five years was completely cut off from the rest of the world, it was only in 1945 that I got *An Gaidheal* of 1940 and the news of his death, depriving me of one of my truest friends.

Slàn leibh, fhir-teagaisg, a charaid ghrinn. Ni mi mi-fhein nas fileanta anns a' Ghàidhlig. Tha mi a' tighinn air ais, agus mo lamh-sa dhuibh!

LUC MONTIGNY.

An Comunn Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged ...	£81	3	—
Skye Provincial Mod Committee ...	50	—	—
Miss E. MacGregor, Fort William ...	5	—	—
R. Shaw, Esq., Edinburgh, 9...	15	—	—
	£132	3	—

"Cuidhnic na Laoich: Cuidich an Oigridh"

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Organiser:

Miss Normanna MacAskill, 74 Berkeley St., Glasgow, C.2 (Douglas 0609).

A very successful "Mainland Quiz" was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 18th January. Mr. J. M. Bannerman was Question-master, and the Quiz was conducted on the same lines as the "Hebrides Quiz" of 10th December last. Each of the following Associations was represented by a team of three:—Caithness, Inverness-shire, Morven, Nairnshire, Oban and Lorn, Sutherland and Wester Ross. The winning team were the Oban and Lorn Association's team. The team members were:—Mrs. C. B. Dunlop, Miss Margaret MacPhee, and Mr. Neil MacKay.

Several other functions have been arranged to take place in Glasgow during the next few weeks. They include a Whist Drive in "G.T.C. House," 74 Berkeley Street, on 3rd March, for which tickets are being sold at 2/6 each, and a Grand Highland Dance in the Ballroom Suite of St. Andrew's Halls on 25th March, tickets, 7/6 (including Buffet).

We have had permission to hold a Flag-day in Inverness-shire, including Skye and the Outer Islands, on Saturday, 18th June, 1949. The Organiser will be glad to hear from any of our readers who may be able to assist in organising this collection.

OUR TARGET, by 31st December, 1950, £20,000
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NOTES AND COMMENTS

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Our Cover Picture

LUSSAGIVEN, JURA

A' Ghaidhlig Nodha

A correspondent in a Highland newspaper has been criticising the Gaelic Department of the B.B.C. for the kind of Gaelic they broadcast—"the new Gaelic," he calls it. It appears that he objects to the "new Gaelic" because (1) it gives dates in Gaelic and not in English, (2) it also uses a Gaelic word for "strawberries" rather than an English word. Apparently the kind of Gaelic this person wants to hear over the air is: "Cheannaich mi punnnd strawberries ann an nineteen forty-seven, agus thug mi three and six orra; bhiodh tu surprised cho math 's a bha iad." We know that this kind of rot has penetrated far, but we little thought that any Gael would in the public press urge the B.B.C. to patronise it.

Swan Song

The same correspondent alleges that what the Gaelic listeners want are Gaelic songs, traditional tales, and pipe music, not talks or discussions or news or anything that is relevant to the situation to-day. The Gael, apparently, must betake himself to English when he wants to discuss the affairs of the modern world. Nach ann oirne a thàinig an dà latha!

Moran Taing

Thanks to the many readers who have been good enough to write or tell us about how much they appreciate the Magazine in its new form. It is very encouraging to get an occasional bouquet among the brick-bats.

Aois Mhor

Tha sinn ag cur meal-an-naidheachd air a' mhnaoi-uasail Màiri NicDhòmhnaill an Gleann-a-Comhann, agus i air aois ceud bliadhna a ruigheachd. Chluinneadh mòran air an ràdio an còmhradh a bh'aice ris a' mhinistear aice, an Deadhan MacAonghais. Nach iomadh atharrachadh a chunnaic i 'na latha!

Bard Nach Maireann

Tha sinn duilich a chluinntinn gun do chaochail Ruairidh MacAoidh, Iolaraidh an Uibhist a Tuath. Cha robh e ach trì bliadhna deug a dh'aois an uair a theann e ri bàrdachd an toiseach. Beagan is deich bliadhna air ais chuir e mach leabhar de na h-òrain aige, "Oiteagan à Tir nan Og." B'esan a rinn an t-òran, "Mo Nighneag Bhòidheach Uibhisteach."

Gliocas nan Gàidheal

Is fheàrr aon latha anns a' Mhàrt na trì anns an Fhoghar.

Firinn airson a' Mhios seo

Ge b'e nì a shlòl-chuireas duine, an nì ceudna buainidh e.

Galat. vi.7.

Our Gaelic Classics

Which Would You Choose?

BY THE EDITOR

If you were asked to name the books and authors most representative of our Scottish Gaelic culture, what would you say? Most of us, of course, have our own preferences, but, personal likings aside, which are our Gaelic Classics?

It will be of interest to many to learn that, under the auspices of UNESCO (The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation), lists are being prepared of the classics of each country and people, in order to make these available internationally by translation or in the original.

As a political organisation, responsible for guiding the peoples into the way of peace, the United Nations has made heavy weather so far, but in other departments of its activity—usually not much reported on in the news—it is doing useful work. This is especially true in the cultural field.

The project for the translation of "great books" originated with the Economic and Social Council, who in March 1947 asked UNESCO to consider such a scheme. In Great Britain a Working Party is concerned with the project, the members of the Party being Professor C. M. Bowra (Chairman), Professor B. Willey, Messrs. V. S. Pritchett and John Hampden, Dr. John Cameron, and Mrs. J. J. Hawkes (Secretary). It is gratifying that Celtic culture is represented by the President of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

A Questionnaire

Some time ago the following questionnaire was issued:

1. What literary, scientific, philosophic, religious and other works of your country do you regard as "classics"?

2. Which of your national classics do you consider (a) the most accessible to the rest of the world ("Universal")? (b) the most representative of your culture and national genius?

3. Which of these classics seem to you best suited for translation and dissemination? List them in order of priority.

4. Are there any particular languages, other than the languages in universal use, into which you would wish these works to be translated?

5. What works, in your opinion, would constitute a universal list including the classics of all ages and all countries? Please mention about a hundred of these in order of priority.

6. Which of these have been well translated into the language(s) of your country? Are these translations available to-day? Should

any be reprinted? Which? Are any available in bad or insufficient translations which should be superseded by new ones? Which?

7. Which of these books are not yet translated into the language(s) of your country? Which do you wish to be translated? List them in order of priority.

8. Give names of the best translators at your country's service for the accomplishment of this task, classifying them by language and subject.

In the above questionnaire the term "country" is used to mean, "not only a given State, but also the whole of the ethnal, linguistic or cultural groups which that State may stand for."

What is a Classic?

A "Classic" is defined as "any work, whatever intellectual field it falls in (literature, philosophy, science, or religion)," "if it is considered truly representative of a culture or a nation, and if it remains as a landmark in the history of human genius and in the evolution of Man towards civilisation." "Notwithstanding it is the expression of a particular culture, the characteristic of a classic is that it passes beyond the limits of that culture and is representative of it, not only within the nation but also in the eyes of other nations." "Classics appeal to the general educated public, and not only to specialists."

It will be observed that, as regards Gaelic, for example, two questions are involved:

- (a) which Gaelic books and authors are worth translating into English or other languages?
- (b) which of the world's great books ought to be translated into Gaelic?

The Gaelic List

The following is a draft list of Gaelic works considered to rank as "classics," as defined above. Comment and discussion on the list will be welcomed.

(1) Prose.—Norman MacLeod's "Caraid nan Gaidheal" and "Leabhar nan Cnoc," Donald MacKechnie's "Am Fear-Ciuil," Nicolson's "Gaelic Proverbs," I. F. Campbell's "Popular Tales of the West Highlands."

(2) Poetry. — Alexander Carmichael's "Carmina Gadelica"; and the major bards—Alexander Macdonald, Duncan Macintyre, Mary MacLeod, Dugald Buchanan, Rob Donn, Neil MacLeod, John MacCodrum.

John Roy Stuart

“Soldier-Bard of the Forty-five”

By J. E. S.

(continued)

Notwithstanding his strong objection to the invasion of England, he, as a good soldier, obeyed orders and marched with his regiment. In the skirmish at Clifton they played a prominent part—in fact, they saved what might have proved a disaster. During the retreat back to Culloden he was of great service, his military knowledge and skill being of great value. After the affair of Falkirk, as the Jacobite army was struggling north, Lord George Murray wrote him from Ruthven.

PERTH, *February 3, 1746.*

“Dear Sir,—I have just now the pleasure of yours. I don’t march this day but propose being at Forfar to-morrow and next day hop to be joined by Lord Cromarty and you at or near Breechen or fetterkairn. We have 2,500 stand of arms. Lord Pittsligo and his horse are gone to secure them. I am yr obed. hum. serv.

“P.S.—The damed cannon, etc. are a constant plaige to me, and I have no help (according to custome) to get in horse, etc.”

Lord George Murray makes an effort to obtain some means of transport.

“My Lord George Murray, Lieut.-Gen. of his Majesty’s forces under the command of Charles, Prince of Wales. To Coll. John Roy Steuart, and officers of Sir Alex. Bannerman’s company.

“These are ordering you forthwith to pas and intimate to the adjacent heritors, tenants, and sub-tenants within the counties of Aberdeen and Mearns that on sight hereof each of them must repair with as many carts horses and other carriages as they can furnish to Stonehaven from thence to transport such warlike stores and amunition belonging to his Royal highness as shall be delivered to them to whatever part they shall be directed, for which they shall be paid at the rate of three halfpence per mile for each horse and such as shall obstinately refuse these our orders shall be immediately prosecuted with the severest military execution. Given at Aberdeen, this 8th day of February, 1746.

“(Postscript added in Lord George’s own hand) I entreat lord Elcho and Collonel Steuart to stay at Stonehive to see off all the stores which without their

assistance and countenance would scarce be done.”

GEORGE MURRAY.

Lord George Murray again writes to Colonel Stuart from Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN, *9th February, 1746, 2 afternoon*
“Dear Sir,

I have just now the pleasure of yours of this date, I think myself extremely obliged to you for your Friendship to me in assisting me in a thing of such consequence to the service as the care you take about the army ammunition and these cannon but as I know how much you have the good of the service at heart, I need make you no compliment or appologies. The armes etc. you sent came safe about midnight and I hope the others will do the same. By all means let the cannon be forwarded and if possible instead of coming here let the boat be this night at either mouth (mouth of the river Ythan) where they will be safe and snug all day to-morrow if in the day time they cannot proceed which they will be judges off by what they see at sea. I would have such a party aboard as will keep off a long boat in case of any axident and let the master and salors know that they shall be re warded to their wish and even give them money in hand what they desire. A good part of our horse will be at banff all Wednesday and Thursday, so if the boat get there they can proceed with pilots from there when we want them. The first of our people of the foot do not march till Tuesday from hence so we wait Ld. Ogilvie, which you will let him know. Send any intelligence that comes to your hands. I am etc.

“There was firing heird at sea this day perhaps some of our friends are nearer than we expect.”

These letters go to show the high estimation in which his military skill was held by the Jacobite leaders.

Culloden and After

And so to Culloden where he commanded the Edinburgh Regiment, which formed part of the first line that bore the brunt of the battle. He attributed their defeat to the absence of the

MacPhersons, and his faith in Lord George Murray was shaken.

After Culloden he sought refuge in his own country, hiding for weeks in a cave in Craig Odhríe with a big reward on his head alive or dead. Tradition tells us that he had several narrow escapes from being captured by the troops scouring the country for fugitives from Culloden. However, he managed to evade all efforts to capture him and later joined the Prince in Lochaber. Colonel John Roy Stuart left Scotland for France in the same vessel that took Prince Charlie. Arriving in France, he again resumed his military duties in the French Army.

Like all the Jacobite refugees who fled to France he was in pecuniary difficulties. Among other debts he was due a bill to John Stewart, merchant, Inverness, for £17 which was never settled. The French authorities were very niggardly in supplying funds to their officers so that much of the expense of upkeep of the equipment of the regiment fell upon the officer's purse.

Colonel Stuart writes to Edgar from Nieuport in Belgium on the 23rd June, 1747, explaining his circumstances, saying that by one circumstance and another he was between seven and eight thousand livres in debt, half of it due to regimental expenses, and asking the King to grant him a pension. He obtained it and is full of gratitude.

The gallant colonel did not enjoy his pension long. Various dates have been assigned as the year of his death. The writer of the account of the Parish of Kincardine gives it as the year 1752, a date most subsequent writers have been content to follow. We know, however, that he was alive on the 23rd June, 1747, by the letter to which we have referred above, and it may be taken as quite safe to say that he died a few days after writing it, because we have his widow writing to Edgar on the 30th August, 1747, complaining that "I did myself the honour to write to you about two months ago and as I never have had the favour of an answer to that letter nor to some others I have wrote you, I must now give you the trouble of this to beg once more of you whose friendship I greatly depend on to lay my case before the King who under God is all the dependence I and my poor child has in this world." She duly obtained a pension and, after her, their only child, Sabine, was in receipt of it for nearly thirty years.

His Poems and Songs

In addition to being a soldier of ability the Colonel also cultivated the muses, and some of his effusions still survive, such as "Latha Chuilodain," "Oran Bhrannaidh," and one

to his sweetheart. He kept up the spirits of his companions by songs. He knew the value of a rousing song with a popular melody to cheer the footsore and weary soldier on the march. His poems on the progress and result of the Rising are said to breathe the most deadly, deeply-rooted hatred to the Duke of Cumberland; he insinuates treachery on the part of Lord George Murray; and sets forth in glowing splendour the return of the Stuarts when every wrong will be righted. It is said that when in hiding in Uaimh Iain Ruaidh he composed the verses called John Roy's Psalm.

The Lord's my targe, I will be stout
With dirk and trusty blade;
Though Campbells come in flocks about,
I will not be afraid.

There are eight verses, evidently a paraphrase of part of Psalm XXVII.

John Roy Stuart was generally acknowledged to be one of the finest swordsmen of his day, and his various martial exploits and deeds of daring during the time of the Rebellion long formed the theme of conversation at the ceilidh fireside in his native district.

The note to Stewart's poems in "Sar Obair," written by MacKenzie, is very unsatisfactory, and is evidently based on hearsay, though it has done duty for so long as our only source of knowledge concerning him. The short sketch of his career which is given here is compiled from his own letters and other sources not available when MacKenzie wrote. Alasdair Alpine MacGregor in his recently published *Vanished Waters* obliquely claims him to have been really a MacGregor, i.e. one who adopted the name Stewart when their own was proscribed. There is no doubt about his being a Stewart of Kincardine.

As so many reasons have been given for the failure of the "'45" it may be worth while in closing to quote from a letter of John Roy Stewart.

Why the "45" Failed

"The original spring of all was that unhappy envy, ambition and division of which I gave you an account in my last, which proved fatal to the end and even after it; and the first great error committed was going to England in the time and manner we did. The authors and projectors of that unaccountable scheme, for I must consider it so, have much to answer to God, the King, the Prince and the country. I was not then admitted to their councils, being the only colonel debarred and for what reason I could never imagine, but that I spoke perhaps too warmly

(Continued on page 32)

Ann a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

EARAIL DO BHUILL A' CHOMUINN

[O chionn ghoird, am measg sheann phaipearan a bha mi làimhseachadh, thàinig mi air duilleig a chuir an Comunn Gaidhealach a mach mòran bhliadhnanachan air ais, an uair a bha Mgr. Iain MacGilleathain 'na Rùnaire. Tha na h-earailen anns an duilleig seo cho freagarrach oirnn an diugh 's a bha iad an uair ud, agus tha mi 'gan toirt air aghaidh an seo a nise.—F.-D.]

Anns a' Ghaidhealtachd, an uair a thig òganach gu ireachd duine, is e a their càch ris, "Gum meal thu t'aois; gun cùm thu t'òige!" Gum b'ann mar sin a bhithheadh e a thaobh a' Chomuinn—lùth na h-òige anns a' chnàimh, ciall na h-aoise anns a' cheann, dualchas a' Ghaidheil, sean no òg da, anns a' chridhe.

A luchd-dùthcha, tha ceithir mìle Gaidheal ceangailte ris a' Chomuinn a nis; is ma ni gach aon, air lughad a chothroim, a dhleasdanas, no eadhon bloigh de a dhleasdanas, théid an gnìomh gun teagamh thar a' bhruadair. Nach bu bhòch an nì nam faodadh ar sliochd, trì cheud bliadhna an dèidh seo, a ràdh: "Trì cheud bliadhna roimhe seo bhòidich ceithir mìle Gaidheil an cànan a chumail beò, is anns a' cheart àm bha iomadh fichead mìle de luchd-Gàidhlig an Albainn, is a dh'aindeoin sin leig iad an teine as!" Guma fada uainn an smal! Chan uallach a' Ghàidhlig r'a thilgeadh dhinn, ach cul-taice r'a chumail teann. Mas cudthrom air a' Ghaidheal a chànan, is cudthrom air pòr na talmhainn a' ghrian; is b'ionann, an iomadh dòigh, an dà nì—dith grèine do'n phòr is dith Gàidhlig do'n Ghaidheal.

Ach, a luchd-dùthcha, ged tha fios is cinnt againn gu bheil an t-anabarr bàidh agaibh ri bhur cànan, cha leòir sin idir mur 'eil an gnìomh a réir an dùrachd. Nochdadh bàidh e fhéin anns a' ghuth, anns an làimh, anns a' chois. Di-Dòmhaich coisicheadh bàidh gus an t-searmoin Ghàidhlig; rè na seachdaine gabhadh bàidh gach cothrom a gheibh e air a' Ghàidhlig a bhruidheann is a leughadh; is ann an cùisean na sgìreachd taghadh bàidh luchd-riaghlaidh a bheir a h-àite féin do'n Ghàidhlig an sgoil is an coinneamh. Mur feuch bàidh ris na nithean sin a dheanamh, chan 'eil eadar e is naimhdeas ach lìon an damhain-allaidh.

Tha cuid agaibh, agus is e bhur gearan gu bheil na fìor-Ghaidheil tearc 'nur sgìreachd, cho tearc is gum faod sibh a ràdh: "Ciamar a sheinneas sinn òran ar dùthcha ann an tìr choimhich?" Ach creidibh seo, is e meud na deuchainne meud na h-urraim. Is ma chuireas sibhse ceum làidir is cridhe aotrom ris a' gharbh, tha sibh ag cur Ghaidheil eile gu nàire is gu luaths air an réidh. Cò-dhiubh, air

lughad bhur n-àireimh, na leigibh dhìbh a bhith cruinneachadh an ceann a chèile an dràs is a rithist a chumail an teine beò is a chur tuilleadh blàiths anns a' chridhe. A co-chomunn thig coisicheadh; á co-sheamhachd thig aiseirigh ar sluaigh is ar cànaire.

Os cionn gach nì, dh'iarraimaid oirbh, o dhoimhneachd ar cridhe, a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh anns an dachaidh. Freumhaichibh anns an fhuil òig an smuain seo: gu bheil ar n-uaisle snàimte ris a' Ghàidhlig; an Gaidheal aig nach 'eil i, gur coigreach e 'na dhùthaich fhéin; an Gaidheal a nì tàir oirre, gu bheil e toirt maslaidh air fhéin is air a dhaoine nach toir eadhon an cuilean air a' mhadruidh.

Tha cuid eile agaibh, a luchd-dùthcha, is theagamh gu bheil sibh anns a' bheachd, a chionn nach cluinnear an diugh ach Gàidhlig anns an sgìreachd, gur dìomhain mar sin a bhith gleachd as leth nì nach 'eil idir, a réir coslais, ann an cunnart. Bha sgìreachdan eile anns a' cheart bheachd ceud bliadhna roimhe seo, ach gu bog balbh shnàig an cunnart a steach, is cian mus robh luchd na Gàidhlig 'nan earalas bha an cànan ri uchd bàis. Chan 'eil sgìreachd air Tìr-mór an diugh, chan 'eil eilean anns a' Chuan an Iar, mu'n urrainnear a ràdh le fìrinn gu bheil an dorus dùinte an aodann a' chunnairt. Is gann gu bheil clachan anns an seas an t-each-iarainn no caladh anns am buail na soithichean-smùide anns nach 'eil an cunnart an dà chuid a' togail a ghutha is a' sineadh a cheuma.

Dh'iarraimaid oirbh, ma tà, an dorus a ghrad-dhùnadh—chan ann an aghaidh nam coigreach no an aghaidh an cuid innleachd ach an aghaidh a' chunnairt a tha tighinn 'nan lorg. Mas duine is rìgh e 'na thaigh féin; mas duine an Gaidheil, is rìgh e 'na dhùthaich féin. Foadaidh neach cuid na h-oidhche a thoirt do choigreach is iomadh nì fhòghlum uaithe gun an taigh a sparradh air 'na shaor-thiothlac. Is foadaidh an Gaidheal uile-shochairean na Beurla shealbhadh gun aon lide de'n chainnt mhàthaireil a chall.

Is a thuilleadh air sin, a luchd-dùthcha, cunnart ann no as, fhad 's a tha òigridh 'nar dhùthaich nach urrainn an cànan féin a leughadh, gun ghuth air a sgrìobhadh, nach 'eil dleasdanas anns a' mhasladh sin do gach aon againn? Chan 'eil leanaban an aois sgoile air fòid na Gaidhealtachd an diugh nach rachadh anns an dearg ruidhadh nam b'fheadar da aideachadh nach b'urraim da a' Bheurla aon chuid a

(An corr air taobh-duilleig 30)

Dan Do'n Ghrein

LE NIALL MACDHIARMAID.

1. Gur maiseach thu, ghrian, gur sgiabhach glan thu,
gur ciatach sealladh do ghòir;
tha t'aghaidh gheal aineadh dhealach fhallain
a ghnàth toirt soilleireachd mhóir;
'nad gathan tha buaidh is tuar nan dathan cur snuadh air cinneas nam pòr;
's tu sonas gach sùl, is lùth is beatha gach dùil tha 'n talamh nam beò.

2. Le feartan nan cian 'nad chliabh a' lasadh 's tu liagh nam flaitheanas shuas, toirt solus is blàths is fàs is toradh is slàint 'is comas do'n t-sluagh; air muir is air tìr gu crìch an domhain le sìde teth agus fuar, gach seachdain is mìos gach bliadhn' theid seachad 's leat riaghailt là agus uair.

3. Gach bileag san raon 's gach craobh 's a' choille,
's am fraoch air monadh an t-sléibh, bho'n dialtaig as faoin' ri taobh na slighe gu iongnadh geal-shruth nan speur; tha 'n cruthachd 's a gnìomh 'na mìorbhuil uile mar rian na h-uidhe gu léir, 's mar aon diubh a' ghrian 'na fianais shoilleir gur siorruidh maitheasan Dhé.

4. Bho anail na nialach shnìomh thu 'n toiseach, 's e t'iomhaigh roinnean nan tràth; bho àros nan dùil gu h-ùr-dheas sonnail, 's tu crùint' le coron nan àl; le lasadh do ghnùis gun dhùisg thu mhadainn os cionn nam baidealan àrd, toirt sòlas do'n t-sluagh, cur gruaim air theicheadh, 's a' fuadach dubhar nan sgàth.

5. Taghadh an t-saobhreis, loinn an t-soluis is soilleseadh sona gach uair; sògh gach aobhneis boillsgeadh thairis, a' roinn nan tasgaidean buan; gun choimeas dha ann, gun samh'l', gun chumadh, no cainnt as urrainn a luaidh; fìor mhaithes gach faoilte do'n t-saoghal fharsainn gu faoilidh fathail bho shuas.

6. Bho theine do chléibh 's neo-shèimh ann lasair
tha steudan greannach do chiabh;
na meatail gu léir mar chéir air leaghadh 's na leusan ballach air d'fhiamh.
Is treise do chrè mar gheug ag gaiseadh 's do mheadh gun mhaile dol sìos fo d' chomhair 's gach linn an sgrìob Chloinn Uisne
tha mìltean muilleannan grian.

7. Tha Mearcuraidh sgrèicht', 's tha Bhénus aithnìcht'
's 'nan déidh tha 'n Talamh is Màrs;
na reulagan fòil 'nan gròill 's a' bhealach, is Iupatair le ghealaichean bàn;
air Saturn mun cuairt tha buailtean geala is tuath Uranus as àit
tha Neaptuin gu teann an greim na gaillinn mar Phluto nan achaidhean fàs.

8. Do theaghlach, a ghrian, fo sgéith do tharraing
a' triall troimh mhachair nan nèamh,
gun àirde, gun ghrunn, gun tùs, gun deireadh,
is ùine 'n diugh mar an dé.
Dìomhaireachd mhór is mórachd ionghantach a' seòl na h-ealain tha 'n ré;
is molaigh mi 'n t-Ughdar rùn na rinneadh thug m'ùidh gu faire nan reul.

Annas a' Chathair *(Air a leantainn)*

leughadh no a sgrìobhadh. Gus am bi an rudhadh, ma tà, a cheart cho dearg anns a' ghruaidh òig, ma their sinn Gaidhlig an àite Beurla, gus a sin cha bhì sinn làn-riaraichte.

A luchd-dùthcha, chan ann le uail a tha sinn 'ga ràdh, ach cha sgèithich, cha ghéill sinn, anns an aobhar a ghabh sinn os làimh. Tha sinn a' meas, ma dh'fhalbhas ar cànan, nach ann 'na h-aonar, ach le sreath 'na déidh de na nithean sin as caomh leinn. Tha aon taigh anns a' chlachan as gràin leis na coimhearsnaich. Bha uair da is b'e cagailt na dùthcha, ach an diugh tha e fuairaidh fàs, gun ghàire, gun teine, is grèis na h-oidhche 'na mhaole. B'e an taigh ud dearbh-shamhailt na Gaidhealtachd is a cànan fo'n fhòid.

Ag creidsinn an nì a tha sinn ag creidsinn, ma tà, is an-aobhinn duinn mur dean sinn an spàirn as cruaidhe as urrainn do fhuil is do fheòil a dheanamh, chum an nì sin a chumail o thachair nach còir gun tachradh.

Deoch-Slainte

Fàs air a' bhuntàta, is bàs air an sgadan;
Pris air an fheadail, is féill air na caileagan.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AM MART, 1949

Aireamh 3

Bus-dubh is Blaran

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

Is e “Blàran” a bha air an tarbh ruadh a bha aca an Cille-mo-chulaig, agus bha sin air a chionn gu robh a’ chalg fhada a bha trom os cionn nan sùilean aige na bu bhàine na a’ chuid eile a bha air.

Bha dà adhairc air a bha mór agus iad a’ tighinn cruinn roimhe. Bha té de na h-adhaircean na b’ àirde na an té eile.

An latha bha seo bha Blàran ‘na laighe air lianaig bhig, bhìdich ri taobh sruthain air an robh an t-ainm “Glas-allt,” agus e gu ciùin ag cnàmh a chrì, agus cò a thàinig ‘na ruith is ‘na charan an rathad a bha e ach “Bus-dubh.”

Is e a bha am Bus-dubh abhag coim, agus gun ann ach an cuilean. Aois coig mìosan a thuir Mairi a bha e, ach is e a thuir Iain rium nach robh e ach dà mhios. Chan ‘eil fhios agam cò bha ceart no ceàrr aca.

Ach seo mar a bha Bus-dubh. Bha e beag, reamhar, agus e ciar air fad. Bha a’ chuid a bha sìos caol an droma aige na bu duirche na a’ chuid eile ach a mhàin na bha mu’n t-sròin agus fo na sùilean dèth.

Cha robh dragh aige de nì fo’n ghréin ach an t-ìomall a bha e toirt leis air a chùlaibh ris an cante “an t-earball” ; agus thuir athair, Oscar, ris gur e bha sin facal mór air dà rud bheag—“iar” (is e sin “cùl”) agus “ball” (ball fhéin)! “An rud a bhios air deireadh!” Agus is tric a shealladh Bus-dubh air a chùl feuch an robh e gun sin a chall!

An uair a chunnaic Blàran e nall chuige, cha do leig e dad air; agus is ann an uair a theab e dhòl air adhaircean Bhlàrain a stad Bus-dubh le seòrsa de “gheimh” a thug an t-eagal as.

Shuidh Bus-dubh air a chasan deiridh agus arsa esan: “Is tu a chuir an t-eagal orm!”

Cha duirt Blàran facal agus e ‘ga choimhead, ach thàinig stad beag air a’ chnàmh aige agus chaidh meall sìos an slugan aige. Bha dùil aig Bus-dubh gu robh e gu bhith air a thachdadh.

“Dé a tha ceàrr ort?” arsa Bus-dubh.

Cha duirt an tarbh càil, ach leig e seòrsa de osna as; agus leum Bus-dubh air a chasan agus thug e gu ruith a null ‘s a nall agus e a’ dol beagan gu chùl le eagal an tairbh agus

“gheimh,” “gheimh” aige. Ach cha do ghluais Blàran.

An uair a chunnaic Bus-dubh seo, is ann a thàinig e dlùth agus laigh e air beulaibh Bhlàrain agus a cheann aige sìos eadar a dhà spòig agus a dha shùil le bior annta ag amharc air adhaircean an tairbh.

Agus arsa esan ris an tarbh: “A bheil bodach anns a’ ghealach?”

“Muire, thà,” arsa Blàran.

“Am faca tu e?”

“Chan fhaca.”

“An robh thu anns a’ ghealach?”

“Cha robh.”

“Am bu mhaith leat a dhòl ann?”

“An tà, chan ‘eil iarraidh idir agam air. An uair a bhios mise air bàrr a’ Chnuic Mhóir tha mi àrd gu leòir!”

“A bheil feur anns a’ ghealach?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Is i sin a’ cheist,” arsa Blàran; “cha chuala mise guth riamh air feur a bhith san àite sin. Agus coma leat-sa de dh’ àite anns nach ‘eil am feur.”

“A bheil coineinich ann?” arsa Bus-dubh.



“Tha mi coma ged nach bitheadh,” arsa Blàran, “cearta coma. O, cearta, caoine

(An còrr air taobh-duilleig 10)

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aithne Dhomh

LE IAIN N. MACLEOID

2. "Fionn"

An uair a bhios sibhse a tha òg a' sgrùdadh leabhraichean òran Gàidhlig, chì sibh gu tric an t-ainm "Fionn" mar am fear a rinn an chuid an t-òran no am fonn air a bheil sibh a' beachdachadh aig an àm. B'e "Fionn," ma tà, an t-ainm-pinn a thug Eanraig MacGille-Bhàin air fhéin an uair a bhiodh e sgrìobhadh an còmhnaidh mu cheòl agus mu litreachas ar cànaine. Rugadh e an Eilean Eisdeal anns a' bhliadhna 1852, agus chuir e seachad a' chuid a bu mhòtha de a bheatha an Glaschu mhór nan stiopall. Chaith e a bheatha anns a' bhaile sin a' sìor shaothrachadh air son leas ar cànaine agus ar ciùil, agus bu mhaith a ghnòthach air chùl gach obrach fhéin-àicheil a rinn e.

Bha eòlas mionaideach aige air ceòl, agus b'esan aon cho soirbheachail agus a bha againn ann a bhith ag cur an clò ceòl nan òran Gàidhlig a bha aig an àm sin an impis a dhòl air dì-chuimhne. Is e a dheasaich *The Celtic Lyre*, aon de na ceud leabhraichean-òran Gàidhlig a tha againn anns a bheil na fuinn cho maith ri eadar-theangachadh Beurla a ghabhas seinn. Bha an leabhar sin 'na mheadhon air togail mhór a thoirt do na seann òrain, agus bha luchd na Beurla comasach air an seinn a chionn gu robh iad am bàrdachd Bheurla a bha ag cumail gu dlùth ri ciall an òrain.

Cha robh duine 'na latha fhéin a b'fhearr air eadar-theangachadh bàrdachd agus rosg na "Fionn." Chì sibh sin air bhur son fhéin ma leughas sibh *Naidheachdan Fìrinneach* a chuir e mach an dà leabhar. Is bochd gu bheil iad sin a nis a mach à clò ach gheibhear iad an leabhar-lann anns na bailtean mòra. Is e a chuir cruinn *Leabhar na Cèilidh* agus *The Celtic Garland* cuideachd, agus tha iad sin làn de sheann seanchasan agus òrain a chruinnich e fhéin an measg nan Gàidheal chòire air an robh e eòlach an Glaschu aig an àm sin.

Bha "Fionn" an còmhnaidh gu dìleas, dìcheallach, dìorrasach ann a bhith seasamh ri còirichean nan creitearan Gàidhealach agus bha a pheann sìubhlach ann a bhith 'gan cuideachadh anns gach dòigh. Bha e deas dealasach an cainnt, araon an Gàidhlig agus am Beurla, agus bha buaidh mhaith an còmhnaidh a' leantainn gach òraid a bheireadh e seachad air taobh nan Gàidheal, an cànan is an ceòl. Rinn e obair ionmholta 'na latha air son a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich, agus b'e a earail do'n Chomunn sin aig gach àm gum biodh a' Ghàidhlig a mhàin a' faighinn a' cheum-toisich anns gach iomairt.

Duine grinn, suairce, càirdeil, carthannach a bha am "Fionn," agus cha do mheas e riamh gu robh e 'na dhragh dha cuideachadh sam bith a b'urrainn da a dheanamh air son leas a luchd-dùthcha. Is iomadh oidhche chaidreach, charthannach a chuir mi fhéin seachad 'na fhàrdaich fhialaidh an Glaschu, agus cha robh mi riamh 'na chòmhradh gun solus ùr fhaighinn air cuspair Gaidhealach air chor-eigin. Tha uair orm gu robh e 'na charaid agam 'nam òige, agus sparrainn air na Gàidheil òga an diugh meòrachadh gu dlùth air gach òran is rosg a sgrìobh e.

Gairm Ainmhidhean

Ged nach 'eil mi am measg na h-òigridh an aois—co-dhiubh 's e comharradh math no dona a tha ann—bithidh smuaintean mo chridhe air uairean glé òg, agus mar sin tha mi danann a' leughadh "Litir Eachainn" thun na h-òigridh.

Thug na gairm a bha aige anns *A' Ghaidheal* mu dheireadh 'na mo chuimhne a' ghairm a bhiodh aig Ban-Charronach leis an robh mi 'gam chosnadh nuair bha mi, mar thubhairt an sean-fhacal, 'na mo "Dhonnchadh Og."

Nuair rachadh i mach a bhàthadh nan laogh 's e ghlaodhadh i:—"Saogaidh, Nanachaidh, Lulachaidh, trobhad, a bhroinein!"

TAOBH-TUATH EARRAGHAIDHEAL.

Bus-dubh is Blaran (*Air a leantainn*)

coma! Cha bhi iad ach a' tolladh 's a' milleadh co-dhiubh."

"Ach tha thu cinnteach gu bheil am Bodach ann?"

"U! Thà, is mi a thà!"

Cha do dh'éisid Bus-dubh ris a' chòrr, ach a mach thug e agus a steach leis far an robh a mhàthair, Speireag.

"Tha bodach anns a' ghealaich," arsa Bus-dubh is anail 'na uchd.

"Cò a thuir sin riut?" arsa Speireag.

"Thuir," arsa Bus-dubh, "am beathach mòr air a bheil na h-adhaircean mòra a bhios 'na laighe air an lìanaig agus a bhios ag cagnadh an uair nach bi e ag cainnt—"

"Mo chreach!" arsa Speireag, "an robh thu far a bheil an tarbh? Nach tu a theab a bhith air do tholladh orm! Seo, seo, suidh a staigh, a bhroinein, agus feuch am bi thu glic! Na thig 's na thàinig ach adhaircean an tarbh! Seachainn thusa adhaircean an tarbh no bheir mise ort e!"

Ach bha Bus-dubh air a dhòigh is fìos is cinnt aige gu robh bodach anns a' ghealaich.

Litir Eachainn

Beagan roimh àm dhuinn dol a laighe an oidhche roimhe, chaidh mi a mach gu cùl an taighe feuch ciod an seòrsa oidhche a bha ann. Bha an latha a bha ann glé fhliuch, is lean e mar sin suas feasgar is gu math a steach do'n oidhche. Ach bha nis an sior-uigse air lasachadh is, mar a chuir a' bhana-bhuidseach e, i "na turadh eadar na frasan." Bha fras throm an féidh dol seachad, agus an t-adhar a nis cho glan 's a chithear uair sam bith e anns na ceàrnan seo. Tha cùl an taighe againne ri aghaidh na h-àirde an eara-dheas, agus an uair a bheachdaich mi air an t-sealladh sùla a bha fo m' chomhair air an speur, is e a bhuaill 'nam inntinn gur math a bu chòir dhomh buntainn ris anns an ath litir a bha mi gu a sgrìobhadh dhuibhse, a chlann.

A bheil sibh ag cur ùidh an speuradaireachd no reultaireachd, no facal sam bith a thogras sibh a ràdh ri *astronomy*? Mur 'eil, tha mise glé dhuilich, oir is nì sin a bu chòir do gach balach is caileig, gu sònraichte air an dùthaich, a bhith déidheil air oir gearaichidh e bhur n-inntinnean gu mòr. Chan 'eil taobh eile air foillseachadh a' chruthachaidh anns a bheil cumhachd an Fhìr a dheilbh nas comharrachta air a leigeil ris na am brat soilleach na speur an uair a tha an t-adhar aig a ghloinnead, biodh gealach ann no as.

Bha leth-chearcall gealaich ann an oidhche a bha an seo ceart gu leòr, ach bha i air tarraing gu math siar, is an rath thaigean a tha a' ruith a réir an taighe seo air a toirt dhìom. Cha bu mhisd brat soilleach na speur sin gu e féin a leigeil ris na b'fheàrr a thaobh nan reannag do'n t-sùil a chitheadh.

Sirius

A' cheud bhall soluis air an do rug mo shùil b'e *Sirius*, gìomanach mòr nan reannag uile, a chithead as a' cheàrn seo de'n t-seaghal. Is iomhadh bliadhna a tha air ruith bhuainn bho'n cheud fheasgar a thug mise fainear i an toiseach, fada mu'n robh fios agam ciod an t-ainm a thugadh oirre. Dh'fhaodainn innseadh dhuibh a' cheart bhad air an robh mi 'nam sheasamh, is far an robh ise r'a faicinn, nam b'aithne dhuibh an t-àite. Innsidh mi dhuibh an ceartair far am faigh sibh i. A nis, tha mi air mhianann an seanachas seo a dheanamh cho simplidh 's a ghabhas e deanamh, a chùim 's gun tuig sibh uile e, agus aig a' cheart àm a' feuchainn ri seòladh a thoirt dhuibhse air càite am faigh sibh na reannagan 's na cruinn-mheallan soluis fa-leth a dh'ainmicheas mi. Tha mi an dùil gur i an t-Slat-thomhais no, mar a theirear anns a' Bheurla, Crios *Orion*,

as fhasa a thogail an toiseach. Bha i an siud mu m' choinneamh, cha mhòr an cridhe na h-àirde deas, trì reannagan á ceann a chèile, gun iad cho boillsgeil ris an fhìor fheadhainn mhóra, le beagan is leud gealaich làin eadar gach té dhiubh is an ath té.

Reannag nan Daoine Glice

Tha reannag bhoillsgeach, dhearg os cionn na Slaithe, *Betelgueza*. Tha an reannag seo uairean nas dealraiche 'na solus, no a chur an dòigh eile, tha i a' ruith cùrsa thrì bliadhna, is i a' tighinn gu àirde a soillse an ceann gach trì. Tha speuradairean a' toirt aobhair dha sin, ach cha téid sinne a staigh anns a' chùis sin an ceartair. Tha iad ann a tha ag creidsinn gun b'i seo an dearbh reannag a sheòl daoine glice na h-àirde an ear gu stàbul diblidh Bhetleheim an oidhche a rugadh an Slánaighear. Uiread astair fo'n t-Slait 's a tha *Betelgueza* os a cionn tha *Rigel*, reannag mhòr i féin 's a solus nas gile; ach, le bhith cho ìosal anns an adhar, cha bheir i air an t-sùil cho deas. Car mu uair gu leth an uaireadair air deireadh air *Rigel*, 's a' lean-tainn an aon chùrsa bho'n ear gus an iar tha am fahair mòr a dh'ainmich mi, *Sirius*. Tha speuradairean ag ràdh gu bheil *Sirius* seachd uairean nas motha na a' ghriann againne, oir chan 'eil anns a' ghréin againne ach reannag i féin, is reannag glé bheag làimh ri gìomanach eile. Tha *Sirius* a' soillseadh le solus biorach leth-char gorm-gheal. Shuas os a cionn tha reannag bhòidheach, gun uiread de ghorm 'na solus, *Procyon*, is uiread eile de astar os a cionn-se tha a' Chàraid, *Castor is Pollux*. Chì sibh iad seo air an ainmeachadh anns an Sgrìobtur.

An Grioghlachan

Le sùil a thoirt siar air an t-Slait-thomhais, is gu math os a cionn, tha reannag dhearg shoillseach eile, *Aldebran*, "sùil an tairbh," oir is i an reannag as motha an cruinn-mheall an Tairbh—*Taurus* anns an Laidinn; agus rud beag os a cionn is air toiseach oirre chì sibh an Grioghlachan, cruinn-mheall eile a tha air ainmeachadh anns an Sgrìobtur. Tha mi an dòchas gur aithne dhuibh uile an Grioghlachan. An uair a thig an t-àm seo de'n bhliadhna tha an Grioghlachan "ag call a thòimhstean," mar a theireadh m'athair e; ach is ann mar a tha nach 'eil an Grioghlachan, no reannag sam bith eile, air an aon tomhas dà oidhche an déidh a chèile, oir tha gach té dhiubh a' bualadh seachad air an aon bhad de'n speur ceithir mionaidean nas tràithe gach oidhche gus no cuir iad an cuairt bhliadhnaile. Car mu'n aon

uiread astair sear air *Sirius* 's a tha an Grioglachan siar oirre tha cruinn-mheall na Leoghain, le *Regulus* mar an reannag as boillsgeanta innte. Bha i dìreach ag éirigh gu math sear an uair a bha mise ag gabhail seallaidh air an speur. Suas ris an ear-thuath gu math, ach i fathast gun éirigh, bha giomanach mór eile, *Arcturus*. Tha ise mar an ceudna air a h-ainmeachadh anns an Sgriobtur. Ciamar a nis a bha fios agamsa gu robh i an siud is gun mi 'ga faicinn? Bha a chionn gu robh fios agam gu robh i ann, agus a' cheart bhall de'n speur anns an robh i. Is ise an seud as boillsgeanta a tha an cruinn-mheall a' Chrìin Thuathaich.

An Crann-Arainn

Innsidh mi dhuibh a nis an dòigh anns am faigh sibh i. Is cinnteach gur aithne dhuibh uile an Crann-arainn, oir tha e air an adhar is r'a fhaicinn ám sam bith de'n oidhche a sheallas sibh air a shon, ach an t-adhar a bhith glan. Mar na reannagan eile a tha cho fada tuath ris anns an speur, chan 'eil an Crann a' dol fodha idir anns a' cheàrn seo de'n t-saoghal.

Seo agaibh, a nis, mar a gheibh sibh *Arcturus* leis a' Chrann a ghabhail mar sheòladh. Tha na trì reannagan móra a tha mar spàgan do'n Chrann a' ruith le bogha beag orra, eadhon mar spàgan a' chrainn-threabhaidh féin. Leanaibh, ma tà, le 'r sùil am bogha sin, mar a tha an Crann air a shuidheachadh, agus, mu fhad a' Chrainn féin air falbh, gheibh sibh *Arcturus*. Chan urrainn dhuibh mearachd a dheanamh, oir is i an reannag as motha anns a' chuid sin de'n speur. Tha *Arcturus* ceud gu leth uair nas motha na a' ghrian againne, is bheir a solus na mìltean bliadhna mun ruig e sinne!

Chan 'eil ach dà reannag eile a dh'ainmicheas mi an ceartair, *Bhega* agus *Capella*. Tha *Bhega* car geal 'na solus, is *Capella* dearg, ach gun i cho dearg ri *Betelgeusa*. Bha i an siud an oidhche ud glé dhlùth air fìor mhullach na speur. Bha *Bhega* cho ìosal 's a ghabhadh i faicinn le ceartas an cridhe na h-àirde tuath. Chan 'eil aon seach aon dhuibh a' dol fodha an seo; ach tha *Bhega* rud beag nas fhaide air falbh bho'n Reannaig Thuathaich, is i mar sin nas ìsle an ám a bhith a' dol seachad bho'n iar gus an ear air an t-slighe gu éirigh an àirde do'n speur a rithist. Nam biodh sibh a mach mu mheadh-oin oidhche anns an Og-mhios chitheadh sibh i ag inntreachadh an ear-thuath, gu h-ìosal fo'n Reannaig Thuathaich.

Tha dhà no trì de reannagan eile a bu mhath leam ainmeachadh, ach an ceartair tha e fada san oidhche mu bheil iad ag éirigh agus fàgaidh sinn iad gu uair eile, is e sin ma bhios sibh air mhiann gun innsinn duibh mun cuairt orra.

Bha m'athair-sa anabarrach beachdail a thaobh nan reannag is an t-sruth-mhara. B'iad an Grioglachan, an Crann-arainn agus an làn a b'uairadair dha, agus bu mhath a leughadh e iad uile. An uair a bhiodh e "a' tarraing anmoch," mar a tha e aig an òran, mu'n àm seo de'n bhliadhna, theireadh e gu robh an Crann-arainn air "car a chur dheth," is bha sin ag ciallachadh gu robh an t-àm do'n chéilidh a bhith seachad is an teaghlach ag gabhail mu thàmh.—Bhur Caraid Dilas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

An Cat agus an Luch

Thuirnt an luch 's i san fhàrigh,
Dé 'm fonn a th'ort, a chait ròmaich
ghlais?"

"Comunn is càirdeas is gaol—
Faodaidh tusa tighinn a mach."

"S eòlach mi mu'n dubhan chrom
A tha mach o bhonn do chas;
Mharbh thu mo mhàthair an dé,
Ge caomh rium do bheus an diugh."

"Cha mhis' a bha sin ach cat Mhic Iain Ruaidh
A b'bhàist a bhith ruagadh chearc;
Ghoid i 'n càise bha sa' chliabh,
'S dh'ith i 'n t-iasg a bha sa' phreas."

Staca Dhòmhnail Chaim

Tha an staca seo air cladach Mhangarsta an Uig an Leódhas—sprod àrd biorach de chreig ruaidh agus mu uibhir làr taighe de thalamh réisg air a bhàrr!

Anns an fheur chithear clach no dhà de làrach na h-aitreibh a bha aig Dòmhnall Cam, agus tha ceuman ri'm faicinn air aghaidh tìre de'n staca far am biodhte a' dìreach is ag cromadh.

Ged a thug trì cheud bliadhna muthadh follaiseach eadhon air a' chreig san dearbh àite, is e seo cuimhneachan as fhèarr air Dòmhnall Cam a tha ri fhaicinn an Uig.

Bha trìubh mhac do Dhòmhnall Cam aig Blàr Allt Eireann, agus dh'obraicheadh fear aca a claidheamh anns gach làimh.

Is ann air sliochd Dhòmhnail Chaim a thàinig *Thomas Babington Lord MacAulay*. Is ann o Iain Ruadh a thàinig Dòmhnall Cam mac Dhùbhghaill. Bha màthair Iain Ruaidh á Muile agus b'i nighean do MhacGilleathain Locha Buidhe bu chéile phòsda da.

C. McG.

"And Men Decay"

Highland Depopulation Continues

By THE EDITOR

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay:
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade;
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

I cannot say what wealth may be accumulating in the Highlands and Islands, but it is undeniable that men are decaying, and this in spite of the potential wealth of the area. The land and the sea, not to mention the water-power and mineral resources of the area, can, when better utilised, maintain a much larger population than at present, and on a higher standard of living.

No official census has been taken since 1931, and much has happened in these last seventeen years. In 1944, however, the West Highland Survey was set up, under the charge of Dr. F. Fraser Darling, to investigate the history, structure, and dynamics of the population in the North-West Highlands and Islands.

Recently the Survey published a memorandum on "Recent Changes in Crofting Populations" by Dr. Fraser Darling and Dr. Robert S. Barclay. The facts it discloses are disquieting. The Survey devised a method of estimating the population in 1947 and compared the figures thus obtained with the figures in the 1911 census.

In the thirty-six years from 1911 to 1947 the total population of Scotland rose from 4,760,904 to 5,138,652, an increase of 8 per cent. In the same period the population of the West Highland Survey area dropped from 151,085 to 122,385, a decrease of 19 per cent.

A Sad Story

The following figures extracted from the West Highland Survey paper indicate the position, the areas with the greatest decline being given first.

AREA.	Decrease		
	1911	1947	%
North-West (Gairloch to Durness, Tongue, and Farr)	14,319	7,940	45
Isle of Skye	13,282	8,668	35
Isle of Mull	4,082	2,657	35
Small Isles, Coll, Tiree, Colonsay and Oronsay ..	3,443	2,266	34
Arisaig and Moidart, Ardnar- murchan, Morvern, Ardgour	4,393	2,878	34
Isle of Islay	6,283	4,301	32
North and South Uist, Ben- becula and Barra ..	11,680	8,290	29
Cowal	2,707	1,985	27
West Mainland (Applecross to Glenelg, inclusive) ..	5,592	5,262	20

	Decrease		
	1911	1947	%
Lower Lorne (Kilbrandon to Kilmartin and Glassary, inclusive)	6,968	5,630	19
Lewis and Harris	34,959	28,800	18
Kintyre	17,609	15,056	14

Only two areas show an increase of population. These are:

AREA.	Increase		
	1911	1947	%
Great Glen (Kilmallie, Kil- monivaig, Urquhart and Glenmoriston, Kiltarlity, and Kilmorack)	10,973	14,352	31
Upper Lorne (Lismore and Appin, Ardchattan and Muckairn, Glenorchy, Kilmore, Kilchrenan) ..	13,795	14,300	4

The worst degree of depopulation is found in Jura (570 in 1911 to 252 in 1947, a drop of 56 per cent.); Sleat in Skye (1,373 to 628, or 54 per cent. down); Assynt (2,111 to 997) and Kilbrandon and Kilchattan (1,370 to 649), in both cases a drop of 53 per cent.; Gigha and Cara (324 to 161, 50 per cent. down); Durness (795 to 408, 49 per cent. down); Applecross (1,440 to 775, 46 per cent. down), Lochbroom (2,794 to 1,510, 46 per cent. down), Coll (389 to 215, 45 per cent. down); Kilchoman in Islay (2,087 to 1,191, 43 per cent. down); Small Isles (Eigg, Rum, Canna, Muck) (386 to 223, 42 per cent. down), and Durinish in Skye (3,074 to 1,771, 42 per cent. down).

The Brighter-Outlook Areas

Parishes that have increased their population are: Kilmore and Kilbride, Landward (728 in 1911 to 1,576 in 1947, an increase of 116 per cent.); Kilmallie, Landward (1,655 to 3,201, a rise of 93 per cent.); Kilmonivaig (1,698 to 2,907, up by 71 per cent.); Bracadale in Skye (805 to 959, up by 19 per cent.); Kilchrenan and Dalavich (357 to 383, up by 7 per cent.), Kilcalmonell (1,712 to 1,821, up by 6 per cent.), and Glenelg (1,563 to 1,615, up by 3 per cent.).

The position in regard to the larger burghs is as follows: Fort William has increased by 58 per cent. from 1,995 to 3,155; Stornoway by 39 per cent. from 3,735 to 5,203; and Oban by 22 per cent. from 5,494 to 6,711.

Curiously enough, while the landward parishes around Fort William (Kilmallie and Kilmonivaig) and Oban (Kilmore and Kilbride)

have greatly increased in population, the landward part of Stornoway parish has declined by 19 per cent.

Much can be learned from, and much could be written about, the above figures. It is perfectly obvious that the increases in population have taken place where (1) new industries have been developed (e.g. in Lochaber), (2) forestry work has provided employment (e.g. Glenelg and Kilchrenan), and (3) new smallholdings have been created (e.g. Bracadale).

On the other hand, the areas that have shown the greatest rate of decline not only lack new industries and forestry work and new and adequate smallholdings, but also suffer from remoteness and inadequate communications. In this connection parts of the west mainland and the inner isles are more isolated than the Outer Hebrides. The comparatively small decrease in Lewis and Harris (less than a fifth as against almost a half in the north-west mainland) is no doubt due to the help given by the weaving industry.

What About Gaelic

It should be stressed that in some of the worst depopulated areas the rate of decline is accelerating, since an unduly large proportion of the people is above middle age, and in some districts the situation has deteriorated to such an extent as to make it hard to maintain "the social design of human existence."

It is obvious that the situation indicated above has an important bearing upon the position of the Gaelic language. The 1931 census was the last occasion on which accurate information about the number of Gaelic-speakers was obtained. We hope that the census of 1951 will be more encouraging than we fear it will be, but the omens are certainly not good.

There is no space here to discuss what has been, and is being, attempted to rehabilitate the Highlands and Islands. Our problems and difficulties have been getting "sympathetic consideration" for three-quarters of a century at least, "morán 'ga ràdh is beagan 'ga dheanamh!"

Summer School

The Education and Art and Industry Committees are arranging to hold a Summer School of Gaelic (comprising Language and Music, Celtic Art and Clarsach Playing) at Portree, Skye, from 19th July to 5th August, 1949.

Intending students should communicate with the Secretary, An Comunn Gàidhealach, 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2., not later than 31st March.

Cnoideart

Le TAOBH-TUATH EARRAGHAIDHEAL

Far a nall dhuinn am botul;
Cuir an deoch se mu 'n cuairt:
Lìon barrachd an cupan,
Cum socrach a' chuchaidh:
Toasta Choirneil na féile
Leis an éireadh gach buaidh,
Oighre Cnoideart a' bharrach
'S Gleann-a-garradh mu thuath.

Air leam gur e Ailean Dall a dheilbh na briathran sin. Bha móran barrachd sluaigh ann an Cnoideart ri latha Ailein na tha ann an diugh, chionn dh'fhuiling an t-ir sin gu h-òc le fuadach nan Gàidheal. Air tàilleabh seo tha e suidhichte a thaobh shochairne is ghoireasan-siubhail mar a bha e ceud bliadhna air ais.

Tha mi creidsinn gu bheil dlùth air ceud bliadhna bho'n chaidh dotaire sgìre Ghlinn-Eilge (d'am buin Cnoideart) a spadadh a' tighinn as. Chuir an sgiordach seo an t-àite gun dotaire air son greis, agus 's e an t-Urramach Iain MacRath, a bha 'na mhinistear an Glinn-Eilge, a bha ris an dotaireachd tacan.

Ach gu tilleadh ri Cnoideart anns na seann làithean, chaidh còrr is còig ceud pearsa thairis do Chanada as ann an 1786. Mu thoiseach na naoidheamh linn deug fhuair deich teaghaichean bàirlinn aon bhliadhna agus a h-aon-deug bliadhna eile. Cheannaich *Baird*, fear obair-iarainn Ghartsheirre, an oighreachd an 1853, agus rinn esan tuilleadh fàsachadh nan gleann.

Leugh mi bho chionn ghoirid nach b'e coire *Bhaird* uile gu léir a bha seo—gu robh e anns a' chùmhnant nuair cheannaich e Cnoideart.

Nuair bha iad a' suidheachadh cuid Scotas dheth (a bha 'na oighreachd leis fhéin) ann an 1790, bha e air a ràdh gu robh an roinn sin dheth comasach air sia mìle caora a ghiùlan. A reir sin bhiodh Cnoideart comasach air suas ri deich mìle fichead a dheanamh.

John Roy Stuart (continued)

against such a step to John Murray and Sir Thomas Sheridan, whom I found both bent upon it to my great surprise. But that did not hinder me from representing upon my knees and tears in my eyes against it, and I appeal to all the principal gentlemen of the army if I did not oppose it with all my soul and but too prophetically and foretold them all that must have happened, and what astonishes me is the world did not see it as plain as myself."

This letter is printed by Browne erroneously as written by Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees.

Tour in Islay

Mr. Alasdair Matheson, Assistant Secretary, paid an official visit to Branches of An Comunn and Feachdan of Comunn na h-Oigridh in Islay during a week in February.

Bowmore

At a well-attended ceilidh the Chairman, Rev. Murdo MacRae, who was introduced by Mr. John Forrest, Branch President, appealed for greater support for the Gaelic language. Mr. Matheson also addressed the audience and urged support of the Islay Provincial Mod. Next morning Mr. Matheson visited the school and was very kindly received by Mr. Macpherson, Headmaster, and Mr. MacGill, Gaelic Master. He addressed the children and enrolled 33 new members in Comunn na h-Oigridh.

Port Ellen

Mr. Matheson presided at a ceilidh and was introduced by Mr. Neil MacKechnie, President. An excellent programme was followed by an enjoyable dance. Next day Mr. Matheson visited the Feachdan of Comunn na h-Oigridh in Port Ellen and Ardbeg schools and enrolled new members. He also formed a new Feachd in the Oa school.

Bridgend

At a meeting in Bridgend Hall the branch of An Comunn, which lapsed during the war, was re-constituted after an address by Mr. Matheson. The following office-bearers were appointed:—

President, Mr. Hugh Duncan; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Margaret MacPhee, Post Office, Bridgend; Assistant Secretary, Miss MacNiven; with a committee of nine members.

Mr. Duncan and Miss MacPhee were appointed to represent the Branch on the Islay Provincial Mod Committee, and Mrs. Laing, Kirkintilloch, was appointed Branch representative on the Executive Council of the parent body. An enjoyable Ceilidh followed the business of the meeting. Mr. Matheson visited the Feachdan in the schools at Newton, Kilmeny, Keills, and Mullindry, and enrolled new members.

Port Charlotte

An enjoyable ceilidh was held here and, after Mr. Matheson had addressed the audience, a new committee was elected. Mr. Alex. MacIndeor was re-elected President, and Miss MacKechnie, the Gaelic teacher in the school, was appointed

Secretary and Treasurer in succession to Miss Brown, who has now left the district. The schools in Port Charlotte, Portnahaven, and Goirtean were visited, and new members were enrolled in Comunn na h-Oigridh.

Kilmeny

Mr. Matheson during his tour made contact with the officials of the Kilmeny Branch, and was glad to learn that the Branch is in a healthy state and the choir has already started practising for the Islay Mod. Enthusiasm for the Mod is high throughout the island, and Mr. Neil MacKechnie, the Secretary, reports excellent support from all the Branches.

Regional Committee

A Regional Committee for Comunn na h-Oigridh has now been formed in Islay, and Mr. Matheson was able to contact all the members and outline the work envisaged by the parent committee. The following have agreed to serve on the Regional Committee:—Miss Annie MacNiven and Messrs. D. Gillies, N. MacKechnie, Macpherson, N. MacGill, and D. MacLean.

been appointed Lord Lieutenant of the County of Dunbarton in succession to the late Sir Iain Colquhoun. The Chairman, it will be recalled, was mainly responsible for the kilt being restored to Highland regiments in the Army. A most enjoyable programme was submitted.

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dunoon

Mr. Alasdair Matheson attended a meeting of the Dunoon Branch on 4th February. The Very Rev. Canon Duncan MacLean was Fear-an-Tighe and about 300 people attended. A Gaelic Continuation Class conducted by Mr. Angus Matheson is well attended, and there is also an enthusiastic Gaelic Choir under the leadership of Mr. Neil MacLean.

Skelmorlie

The Headquarters staff paid their annual visit to the Skelmorlie and District Highland Association on 8th February and were accompanied by Miss Dorothy Hunter and Miss Bessie Alexander (violinist). Mr. Shaw presided over the ceilidh in the Skelmorlie Hydro, and there was a very large attendance.

Largs

Mr. Shaw attended a meeting of the Largs Branch on 10th February and addressed the members. With him were Miss Katie MacLellan and Mr. Paul MacInnes, who gave fine renderings of Gaelic songs. Local artistes also contributed to the programme. The session has been a very successful one.

Vale of Leven

A well attended Ceilidh was held on 16th February, when the chair was occupied by Major-General Telfer-Smollett, who has

(Continued in previous column)



Ri taobh Loch Toireartain

Craig, Loch Torridon: the loneliest Youth Hostel in Scotland

Clach-Mhullaich Carn

An Doilgheis

Reic na h-Onaire

Ge air bith ball de an chorp anns am buail galar air duine, tha buaidh na trioblaide, air a' cheann mu dheireadh, a' ruigheachd a' chridhe agus na h-eanchainne, agus mar sin a' milleadh buadhan a' chuirp air fad. Tha a' chùis co-ionann a thaobh na Gàidhliche. Ged is ann sa' Ghàidhealtachd as léir dhuihne easlaint ar cànaine an diugh, cha b'ann idir an sin a thòisich an trioblaid. Thòisich an galar an cùirt rìghrean Albann, agus an ainfeoil bhuirbein-each a nochd i fhéin an sin naoi ceud bliadhna air ais, tha i air leudachadh a nis gu ruig na h-eileanan as iomallaiche an Innse-Gall.

Chan 'eil anns a' Ghàidhealtachd ach mar gum b'eadh mìr de chorp Albann. Is sin nì a tha Gàidheil agus Albannaich eile ro-ealamh air a bhith a' di-chuimhneachadh, agus ann a bhith a' dearmad sin tha iad iomadh uair a' dol fada air seachran. Bhiodh e ro-fheumail gu robh iadsan aig a bheil leigheas na Gàidhliche anns an amharc ag cumail cor agus eachdraidh Albann doannan fa chomhair an sùla, oir gach nì a tha ag oibreachadh cron Albann tha e aig a' cheart àm a' deanamh call nan Gàidheil, agus gach nì a tha chum leas nan Gàidheil agus piseach na Gàidhliche tha e gun cheist a' meudachadh maith Albann air fad. Tha cor na Gàidhliche agus staid Albann an dàimh cho dlùth is nach 'eil e glic a bhith ag cur dealachaidh eatorra, no a bhith a' beachdachadh orra air an sgaradh bho a chèile.

Thug rìghrean Shasainn, air ceann an cuid armailtean, iomadh ionnsaigh air Alba a chur fo chis, ach cha deachaidh leò. Gidheadh, an nì a dh'fhairtlich air a' chlaidheamh, thug cleamhnas agus clicheachd gu buil. An toiseach an t-samhraidh, anns a' bhliadhna 1603, dh'fhàg Rìgh Seumas ar ceann-bhaile, Dùn-Eideann, agus thug e a chùirt rioghail gu ruig Lunnainn, prìomh chathair nan Gall an Sasainn. Is liutha Gall agus Gàidheil fùghail a mheall sèanas an taoibh dheis air falbh á Albainn bho an latha sin. Anns a' bhliadhna 1707 chuir Achd an Aonaidh a' chlach-mhullaich air càrn ar doilgheis air a' bheallach sin. Chaill muinntir Albann an còir agus an cothrom air cùisean an tìre fhéin a riaghladh. An Taigh Mór nan Cumantan an Lunnainn tha guth beag, tùchanach nan Albannach air a' mhùchadh. Le deich Sasannaich mu choinneamh gach an Albannaich, deachdar laghannan a tha chum mòr dhochann do Albainn, agus air a' mhòdh cheudna air agartas Shasainn bacar reachdan a bhiodh ro-bhuannachdail do shluagh ar dùthcha.

Bha càirdean Shasainn ag cur iomchoire gu leòr air an Rìdire Ualtar Scot, a chionn gun do ghabh e air fhéin sgrìobhadh mar seo mu ar luchd-conaltrachd aig àm an Aonaidh: "An uair cheangail iad ri masladh an dùthcha dùil ri beartas agus buannachd dhìomhair dhaibh féin, chan urrainn sinn an saoradh bho an chasaid seo, gun do reic iad araon an onair fhéin agus onair Albann." Agus ged bha na briathran car tuailleasach bha freumh na firinne aig an Rìdire gheusda. Oir mur do reic iad siud da-riobh an onair fhéin, gu firinneach thug iad ceum ciamhair, tuisleach, agus trid an chunraidh chearbaich ud lùbhair iad do mhuinntir Shasainn araon dlìge an cineil agus saorsa an cuid chloinne.

Faodaidh e a bhith gun do choisinn iomadh Albannach ainm mòr dha fhéin agus cuibhreachan chuibheasach de mhaith an t-saoghail seo mar thoradh air an Aonadh; gidheadh, rinn an t-Achd ud call nach gabh tomhas do Albainn. Tha sinn a' faicinn àireamh slugh ar dùthcha a' dol an lughad. Tha earrann mhór de ar maoin agus de ar malairt air falbh gu deas agus tha an còrr a' teicheadh. Tha eadhon cuid mhór de an toradh as prìseile a tha ar rioghachd ag àrach, òigrìdh ar n-oil-thaighean, a' togail orra gach bliadhna agus a' deanamh an dachaidh an Sasainn. Gheibhear luach air bathar, ach imreachadh eilthireach ar n-oileanach tha 'na dhosgainn nach gabh meas, 'na lochd do-leasaichte do ar rioghachd. I.A.M.

Seanfhacail

Na feann am fiadh gus am faigh thu e.

* * *

Ge b'e fear as luaithe làmh, is leis am fiadh.

* * *

Far nach bi na féidh, cha réidh an toirt as.

* * *

Am fear nach cuir ri latha fuar
Cha bhuan e ri latha teth.

* * *

Cha leasachadh air droch obair-latha
A bhith fada gun tòiseachadh.

* * *

Cha chat mi fhéin nach aithnich blàthach.

* * *

Cha mhath a bhith 'g innseadh nam breugan,
mar a thuir an cat 's am madadh 'ga shlugadh.

* * *

An uair a bhios nì aig a' chat, nì e crònna.

Leabhraichean Ura

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Early Irish Literature

EARLY IRISH LITERATURE, by Myles Dillon (University of Chicago Press, 1948, 192pp.).

This beautifully printed book is intended as an introduction to the songs and legends of Ancient Ireland, presenting in coherent order the best of the imaginative literature that has survived. The qualities that Professor Dillon finds in Irish literature are "an incandescent vision, a wildness of imagination, sensibility to sound and colour and form, sometimes perhaps perceived as signs of an ideal beauty; and human passion, love, sorrow, or anger, often expressed with a sincerity and directness that can still persuade us." The author refers to "the rapid decline of the spoken language despite all efforts to preserve it." But he adds, "It is an exciting reflection that the most remarkable books recently published in Irish are the work, not of writers who have acquired a knowledge of Irish at second-hand by study, but of Irish-speaking peasants, heirs to the old tradition from which most Irishmen have long since been cut off."

Polyglot Poet

WIND ON LOCH FYNE: Poems by George Campbell Hay (Oliver & Boyd, 1948, 80pp., 6/-).

Following close upon his volume of Gaelic poems, *Fuaran Sleibh*, comes Mr. Hay's new book of poems, mainly in Scots, and including many translations from Irish and Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Croatian, Italian, Greek, and Norwegian. There are also original poems in French and Norse. It is a remarkable achievement, the product of extraordinary versatility.

Scottish Poetry

THE GOLDEN TREASURY OF SCOTTISH POETRY, selected and edited by Hugh MacDiarmid (MacMillan, 1948, 415pp., 5/-).

This valuable anthology, which is splendid value for the price, first appeared in 1940. It is a selection from the best work of the poets of Scotland, whether in Scots, English, Gaelic, or Latin, with useful notes and glossary and a lengthy, but illuminating, introduction. The Gaelic poets represented are Dugald Buchanan, William Livingstone, Iain Lom, Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair, Duncan Ban, William Ross, Donald Sinclair. Their poems, however, do not appear in the original Gaelic but in English versions or free translations—sometimes very free.

The editor writes: "There is a great field for Scottish Gaelic translators of the calibre of such Irish Gaelic translators as James Stephens, Professor Bergin, Frank O'Connor, and Robin Flower."

Arts and Crafts

ART IN SCOTLAND, by Ian Finlay (Oxford Press, 1948, 180pp., 15/-).

SCOTTISH ART, by Stanley Cursiter (Harrap, 1949, 135pp., 17/6).

SCOTTISH CRAFTS, by Ian Finlay (Harrap, 1948, 128pp., 17/6).

These are three well produced and informative books about a part of our Scottish culture that many of us would do well to know more about. In the first-named book Mr. Finlay traces the story of Scottish art from the Celtic period to the present day, against the background of the great events in the history of the nation. The chapter on the Reformation is of special value in view of the many prevailing misconceptions about the effects of that movement upon Scottish culture.

Mr. Cursiter also traces the development of Scottish art through the centuries, but with more emphasis on the lives and personalities of individual artists.

In his book on "Scottish Crafts," Mr. Finlay brings to light the varied and rich heritage of the Scottish people in architecture, sculpture, bone-carving and woodwork, metalwork, textiles, ceramics, glass, manuscripts and books. "The Celtic," he says, "is the genius which presides over the arts in Scotland."

There are many beautiful illustrations in all three books.

Celtic Heroes of the Faith

THEY BUILT ON ROCK, by Diana Leatham (Celtic Art Society, Glasgow, 1948, 236pp., 15/-).

This is the story of "how the men and women of the Celtic Church carried Light to the people who dwelt in the Dark Ages." It traces the history of the Celtic Church through five hundred years weaving the story around the leading figures—Martin and Ninian, Patrick, David, Brendan, Kentigern, Columba, Columban, Cuthbert, and Brigid. On some points, of course, there can be more than one opinion, but the story is clearly told, and the interest of the book is enhanced by the fine illustrations by Mr. James Harrison Miller, a name not unknown in Comunn Gaidhealach circles.

Scottish National Dress

SCOTTISH HOMESPUN, by Eunice G. Murray (Blackie, 1947, 109pp., 8/6).

Most people think of the kilt as the only distinctively Scottish dress, but in this little book the author shows that until recently, in many parts of the country, not only distinctive dialects and different customs, but also distinctive forms of dress were to be found. The spinner and weaver, shoemaker and shepherd, lobster fisher and whelk gatherer, crofter and sailor, milkmaid and fishwife, and many more had their distinctive dress. All that is described and illustrated in this fascinating volume.

Glen o' Weeping

THE MASSACRE OF GLENCOE, by J. G. Fyfe (Eneas Mackay, Stirling, 1948, 58pp., 5/-).

The grim story of what happened long ago in Glencoe, but is still vivid in folk-memory, is here told from contemporary sources in an attempt to avoid partisanship. In a simple, factual narrative the author sets forth all that is relevant and enables the reader to appreciate not only what happened but why it happened.

Aireamh Mhuinntir Fhinn is Dhubhain

AIREAMH MUINNNTIR FHINN IS DUBHAIN, AGUS SGEUL IOSEPHUS IS AN DA FHCHEAD IUDHAICH, le Rob Alasdair MacFhraing (Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, LII, A.7., Dublin, 1948, 7pp., 1/-).

Ann an leabhran priseil aige, "Toimhseachain agus Dhùbhfhaicail" (1938), tha Mgr. Alasdair MacNeacail ag innse (t.-d.80) "mar a mharbhadh còig-deug de mhuintir Dhubhain leis an àireamh cheudna de mhuintir Fhinn." Shuidh na deich air fhichead timcheall air bòrd cruinn, agus fir Dhubhain is fir Fhinn am measg a chèile, agus bha aig Fionn aig deireadh na cuirme ris gach naoidheamh fear òrduchadh a chum bàis. Chaidh na fir a chur mu'n bhòrd air dòigh cho seòlta 's gur e Dhubhan 's a chuideachd uile a fuair bàs agus cha do mharbhadh a h-aon de mhuintir Fhinn. Ciamar a chaidh an suidheachadh am measg a chèile?

'S e toimhseachan glé àrsaidh a tha an seo. Gheibhear e, agus an fhreagairt ann an dàn, ann an

(Continued on page 37)

Annas a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

Gaidhlig nam Pioghaidean

A dhuine chridhe,—Thog Iain N. MacLeòid ceist a tha 'na ceist an còmhnaidh. Chan 'eil duine beò an Albainn as motha a rinn de dhicheall buan neo-bhriste air sgàth na Gàidhlig na "Alasdair Mór," agus chan 'eil duine beò as fearr fios dé tha fìor san taobh tuath mu Ghàidhlig. Ged a tha dùrachd a chridhe aig a' Ghàidhlig, tha e cheart cho dìreach sin gu fìrinn na cùise a chur an cèill. Cha dean fir fo sglèò dad a chum ar leas!

Tha mi an dùil gum bu mhaith an rud e nan leanadh sinn ar caraaid agus nan cuireamaid ar beachdan an Gàidhlig annas a' mhàileid litrichean seo, oir tha nithean ann as còir a thoirt an uachdar am measg Ghaidheal mu Ghaidheil is mu Ghàidhlig a b' fheàrr dhùinn a làimhseachadh 'nar cànan fhéin—nithean nach bu toigh leinn a thoirt gu saor do'n t-saoghal Ghallda. Agus, a bharrachd air sin, bu mhaith leinn gum biodh a' mhàileid seo fada a muigh o'n teine agus gum biodh na litrichean againn blàth gun a bhith teth!

Tha a' chùis dìreach glan mar a sgrìobh MacLeòid. Agus tha àitean againn ann agus cha bhiodh Mòd air bith anna mur b'e gu bheil cothrom aig "learners" teachd air adhart, agus "learners" de'n chumail sin aig nach 'eil ach faicail gun eòlas 'nan cois. Sin mar a tha Bàideanach. Sin mar a tha Cataibh. Sin mar a bha na tha eadar Inbhir-Nis is Baile Dhubh-thaich aon uair, ach chan 'eil sin fhéin a nis ann! Is fearr leam cor Bhàideanaich na cor Inbhir-Nis. Is fearr leam clann is inbheach a tha deònach an nì as lugha a dheanamh le Gàidhlig is air sgàth nan Gaidheal na an seòrsa nach bi aig an dragh dad sam bith a dheanamh. Gun teagamh, bhiodh a' chùis na b'fheàrr nam biodh a' Ghàidhlig air a teagasg do'n chloinn mar nach 'eil i (ged a tha còir aig na pàrantan air sin a bhith deanta ma thogras iad; ach tha a' chòir mar a chumar i, annas a' Ghaidhealtachd cò-dhiubh!)

Is dòcha, a nis, gu bheil An Comunn Gaidhealach—marbh is mar a tha cuid—a' deanamh maith ann a bhith cumail nì-eigin Gaidhealach fa chomhair na cloinne is am pàrantan. Is e an tuilleadh de sin a b'fheàrr, is dòcha.

Chan 'eil teagamh nach biodh e iomchuidh duinn ar ceart aire thoirt nach dean sinn tuilleadh 's a' chòir de di-beatha gu àrd-dhuaisean a' Mhòid a thoirt do mhuinntir gun Ghàidhlig air bith. Cha bhiodh an sin ach culaidh-mhagaidh. Cha bhiodh ann, air cùl

sin, ach bristeadh-cridhe do dhaoine Gaidhealach air an tigeadh a bhith ag èisdeachd ri "Crodh Chailinn" agus "dh'ìhinn breacan a bhiodh caol duit" (agus rudan as iongantach na sin!) Tha mi fada air taobh nan daoine a tha deanamh strì gu simplidh, onarach air tighinn suas ris a' Ghàidhlig. Is tric a thachair e gur fearr duine aca sin, mar neach eudmhor ri Gàidhlig, na ceudan aig a bheil Gàidhlig agus iad coma dhith.

Is ann trid muinntir mar iad sin as fearr a théid buaidh na Gaidhealtachd an leud an Albainn (agus bu chòir duinn sùil a bhith againn air leudachadh a mach). Is tric a chuala mi daoine an Eirinn ag ràdh gun do chuir iad an car ceàrr dhiubh an uair a chuir iad daoine gun Ghàidhlig air leth-taobh, daoine a bha eudmhor dùrachdach ach iad gun eòlas na cainnte.

Is ceart duinn cuimhne a bhith againn air nithean mar sin 'nar measg féin. B'aithne dhòmhsa "Comunn Gaidhealach" maith, agus a' chuid bu mhòtha a bh'ann gun Ghàidhlig. An déidh do chuid againn a bhith a mach as, thàinig Gaidheil eile agus cha robh iad riaraichte le sin, agus dh'fheumadh iad sgaradh a dheanamh; agus dé a thàinig as ach gun tàinig crìoch thur air a' Chomunn sin! Tha mise an dùil gur e call gun tìr a bha sin. An fheadhainn a théid leinn chan 'eil iad 'nar n-aghaidh! Agus tha cus an aghaidh nan Gaidheal o chionn mìle bliadhna.

Tha sinn air an taobh shàbhailte fhad agus a chumas sinn Beurla a mach as a' choimling aig Mòd, agus fhad agus a nis sinn na ghabhas deanamh gu h-ionraic gu "cothrom na Féinne" a bhith 'nar measg. Tha daoine ann a thòisich gun Ghàidhlig aig a bheil a nis barrachd mòr air na chreideadh daoine nach 'eil eòlach orra. Is aithne dhùinn an seòrsa glan sin, fir is mnathan.

CALUM MACGILLEATHAIN.

Ceartachadh

A Charaid,—Bu mhaith leam dà nì gu h-àraid a chur ceart san litir ud agam an *Gaidheal* an Fhaoillich.

(1) "gun tighinn cruaidh" an àite "gu tighinn cruaidh" (sreath 4).

(2) "Gaidheal Albannach" an àite "Gaidheil Albannach" (aig deireadh na litreach), agus sin mar in-seadh orm fhéin, agus mar sin leis a' chromaig bhig eadar e is an t-ainm.—Gu dìleas,
C. McG.

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

The Organiser has just completed a visit to North and South Uist and Benbecula. Meetings were held at Tigharry, Carinish, Torlum, Howmore and Garrynamona.

Garrynamona

At Garrynamona An Comunn Gaidhealach Trophy and Certificate were presented to Miss Kate MacLean, who won the first prize in the competition for "Best Collection of Dyed Wool (carded), the dye to be obtained from vegetables growing in the district," at the National Mod in Glasgow last September. The Organiser congratulated Ceit on her success. The Rev. Neil MacKellaig, in making the presentation, said that Ceit, who is now in her 84th year, had brought honour to the district, and he hoped she would long be spared to compete in the Home Industry section of the National Mod. The ceremony was entirely in Gaelic, and the recipient was visibly affected by the applause which greeted her, but expressed her thanks in a subdued "Taing dhuibhe."

A pleasant hour was afterwards spent with song and story and bagpipe music.

The Organiser was glad to renew acquaintance with Mr. Calum I. MacLean, who is at present collecting and recording Folk-Tales in Benbecula. Mr. MacLean said that from one Seanchaidh (aged 75) in Benbecula he had recorded over one hundred tales and this source is not yet exhausted.

Carinish

At Carinish a ceilidh and dance, in aid of the National Mod funds (1949), was held, with Mr. Calum MacDonald (Calum Ruairidh) as Fear-an-Tighe. £13 was realised from this effort. Sincere thanks are due to Miss MacDonald, Head Teacher, and Nurse Ferguson, who made all the arrangements.

Howmore

A similar function, arranged by Miss Sineag C. Currie, Head Teacher, was held at Howmore, with the Parish minister, Rev. C. MacKenzie, as Fear-an-Tighe. The Mod first-prize winner, Mr. John MacInnes, was in his best form as a soloist, and he and Mr. John MacLeod (Iain Ruadh) delightfully rendered Puir-t-a-beul. Mrs. Nicolson (Bean Lachlainn) sang several songs in the traditional manner. Calum I. MacLean was present and narrated a Sgeulachd in his own inimitable way. From this effort £14 10s. was handed over for the National Mod fund.

Collections were made at ceilidhs in Tigharry, Cnoc na Mona, and Iochdar, amounting to £2 0s. 9d., 12s. 1d., and £2 3s. respectively. In all, a sum of £32 5s. 10d. was collected for the National Mod fund during this visit.

Feill

A Feill in aid of the National Mod funds is to be held at Inverness on 2nd and 3rd September, and a special feature will be an "Islands Stall." The following centres have been arranged where goods can be deposited for dispatch to Inverness:—North Uist, Post Office, Clachan; Benbecula, Creagorry Hotel; South Uist, Post Office, Lochboisdale. All goods sent to these collecting centres should bear the donor's name and address so that an acknowledgment may be sent in due course to each donor by the Mod Committee.

Feachdan

All the Feachdan of Comunn na h-Oigridh were visited, and the following enrolments made:—Lochmaddy, 8; Sollas, 1; Tigharry, 9; Bayhead or Paibil, 6; Cairninnis, 4; Torlum, 20; Killervagh, 14; Lochcarnan, 3; Iochdar, 6; Howmore, 5; Kildonan, 4.

Comunn na h-Oigridh Camp

Keen interest is being taken in the forthcoming Camp, and it is expected that large numbers of boys and girls from the Uists will attend this year. A circular letter, giving full particulars, will be sent to all the Feachdan shortly. The girls will arrive at Lochailort on Thursday, 30th June, and leave

on Monday, 11th July. The boys will arrive on Thursday, 14th July, and leave on Monday, 25th July. Inverailort Castle will again be the venue and, given favourable weather, the boys and girls may be assured of a happy time under canvas.

Regional Committee

At a Meeting in Lochboisdale School a Regional Committee of Comunn na h-Oigridh for South Uist and Benbecula was formed. The Chairman is Mr. John Walker, Bornish, and the Hon. Secretary is Miss Jean C. Currie, Schoolhouse, Howmore.

Leabhraichean Ura (bho l. d. 35)

Leabhar na Féinne, ann an *Comh-chruinneachadh nan Stiùbhartach* (1804), agus an seann lámh-sgrìobhainnean. Tha toimh-seachain de'n cheart sheorsa an cànanean eile, mar eisimpleir, "Iosephus agus an dà fhichead Iùdhach," "Na còig Turcaich dheug agus na còig Criosdaidhean deug."

Tha Mgr. MacFhraing, anns an leabhran fo ar n-aire, ag iomradh air na toimhseachain sin, agus an sin tha e dol a steach gu domhain anns an nì ris an abrar am Beurla "the Higher Mathematics" feuch an lorg e, gu h-aithghearr, àireamh àite an fhir dheireannaich. Ged a thug mise bliadhnaich ris na "Mathematics," eadhon bliadhna san Oil-thaigh fhéin, chan urrainn mi barail a thoirt air àireamhachd dhiomhair Mhgr. MhicRaing, ach, a mach o bheagan mhearachdan, tha a chuid Ghàidhlig math.



Cluich-sneachd air Beinn Labhar
Skiing on Ben Lawers

**War Memorial and
Thanksgiving Fund**

Organiser:

Miss Normanna MacAskill, 74 Berkeley St., Glasgow, C.2
(Douglas 0609).

The popular series of Islands and Mainland Quizes terminated on Tuesday, 8th February, with an "Islands versus Mainland Quiz" in the Highlanders' Institute. Two teams of 14 took part, each Association which had competed in the previous Quizes sending two members to form the teams. The Island Associations' Team won this final contest, the highest marks being scored by the Mull and Iona Association's representatives. The Sutherlandshire Association scored highest marks in the Mainland Team.

A very happy evening was enjoyed by a large company at the Highland Ball, which Mrs. Wilson Dowie, Mrs. Wilfrid Scott, and their Committee held in the Ballroom Suite of St. Andrew's Halls on Friday, 11th February. An excellent display of Scottish Country Dancing was given by members of the Scottish Country Dance Society, and Mr. Douglas Byng, of the Theatre Royal, entertained the company with several clever and amusing songs.

Tickets are now being sold for the Grand Highland Dance which is being held in St. Andrew's Halls on Friday, 25th March, 1949. They cost 7/6 each (including Buffet), and may be obtained from the Organiser or from An Comunn Gaidhealach Office, 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

Stornoway Town Council and Ross-shire County Council have kindly granted us permission to hold a Flag Day in the Island of Lewis on Saturday, 23rd April next, and it is hoped that we shall be able to take full advantage of this splendid opportunity by having a collection in every district throughout the Island.

**OUR TARGET, by 31st December, 1950, £20,000
SO FAR - - - - - £3,573**

"Anail a' Ghaidheil am Mullach."

The Gael doesn't rest till he reaches his objective.

WANTED

AGENTS TO SELL "AN GAIDHEAL"
IN THE ISLANDS

Generous Commission

Write to Circulation Manager

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged ...	£3,432	18	7
Collection Box in Ardgour Hotel ...		6	—
Proceeds of Raffle at Work Party Meeting, 25/1/49 ...		4	—
Flag Day Collection in Inverness ...	44	1	3
Ceilidh held in Duror, per Mrs. Hunter	4	—	—
D. J. Ewing Hunter, Esq., Helensburgh ...	2	2	—
Proceeds of Hebrides Quiz, 10/12/48	13	6	6
Proceeds of Bring and Buy Sale, 11/12/48 ...	58	15	11
Proceeds of Ladies' Ceilidh, 30/11/48	7	5	—
Glasgow University Ossianic Society	10	10	—
	£3,573	9	3

National Mod, Glasgow

Previously acknowledged ...	£2,505	6	5
Paisley Highlanders' Association ...	3	3	—
Campbeltown Branch ...	10	—	—
	£2,518	9	5

An Comunn Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged ...	£132	3	0
Mrs. Brodie of Brodie, Forbes ...	—	5	—
John MacKenzie, Esq., Nova Scotia	—	5	1
	£132	13	1

MEMBERS, PLEASE NOTE!

Ordinary members whose subscriptions for the current year are unpaid will have received a notification to that effect from the Treasurer. He will be grateful for a prompt response.

HIGHLAND ASSOCIATION EVENTS.

MULL HIGHLAND GAMES. — Tobermory, Thursday, 21st July. Full particulars later. First appearance in Western Isles of Glasgow Police Pipe Band.

GLENURQUHART HIGHLAND GATHERING. Drumnadrochit, Saturday, 27th August. Mrs. I. Lockie, Secretary, Milton.

NATIONAL MOD, Inverness, 4th-7th October. Syllabus now available from Secretary, An Comunn Gaidhealach, 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow. Entries close 2nd July.

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH, EDINBURGH. Summer Ceilidhs, Second Saturday April, May, June, Douglas Haig Memorial Hall, Coates Crescent.

SALES and WANTS.

WANTED, copy of "Six Thousand Years of Celtic Grandeur."—Box No. 201.

SGIAN DUBH, in good condition, required; not over ornamented.—Box No. 204.

FOR SALE, Officer's Greatcoat and Sam Browne, double brace; excellent condition; offers.—Box No. 203.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ILLUMINATED ADDRESSES, Certificates, Title Pages, Membership Scrolls, Book Plates, etc.—Write Box No. 202.

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AN GAIDHEAL *THE GAEL*

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APRIL, 1949

No. 4



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NOTES AND COMMENTS

AN GAIDHEAL THE GAEL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

Cape Breton Gaelic College

PLEASE MENTION OUR NAME WHEN
WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

A Deserved Honour

ON 31st March at Oban honour was paid to Mr. John Macdonald, a grand old man of the Gaelic movement and long associated with the Oban Gaelic Choir, which he founded and conducted for many years and which his daughter now conducts. Part of the proceedings were broadcast, the musical items being some of the many for which Mr. Macdonald composed the air or arrangement. Mr. Macdonald has been closely associated with the Mod since its inception, and he has made a very great contribution to Gaelic music. One of the best of his compositions is the air of "An Aitairachd Ard." Tha sinn ag guidhe do ar caraid slàinte is sonas, maille ris a' mhòr mheas a tha air am measg nan Gaidheal d'an aithne an obair ionmholta a rinn e.

Gifts from Edinburgh

THE Highland Ball Committee, Edinburgh, has remitted to An Comunn Gaidhealach the very generous gift of £200, half of which is for the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund and half for Comunn na h-Oigridh. We would record our very sincere thanks to the Committee for this magnificent help to two most worthy causes.

Legacies for Gaelic?

A London Gael, who died recently, left over £80,000. He bequeathed £500 for bursaries and another £500 to hospitals. The residue goes to the Church of Scotland. Does anyone ever bequeath anything to An Comunn Gaidhealach? Educational and medical needs are now amply provided for by State aid, but the work of An Comunn, so vital for the future of Gaelic and the Gael, ought not to be overlooked by those who are in the fortunate position of being able to give legacies.

An Established Industry

EIGHT years ago there was established at Easdale an industry for the manufacture of small tools and lathes. There, at the Garadhmor Works, Barrmor Tool Works have been showing how a suitable industry can be fitted into the Highland economy, and how craftsmanship and light engineering can help to provide employment.

Clan Albainn

THE Clan Albainn Society, which was founded just a year ago as a practical effort to re-colonise the Highlands, can now look back upon a twelve-month of good progress. The first pioneer team has now been at work in Wester Ross for some months, and a ten-acre croft has been drained, cleared, and ploughed, and small vegetable garden reclaimed. No little task for four men—mostly new to that kind of work—in three months, using spades, picks, and scythes (with the hire of a tractor for some ploughing). If this enterprise receives the support it deserves, there will still be hope for some of the more desolate areas of the north-west.

A New Industry in Skye

A new Company, Scottish Diatomite Limited, has been formed to work the large diatomite deposits in the Isle of Skye. Hitherto diatomite has been imported from abroad, chiefly from Denmark, Algeria, and Germany, 50,000 tons were imported in 1947—but round the shores of Loch Cuithir in Skye there are deposits with an estimated maximum production of between 250,000 and 300,000 tons. The market value of diatomite is £18 a ton, and the substance is used for heat storage cookers and fire bricks and in the making of paints, plastics, and cosmetics.

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

An rud nach do bhuilich Dia chan fhad a mheallar e.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Mur tog an Tighearna an taigh, gu dìomhain saothraichidh a luchd-togail.—Salm cxvii.1.

Knoydart

MR. J. A. CAMERON'S REPORT

FOLLOWING upon the "land raid" in Knoydart in November last and the attention thus focussed on the situation there, the Secretary of State for Scotland invited Mr. John A. Cameron, a former member of the Scottish Land Court, to investigate the position and advise on the best means of securing the full development of the resources of the area, taking into account the social, economic, and financial issues involved.

Having visited Knoydart, held a public meeting at Mallaig, and received representations from interested parties, Mr. Cameron has now issued his report, the terms of which have brought disappointment to those who believe that "the new Highlands" should be based on agricultural family holdings rather than on factories and power stations (although there is a place for these), and have been hailed with delight by those whose chief interest in the Highlands is in the beef-steaks and mutton-chops and electric power it can produce for the country generally rather than in human communities.

Some of the Knoydart people, with Father Colin MacPherson as their spokesman, have urged the establishment of forty small-holdings in Knoydart. The Department of Agriculture has envisaged the establishment of nineteen holdings. Mr. Cameron advises against both schemes. He recommends "development as a single unit under one direction," that is, that the proprietor's development scheme be allowed to hold the field to the exclusion of all else. This scheme involves expenditure of £45,000 (half of which will be paid by the State under the Hill Farming Act, 1946) and the building up of a stock of 10,000 sheep in the next five years, with a very limited scheme of afforestation.

MR CAMERON'S reasons for advising against small-holdings are: (1) despite its size (Knoydart estate runs to over 50,000 acres), the proportion of suitable arable and pastoral land is relatively small; (2) the cost of providing houses and steadings for holders, roads, fencing, and other facilities; (3) the difficulty of building up suitable sheep-stocks hefted to the ground; (4) the insecurity and lack of comfort which the holders would experience, because of the nature of the district.

These "insuperable difficulties," as Mr. Cameron calls them, rule out the "full-time" or family holding. The small "part-time" holding is also ruled out by the lack of suitable subsidiary employment. Such subsidiary employment could be provided by a large scheme of afforestation, but the extent of afforestation must be strictly limited (to some 500 acres as against a possible 8000 acres), partly in the interests of the 10,000 sheep stock which the proprietor is advised to build up, and partly because the Forestry Commission would meet with great difficulties due to inaccessibility and lack of transport facilities.

The report significantly recommends that, if at the end of ten years the estate does not show the development envisaged and promised, the position should be reviewed particularly with a view to the Forestry Commission acquiring the property.

NO one questions Mr. Cameron's knowledge and experience in agricultural matters, but one may venture the opinion that, if his remit had been otherwise framed, he would have made recommendations more to the liking

of those of us who are concerned about the rapid depopulation of Knoydart and other areas on the west mainland. The question is, surely, not the best method of rearing the maximum number of sheep and cattle on the 50,000 acres comprising the Knoydart estate, but rather the best method of maintaining in Knoydart a reasonable level of population on a reasonable standard of living.

The principle that an area like Knoydart can best be developed as one large unit rather than as several smaller ones is, if applied generally, a dangerous one. It is suspiciously like the arguments used to justify the notorious "clearances" of last century. It would justify the removal of the existing crofter-population from many other areas and the consolidating of their holdings into large farms and estates, in the interest of food production, maximum results and all the rest of it.

Mr Cameron's report raises issues that reach far beyond the confines of Knoydart. The future of one-half the land area of Scotland is in the balance, and with it the fate of the language and culture native to the Highlands and Islands.

THE FOLKLORE INSTITUTE

Mr. J. L. Campbell of Canna, President of the Folklore Institute of Scotland, has returned from a trip abroad during which he visited the library of Congress at Washington, U.S.A., and the International Commission on Folk Arts and Folklore at Paris, at both of which institutions he deposited copies of recordings of authentic *orain mhóra* (old narrative songs) and of old walking songs, the first Gaelic folksong recordings from Scotland to be presented to either of them.

Great interest is taken in international folkmusic circles in these records, which are unique, and strong support is forthcoming for the Folklore Institute of Scotland's efforts to extend and carry on the work. In this way the voices of some of the best Barra folksingers such as the late Ruairi Iain Bhain and the late Anna Raghnaill Eachainn (Mrs. MacDougal) have been preserved for posterity.

The Viking Fund in New York has very generously presented the

Folklore Institute of Scotland with one of the new type magnetic wire recording machines, and the Library of Congress has also generously helped with recording material.

THE LATE MRS. CAMERON

IT is with very great regret that many will have heard, or will now learn, of the death of Mrs. Cameron, wife of Dr. John Cameron, LL.B., President of An Comunn Gaidhealach. She passed away on 21st March after a very brief illness.

Mrs. Cameron was well known and highly esteemed in the many spheres in which her husband has played a prominent part, and by his side she graced many great occasions and gave her support to many good causes.

We express our deep sympathy with Dr. Cameron and his daughter in their great loss and sorrow.

Na Saoir Mhora

Le UISDEAN MacPHADRAIG

(Choisinn an sgeulachd seo a' cheud duais aig Mòd Pheairt, 1947).

AIR feasgar brèagh grianach thàinig mi air Iain Bàn 'na shuidhe gu socrach am braighe a' chladaich, a dhruim ri cloich, agus smùid aige air cluchdach-aireachd lion sgadam. Chuir mi fàilt' air agus shin mi mi-fhèin air a' chladach ri a thaobh, 'gam bhlianadh fhéin ris a' ghréin. Bha an t-snathadh-lìn aig Iain gu luaineach a' dol a mach 's a staigh nu na moguil 'cho luath ri aigne nam ban baoth,' mar a theireadh e fhéin.

"Saoil," thubhairt mi rium fhéin, "dé na smuaintean a tha ruith ann an ceann làith a' bhodaich chòir?"

"A bheil thu faicinn," ars Iain, mar gum b'ann a' freagairt na ceist a bha 'nam inntinn, "na sgotha bige sin a tha a' tighinn a staigh an caol? Sin agad, ma tà, mas math mo bheachd-sa, am bàta mu dheireadh a thog na Saoir Mhóra a bha uair-eigin thallad ann an Camusgormaig."

"Nach bòidheach a théid i ris a' ghaoith," freagair mi 's mi a' teannadh a staigh na b'fhaisge air Iain, agus cinnt agam gu robh mi dol a dh'fhaotainn sgeoil ris am b'fhiach éisdeachd.

"S i fhéin a théid ris a' ghaoith, a laochain," ars Iain, agus e a' lìonadh na snathadh-lìn 's a shùil air a' bhàta; "cha do thog na fir ud gin riamh anns nach robh nàdur an t-seòlaidh. Ged is iomadh rubha garbh a chuir iad as an déidh, chan 'eil iomradh gun deachaidh gin riamh de'n t-seòrsa a bhriseadh air cladach an fhasgaidh ach fear a bhith mu a cùl a leigeadh ri fuaradh i. Bha iad uile easgaidh astarach fo ràmh no fo sheòl, ach a bharrachd air sin, a sheòid, bha buaidh iongantach eile a' ruith 'nan làib. Bhitheadh an seann sluagh ag cumail a mach nach d'rinn gin riamh dhiubh bàthadh. Agus a réir tuaisgeil bha iad ceart anns a' bheachd sin, oir, ged is iomadh beatha a bhios a' mhuir a' toirt dhinn, cha chumhneach le duine tha beò an diugh air tubaist de'n t-seòrsa seo tachairt do ghin de bhàtaichean nan Saoir Móra; agus uair de'n t-saoghal cha mhòr gu robh geodha eadar seo agus Maol-Chinntire anns nach fhaighte té no dhà dhiubh."

"Ciamar," arsa mise, "a thàinig a' bhuaidh iongantach sin orra?"

Thug Iain a' phìob thombaca air lom agus thòisich e air a lìonadh

air a dhubb-shocair. An déidh dha a lasadh agus coò no dhà a thoirte aisde chaidh e an greim a rithist leis an t-snathadh-lìn agus chùm e roimhe leis an sgeul.

"Ciamar a thàinig a' bhuaidh ud orra? Ma tà, innisidh mise sin duit. Seo agad mar a chuala mise an sgeul agus mas breug bhuan i is breug chugam i. Tha e san aithris gum b'e daoine anabarrach foghainteach eireachdail a bha anns an teaghlach bhò'n tille de na Saoir Mhóra. Latha de'n t-saoghal cha robh fir an dealbh no an dreach ri'm faicinn eadar dhà cheann na dùthcha. Tha e coltach gu robh iomadh ginealach dhiubh gun bhriseadh ri saorsainneachd nan eathraichean agus chan 'eil teagamh nach robh iad, air an aobhar sin, fìor ionnsaichte ealanta san obair.

"Aon samhradh a bha siud, ma tà, thòisich gille òg sgairtle de Chloinn an t-Saoir air togail bàta. Shuidhich e an druim agus na saidhean agus chuir e am fìuch-bhòrd oirre. Bha e 'ga togail 's 'ga cumadh cho boidheach 's a dh'iarraidh e. Bha e 'ga fuaigheal leis a' chopar—cha chuireadh na fir ud tarrang de'n iarann dhubb an greim idir, agus, gu dearbh, cha b'fhearr na sin e.

"Air madainn àraidh nuair a ràinig e am bàta thug e an aire gu robh an stràs mu dheireadh a chuir e oirre air a thigheil dhith agus air a bhriseadh. Thachair seo uair no dhà; a h-uile clàr a chuireadh e air a' bhàta an diugh bhitheadh iad air an tilgeil dhith is air am milleadh am màireach. Chuir a' chùis mòr iomagain air a' ghille agus oidhche de na h-oidhcheannan laigh e air cùl creige faisg air a' phort far an robh e a' togail a' bhàta dh'fheuch am faigheadh e a mach cò no ciod a bha a' milleadh saothair a làimhe. Cho luath 's a chlar an oidhche chunnaic e creutair neònach, ar leis, nach b'iasg is nach b'ainmhidh, a' tighinn air tìr as a' mhuir. An sin, ar leis gun do ghabh an rud a bh'ann riochd boireannaich, agus thàinig an àird an cladach a dh'ionnsaigh a' bhàta aige. Thàinig a' chùis air a' ghille cho aithghearr is gur e bh'ann gun do ghabh e sgaoinn eagail agus thug e na buinn as deachaidh cho luath 's a bhriseadh a chasan e. Nuair a dh'innis e d'a mhàthair mar a dh'èirich thubhairt am boireannach còir ris, "Bi thusa, laochain, a' beannachadh do chuid oibreach nuair a sguireas tu gach feasgar."

A' Mhaigdean-Mhara

RINN an gille mar a dh'iarra a mhàthair air. An àm sguir chuir e seun air a' bhàta le rann, 'ga beannachadh bho sgonn gu saidh is eadar bhonn agus bhràighe. Coma-co-dhiubh, am beul an amhoich an ath-oidhche dh'fhaicadh an gille tapaidh e fhéin anns an fheamainn fo chloich mhóir a bha sa' chladach. Nam b'e droch rud a bh'ann, bha an gille de'n bheachd nach bitheadh buaidh aige air-san cho fada 's a bhitheadh e fo thùrr a' mhuir-làin. A cheart cho luath 's a dh'orch an oidhche thàinig a' mhaigdean air tìr mar a rinn i roimhe.

Ghabh i an àirde, agus chuir i cuairt air a' bhàta, ach thill i an rathad a thàinig i gun chroin sam bith a dheanamh. Bha an saor 'na shuidhe 'na chrùban fo'n chloich is e 'ga faicinn eadar e 's leus, agus an àm dhi a bhith tearnadh a bhàn an cladach thug e duibh-leum as a mach as àite falaich is rinn e oirre. Nuair a thug ise an aire dha dh'fheuch i ri teicheadh, ach bha esan eadar i is am muir agus cha robh dol as aice. Rug e oirre is rinn e greim gramail cruaidh oirre. Leig i sreuch oilteil aisde agus dh'èigh is ghrios i air e 'ga leigeil as. Ach as cha leigeadh e i gun an innseadh i dha cion-fath a turuis.

"Car son," ars esan, "a tha thu a' tighinn mar seo a mhilleadh mo chuid-sa oibreach?"

"Thà," ars ise "a chionn is nach robh thusa a' beannachadh na luinge an àm dhuit sgu, ach, ma leigeas tu as mi, cuiridh mise seun air do chuid bàtaichean; gheibh thu dhaibh buaidh shònraichte sam bith a dh'iarraas tu."

"S e m'iartras, ma tà," ars esan, "nach dean bàta a thogas mi gu bràth bàthadh."

"S math a roghnaich thu, a cheatharnaich. Gheibh thu t'iartras, cha dean bàta a thogas tu féin no duine de do shliochd gu bràth bàthadh," ars ise, is i a' toirt na mara oirre 'na deann.

Riamh bhò'n là sin bha a' bhuaidh ud fuaighte ri eathraichean nan Saoir Móra agus, gu dearbh, is iomadh eathar bòidheach a chuir iad gu muir. Ach dh'fhalbh sin, mo thruaigh! Chan 'eil duine an làthair an diugh de'n teaghlach eireachdail ud; sheac is shiòlaidh iad as gu tur.

Am Fear mu Dheireadh

BHA am fear nu dhicreadh de na Saoir Mhóra beò ri linn m'athar, agus is iomadh uair a chuala mi m'athair ag innseadh mu dheidhinn na tubaist a chuir giorrad saoghail air an t-Saor agus a chuir ceann-fínd air togail nan eathraichean ann an Camusgormaig. Mu na h-amannan ud thàinig, tha e coltach, iomadh atharrachadh agus ath-leasachadh cuideachd air cor agus caithe-beatha dhaoine anns na Garbh-chriochan agus anns na h-Eileanan. Shoirbhich iasgach an sgadain agus, math no dona e, chaidh adhartas nach bu bheag a dheanamh a thaobh marsantachd is malairt de gach seòrsa. An lorg sin dh'fhàs an sluagh caoin-shuarach air iomadh seann nòs agus cleachdadh a bhitheadh aig an sinneair. Cha b'fhiaich leò a' mhìn-chorca a bhleitheadh iad féin, cha b'fhiaich leo teine mòine no connaidh, chan fhoghnadh dhaibh ach gach n'ùr agus annasach. 'S e a bh'ann, ma tà, gun do thòisich soitheichean mòra air tarraing gach gnè sheòrsa bathair á Grianaig agus á iomadh baile-puirnt eile a dh'ionnsaigh na Gaidhealtachd.

Bha am fear mu dheireadh de na Saoir Mhóra 'na dhùine anabarrach achluinneach tapaidh. Nuair a bha e na bhalach òg thug e greis air seòladairachd anns na longan mòra a bhitheadh a' dol thairis agus ged a bhitheadh e ris an t-saorsainneachd bha magaid mhór aige riann ris a' mhuir. Ciod a rinn e, ma tà, ach cnapach de shoitheach seòlaidh a cheannach leis am bitheadh e fhéin agus dithis ghillean eile a' ruith, an dràsda 's a rithist, gu Grianaig a dh'iarraidh luchd mine, no theagmh luchd salainn aig àm iasgach an sgadain.

Turus de na tursan, ma tà, thog na fir orra gu Grianaig. Dh'fhàg iad Camusgormaig air deireadh na h-òidhche agus air toiseach tràghaidh, agus bha iad ag cur an Rubha Mhurchanaich aig briseadh an là is iad a' faotainn soirbheis leò cho math 's a dh'iarraidh iad. Nuair a shoilleirich an là thug iad an aire, beagan astair rompa, do bhàta-smùide beag grannda a bha, le mòran gleadhraich is àinich, a' dol an aon rathad riutha féin. Bha an dà bhàta beir air bheir car greise ach air do'n ghaoith cruadhachadh dh'fhàg an soitheach seòlaidh an tè eile fada as a déidh. Air son àbhadh anns an dol seachd dh'èigh an Saor. "Bithidh sinn ag innseadh dhaibh an Grianaig gu bheil sibh a' tighinn." Nuair a ghreimich iad air a' Chaol Mhùileach thug na beanntan a' ghaith dhiubh agus cha b'fhada agus an d'rug am bàta-smùide orra.

Am Bodach Mòr

BHA seann bhodach mòr lachd-bunn a' stiùradh a' bhàta-smùide is e cho dubh duaihnidh ris a' ghual a bha e a' losgadh. Anns an dol seachd thug am bodach ceum gu taobh na luinge agus dh'èigh e ris an t-Saor, "Bithidh mise ag innseadh dhaibh an Grianaig gu bheil thu tighinn." Rinn an Saor agus a chompanaich gaire cridheil ri àbhadh a' bhodach, is cha robh air sin ach sin fhéin.

Mu dheireadh thall fhuair na fir cuidhteas an Caol Mùileach agus cho luath 's a ràinig iad ceann Eilean Lios-mór fhuair iad sgail air gaoith bh'ann ear-thuath a mach as an Linne Sheilich. Chàirich na fir rithe a h-uile stiall canbe a ghùlaimeadh i agus thug an soitheach sinterag aighearach aside thar nan tonn. "Ma mhaires an oiteag seo beiridh sinn air a' bhodach mhór fhathast," ghlaodh an Saor is e a' dol ann an spàirn a' teannachadh sgòid an t-siùil mhóir. 'S mar a thubhairt b'fhior.

Seachd aig Diùraidh fhuair iad sealladh air a' bhodach agus iad a' sìor thoirt a staigh air. Mun d'ràinig iad Gìogha chaidh iad seachd air le sraon is dh'fhàg iad e fada as an déidh. Le fiamh a' ghàire air a' ghmis agus a' ghuth làn fealla-dhà dh'èigh an Saor ris a' bhodach a rithist an dol seachd, "Bithidh mi ag innseadh dhaibh an Grianaig gu bheil thu a' tighinn." Ma bha am bodach duaihnidh roimhe bha e a' sheachd mhiosan a nis, oir cha do ghabh e a' chùis mar fhèalla-dhà idir. Chuir e tàimilt mhór air e a' bhith air fhàgail air deireadh an dara h-uair leis an t-soitheach sheòlaidh. Dhubbh aogag le feirg agus thòisich e air miannan is air maoidheadh a dhùirn ris an t-Saor agus e 'ga chànèadh 's 'ga mhallachadh leis a h-uile facal bu mhiosa na chéile, 's a' bòideachadh gun cuireadh e fhéin agus a soitheach gun d'èighinn nam faigheadh e faisg air.

Thuit an oidhche dhaibh a' dol timcheall na Maoile, agus an uair a thionndaidh iad suas ri Cluaidh thàinig a' ghaoth car cruaidh an ceann orra. Thug iad a staigh ceann no dhà san t-seòl mhór agus bha iad a' dol ri fuarachd cho math 's a dh'fhaodadh iad, ach a chionn is gu robh an oidhche a nis air fàs glé dhorcha, frasach agus a' ghaoth ag éirigh, chuir iad rompa fuireach gun an tigeadh an là ann am iasgadh Eilean Arainn. An déidh laighe no dhà ri fuarachd, a nunn 's a nall, bha iad a' teannadh air am fiaradh suas ri ceann a deas an eilein, ach gun fhios gun fhaireachd-

ainn, nuair bu lugha shaoil iad, bhuaill rud-eigin le gleadhar eagalach taobh leis an t-soithich. Thug i sathadh chuide gu fuarachd agus chrath na siùil anns a' ghaith. Bha an dithis ghillean air toiseach an t-soithich aig an àm agus an siùil ri fuarachd; chuala iad éigh bhò'n t-Saor, a bha air an stiùir, agus an uair a thug iad sìl mun cuairt chunnaic iad coltas saidh toiseach a' bhàta-smùide a' tarraing air falbh bhuaip anns an dorhadhas. Bha cliathach an t-soithich air a tolladh gu h-olc agus an t-uisge a' ruith a staigh 'na steall. Chaidh na fir 'nan gailc, ghrad thig iad a mach a' gheala bheag a bha aca air bòrd, oir thug iad fainear gun rachadh an soitheach fodha fo'n casan ann an totan. Dh'èigh iad ris an t-Saor ach cha tàinig freagairt. Ruith fear duibh gu deireadh na luinge ach cha robh sgeul air an t-Saor. Sheall iad air a shon thall 's a bhos, ghlaodh iad air ainm, ach cha robh a dhubbh no a dhath ri fhaicinn. Chan 'eil teagamh nach ann a fhuair an duine tapaidh droch bhuille anns a' cheann bhò'n chrann-sgòid a chuir bhò mhath e, air dhòigh is gun do thuit e anns a' mhuir.

Chaidh an Soitheach Fodha

MU dheireadh dh'iomair na Mhillean air falbh bhò thaobh an t-soithich; is cha b'ann roimh a mbitheich. Cha bu luaithe fhuair iad cuidhteas an soitheach na chaidh an toiseach aice fodha, dh'èirich an deireadh san adhar is dh'fhogail, mar gum b'eadh, an cuan a bheil agus shluig e i. Chaidh i fodha an comhair a cinn is dhùin na tuinn thairis oirre le gair oilleit, agus dh'fhàgadh na fir air druim a' chuain, neòil dhubha ghrumach na h-oidhche os an cionn, cun farsaing mu'n timcheall agus sruth is gaoth 'gan sguabadh air falbh bhò'n fhearainn. Ach bha na gillean achluinneach làidir agus, a bharrachd air sin, b'e an Saor Mór fhéin a thog a' gheola bheag agus cò aige a tha brath nach do chuir sin seun orra. Coma-co-dhiubh, beag 's mar a bha i agus a dh'aindeoin gaoith is gaillinn thug a' gheola gu tìr sàbhailt iad: mun tàinig an là rinn iad Eilean Arainn dheth far an d'fhuair iad gabhail riutha le mòr choibheas.

An déidh gach gáibaidh agus deuchainn a bh'ann thàinig an dithis bhalach dhachaidh gu dubhach brònach, oir dh'fhàg iad an companach caomh "fuar fo spòig a' chuain." Cha do tholl an Saor Mór còir; cha robh sin san dàn dhà, agus nì motha dh'fhàg e duine sliochd as a dhéidh.

(An còrr air taobh-duilleig 45)

Ann's a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

BEATHA IS BARDACHD

THA iad ann 'nar latha—agus chan ann idir teara a tha iad— a tha ceart coma cò-dhiubh bhithes no nach bi a' Ghàidhlig air a labhairt, agus aig a' cheart am tha iad sin ag gabhail uidh anns a' cheòl Ghaidhealach. 'Nam bheachd fhéin, tha a' Ghàidhlig agus a' litreachas agus a' ceòl a' dol còmhla. Tha iad suainne ri chèile ann an ceanglachan na beatha. Ma dh'fhalbhas aon dhiubh, bhithidh easbhuidh mhór air na dhà eile.

Tha spiorad is dreach sònraichte agus air leth air gach cànan, agus bhithidh an saoghal mòran nas bochda na tha e ma thig an latha anns nach cluinnear tuilleadh a' Ghàidhlig air beul an t-sluaigh. Ann an seagh cha bhàsaich a' Ghàidhlig ann feasda, cho fad 's a mhaireas an saoghal fhéin. Ged a rachadh i a' feum cumanta am measg an t-sluaigh, bhithidh i fhathast air mhaireann ann an leabhraichean, agus bhithidh daoine foghlumte fad iomadh linn 'ga leughadh is 'ga rannsachadh, mar a tha iad a' deanamh an diùgh air an Laideann agus air an t-seann Ghreugais. Faodaidh i bhith air mhaireann mar chuspair-foghlum anns na h-oil-thaighean, ach bhithidh i marbh, agus anns an staid mhairebh sin caillidh i a brìgh agus a buaidh. Is ann air meomhair agus teanga an t-sluaigh, agus chan ann an leabharlann nan daoine foghlumte, a dh'iarraimaid uile gum maireadh a' Ghàidhlig beò.

THA rud eile ann a tha mar chomharradh air cànan bhèò, agus 's e sin gum biodh i a' sìor chur ri a litreachas, aon chuid litreachas-beòil no litreachas-pinn no an dà chuid. Mur bi anns a' Ghàidhlig no an cànan air bith eile ach meadhon-còmhraidh ann an cùisean na beatha làitheil, chan fheàrr i na cànan nan ceàrd no eadhon comhartaich nan con. Ach ma tha intinnean sluaigh a' dol an gleus air cuspairean-smuain os cionn gnòthaichean dripeil na beatha làitheil, agus ma tha na smuaintean is na beachdan sin air an cur an cèill am briathran snasail usal, an rosg no am bàrdachd, 's ann mar sin a tha litreachas a' teachd gu bith. Faodaidh an litreachas—agus gu dearbh bu chòir dha—éirigh a mach a' cùisean na beatha làitheil, ach tha e mar gum b'eadh ag éirigh air sgéith os cionn nan nithean cumanta agus dìmbuan agus ag gabhail seallaidh am fad

is an farsaing air na ceistean dìomhair sin a thaobh bith is beatha a tha 'nan ceistean air gach giùlealach.

Ann am bàrdachd agus ann an sgeulachd agus ann an seanfhacal thug an Gaidheal am follais na beachdan agus na faireachdainnean agus an tuigse a bha aige a thaobh nan nithean sin. Ach tha barrachd ann an litreachas na na smuaintean a tha e ag cur an cèill. Is leth a luach a' chaint anns a' bheil na smuaintean sin air an còmhachadh. Bha an t-Ollamh Sasannach, Sòmhairle MacIain, de'n bheachd nach robh anns a' Ghàidhlig ach "cànain òighean cinnich bhuirb," le beag-smuaintean a chuireadh iad an cèill agus beag-ealdhain leis an cuireadh iad an cèill iad.

Is ann a' tur-aineolas a dh'èirich clao-n-breith MhicIain. Nam b'athne dha eadhon na tha againn ann an *Leabhar Dheadhan Liosmor*, thuigeadh e cho ealanta agus a bha na bàird Ghaidhealach ann a bhith a' snaidheadh rann is a' fighe fhacal an sreathan grunn.

CHAN 'EIL na bàird idir marbh. Tha iad ann an diùgh, agus is math gu bheil, agus tha daoine ann cuideachd a ni seachas. Air uairean 's dòcha gu bheil blas an lòchrain is àileadh an t-seòmair-fhoghlum air mòran de litreachas Gàidhlig air latha-ne, agus sin a' chionn 's gu bheil sgaradh air tighinn eadar beatha làitheil a' bhàird no an fhìr-sgrìobhadh agus cuspair a smuain. Air litreachas Mhic Mhaighstir Alasdair is Dhonnchaidh Bhàin is Iain MhicCodrum tha blas na mara

NA SAOIR MHORA (bho thaobh-duilleig 43)

Am b'ann le a dheòin agus le mì-rùn a chuir sgiobair a' bhàta-smùide an soitheach fodha, no am b'ann le tubaist a thachair dha a bualadh? Chan 'eil fhios air sin, oir cha deachaidh a thoirt gu cùirt riamh. Ach is cinnteach, ma bha dad idir de chneasdachd ann an aighe an duine, gum bitheadh agartas a chogais féin 'na pheanas trom gu leòr air.

"Sin agadsa, ma tà," ars Iain, agus e a' spràdh na snàthaid leis an robh e ag obair 'na phòca agus a' tòiseachadh air pasgadh nan lìon gu bòidheach rèidh air an comhair-mhogul air a' chladach; "sin agad, a laochain, mar a thàinig agus mar a dh'fhalbh a'

agus àileadh nam beann, oir aca-san bha dlùth-cheangal eadar beatha is bàrdachd. Tha eadar-dhealachadh mòr eadar bàrd a tha fuireach am baile Ghlaschu agus, air dha tighinn dhachaidh bho obair-latha agus a' thea a ghabhail, a shuidheas sìos a' dleanamh pios bàrdachd mu'n ghleann san robh e òg no mu'n eilean uaine a dh'fhàg a sheanair—tha mòran eadar-dhealachaidh eadar sin agus bàrd a tha gach latha a' saothrachadh am measg nam beann no ri taobh na faireag agus a' bheil a mhac-meannna air a' ghluasad leis na tha fa chomhair. Chan e nach 'eil bàird ann a tha, eadhon anns a' bhaile-mhòr agus fada bho'n Ghaidhealach, air an gluasad gu bàrdachd, chan ann le cuimhne air seallaidhean Gaidhealach a tha fad as bhuaig aig an àm, ach le seallaidhean is fuaimean a' bhaile-mhòir fhéin.

Tha dà chunnart fa chomhair na Gàidhlig. A h-aon dhiubh, gum bi i mar chànan fo ghlas aig na daoine foghlumte, an fheadhainn a sgrìobhas leabhraichean-gràmar is faclairan (ged is feumail iad sin); agus an t-aon eile, nach bi innte ach cànan thana leibheadh anns nach dean daoine ach an latha a bheannachadh 'a' chéile. Ma tha a' Ghàidhlig ri a buaidh is a brìgh a' ghàidheal, feumaidh daoine a bhith strì ri a laimh-seachadh mar inneal tre an toirear am follais smuaintean is ruinatean mòra is dìomhair.

Tha na bàird ri am moladh agus ri am m'sneachadh, agus chan iad na bàird a mhaìch ach gach neach a tha feuchainn ri cur ri litreachas nan Gaidheal.

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The Revival of Breton National Culture

By BREIZHAD

ALTHOUGH the Breton movement has been severely hit after the war, and although the odds are still against it (Breton is banned from the schools and there exists no Breton institute of higher learning), its progress has been most encouragingly constant during the last year.

Reviewing Breton cultural activities, one could classify them under four main headings: (1) Propaganda for the Breton language; (2) Preservation of Breton national dances, dresses, and customs; (3) Popular publications in Breton; and (4) Literary production.

The struggle to obtain official recognition for the language is waged after the classical lines by the Union for the Defence of Breton, the Union of Government Schoolmasters, etc. It can, perhaps, be brought to memory that between 1934 and 1936 more than three hundred municipal councils asked for the teaching of Breton and that 560 made the same petition in June 1944—without any practical result. Unceasingly letters are sent to the French Minister of Education, visits paid to him, and articles issued in the newspapers. But the fact remains (in March 1949) that the Breton language is still utterly banned from all primary and secondary examinations.

Scotsmen will not fail to be interested by the success the bagpipe is enjoying in Brittany. The two traditional Breton instruments are the *Biniou* (a kind of little bagpipe) and the *Bombard*. The Scottish bagpipe, called in Breton *Biniou Bras*, has been introduced towards 1930 and, arranged to tune with the *Biniou* and *Bombard*, has become very popular. The two associations of bagpipers are the K.A.V. and the B.A.S. This last, the largest, numbers about five hundred members and organises every year a summer camp where Breton piping and dances are taught. The secretary is: P. Monjarret, avenue de la gare, Carhaix, Finistère, Brittany. The Celtic Clubs are more especially devoted to the study of Breton dances. There must be about a hundred and twenty clubs now at work in Brittany and abroad, and the last festival in Kemper gathered over six hundred dancers in their national dresses. The secretary of the Union of Celtic Clubs is: Mmc Galbrun, 78 rue de Fontenay, Vincennes, France.

Another feature of the Breton cultural revival is the annual summer-camp for Breton speakers. Held last year during a fortnight near Rosko, it received as guests about a score of fellow-Celts eager to study Breton and to make better acquaintance with Brittany. It is to be deeply regretted that Scotland was the only Celtic country which had no representative here. One of its organisers is the well-known writer and artist, Xavier de Langlais (7, rue Victor Hugo, Rennes, Ille et Vilaine, Brittany). Other camps for the Breton "boy scouts," for Breton-speaking children, were also held.

The monthly Kroaz Breiz (Cross of Brittany) could be described as the type of popular monthly. It has taken the place of the old Feiz Ha Breiz, whose director, Father Perrot, was shot in a lonely lane in 1943. It is written all in Breton and recruits chiefly its readers among Catholics. The annual festival of the Bleun Brug (Heather Flowers), held under the patronage of Kroaz Breiz, is run along the same lines as the Mod.

Mention must be also made of the Gorsedd of the Bards of Brittany, which, under the leadership of Taldir, is more alive than ever (although for some years it has held only private meetings) and organises literary competitions.

Official tuition being non-existent, the "schools through post" (correspondence schools) are of great importance. One "ar skol dre lizer" recruits its pupils mainly among Catholic schoolmasters and mistresses. "Skol Ober," founded in 1931, is non-sectarian and has been teaching Breton to hundreds of students the world over.

Good handbooks, dictionaries, readers are now available, and valuable works are constantly issued by the publishing house of Skridou Breizh (Square du Casino, La Baule, Loire-Inférieure, Brittany). The literary public has at its disposal two reviews of high standard: the quarterly *Kaerou Kristen*, mainly devoted to the study of Christian philosophy and the 80-page *Al Liamm*, publishing every two months literature of every kind.

The Breton movement is only beginning to recover. Its activities and productions remain little as compared with what they were before or during the war; smaller still they appear when one thinks there are about 1,200,000 Breton speakers. But self-conscious Bretons are alive to their duty towards the Celtic community and more and more beautiful will their culture blossom.

Tannaig is Samhlaidhean An Latha Ghil

Le TORMOD DOMHNALLACH

CHAN ann a mhàin an déidh do'n ghréin dol fodha agus air an oidhche a bhíodh tannaig is samhlaidhean ag coinnéadh ri feadhainn air an Eilean 'a' Cheò, ach bhíodhte 'gam faicinn ann an cuid de àiteachan aonaranach, leathoireach san eilean chudna eadhon air an latha gheal ghríanach.

Bha fear a mhuinntir Stafainn thrá air feasgar ag gabhail an rathaid dhachaidh thar Bealach Ollasgart. Air do'n feasgar a bhith bláth, bhuail am pathaid e agus nuair a bha e air dol seachad crioman goirid air bonn a' bhealach dh'fhalbh e bharr an rathaid-mhóir agus chaidh e síos a dh'ionnsaigh tobair a bha faisg air, air son deoch. Air bha a léir ól thog e a shúil a dh'ionnsaigh na slihe bhó'n do dh'fhalbh e, agus chunnaic e duine árd ann an

sin 'na sheasamh nach robh e ag aithneachadh.

Cha do shaoil am feasgach an toiseach gur e cáil mhi-nádurra a bha ann an seo; is ann a bhuail 'na intinn, ged nach do dh'aithnich e an duine, nach robh ann ach fear-eigin a bhuneadh do'n sgireachd a bha ag gabhail an rathaid mar a bha e fhéin agus a bha 'ga fheitheamh.

Mun do ráinig fear air sgeóil an rathad bhruidhinn e ris a' choigreach ach thug e fainear nach d'fhuair e facal freagairt. Chuir seo gné de iongantais air agus cho luath 's a fhuair e air druim an rathaid-mhóir nach ann a thóisic am fear-fuadain air coiseachd ri thaobh, ach cha robh e ag rádh thu. Ann an sin thugas fainear nach robh an cuspair seo ag coiseachd air an talamh idir, ach

(An ciorr air taobh-duilleig 47)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AN GIBLEAN, 1949

Aireamh 4

Bus-dubh is Crodh Chailein

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

AN ath thurus a chaidh Bus-dubh gu blàr, chaidh e an tòir air Blàran, agus lorg e e air cùl a' bhaile.

"An tu tha seo?" arsa Blàran.

"Is mi," arsa Bus-dubh; "cò tha duil agad a bha gu bhith ann?"

"U! Is fada o thuirt mo sheanmhair rium gur h-iomadh rud a thig air laogh nach saoil a mhàthair; agus is tusa aon de na rudan sin."

"Seall an rud a tha mise ag ràdh riut," arsa an cuilean; "cum t'adhaircean agad fhéin. Chan 'eil dad agam 'nad aghaidh, ach thuirt mo mhàthair rium, 'Seachainn adhaircean an tairbh.'"

"Seachainn iad, ma tà," arsa Blàran.

"Car son a chuir iad adhaircean ort?" arsa Bus-dubh.

"Tha fhios sin agam fhéin," arsa Blàran; "ach car son nach do chuir iad adharc idir ort fhéin?"

Thog an cuilean a spòg dheas agus thug e sgrìob leatha air fhéin o chùl na chuaise, agus an sin rinn e an cleas ceudna leis an spòg eile air an taobh eile.

"Nam biodh—chan 'eil!" ars esan le iongnadh.

"Chan 'eil 's cha robh 's cha bhi," ars an tarbh.

"Chuala mise òran," ars an cuilean.

"Chuala tusa òran?" ars an tarbh.

"Chuala mi, agus is e *Crodh Chailein* a bha air. A bheil fhios agadsa càite bheil crodh Chailein?"

"Tha fhios sin agam leis, a chuilein."

"Càite, ma tà?"

"An iomadh àite, a chuilein. Ach stad gus an can mi rud. Nach robh mi faicinn sa' phaipear, *An t-Obanach*, gu bheil iad 'gan toirt gu Sgoraig aig an Loch Bheag, agus is maith dhaibh na tha fo na clachan! Sin agad féidh de'n t-seòrsa a bhios aig *Santa Claus* a tha an crodh Chailein. Agus bha latha bhiodh e glé dhana do'n duine laghach sin aon turus a mhàin a thoirt a null air an Dhrìdh. Ach, cagar beag, cha robh na daoine a bha ann roimhe chò fada an aghaidh nam fiadh. An cuala tu riamh guth air an Alltan Dubh?"

(An còrr air taobh-duilleig 16)

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MacLEOID

3. Donnchadh MacGille-Ruaidh

BHA mise glé eòlach air Donnchadh MacGille-Ruaidh an uair a bha mi òg, agus gu dearbh b'e fhéin am fìor Ghàidheal a b'fhiach eòlas a chur air. Is ann an Clachan Chinn-tìre a rugadh agus a thogadh e, ach an déidh dha bhith teagasg greis anns an sgoil an sin chuir e a aghaidh air Glaschu mar a rinn iomadh balach Gaidhealach eile, agus chuir e seachad a bheatha an dreuchd marsantachd an oifis Sheòrais Halliday 's a Chuideachd, marsantan fiodha.

Bha Donnchadh ag obair gu diceallach fad a bheatha an Glaschu ann a bhith ag cur àirde air litreachas na Gàidhlig, agus bha soirbheachadh mór an cois a' shaothrach. B'e a' cheud fhear-teagaisg Gàidhlig a bha aig Bòrd-Sgoile Ghlaschu, agus bha e teagasg na cànaire anns an Ard-sgoil an Glaschu fad chòig bliadhna.

Anns a' bhliadhna 1895 chuir e Gràmar Gàidhlig an clò, agus aon a bu mhotha anns a' bhliadhna. 1902. Is e sin an Gràmar air an d'rinn Tormod MacLeòid, a bha 'na fhear-teagaisg Gàidhlig an Glaschu, atharrachadh, agus tha clann nan sgoilean Gaidhealach eòlach gu leòr air an leabhar sin an diugh.

Bha e 'na fhear-deasachaidh air *An Deò-Gréine* no *An Gaidheal*, mar a shloinnear e an diugh, fad thrì bliadhna, agus b'e aon de na prìomh luchd-stiùraidh a bha air a' Chomunn Ghaidhealach aig an àm ud.

Bha fìor spiorad na bàrdachd an Donnchadh MacGille-Ruaidh, ged nach tug e mòran de sin am follais. Bha a cho dripeil 'na latha eadar a ghnothach fhéin agus sgrìobhadh is teagasg na Gàidhlig, agus mar sin cha robh mòran ùine aige idir air son a cheòlraidh a chur an gleus, agus cha bu chaomh leis aon rann a chur an clò mur biodh loinn is grinneas na fìor bhàrdachd air. Ach nach 'eil an loinn is an grinneas sin air "Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig," òran brosnachaidh a' Chomuinn, a rinn esan agus air an do chuir 'Fionn' fonn cho freagarrach; agus tha smior a bhàrdachd againn cuideachd anns an òran "Na Gaidheil ri

(An còrr air taobh-duilleig 14)

A' Bhuaile

NIAL MAC GHILLE SHEATHANAICH.
Am fonn le ALASDAIR MAC COINNICH.

GLEUS E.

s₁ | d : - : r | m : - : r. d | l₁ : - : - | s₁ : - :
O 's tric am chuimhn' a' Bhuaile - e

l₁ | d : - : l | s : - : m | r : - : - | - : :
Bha'n gleann - an uain - e 'n fheòir,

s₁ | d : - : r | m : - : r. d | l₁ : - : - | d : - :
'S an còmh - lan dh' fhàs a suas leam

l₁ | s₁ : - : m | r : - : - | d : - : - | - : :
An dach - aith chuann - a m' òig;

m | s : - : m | d' : - : l | s : - : - | m : - :
I'n diugh fo fheur 's fo luach - air

r | d : - : m | s : - : m | r : - : - | - : :
'Na làr - aich fhuair gun cheò:

s | d' : - : m | r : - : d. l₁ | s₁ : - : - | d : - :
Tha luchd mo ghaoil air fuad - ach

r | m : - : s. m | r : - : d. r | d : - : - | - : : ||
Is cuid dhiubh fuar fo'n fhòid.

Ach 's caomh leam a bhith
smuaineach

Air làithean uallach m'òig,
Nuair bha mi 'na mo bhuaichail
Toirt laigh is uain gu crò;
A' siubhal ghleann is chruchan
Le cromag-uain am dhòrn,
'S mi stiùradh a' choin ruagaidh
Le feadag chruaidh mo mheòir.

An Céitean le bhrat uaine
Cur snuadh air slios is còs,
'S na doireachan gu fuaimneach
Le guth na cuach 's an lòin;
Bho'n àird bhiodh ceòl am chluasan,
An uiseag suas 's na neòil,
Is dùrdail nan eun ruadha
A' seirm a suas r'a glòir.

An dìomhanas mo smuaintean—
Gur fada bhuan an òig—
'S ged 's sòlasach mo bhruadar
Cha till a' Bhuaile dhòmhs';
Ach fhad 's a bhios mi gluasad
Air chuairt an tìr nam beò,
Bidh luchd mo ghaoil am
smuaintean
Is dachaidh chuanna m'òig.

Iain is Anna

Tha Iain deich bliadhna a dh'aois agus
tha Anna ochd bliadhna. Tha an dachaidh
aca ann am Baile-chàise an Eilean-nan-trosg.

Gach mìos bithidh *An Gaidheal Og* ag
innse mu Iain is Anna, ciod a tha iad a' deanamh
agus ciod a tha tighinn riutha. Bithidh sin
air innse ann am facail agus ann dealbhan.

Feuch gun cùm sibh sùil a mach air son Iain
is Anna anns an ath àireamh de'n mhiosachan
seo.

Na Baird Ghaidhealach (*Air a leantainn*)

guailibh a chéile'' air fonn a rinn Iain Mac-
Calum a bha an Tigh-an-uillt, Gaidheal oig
eile air an robh eòlas maith agam.

Tha Donnchadh MacGille-Ruaidh mar sin
ri labhairt ruinn gach uair a sheinneas sinn
'Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig'' aig mòd no céilidh,
ach is mòr m'eagal gur beag a tha na Gaidheil
ag gabhail gu cridhe gach earail a thug ar
caraid duinn anns an òran mhaiseach sin. Ach
tha ar muinghin agus ar dòchas anns an òigrìdh
Ghaidhealach an diugh a tha nis a' faighinn
oilein 'nan cànan fhéin anns na sgòilean.



Litir Eachainn

IS ann air blàthan, no flùrain, a tha a' chuid as motha de m' sheanachas ri bhith air a' mhìos seo. "Nach tu a thuit bo'n àirde air an robh thu air a' mhìos a dh'fhalbh, an uair a bha thu shuas na b' àirde na na speuran!", tha mi an dùil gu bheil mi ag cluinntinn aon-eigin ag ràdh! Ach ged a bhiodh sin mar sin féin, cha bu mhise a' cheud fhear a thuit bo a leithid sin de àirde, agus glé ealamh. Tha mi cinnteach gun cuala sibh mu'n "ùpraid a rinn Uisdean MacUisdein, a thuit anns an dùnan 's a shùil air a' ghealaich!"

Co-dhiubh, tha mi a' dol a sheanachas mu bhlàthan, agus nu a dhùisg mo smuaintean gu a leithid seo de sheanachas beag a bhith againn, b'e a bhith ag éisdeachd air an fhritheud (radio) bho chionn ghoirid an seo. Dh'fharraid esan a bha air ceann a' chòmhairidh de'n luchd-éisdeachd an robh aon aca a b'urrainn ceithir ainmeannan nighean a thoirt seachad a bha air an togail bho ainmeannan bhlàthan no fhùrain. "Rose," arsa mi féin, mun do fhreagair aon sam bith air an fhritheud; agus mar gun cluinneadh e mi, eadhon mar gun freagaireadh am mac-talla mi, "Rose," arsa aon dhiubh! "Heather," arsa mise; is a' cheart cho ealamh, "Heather," arsa am fritheud! "Pansy," arsa mise, is "Pansy," arsa aon eile. Cha dubhairt mise an còrr, oir aig a' cheart mhionaid theirig na h-ainmeannan orm; agus bha an gnothach a bha ann air fàs cho iargalta 's gu robh mi am beachd gum b'fheàrr dhomh a' chùis fhàgail aca fhéin is gun dol na b'fhaide 'nan "toit no 'nam maorach," mar a theireadh mo mhàthair. Chan 'eil cuimhne agam ciod an ceathramh ainm a thugadh seachad; ach chuir e iongantais orm a rithist nach do smuainich mi féin no aon de na bha a' freagairt air an ainm chumanta, "Daisy."

Bho seo theann mi ri meòhrachadh 'nam inntinn fhéin feuch a bheil aon chuid ainm nighinn againn anns a' Ghàidhlig a tha air a thogail bho ainm flùrain, no ainm flùrain a tha air a thogail bho ainm nighinn no boireannaich. Cha d'fhuair mi ach aon a mhàin; agus chan e "Ròs" a tha mi ag ciallachadh, oir ged is e "Ròs" a their sinn anns a' Ghàidhlig ri "Rose" mar ainm nighinn no m'ath, cha bhùin an t-ainm do'n Ghàidhlig idir, ged a gheibhear e air uairean air a thoirt do nigheanan Gàidhealach.

Am Bèarnan-Bride.

An t-aon ainm flùrain anns a' Ghàidhlig as aithne dhòmhsa a tha air a thogail bho ainm nighinn no boireannaich, is e am bèarnan-bride, fìur as fìor thoigh leamsa, ged a tha cuid

air atharrachadh sin. Is dòcha gu bheil aobhar agamsa air a bhith toigheach air a' bheàrnan-brìde; ach tha an t-aobhar sin ro dhùth do m' chridhe gu a tharraing a steach an dràs. Cha mhise a' mhàin a ghabh beachd air an fhùrain seo. Air aon de na h-ìomhadh lus is blàth eile a fhuair Donnchadh Bàn an Coire Cheathaich a rùin bha am flùrain seo.

"Am bèarnan-brìde 's a' pheighinn rìoghail,
'S an canach min-gheal, 's am mislean ann;
'S a h-uile mìr dheth, o'n bhun as isle,
Gu h-ionad cìrean na crìch as àird."

Agus Màiri Mhòr chòir, aon bhoireannach cho Gàidhealach 'na cruth 's 'na crìdhe 's a rugadh riamh, nach e seo a thubhairt ise.—

"Bha buadhan m'inntinn a' triall le sìnig,

Le sùil mo chinn faicinn loinn gach pòir:

Bha 'n t-sòbhrach mhin-bhuidh 's am bèarnan-brìde,

An cluaran rìoghail is lus an òir,

'S gach bìleag aoibhneach fo bhraon na h-oidhche,

Toirt 'na mo chuimhne nuair bha mi òg!'

Mum fàg mi am bèarnan-brìde, dh'fhaodainn a thoirt fainear gu bheil e air blàth an dà chuid cho tràth is cho annoch anns a' bhliadhna 's a chl a' sùil. Tha balla taobh a mach nan gàrraidhean beaga a tha cùl an ràth thaighean anns a bheil an taigh seo. Tha e ri aghaidh na h-àirde an eara-dheas, agus an uair a tha a' ghrian 'ga leigeil fhéin ris, tha i air aghaidh a' bhalla seo gu math seachad air meadhon-là, agus mar sin tha e daonnan blàth 'na thaic seach an raon fosgailte. Bha am bèarnan-brìde fo bhlàth ann ré an t-samhraidh 's an fhoghair an uiridh, is ged a bha gach blàth dhiubh an déidh a chéile a' ruith gu fras, bha feadhainn ùra ag gobachadh a mach as an aon bhun.

Am fear mu dheireadh a chunna mi an uiridh b'ann glé dhlùth air deireadh mìos na Samhna, mu'n àm san tàinig a' cheud reodhadh cruaidh oirn. Mharbh an reodhadh seo am blàth, is cha do ghabhach aon eile a mach gun an robh e 'sua ri deireadh a' Ghearrain. Thàinig an sin latha lurach, grianaich, "latha eadar dha shìon," mar a theireadh na seann daoine ris, agus air dhomh tighinn mun cuairt cùl nan gàrraidhean, bha an siud aon bheàrnan-brìde beag, bòidheach, le a bhileagan fosgailte ris a' ghreín, is e cho glan, lurach 's ged a bhiodh e air ionnlaid ann an uisge òir! Rinn mo chridhe gàirdeachas ris, ged a thog smuaintean eile suas 'nam aigne mar an ceudna.

Calum-Cille is Pàdhraig.

Sin, ma tà, cho fada 's a dh'fhiosraich mise, gun nì de rannsachadh a dheanamh, an t-aon fhùran a tha air a chaigneachadh ri ainm nìghinn no boireannaich. Tha aon fhùr is aon lus a tha air an ainmeachadh air fir, "achlasan Chalum Chille" mar fhùr, is "cuach Phàdhraig" mar lus. A nis, bu naoimh an trìùr seo, Bride, Calum Cille is Pàdhraig; agus tha mi an dùil gu bheil sin a' leigeil ris a' mheas a bha aig na seann Ghàidheil orrasan a thug Soisgeul nam Buadh chuca. An cuid de rìoghachdan an t-saoghail an diugh is ann 'gan cur an gréim, a' togail casaid 'nan aghaidh, 'gan dìteadh, 'gan cur gu bàs no 'gam prìosanachadh uile làithean am beatha a thàtar!

Tha dòchas agam gu bheil sibh a' tuigsinn cìod an dà bhlàth a tha anns a' bheàrnabhride is achlasan Chalum Chille. Is e *dandelion* is *St. John's Wort* a theirear riu anns a' Bheurla. Their cuid "slàn-lus" ri cuach Phàdhraig; agus is e an t-aobhar dha seo gu robh creideas làidir aig na Gàidheil ann an duilleig na lus seo an dà chuid gu stad a chur air sìleadh fala à gearradh is gu leigheas. Bha robladh cagnaich air a thoirt air an duilleig, gun a briseadh, is i air a cur teann ris a' ghearradh. Bha e air a chùnntas rathail achlasan Chalum Chille fhaotainn an uair nach biodhteadh a' sealltainn air a shon—"achlasan Chalum Chille gun sìreadh gun iarraidh."

A Bheil Fhios Agaibh?

A nis, bho'n a tha sinn am measg nam blàthan co-dhiubh, có agaibh a bheil dhomh Gàidhlig air an fhùran bhòidheach, gheal ud a tha a' tighinn gu ìre daonnan suas mu'n Lùnasdal, agus ris an abrar *grass of Parnassus* anns a' Bheurla. Tha cas dhìreach, làidir foidhe, air uairean cho àrd ri ochd no còrr de òirlich, is am flùr féin cho geal ris an t-sneachd ùr air an aonach. Is ann air bruthaichean far nach 'eil an talamh aon chuid ro bhog no ro thioram a gheibhear e, talamh nach 'eil ro mhòinteachail air an dara làimh no ro ghainmheachail air an làimh eile.

Bu ghasda leam fiosrachadh sam bith mu na flùrain no na lusan seo a dh'ainmich mi, no flùran sam bith eile, fhaotainn bhuaibh mar a gheibh sibh cothrom, gu iomradh a thoirt air anns an litir seo. Mar aon ràidhteanas a bhiodh againne mu'n ghille-ghuirmein: spionamaid e, is le a chumail eadar an òrdag is a' chorrage, chuireamaid toinneamh anns a' chois, is theireamaid "Gille-gille-guirmein, mur a téid thu mun cuairt, buailidh mi dòrn ort!" Lasaicheamaid an sin ar gréim air a chois, is rachadh an gille-guirmein mun cuairt!

Bidh mi cinnteach á beagan fiosrachaidh a bhith agam duibh an litir an ath mhìos mu Champ an t-samhraidh seo tighinn; agus theagamh gur ann a bhios rud-eigin eile agam mar an ceudna, rud nach 'eil fathast deas gu bhith air a chraobh-sgaoileadh gu follaiseach, ach ris an dean sibhse fiughair.

Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Co Iad Seo?

Mur 'eil fhios agad có a bha anna seo, feuch gun rannsach thu agus gun ceasnaich thu gun am faigh thu mach cò iad. Bheir mi na freagairtean air an ath-mhìos, ach dean fhéin dicheall an toiseach.

1. Eachann Ruadh nan Cath.
2. Iain Dubh nan Cath.
3. Gillesbuig Gruamach.
4. MacCailein.
5. Mairi Mhór nan Oran.
6. Iain Og Ile.
7. Mac MhicAilein.
8. Fear-iùil a' Phrionnsa.
9. Ealasaid a' Chuain.
10. Seumas a' Ghlinne.

Bus-dubh is Crodh Chailein (Air a leantainn)

"Cha chuala."
 "Mur cuala, cluinnidh!"
 "Am bidh adhaircean orra?"
 "Adhaircean, a bhròinein! B'adhaircean an leth; ach is e cabair a bhios aca fhéin orra."
 "Am bi iad 'gam bleoghann?"
 "Bithidh iad 'gam bleoghann."
 "Tha mi falbh," arsa Bus-dubh.
 "Turus maith leat!" arsa Blàran.
 "A mhàthair!" arsa Bus-dubh, "Is e féidh a tha an Crodh Chailein!"
 "Féidh ann no as," arsa a mhàthair, "is coma leamsa; ach ma théid thusa chaoidh gu Mòd, na can 'Crodh Chailinn' air na chunnaic thu riamh. Is e bodach a bha an Cailean, a bhròinein!"
 "Santa Claus!" arsa Bus-dubh.

Tannaig is Samhlaidhean *(bho thaobh-duilleig 46)*

beagan òirleach os a chionn, agus anns a' bhàd thuig an t-aon eile gur e tannaig a bha ann. Lean an samhlaidh air siubhal ceum air cheum ri thaobh gun a chasan a' bualadh faisg do'n talamh. Air uairean rachadh an spiorad as an t-sealladh air son aiteil, ach an sin thigeadh e rithist am follais air an ath fhàire gearr-astar air thoiseach, gus mu dheireadh an do nochd iad ris na ceud taighean-còmhnaidh, far an do dh'èalich e tur ris. Nuair a ràinig am fear-turuis a cheann-uidhe, thug a chàirdean an aire gu robh a aghaidh cho gearr ri anart is cha robh fios aca gu dé bha càrr gus an do ghabh e a bhiaidh agus is ann an uair sin a dh'innis e mu'n eagal mhór a chuir an tathasg mhì-chneasda air a bha ag imeachd maille ris fad na slighe bho bhonn a' bhealach.

Bha fear eile a mhuinntir Stafainn ag gabhail an rathaid seo air latha soilleir briagha is a' ghrian an àirde nan speur. Faisg air grunn Shartail, ann am bàd uaigneach de'n t-slighe far nach 'eil aon taigh-còmhnaidh, chunnaic e fear ann sin 'na shineadh gu h-ìosal fo bhruaic an rathaid agus a amhach air a gearradh is a fhuil a' sruthadh gu bras uaithe is timcheall air. Riamh bho'n latha

ud dh'ìarradh an t-aon a chunnaic an taibhe an t-ionad ceudna a sheachnadh, nan rachadh aige air, eadhon air a' mheadhon-latha féin.

Bho chionn beagan bhliadh-nachan air ais bha dithis bhoir-cannach a bhuineadh do ìochdar Stafainn ag coiseachd do bhaile Phort-righeadh. Is c an rathad-mór timcheall Uige a ghabh iad is taobh an iar na beinne. Cha robh rathad Sgorabreac air fhosgladh san àm.

Nuair a bha na mnathan anns an àite fhàisail, mhonadaid ud de'n t-slighe a tha mu choinncamh Creag nam Meann agus dlùth do Abhainn a' Ghlinne, dh'fhairich iad glé sgith, agus thubhairt an dara té ris an té eile: "Nach e bhiodh math a nis nam beireadh uidheam-ghùilain oirnn a thogadh sinn!" Tha leathadan àrda air taobh na beinne de'n rathad anns an àite ud, mar a tha cuimhne aig gach neach a bh'air an t-slighe, agus cha bu luaithe bha na facail a mach á beul na té bha bruidhinn na thachair gun do sheall i null thar a guailinn air bearradh na bruthaich os a chionn, agus de chunnaic i ann an sin, far nach 'eil rathad no ceum, ach mar gum b'e carbad-siubhail mór air a tharraing le eich.

Bha fear-iomairt a' charbaid 'na shuidhe 'na àite féin air a' bhocsa san toiseach, agus ad bhog, dhubb air mar a bha fasanta san àm. Thàinig an carbad a nuas leis an leathad le dian-luathas agus stad e air an rathad air am beulaobh. Ann an sin leum am fear-iomairt a nuas bho ionad-suidhe agus dh'fhosgail e an rùs agus rinn e combharradh le làimh riutha air son dol a steach.

Sheas na boireannaich far an robh iad, is iad le chéile lag leis an eagal, oir thuig iad glé mhath, do bhrìgh an àite neònach, mhì-choltaich bho'n tàinig an carbad, nach c nì ceart sam bith a bha mu'n coin-neamh.

Thòisich iad le chéile cho dian 's a bha 'nan comas air a' charbad 's am fear a bha 'na cheann a bheannachadh, agus, ma thòisich, dh'fhalbh an uidheam-ghùilain agus esan a bha innte gu grad bharr an rathaid is chùm e sìos air an làimh dheis fo an rathad gus an deach e gu luath as an t-sealladh.

Nis, chan 'eil fad sam bith bho'n chaochail an dà bhoireannach seo ann an Stafainn, agus tha gu leòir beò fathast anns an àite aig a bheil cuimhne orra agus air an àm anns am fac iad an sealladh iongantach ud.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Contributions to "Eigse"

Offprints have come to hand of valuable contributions by Mr. Angus Matheson, Lecturer in Celtic, Glasgow University, to the *Journal, Eigse* (Volumes II, Earrach 1940, pp. 45-46; Vol. V, Pt. iii, 156-157; Vol. VI, Pt. I, 56-7).

In "Some Notes on the Morrisons" Mr. Matheson argues conclusively against Professor O'Rahilly's derivation of them from "a family of O Muirghesain bards connected with the MacLeods of Dunvegan." Despite the modern forms "Moireasdan," "Morastan" (cf. "Fearghusdan" for Ferguson), the Morrisons, both in Lewis and Skye, have all along been known as "Clann Mhic Gille Mhoire." Mr. Matheson concludes: There is thus no real evidence anywhere of the perpetuation of the O Muirghesain family in Scotland, though it would be at the same time rash to assume that they have not left descendants somewhere who may be called "Morrison."

In "Varia" Mr. Matheson discusses points raised by the late Professor John Fraser in a review of *The Songs of John MacCodrum*, comments on an article by Mr. J. L. Campbell on words in MacMhaighstir Alasdair's Vocabulary, gives notes on various other Gaelic words, and clears up obscurities in three passages of poetry. He also offers an emendation of the text in *Tain Bo Fraich* and comments on a poem in the *Book of the Dean of Lismore* and discusses the Irish *mac-shealbra* and Scottish Gaelic *mac-shealbh*, connected with the custom of fosterage. A fine tribute is also paid to the late Professor W. J. Watson, "an impressive man, mentally and physically."

Set Free

SET FREE, by Norman Maclean (Hodder & Stoughton, 254pp., 12/6).

In *The Former Days*, published four years ago, Dr. Maclean recalled his boyhood days in the Isle of Skye. *Set Free* continues his reminiscences throughout his years as a student and as minister of Waternish and Glengarry. The author, son of a Skye schoolmaster, was educated at his father's school and at Raining's School, Inverness—a nursery of able men—and at the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Beginning his ministerial career as parish minister of Waternish—with the smallest congregation in Scotland—he

eventually became minister of the largest church in Edinburgh, St. Cuthbert's, having reached there by way of Glengarry, Colinton, and the Park Church, Glasgow. He was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and was appointed a Chaplain to H.M. the King. He has travelled and preached in Africa, the United States, Canada, and Australia, and in 1930 preached the opening sermon in Geneva Cathedral at the eleventh Assembly of the League of Nations.

Now in his eightieth year and resident in his native Isle of Skye, Dr. Maclean is adding to the long list of fine books that have come from his ready pen. *Set Free* is not a mere catalogue of things remembered: it re-creates the persons and places and atmosphere of earlier years, not the least fascinating parts of the book being the digressions, sometimes lengthy ones (as, e.g., that on Lady Grange).

The book is dedicated to "a preacher, narrow in creed, but great in heart." There is an interesting account of the Rev. Donald MacCallum—a man whom Highlanders ought not to forget—who in his eager support of the crofters' cause found himself in prison. All readers will look forward impatiently for the further volumes of Dr. Maclean's autobiography.

Kintyre History

KINTYRE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, by Andrew McKerral (Oliver & Boyd, 1948, 190pp., 15/-).

Local history never loses its appeal, but local histories can be either very good or very bad (an *omnium gatherum* of fact and fiction). Mr. McKerral's book is a first-rate piece of historical work. Kintyre, the original home of the Dalriadic Scots, has played an important part in the history of Scotland and the West Highlands down through the centuries, but especially in the seventeenth century. The fall of the Macdonalds of the Isles and the rise of the House of Argyll, the rise of Campbeltown, the plantation in Kintyre of Covenanters from Ayrshire and Renfrewshire, the Colkitto raids, the massacre of Dunaverty—these, and many other topics, including much useful information about agriculture, industry, education and religious affairs, go to make a volume worth much more than its price.

Duncan Ban's Masterpiece

BEINN DORAIN, by Duncan Ban Macintyre, with English version and notes by John Mackechnie (Eneas Mackay, 1949, 68pp., 2/6).

It is always a pleasure to hail a new Gaelic publication. Duncan Ban's great poem in praise of "Beinn Dobhrain" has been printed many times, but Mr. Mackechnie makes it available again in a handy form, with copious and useful notes and an English prose version. It is intended to help the serious student of Gaelic, and it certainly will enable one to get to know this great poem better. One query: surely "laoghan" (line 76) is "little calf," not "calves." The plural of "laogh" is invariably "laigh," not "laoghan," and in any case a hind normally has only one calf at a time. This book is published with the aid of a grant from the McCaig Trustees, and is said to be the first of a series of cheap handy editions of Gaelic texts. There is great need for such a series, and we hope that other volumes in the series will appear at no distant date. Mr. Mackechnie is to be congratulated on his labours, and we trust that the Gaelic-reading public will encourage his enterprise and benefit themselves as well by buying this, the first of the series.

Verses from Uist

SUNEAMS AND STARLIGHT, English and Gaelic Poems, by Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay, North Uist, is a 20-page booklet (price 1/6) of original verse, mostly English, but with several in Gaelic. While we prefer the Gaelic pieces to those in English, the authoress deserves encouragement. We recall that she was a notable prize-winner in the senior oral competitions at the National Mod in September last.

Air A Chasan Fhathast!

THE LION RAMPANT (Vol. I, No. 4) (Wm. Maclellan, Glasgow, 36pp., 1/-).

After a long interval we are glad to welcome another number of Mr. Amhlaidh MacAindreis's attractive and thought-provoking periodical. The editorial on "First Things First" puts some important issues rather well. One would like to see more space given to Gaelic. An article on "Education—Real and Fictitious" contains a good deal of nonsense. Who and where, to-day, is "the native Highlandman who beats his son when he hears him speaking Gaelic?"

(Continued on next page)

Roman Scotland

TOPOGRAPHY OF ROMAN SCOTLAND (North of the Antonine Wall), by O. G. S. Crawford (Cambridge University Press, 1949, 162pp., 21 plates, 32 other illustrations, 25/-).

This beautifully printed and illustrated book will give pleasure to all who are interested in the earlier history of our country. It contains the Rhind Lectures delivered in Edinburgh in 1943. The author is recognised as an expert on Roman Britain. Use has been made of air-photography to reveal Roman sites and roads. Much field-work and library-work have gone to the making of this book, which deals with all the Roman remains north of the Forth and Clyde line. Agricola's seventh and last campaign (84 A. D.) culminated in the famous battle of Mons Graupius, where the Caledonian tribes under Calgacus stood up to the might of Rome. The identification of the site of this battle has been much debated, but Mr. Crawford strongly argues that it was fought four miles north-west of Stonehaven, at Raedykes, where there are the remains of a Roman marching-camp.

A Welshman Looks Back

THE GORSE GLEN, by Hugh Evans (Brythton Press, Liverpool, 1948, 212pp., 8/6).

It is good for the Scottish Gael to get to know more about his fellow-Celts. Wales to-day, like our own Highlands and Islands, is rapidly changing. In this book (first published in Welsh in 1931 and now translated by E. Morgan Humphreys) the author, who was born in 1854 and later became a publisher and newspaper proprietor in Liverpool, "re-creates a place and a period." He was steeped in the life of his native district as it was in the days of his youth. He also inherited ancestral memories and traditions. These are woven into this book. It tells of hard times, with great lack of food, during the Napoleonic wars. It describes farming life in the old days, social life, farm work and farm implements (was the "dog churn" ever in use in the Highlands?), folklore and folk custom. The "dog churn," by the way, was a device whereby one or two dogs, tied on a tread-wheel, were made to toil for two or three hours, the weight of their body turning the wheel and thus churning the

butter. It was a cruel practice and is now illegal, but a man still living in 1930 remembered having seen it done. "The dogs did not love churning day: when they saw the familiar preparations they took care to make themselves scarce."

Indispensable

THE SCOTS YEAR BOOK, 1948-49, edited by T. Atholl Robertson (138pp., 2/-).

This little volume, crammed full of valuable information, has appeared once again, and long may it continue to keep us informed about the profusion and variety of Scottish and Highland Societies all over the world. Interspersed are short informative articles on various topics. A fine tribute is paid to the late Mr. Angus Robertson and also to the late Dr. George F. Black.

Our Kinsfolk Overseas

THE CANADIAN-AMERICAN GAEL, Volume II, gives an excellent survey, lavishly illustrated, of the many Highland and Gaelic societies in Canada and U.S.A. There are many interesting articles in Gaelic and English.

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Is e leabhar sònraichte tha seo, do bhrìgh is gur leabhar e a thàinig o sheann duine còir ciallach aig nach robh facal Beurla. Is e an t-Ollamh Seumas O Duilearga a sgrìobh sìos na tha anns an leabhar, ach is e camnt an fhìr eile a tha aige, facal air an fhacal. Bha meas mór aig an Ollamh air Seàn O Conaill, agus is e a tha aige 'na leabhar "clach air a chàrn," oir chan 'eil Seàn a nis beò. Is ann fìor ainneam a chuireadh suas cuimhneachan cho ceatach ris an leabhar seo. Bidh lorg air is bidh fèill air anns na ginealachan a thig 'nar dèidh.

THA an leabhar anns a' chlà Laideannach agus ged is b'òidheach leamsa an clò Gaidhealach tha mi an dùil gur e sin as fheàrr. Le m' fhiosrachadh is urrainn mi a ràdh gu bheil e nas lugha cron do shìil an leughadair, agus tha litrichean mòra glana anns an leabhar seo. Is toigh leam a h-uile seòrsa Gàidhlig (agus tha iomadh seòrsa ann), ach is fìor thoigh leam an seòrsa a tha aca anns a' Mhumbainn. Tha i nas coltaiche ri Gàidhlig na meadhan-aois (no a' Ghàidhlig a bhiodhte a' sgrìobhadh an Albainn is an Eirinn o chionn còig ceud bliadhna air ais) na seòrsa air bith eile as aithne domh.

Is e an aon seòrsa Gàidhlig a bha aig luchd-sgrìobhaidh anns an dà thir anns an linn sin, agus bha i saidhbhir agus bha i sgoinneil; agus tha an seòrsa bha aig Seàn O Conaill mar sin làn-fhoclach agus brioghmhor. Bha rud-eigin de fharsaingeachd is de chruinneas is de chinnt na h-eigse is an oilein, a bu dìlleab nan àl, air Gàidhlig nan seann daoine, a raon an Albainn is an Eirinn. Chan e a mhàin gu robh facail aca, agus bha chis an smaoinich de sin aca, ach bha an deagh alt aca air na facail a chur cho glan an ceann a chèile.

Thuirte Seumas Beag a bha an Dùn Chaoin gu robh àrde an taighe de fheur air a' chuid a b'fheàrr de Gàidhlig na h-Eireann, agus bha fhios aige air rud—gu robh a' Gàidhlig na b'fheàrr aig an seann daoine na tha i aig muinntir an diugh. Is fhada o chuireadh a' chuid a b'fheàrr dìth fo'n talamh! Bha Seumas Beag e fhéin gun

l'heurle, agus is ann aige a bha a' chainnt cheart liomhta!

THA Seàn O Conaill aig innse gum feumadh e eadar-theangair an uair a rachadh e le mart gu fèill, is gum biodh càch a' magadh air a sheòrsa air son nach robh aca ach Gàidhlig! Mar a thuirte an seanfhacal, "Chan ann am Bòid uile a tha an t-òlc." Sin bochdainn a fhuaras a cheart cho cinnteach an Albainn. Ach feuch dé an cumadh a bha air an duine air an deante am magadh. Cha chualas riamh aon droch fhacal aige a dheanadh lochd no dragh aig baile, agus chà chualas riamh miannan no bòid as a bheul. Agus sin comharra ceart na h-uaisle agus a' ghrinneis.

Nàbadh maith a bha ann—"b'e a b'fheàrr." Gun teagamh gheibhte daoine de a sheòrsa aon uair eadar Srathaigh an Dùthaich MhicAoidh agus Maol Chinn-tre—daoine aig nach robh facal Beurla, daoine a bha ag cathachadh air son am beò-shlainte gu cruaidh air muir is air tìr, ach daoine bha cho còir is cho cneasda agus cho suaire 'nan gnàthasan agus nach robh na bu duineile agus na bu mhaisiche 'nan giùlan anns na trì rìoghachdan Breatainn. Eadar talamh beag bochd agus cuan gu creig thug iad iad fhéin as. Tha Seàn aig innse gum biodh iad a'

ruith an éisg ge b'e àite an cluinn-eadh iad sgeul air, agus gum biodh iad fuar fhìuch sgìth gu tric, ach an làrna-mhàireach "gum biodh iad cho maith is a bha iad riamh!"

BHA Seàn O Conaill riamh Biarrtach air seann sgeulachd— an agus an uair nach biodh duine aige do'n innseadh e iad bhiodh e 'gan aithris agus 'gan ath-aithris dha fhéin is e ris an obair-latha! Nach neònach mar a gheibhear mèinn fa leth anns gach neach? Is ann agus e air deugachadh air trì fhead a thòisicheadh air a chuid eòla's a chur an dubh is an geal.

Tha dealbh Sheàin is dealbh a thàighe is dealbh a' bhaile bhig do'm buineadh e, Cill-rialaig, anns an leabhar. Chan ann tric a chithear fiach is meud an leabhair seo an Gàidhlig. Agus tha clàr mòr san deireadh aige le làn-eòlas air gach leabhar is iris eadar Alba is Eirinn is tìrean eile anns am faighear an seòrsa fiosrachaidh a dh'fhàg Seàn O Conaill againn. B'fhìach an clàr seo 'na aon barrachd air cosgais an leabhair do neach air bith aig a bheil suim an nithean Gaidhealach. Gheibhear an leabhar aig: An Coimisiun Baloideasa, Colaiste an Oilseoil, Baile Atha Cliath, Eire—no trid nam bùthan leabhraichean mar is gnàth.

Ann's a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

The Clan Donald Chiefship

Sir,—May I have space for a few comments on T.M.M.'s account of the Gaelic Mod at St. Ann's, Cape Breton?

The newspaper report quoted contained some inaccuracies, but not, I think, quite as many as T.M.M. states. Lord MacDonald is twenty-second of Sleat, but behind that there is the long line of the Lords of the Isles. The newspaper, however, was quite right in naming him "World Chief of Clan Donald." T.M.M. must know, surely, that a recent decision of Lord Lyon has settled the long dispute regarding the chiefship of Clan Donald in favour of Lord MacDonald. The seniority by descent of both Clanranald and Glegarry is not questioned, but it is made quite clear that, under the Celtic law of tanistry, the chiefship is in the family of Sleat.

As one of the speakers at the Mod I added my word of greeting to the many addressed to the Chief and his charming lady, and, though a descendant of the Clanranalds—through the family of Kinlochmoidart—I had no hesitation about saluting him as "MacDonald," the proudest of his titles, as indicative of his supreme position in the clan.

I do not recall that Lord MacDonald said, "There is more Gaelic spoken in Canada to-day than in the whole Highlands of Scotland." That statement has been made by over-enthusiastic Scottish Canadians, but census reports, as T.M.M. says, prove it wrong. I think, however, that the figures given in the Canadian census returns are too low. The question as to Gaelic, if my memory serves me right, has been added only lately, and I believe it was simply

(Continued on page 53)

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

AT the February meeting of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhir-Nis, the President, Mr. Donald MacPhail, presided and narrated an old folk-tale he had heard during his recent visit to Uist. This monthly ceilidh is well supported and at this meeting nearly 300 were present.

Meetings of the Northern Sub-Committees were held on 19th February, and were well attended.

MISS MACFADYEN and the ladies of the S.W.R.I. Dochgarroch are sincerely thanked for an entertainment promoted in aid of the National Mod funds on 23rd February. Despite a very stormy and wet night, the effort was very successful. Mr. MacPhail was present and expressed the warm thanks of the Ladies' Committee to the friends at Dochgarroch.

DR WILLIAM McWILLIAM, the Medical Superintendent, Craig Dunain Hospital, is always ready to help the cause, and from an entertainment held in the spacious hall there the Mod funds benefited considerably.

THE monthly ceilidhs in St. Mary's Hall, Inverness, are proving very popular. Mr. MacPhail presided at the February ceilidh and from this effort also the Mod funds benefited. These functions are conducted under the auspices of the Entertainments Committee, with Miss E. M. MacLeod as Convener.

THE Organiser had a meeting with the Mod officials at Lairg on 3rd March, when arrangements for this year's County of Sutherland Mod were brought forward.

LADY MACLEOD presided at a Gaelic and Scots concert held in the Town Hall, Inverness, on 4th March. She thanked the various Committees for their good work and stressed the need for the help of all to make the Feill, to be held on 2nd and 3rd September, an outstanding success. Donations in money or in kind would be gladly received at an Communn Office, 92 Academy Street. "We must make the 1949 National Mod worthy of the Highlands," said the Chairman. Sincere thanks are due to Miss E. M. MacLeod who organised the concert, and to all who gave their services without fee or reward.

THE monthly meeting of the Beaulieu branch on 7th March was well attended, and the audience were delighted to have Mr. Calum Iain MacLeod as lecturer for the evening.

UNDER the auspices of the Inverness Ladies' Committee, a Bridge Drive proved a very pleasant and successful effort on behalf of the National Mod funds. It was well supported by friends from Beaulieu. Mrs. J. A. Mackintosh, Convener, thanked all those who were doing so much to reach the Mod target.

A MOST successful Gaelic concert, arranged by Mrs. C. MacLeod and presided over by the Northern Organiser, was staged at Fortrose on Thursday, 17th February. The hall was full to capacity and the programme was of a high standard. The rendering of Gaelic songs by the Avoch School Choir was a feature, and the headmaster was sincerely thanked for the excellent work he is doing for Gaelic in the area. This effort also was in aid of the National Mod funds.

ON the following night Mr. MacPhail presided at a ceilidh held under the auspices of the Aviemore branch. There was a fine atmosphere throughout and very good singing, especially by the Junior Choir, under the leadership of the headmaster, Mr. J. Mackintosh. The ladies had prepared a special treat—potatoes and herring, the herring having been sent specially from the Isle of Scalpay, where Mr. Mac-

kintosh served many years as headmaster, while the potatoes were grown by the branch Vice-President, Duncan MacLeod. The proceeds from this effort were also donated to the National Mod funds.

THE Organiser paid a visit to Wester Ross from 7th to 10th March. A meeting was held at Aultbea and a ceilidh at Inversdale. He also visited the schools in the area. A new Feachd of Comunn na h-Oigridh was formed at Laide, and the Organiser was delighted to see the opening of the school day with prayer and praise, entirely in Gaelic. "Is fearn a deagh eisimpleir na an deagh chomhairle" would seem to sum up the situation. Miss Munro, head teacher, is certainly inculcating in the young a love of their own language and music.

MR. NORMAN J. MACLEOD organised a Gaelic concert in Culcabock in aid of the National Mod funds, and this was held on 11th March. Captain William MacKay, Mod Convener, presided, and the effort was altogether very successful.

ON the following evening the Organiser presided at a ceilidh under the auspices of the Nethy Bridge branch, and this effort also goes to swell the Mod funds. Mr. J. M. Mathieson is the local secretary and, on behalf of the Mod Committee, the Chairman thanked him and his energetic committee for their practical support.

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

THE Luss and District Highland Association held their annual concert in aid of the Central Fund of An Comunn on 9th March. Headquarters provided the programme, and the General Secretary occupied the Chair. He was introduced by Dr. MacDonald, President. The concert party consisted of Miss Jean Cameron Greer, Miss Bessie Alexander (violinist) Iain MacMillan, Alasdair Matheson, and Miss Chris. Turner (accompanist). Sir Ivar Colquhoun of Luss and Lady Colquhoun were present, and it is encouraging to note that Sir Ivar has accepted the office of Chief of the Society, an office held by his late father. There was a very full attendance of members and friends, and there were representatives from the neighbouring associations—Helensburgh and Clan Colquhoun, and Vale of Leven branch of An

Comunn. Mr Farquhar Livingston, Secretary and Treasurer, had, with his customary thoroughness, arrangements well in hand.

THE annual Celtic concert, which was a pre-war feature of the Dundee branch, was revived this year. The concert was held in the Dundee Training College Hall on 24th February, with General Wimberley in the chair. There was a large attendance, and the following artistes were enthusiastically received: Jean Cameron Greer, Sheena Campbell, Alasdair Matheson, and Iain MacMillan. There was also an exhibition of Scottish Country Dancing by a team from Dundee branch. Miss Chris. Turner was an efficient accompanist.

(Continued at top of next page)

THE Edinburgh branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach closed a very successful winter session with a ceilidh on 12th March, but a new series of ceilidhs has been arranged for the second Saturdays of April (9th), May (14th), and June (11th). These will be held in the Douglas Haig Memorial Hall, Coates Crescent, at 7.30 p.m.

The Edinburgh Local Mod is fixed for 21st May.

Gaidheil Dhùn-Eideann

Aig cuir-m-chùil bhliadhnail meur Dhùn-eideann anns an Talla Mheadhonnach air an 25mh de'n Ghearran bha Mgr. Ailbeart Daibhidh MacAoidh (fear-deasachaidh an *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*) aca mar fhear-an-taighe, agus comhla ris air an àrd-ùrlar bha an Còmhla Fèis air an àrd-ùrlar agus Mgr. Iain MacAoidh, Ceann-suidhe meur a' Chomuinn. Chluich Plobh-mhaisir Iain A. MacGhill-fhaoilain air a' phìob-mhòir, agus sheinn Catriona B. NicGilleathain, Mòrag NicDhòmhnaill, Gilleasbuig Grannad, Alasdair MacMhathain, agus Iain Dùbhghlas anns a' Ghàidhlig, agus Sine Day ann am Beurla Leathann na Machrach Ghallda. Dhanns caileagan ruidhlean, seann-triubhas, gille-calum agus dannsan nan claidheamh. Ann a bhith cur fàilte air a' chuideachd labhair Mgr. A. D. MacAoidh mu Ghàidheil Dhùn-eideann, agus gu sònraichte Donnchadh Bàn a rinn moladh air a' bhaile sin:

“S e baile mòr Dhùn-eideann A b'èibhinn leam bhith ann . . .”
Is e baile-mòr Gallda a chunnaic Donnchadh Bàn 'na latha-san, baile ann nach robh luch-labhairt na Gàidhlig ach tearc.

“Nan robh e cuide ruinn an nochd, chitheadh e baile-mòr far a bheil pailteas Ghàidheil, agus Gàidheil a thuilleadh aig a bheil pailteas Gàidhlig. Tha Dhùn-eideann a' fàs gu luath 'na bhaile-mòr Gaidhealach, agus is math sin. Thàt ar rùdh gu bheil dà mhìle de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig an Dùn-eideann, agus tha mi an dòchas gum bi iad uile fhathast 'nam buill aig a' mheur seo de'n Chomuinn, agus ma bhitheas, tha mi cinnteach gum bi Gàidhlig air a labhairt an Dùn-eideann cho fad 's bhitheas bainne geal aig boin duibh. Bha Donnchadh Bàn Mac-an-t-saoir an Dùn-eideann, ach tha bàird ainmeil na Gàidhlig an Dùn-eideann fhathast. Tha Somhairle MacGilleathain agus Deòrsa Caimbeul Hay agus Ruairidh MacThòmais 'nar meang 'nar latha-ne, agus chan ann aig a h-uile poll-mòna a gheibhear an leithean. Tha iadsan ag cumail

suas cliù na Gàidhlig, agus 's e seo cuspair a' Chomuinn cuideachd.”

Gaelic Classes

A leaflet distributed by the branch at their annual concert lists the Gaelic classes being held in Edinburgh. Under the auspices of the branch Miss M. Macdonald conducts a Gaelic conversation class in Darroch School on Tuesdays; under the W.E.A. Mr. Samuel MacLean teaches a beginners' class in the University Celtic Classroom on Wednesdays; while Mr. Calum Johnston has a beginners' class on Wednesdays and an advanced class on Thursdays, both in Darroch school and under the auspices of the city Education Committee, and also a beginners' class for the Scottish National Party at 16 North St. Andrew Street on Fridays. All these are held at 7.30 p.m.

In a message in the leaflet, the Branch President, Mr. John

MacKay, writes: “Tha iomadh fear ag ràdh gu bhèil e coltach ri bhith bualadh each marbh, fiachainn ri cumail litreachas na Gàidhlig beò, ach, cho fada 's a bhitheas dithis no trìur anns a' bhaile seo nach gabh ri sin, bheir am meur seo dhaibh àite anns an coinnich iad an càirdean agus Gàidheil eile, far an èisd iad car uine ri òrain agus bàrdach a bhùineas do shluagh a bha riann calma, gasda, treun, agus onarach.”

MR. JOHN M. BANNERMAN, Vice-President of An Comunn Gàidhealach, was Fear-an-tighe at a ceilidh of the Dunoon branch on 11th March. Miss Helen T. MacMillan was guest artiste and, along with local talent, contributed to a most enjoyable programme. There was the usual large attendance. The branch holds its annual concert in the Pavilion, Dunoon, on 22nd April, when the General Secretary will preside.

Editor's Postbag (Continued from page 51)

passed over in many cases. Besides the figures for language do not include children under a certain age. It would be true to say that, in proportion to population, Cape Breton, and indeed the province of Nova Scotia of which it is part, has more Gaelic speakers than all Scotland—but not more than the Highlands alone.

I have had the honour of giving the principal Gaelic address at the Mod more than once, and found it most inspiring to stand before thousands of people, most of whom understood and delighted to hear the ancient tongue. I was proud indeed to see that the Chief was able to add a few well-chosen words of Gaelic to his fine address at the gathering, but I fear that many clan chiefs could not do likewise.

My name would mean nothing to your readers, as I do not think they have ever seen it, even in reports of our annual Mod, so, following the custom of our Highland folk in this New Scotland, and though three generations removed, I subscribe myself.—MUIDEARTACH.

(T.M.M. replies: I am glad to hear from *Muideartach*. I questioned the accuracy of only three items in the press report of the St. Ann's Mod. It appears that only in regard to one was I mistaken. I admit that I was unaware that the Lord Lyon had settled the Clan Donald chieftainship dispute in the manner indicated. On enquiry at the Court of the Lord Lyon I have been told:—“The

Lord Lyon has recognised Lord Macdonald as Macdonald of Macdonald, Chief of the Name and Arms of Macdonald, and Head of the Clan Macdonald. This does not include recognition as Chief of Sleat, the representation of which the Lord Lyon had already adjudged on 30th July, 1810, to the late Sir Alexander Bosville-Macdonald, who, following that decree, became 22nd of Sleat, and his son, Sir Godfrey Bosville-Macdonald of Sleat, is now the 23rd Chief of Sleat.”)

AN T-ALTACHADH

Bha dithis Niseach ag coiseachd o Steòrnabhagh gu Nis. Leathach slabhach thadhail iad ann an taigh am Barabhas a leigeil an analach. Chaidh biadh ullachadh agus shuidh iad aig bàrd a bha cur thairis le gach nì a bha feumail.
“Siuthad, a Thormoid,” arsa Fionnlagh, “cuir sus faecal.”

Rinn Tormod sin.
“Uill,” arsa Fionnlagh, “is e siud altachadh as comasaiche a chuala mi o sguir iasgach mor na langain ann an Nis!”

IAIN N. MACLEOD.

MEMBERS, PLEASE NOTE!

Ordinary members whose subscriptions for the current year are unpaid will have received a notification to that effect from the Treasurer. He will be grateful for a prompt response.

Iomhas a' Chomunn

TREASURER'S NOTES

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged	£3,573	9	3
Collection Box held by John F. Steele, Esq., Portree		1	3
Dunoon Branch—Proceeds of Ceilidh and Dance		12	12
Highland Ball Committee, Edinburgh ..	100	—	—
Ceilidh in Balmaha, per Mrs. Perryman, Drymen		10	—
Proceeds of Dance, per Miss C. MacInnes, South Uist		9	—
Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee ..		5	—
Andrew MacKillop, Esq., East Lothian Lochinver Branch (additional)		—	5
Proceeds of Dance in Howmore School, Lochboisdale, per Miss J. Currie		14	10
John Byars, Esq., Newburgh		—	6
	<u>£3,727</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

An Comunn Central Fund

The high levels of present day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged	£132	13	1
Iomhar MacUrardaigh, Surrey		1	1
Donald Davidson, Esq., Grantown-on-Spey		—	5
Rev. Donald Stewart, Lochgilphead		—	5
Robert Gollan, Esq., Drumnadrochit		—	5
John MacLennan, Esq., Kyle		—	5
Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee ..		5	—
Rev. Donald and Mrs. Thomson, Killin		6	—
Miss Mary Shaw Stewart Kelso, Mull		2	—
Miss Margaret C. Grant, Dingwall		—	2
Miss F. H. Kennedy, Tarbert		—	2
Miss Ina MacCallum, Glasgow		—	5
Miss Flora Macpherson, Balquhidder		—	2
Wm. M. Alexander, Esq., Aberdeen		—	5
Miss Catherine Livingston, Tayvallich		—	2
Neil Macleod, Esq., Inverness		—	5
Rev. H. C. Donaldson, Port Glasgow		—	7
Mrs. Robertson, Jura		—	2
James Wilson, Esq., Glasgow		—	5
John Morrison, Esq., Stornoway		—	5
Arthur W. Miller, Esq., Pitlochry		—	7
Miss A. MacMillan, Corpach		—	10
Miss Margaret F. Campbell, London, N.W.3		—	5
"Leisgeadair"		—	10
Calum Clark, Esq., Kilmartin		—	5
	<u>£146</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>

National Mod, Glasgow

Previously acknowledged	£2,518	9	5
Eve of Mod Rally, Net Proceeds, per Mrs. Cameron		96	8
Series of Whist Drives, Net Proceeds		26	1
Highland Bazaar, Net Proceeds	3,081	16	6
	<u>£5,722</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5</u>
Less Celtic Society Donation for Prize not awarded—forward to Inverness Mod		3	—
Grand Total	<u>£5,719</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5</u>

"Cuimhnich na Laoich : Cuidich an Oigridh"

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Organiser :

Miss Normanna MacAskill, 74 Berkeley St., Glasgow, C.2 (Douglas 0609).

Preparations are now being made for the "Grand Feill" which will be held in St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th June, 1950. Accommodation for the Feill has already been reserved, and we are confident that Comunn na h-Oigridh will receive the same enthusiastic support in this venture as An Comunn Gaidhealach received for the Grand Feill of 1927, when the sum of £10,000 was realised.

During recent weeks the following functions have been held in aid of the Fund: a ceilidh and dance by Dunoon branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach; ceilidhs by Duror branch of An Comunn and Balmaha branch of the S.W.R.I.; dances by Miss C. MacInnes, Kildonan School, South Uist, and Glasgow University Ossianic Society; and a whist drive by the ladies of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund Work Party in Glasgow.

We would thank all who helped to organise these functions as a result of which the Fund has benefited considerably.

OUR TARGET, by 31st December, 1950, £20,000 SO FAR - - - - - £3,727

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HIGHLAND ASSOCIATION EVENTS.

MULL HIGHLAND GAMES. — Tobermory, Thursday, 21st July. Full particulars later. First appearance in Western Isles of Glasgow Police Pipe Band.

GLENURQUHART HIGHLAND GATHERING. Drumnadrochit, Saturday, 27th August. Mrs. I. Lockie, Secretary, Milton.

NATIONAL MOD, Inverness, 4th-7th October. Syllabus now available from Secretary, An Comunn Gaidhealach, 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow. Entries close 2nd July.

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH, EDINBURGH. Summer Ceilidhs, Second Saturday April, May, June, Douglas Haig Memorial Hall, Coates Crescent.

NORTH UIST HIGHLAND GATHERING, Thursday, 11th August. Open Competition in Piping and Athletics. Full particulars later.—D. J. A. McL., Hon. Secretary.

SALES and WANTS.

FOR SALE, Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, Vols. 1-27, 29 and 30.—Offers, L. M., Ft. W., Box No. 204.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ILLUMINATED ADDRESSES, Certificates, Title Pages, Membership Scrolls, Book Plates, etc.—Write Box No. 202.

AR CANAIN 'S AR CEOL AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

7th Annual

GLASGOW (LOCAL) MOD

Under the auspices of Glasgow (Central) and Govan Branches, in

THE HIGHLANDERS' INSTITUTE, 27 Elmbank St.
on

FRIDAY, 27th MAY, 1949, at 6.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, 28th MAY, 1949, at 2 p.m.

Oral, Vocal, Choral, and Instrumental Competitions for both Juniors and Seniors. Entry Forms (there is no entry fee) from An Comunn Gaidhealach, 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow, or from Mr. Finlay MacKeanan, Secretary, 29 Elizabeth Street, Glasgow, S.W.1.

Admission to Mod Sessions:
Adults, 1/6; Juveniles, 6d.

The following Events will be run in conjunction with the Mod:—

GRAND HIGHLAND DANCE

In Main Hall from 10.30 p.m. till 1 a.m.

On FRIDAY, 27th MAY, 1949. Admission, 2/6 each.

GRAND CLOSING CONCERT

In the HIGH SCHOOL HALL, HOLLAND STREET
On SATURDAY, 28th MAY, 1949, at 7.30 p.m.

Programme sustained by Mod Prize-winners, assisted by Mr Alec Brown, Lochgilphead, Mod Gold Medalist, and Mrs. A. Brown, runner-up Gold Medal, 1948.

Admission—Adults, 2/6; Juveniles, 1/-.

Gach Feasgar Di-Ciadain . . .

Gheibh sibh bho "Gillian" ann an "Evening Times" gach feasgar Di-Ciadain sgeul air cuspairean eachdraidheil is dùthchasail, maille ri iomradh gnìomhachas is fearas-chuideachd nan Gaidheal.

Cultural Views and Ceilidh News are discussed in the "Evening Times" each Wednesday by "Gillian."

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"Cuimhnic na Laoich: Cuidich an Oigridh"

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suitably equipped and organised, which
will make available to the children and
youth of the Highlands and Islands the
best facilities for their physical, mental,
moral, and spiritual development, and
encourage them to know and respect and
worthily maintain and advance all that is
best in Gaelic culture.

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to be raised by the end of 1950

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thought what your Branch or Society
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Mr. JAMES T. GRAHAM, C.A.,
5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1

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MacLaren's Gaelic Self-Taught, 2 6th net. Key	1/6 3d
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MacAlpine's Gaelic-English, English-Gaelic Dictionary	12/- 8d
Nicolson: History of Skye, 12 illustrations	10/6 7d
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AN GAIDHEAL *THE GAEL*

Vol. XLIV

MAY, 1949

No. 5



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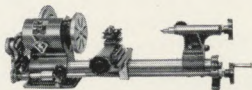
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NOTES AND COMMENTS

AN GAIDHEAL THE GAEL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Manager

JAMES HARRISON MILLER

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Leabhar XLIV Aireamh 5
AN CEITEIN, 1949

Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

Loch Lomond

PLEASE MENTION OUR NAME WHEN
WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

Big Task for a Young Gael

WE congratulate the Rev. Murdoch Ewen MacDonald, B.D., Old Partick Church, Glasgow, on his being called to the charge of St. George's West Church, Edinburgh. St. George's West is regarded as one of the leading pulpits in Scotland, and Mr. MacDonald is being called to follow in a great succession—Dr. R. S. Candlish, Dr. Oswald Dykes, Dr. Alexander Whyte, Dr. Hugh Black, Dr. John Kelman, and Dr. James Black.

Mr. MacDonald, who belongs to Harris and was educated at Sir Edward Scott School, Tarbert, Kingussie Secondary School, and St. Andrews University, where he had a distinguished career, was ordained at Portree in 1939. Soon thereafter, however, he became an army chaplain and served in the West Indies and North Africa. He was wounded and taken prisoner and spent two years in a German prison camp. Two years ago he was inducted to Old Partick.

There are not a few instances of Gaelic-speaking ministers reaching some of the most important posts in the Church, and the following names come to mind—Sir James Cameron Lees (minister of St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh), Dr. Norman MacLean (St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh), Dr. James MacGregor (St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh), Dr. Lauchlan Maclean Watt (Glasgow Cathedral).

Mr. MacDonald has already given full proof of his preaching abilities, and we wish him every blessing in the onerous task now being laid upon him.

Knoydart Again

THE Secretary of State for Scotland has intimated his acceptance of Mr. J. A. Cameron's "clear-cut recommendation in favour of the development of Knoydart as a single stock-

raising unit with a limited forestry development to be undertaken on the estate."

And so another blow is struck at the hopes many of us cherish that we may yet see a more numerous and more prosperous agricultural population in the West Highlands. Instead, we can look forward to desolation—deer? yes; sheep? maybe; men and women? NO.

Mr. Colin MacDonald, writing in *The Oban Times*, unhesitatingly calls Mr. Cameron's recommendations "deplorable." "The strongest element in our security," says Mr. MacDonald, "is our rural people."

Och, och! mar tha mi 's mi 'n seò
'nam ònar,
A' dol troimh 'n choill far an robh
mi eòlach;
Nach fhaigh mi àit' ann am
fhearann dùthchais,
Ged fhàidhinn crùn air son leud
mo bhroige.

Moch madainn Chéitein an ám
dhomh éirigh
Cha chòil air gheugan no geum air
mòintich,
Ach sgreaidil bhéisdean sa' chànain
Bheurla,
Le coin 'gan éigheach cur féidh air
fogar.

Na gleanntan ciatach 's am
faighteadh fiadhach,
'M biodh coin air iallan aig gillean
òga;
Chan fhaic thu 'n diugh ann ach
ciobair stiallach,
'S gur duibhe mheuran na sgiath
na ròcais.

Chaidh gach àbhaist a chur air
fuadach;
Cha chluinn thu gruagach ri duan
no òran;
Nach bochd an nì e gun d'shearg
ar n-uaislean,
'S na balaich shuarach 'nan àite-
còmhnaidh.

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Is leigheas air gach tinn creamh is im 's a' Mhàigh.

Firinn air son a' Mhìos seo

Ullaichidh an seangan a bhìadh san t-samhradh agus cruinnichidh e a theachd-an-tìr san fhogharadh.—

Gnàth-shacail vi.8.

Ireland and Wales

IT cannot be over-emphasised that, in regard to language problems, each of the Celtic countries has something to learn from, and something to teach, the others. Last year, at a meeting in Dublin, Irish teachers and officials of the Department of Education discussed language-teaching problems and methods with visiting teachers from Caernarvon. Elsewhere in this issue we reprint (with a few omissions) two of the papers given at the conference, one by Mr. T. O. Raifeartaigh, M.A., Leas-Runai, Roimn an Oideachais, and the other by Miss Jennie Thomas, County Organiser of Language Training for Caernarvonshire. We are indebted to our good friend, 'An Seabhac,' for sending us the copy of "The Irish School Weekly" in which these papers were published.

An All-English World

IN the little French book, "*La Langue Bretonne*," which we review on another page, the author, discussing the future of Breton, says that its strongest foe—indeed, the strongest foe of all individual traits and national characteristics—is the modern urge towards uniformity. He goes on to remark that the trend towards uniformity threatens not only the smaller languages but also the greater ones, "not only Breton, Frisian, and Basque, but also German and French." One language, English, is irresistibly gaining the ascendancy in the scientific and commercial world and may well become the world-language. A remark heard among peasants in Brittany is, "Why should we be made to waste our time learning French at school instead of learning English?" The conflict of world-languages and local languages is not confined to the Celtic countries, and it is bound to become more and more acute.

Herring

IT is reported that the Herring Industry Board's pioneer experiment in running a scheme for the winter fishing on the West Coast has cost them between £25,000 and £30,000, because of the flooding of the home market by herring from Norway. The kipperers are blamed for buying the Norwegian herring for kippering, while Scottish herring went for meal and oil at a lower price, the Board having to bear a loss of 10/- a cran.

Over 200 steam and motor boats were engaged in the West

Coast winter fishing, their earnings for two months ranging from £450 to £2970 for steam drifters and from £110 to £2740 for motor boats. The total landings were some 57,000 crans, valued at £227,500, the fishing grounds ranging from Tolsta Head, the Glas Light, and Handa Island to Gairloch and the lochs of Lewis, Harris, and Benbecula.

The late Dr. Norman Morrison

WE regret to record the death of Dr. Norman Morrison, a Lewisman who, with few early educational advantages and spending his life as a police officer in Glasgow and Argyll, by sheer ability and much research became one of the leading authorities on the adder. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science for his work. He also wrote a number of books on Highland themes. He was 79 years of age.

The late Rev. P. J. MacIver

WE also regret to record the death of the Rev. P. J. MacIver, also a Lewisman and an Honours graduate of Glasgow University. He was minister in Kintail, in the Orkneys, and in Wishaw, and latterly at Inchture near Dundee. He was a Gaelic naval chaplain in the first World War and was for a period chaplain to Dundee Highland Society. He also served as a mod adjudicator and was a member of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Beekeeping

IT would seem, from reports in the Highland newspapers, that beekeeping is steadily coming into favour in certain districts, notably in Lochaber, where a very active Beekeepers' Association is in being. This might well extend to many other areas, not only as a hobby, but as a profitable sideline.



The oil-lamp, which displaced the "cruisgean," is itself giving way to electric light.
(Photo from film, "The Crofters")

The Language Revival in Ireland

By T. O. RAIFEARTAIGH

THE English conquest of Ireland was not quite 200 years old when it was realised that the Irish language was a serious obstacle to the subjugation of the people, and in fact that the colonists were in grave danger of assimilation. By the Statutes of Kilkenny, therefore, the use of the Irish language by the colonists was strictly forbidden. These Statutes had little effect, however, for 130 years later, in 1494, Poyning's Law repeated the former injunctions, but, significantly, omitted the ban on the Irish language, probably because it was considered impracticable.

The next attack was the Act of 1537 "for the English order, habit, and language," which provided "that all the King's true subjects in the land should speak the English tongue."

It may be taken that the Irish language was the ordinary language of all parts of Ireland, including the towns, up till about 1600. (It was not, of course, the language used officially by the English Government or its officials here.) About 1600, however, the military conquest of Ireland was completed, and in the 17th century Irish landowners were replaced by English and Scots (and some Welsh), and so, from the end of the century on, Irish was cultivated by scarcely anyone of social importance. About the middle of the 18th century the scholar, Charles O'Connor, noted with melancholy on one of his manuscripts that in all Ireland at that day he was alone in caring for ancient learning. "Gan aon an Erinín aníú ar an obair so acht mé féin úa anar."

The 18th Century

THE 18th century is the great watershed between Irish and English. At the beginning of the century Irish was still the language of the masses, even in Dublin. But those masses were socially proscribed, leaderless, "hewers of wood and drawers of water," and, inevitably, by 1800 English had gained ground in many places. It was felt by many in the early years of the 19th century that Irish was going, and indeed the general view of clergy and laity, even of such great Irishmen as Henry Grattan and Maria Edgeworth's father, was that this was all to the good. And about then the masses of the people took this view too.

There is ample evidence that only with the greatest reluctance did they decide to throw Irish overboard. For example in 1825 the Secretary of the Society for the Education of the Native Irish through the Medium of their Own Language (a Bible Society), though he agreed that it were well that Irish should cease to be spoken, admitted the people's "attachment to their ancient language, which

(attachment) exists in Ireland to a degree of enthusiasm, and perhaps is as strong as any other prejudice they possess." But there is also ample evidence that they did decide, at whatever sacrifice to their feelings, to learn English, as a purely utilitarian subject.

It is not surprising, therefore, that, when the National Board was appointed by the Government

(Continued on next page)

Gaelic Composer Honoured

MR. JOHN MACDONALD, OBAN

A CONCERT in honour of Mr. John MacDonald, Oban, the well-known Gaelic composer, was held in the Great Western Hotel, Oban, on 31st March, 1949. Part of the concert was broadcast and taking part were the Oban Gaelic Choir (conducted by Mrs. Nancy Cameron, a daughter of Mr. MacDonald), Jenny M. B. Currie, Isobel M. Stewart, and Alasdair Matheson. In all the pieces rendered the melodies or arrangements were composed by Mr. MacDonald and included the impressive bardic supplication, "Athchuinge," now part of the ceremony of crowning the Bard at the National Mod, "Tha 'n Samhradh air Tighinn," "An Ataireachd Ard," "Chi mi 'n Toman," "Fagail Dhìbraidh," "Bean a' Chotain Ruaidh," "Peigi Ros," "Caidil Thusa, Luaidh," and "Am Bothan Beag." The broadcasting arrangements were under the direction of Mr. Hugh MacPhee who introduced the various items.

After the broadcast a ceilidh was held, with Mr. Donald Thomson presiding, and tributes were paid to Mr. MacDonald and to the excellent work which he has done on behalf of Gaelic music. Among those who paid tribute to Mr. MacDonald's work were Mr. Donald Thomson, Mrs. MacLeod (Vice-President of the Glasgow Coll Association, deputising for Mr. Hector MacDougall, President of that Association), and Mr. Hugh MacPhee. Mr. Thomson also read tributes from Mr. Neil MacLean and Mr. Neil Shaw, who were unable to be present. Mr. Shaw's letter on behalf of An Comunn was in the following terms:—

"Tha mi fìor dhùilich nach 'eil e 'nam chomas a bhith còmhla rìbh air an oidhche nochd. Chan

'eil neach eile co-cheangailte ri ar n-aobhar a bu docha leam cuid a ghabhail gu pearsanta ann an cruinneachadh a tha a' deanamh luaidh is molaidh air a chuid obrach na Iain MacDhòmhnaill.

"Tha leth-cheud bliadhna is còrr bho chuir mise eòlas air Mgr. MacDhòmhnaill, agus is moiteil leam a ràdh gu robh dlùth chàirdeas againn ri chèile bho'n cheud là a thachair sinn. Gu h-àraidh an obair a' Chomuinn, aig mòdan mòra is mòdan beaga, bha sinn daonna air an aon ràmh, a' misneachadh agus a' brosnachadh ar co-Ghaidheal iad a bhith measail, uasal as an dleabh a dh'fhàgadh aca—cànain is ceòl.

"Ann a bhith ag cur fuinn ri òrain Ghàidhlig chan 'eil neach eile a sheas làimh ri Mgr. MacDhòmhnaill. Tha dreach na Gàidhlig air gach pong, agus a' bhàrdachd a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ag cnàmh gun aithne, gun mheas, air a h-àrdachadh agus air a toirt fa 'r comhair ann an sgeadhachd maiseach, ceòlmhor agus taitneach do'n chluais. Mairidh *An Ataireachd Ard* agus *Bean a' Chotain Ruaidh* cho fad 's a bhios òrain Ghàidhlig air an seinn, agus bidh ainm Iain MhicDhòmhnaill co-mhàireann riutha féin.

"Tha an Comunn ag cur fàilte air an fhilidh agus a' toirt mìle taing dhà air son a luthadh teud a tharraing e air clàrsaich nam beann agus air son na dleibh luchdmhor a dheasaich e do na ginealaich a dh'èireas suas.

"Is e ar guidhe gum bi cuibhreann slàinte agus sìnneadh làithean air am buileachadh air ar caraid ionmhainn.—*Niall Mac Ghille Sheathanaich.*"

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Language Revival in Ireland (continued)

in 1831 and the national school scheme set up, it deliberately decided to ignore the existence of the Irish language, and that, though few of its actions in the first forty years of its existence escaped censure, during that period no one, as far as one can find out, assailed it for its neglect of Irish, and very few, for that matter, for its deliberate excision of Irish history and Irish music from its text-books and curricula.

In all the Minutes of the National Board, from its first meeting in 1831 up to 1870, there are only two references to Irish, both of them unambiguous, one refusing a Thaddeus Conlon's application for a post as a teacher of Irish, the other refusing permission to a parish priest to use Irish readers in his school. The only other reference on the part of the Board at that period to the Irish language was the statement in the old Fourth Book, "The people of these islands have one and the same language (all, at least, who are educated)." It is interesting to recall that Cardinal Cullen, whom no one would call a rabid nationalist, in his evidence at the Powis Commission in 1869, took great exception to this statement, not only on behalf of Irishmen, but also of Scotsmen and Welshmen.

By about 1870 Irish had reached the nadir of its fortunes. Barely more than 20 per cent. of the Irish people were Irish-speaking, and a number of thinking men were alarmed and saddened. The revival movement had, however, begun before then.

The first we hear of an attempt to stem the decline of Irish is in a manuscript recently discovered in England by Mr. James Carney, but not yet published. This manuscript gives the rules of a society founded in Dublin about the middle of the 18th century by apparently a middle-class group. One of the rules was that anyone found speaking English at the Society's meetings was to be fined 1d., with the exception of the chairman. This was nearly 150 years before the Gaelic League, but nothing further is known of this Society.

Influence of "Ossian"

MAINLY under the influence of MacPherson's "Ossian" some interest was taken in Irish by learned societies towards the end of the 18th century, and between then and 1850 about half-a-dozen learned societies were founded in connection with Irish or Irish history or archaeology.

These finally flowered in the great work of O'Donovan and O'Curry in the middle of the 19th century—work that, with that of Zeuss and others on the Continent, laid the foundations of modern learning in Irish and in Irish history.

One important national leader, Thomas Davis, and one important churchman, Dr. MacHale (Archbishop of Tuam), spoke out about the middle of the century in favour of Irish. It will be recalled how Canon Peter O'Leary, when a student in Maynooth, read before the assembled Hierarchy his Prize Essay on Literature, and how Archbishop MacHale reminded him sharply that he had in his essay praised the literature of every country but his own.

Davis may be said to be the Athanasius of modern Irish nationalism, and it is almost incomprehensible that he, an alumnus of Trinity College and of a Protestant Ascendancy family, should see so clearly one hundred years ago the importance of the cultivation of the Irish language as a part of Irish nationality, when none of his Catholic confreres bothered even to mention the subject, though some of these must have known Irish well.

The Gaelic League

DURING all this time, however, spoken Irish was disappearing rapidly. English became the language of religion, of politics, and of poetry, and the great famine of 1845-48 struck most heavily the Irish-speaking areas. The first organised attempt to arrest the decline was the founding of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language in 1876. In 1878 this Society prevailed on the National Board to have Irish placed on the list of Extra Subjects which might be taught outside school hours, and in 1880 the more active members of the Society founded the Gaelic Union.

The Gaelic Union founded the *Gaelic Journal* in 1882, and for some years the *Gaelic Journal*, supported fully by the Irish National Teachers' Organisation, pressed on the National Board the necessity of the use of the language as a medium of instruction in Irish-speaking areas, but without success. In 1891 the Rev. Eugene O'Growney became editor of the *Gaelic Journal*, and in 1893 he, Eoin MacNeill, and Douglas Hyde founded the Gaelic League, with Hyde as first President.

Apart from the efforts of a few obscure but very courageous indi-

viduals, such as those of Philip Barron in County Waterford in the 1830s (Barron has been called 'the first Gaelic Leaguer'), to Douglas Hyde, more than to any other, is the credit due for having been the first to attempt to get people to speak Irish.

Bilingual Programme

IN 1900 the National Board agreed to examine the Extra Subject, Irish, orally, and in 1904 the Gaelic League gained the Board's grudging assent to a Bilingual Programme, that is to say, if there were Irish-speaking pupils in a school, the teacher, if acquainted with the language, was expected, whenever practicable, to use the vernacular as an aid to the elucidation and acquisition of the English language. The programme was intended for Irish-speaking and bilingual districts, and it was a condition of it that "instruction through the medium of English would be given to any exclusively English-speaking pupils whose parents desired it."

In 1907 teachers in Irish-speaking or bilingual districts were allowed to use Irish exclusively, if possible, during the Irish lessons, to explain reading matter through Irish, and to require the pupils when writing an Irish exercise to write their names and the dates in Irish. Prizes for Irish were awarded in the Training Colleges, and special grants were made to the "Summer Colleges," which had come into being spontaneously as a result of the growing feeling of nationalism that marked the early part of this century. It should be noted, however, that previous to the 20th century political nationalism and the Irish language were regarded as being in absolutely separate compartments.

The Intermediate Board had been set up in 1878, and through the efforts of the O'Connor Don, a descendant of the Charles O'Connor mentioned above, had recognised "Celtic" as a subject that might be taught in secondary schools, and through pressure from the Gaelic League Irish had been put on a par with modern continental languages in 1901. The Gaelic League's greatest victory, however, was when, after a struggle, not with alien Boards but in Irish County Councils, in the Irish Parliamentary Party, and in the Senate of the newly-founded National University, that Senate decided that Irish should be obligatory for matriculation after 1913.

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Seanchaidh Uibhisteach

THA mi ag creidsinn gu robh mórán a chuala an seanchaidh Uibhisteach, Donnchadh Dòmhnallach (Donnchadh mac Dhòmhnaill mhic Dhonnchaidh), air an radio bhò chionn ghoidid aig nach robh dùil chun a sìod gu robh a leithid beò 'nar linn. Bha fhios aig cuid againn gu robh ionmhas saidhbhir de bheul-aithris nan seann Ghaidheal taigste an inntinn an duine seo, agus gum bu chòir toirt m'an aire gach seachas a bh'aige a chumail air mhàireann. Is mór an nì gu bheil luchd-ealain, leis gach a'fhinn a tha riatnach, a nis air an gnothach a ghabhail os làimh.

Is iongnadh nach beag na tha seo de eòlas àrsaidh a bhith air mheombhair aig ann duine. Ach tha taobh eile air a' chùis a tha cheart cho iongantach, agus is e sin a bu mhath leam a chur an cèill anns na leanas. Mus tuigead dé tha 'nam bheachd is fheadar a dhol air n-ais beagan an eachdraidh.

Am dh'an robh an saoghal bha bàrd no seanchaidh an taigh gach ceann-feadhna ach beag air feadh an taobh tuath. Bha duais aca air tàilleabh an oifig, agus glé thrìc baile fearainn a nasgaidh. Tha cunntas againn air dà theaghlach a bha san dreuchd seo aig Mac Dhòmhnaill—Clann Mhìc Bheatha (no Mhìc Bheathaig) agus Clann Mhìc Ruairidh. Meur de Chlann Raghnaill a bha an Clann Mhìc Ruairidh, de shìochd Ruairidh, an treas ceann-feadhna. Bha mac aig Ruairidh seo ir nìghean Tighearna Colla d'am b'ainm Donnchadh Garbh, agus ar leam gur ann bhuaithe-san a bha an t-iarraid. Bha iad fad iomadh linn 'nan gobhnean an Trondairnis, ach, mar a thubhairt mi, bha cuid aca a bha 'nam bàird agus 'nan seanchaidhean aig Clann Dhòmhnaill. Bha sin fhad 's a bha Mac Dhòmhnaill a' deanamh a dhachaidh agus ag gleidheadh cùirt an Caisteal Dhùn-thuilm (c.1616-c.1675).

Is e a' cheud fhear dhiubh air a bheil lorg againn Donnchadh Mac Ruairidh a dh'eu'c.1630. Tha cuid de'n bhàrdachd aige an Leabhar Fhearnaig. Donnchadh a bha air an fhear mu dheireadh dhiubh a mheal an oifig mar an ceudna. Tha iomradh againn air anns an fhianuis a thugadh seachad mu bhàrdachd Oisein-le Uisdean Bhàn, Fear Chill Fheadair, anns a' bhliadhna 1800: "Aig teaghlach Mhìc Dhòmhnaill b'e Iain Mac Codrum ann b'ard mu dheireadh ... ; roimhe sin Donnchadh Mac Ruairidh aig an robh Achadh nam Bàrd an Trondairnis mar

fhearann oighreachd, agus tha a shìochd féin agus sìochd a shinnsear air an sliochd Clann a' Bhàird." Faodar ainmeachadh gu bheil a' chuid mu dheireadh de'n fhianuis seo fìor fhathast. Air an latha an diugh tha iad air an àireamh 'am measg nan Dòmhnallach, ach tha iad air an comhtharrachadh mar Chlann a' Bhàird an Tobhta-sgròir agus an cèrnaibh eile de sgrìreachd Chill Mhoire.

AN uair a dh'fhàg na Dòmhnallaich Dùn-thuilm agus a chaidh iad a chòmhnaidh a dh'Armadal, cha robh féill air bàrd no seanchaidh an Trondairnis na b'fhaide, agus math dh'fhaoidte gur ann air an adhbhar sin a chaidh Donnchadh roimh-ainmichte air imric a dh'Uibhist a' Chinn a Tuath. Is dòcha gum biodh sin uair-eigin eadar na Dòmhnallaich Dùn-thuilm fhàgail agus tilleadh a dheanamh beagan tathaich ann an déidh do Thaigh Armadaid a bhith air a chur 'na smàl le luingeas-chogaidh an 1690.

Dh'fhag Donnchadh sìochd, feadhainn dhiubh a lean ris an ainm Mac Ruairidh (*MacRury*), agus feadhainn eile a chaidh air n-ais chun an t-seann ainm-cinnidh (*MacDonald*). Cha do dh'fhan iad uile an Uibhist a Tuath, mar a ghabhas creidsinn. Chaidh cuid a dh'Amairéaga, agus thuinich cuid eile dhiubh am Beinn-na-fadhla—Clann Chaluum mhic Thormoid, mar a theirte riutha.

Ach is ann a tha ar gnothach an ceartuair ri Dòmhnall mac Thormoid, aig an robh fearann an Ceathramh Meadhonach Sholais. Chan 'eil mi làn-chinnteach dé cho càirdach 's a bha Dòmhnall do Dhonnchadh, Fear Achadh nam Bàrd, ach tha mi a' meas nach urrainn gu robh e na b'fhaide bhuaithe na an t-ogha. Bha Dòmhnall pòsda aig ban-Leòdach a bhùineadh do theaghlach measail anns an Eilean Sgitheanach—Mòr nìghean Nèill mhic Iain Mhóir Gheusdo. Bha mac aca d'am b'ainm Iain. Tàillear a bh'ann, agus is e a cheaird a thug suas a dh'Uibhist a Deas e, far an do thuinich e rathad Ghéirinis (Cill Amhlaidh?) mu thimcheall a 1780.

Mar bu dual, 's e seanchaidh barraichte a bha an Iain mac Dhòmhnaill mhic Thormoid. Tha comhachd againn air sin ann an leabharichean-sgeòil Iain Oig Ile. Tha e ag innse dhuinn gum b'e Dòmhnall Mac-a-Phi anns an Iochdar sgeulaiche cho eagnaich 's a thachair ris riann. Thugadh sìos bhò aithris Dhòmhnaill trì

sgeòil—"An Tuaraisgeal Mór," "Murchadh Mac Brian," agus "Mànus." Cò a nis a b'oid-ionnsachaidh do Dhòmhnaill Mac-a-Phi? Bha Iain mac Dhòmhnaill mhic Thormoid. Tha e air a ràdh gur ann aige a chualas a dhà de na sgeòil sin agus chan 'eil teagamh an treas fear mar an ceudna. A réir Mhìc-a-Phi, dh'eu'g Iain mac Dhòmhnaill mhic Thormoid ann 1800 aig aois trì fichead bliadhna.

CIOD e a nis as brìgh do'n eachdraidh? Tha seo. Is e Donnchadh leis an do thòisich mi iar-ogha do Iain mac Dhòmhnaill mhic Thormoid. Tha an seanfhalag ag radh gun tèid an dualchas an aghaidh nan creag, ach cha mhinig a chì sinn e air a dhearbhadh ann an dòigh cho iongantach. Tha a h-uile coltas na sgeòil agus na dain-ghaige a th'air ar caraid gur e sin na sgeòil agus na dain a bha air an aithris an "Dùn-thuilm nam baideal arda" an uair a bha e 'na làn ghreadhnachas linn-tean air n-ais. Tha iad luchmhòr anna fhéin, ach tha seo ag cur ri an luach. Saoidh mi gum biodh e 'na nì glé fheargarrach nan deante leabhar de sheanachas Dhonnchaidh a mhàin, mar urram a thoill e fhéin agus mar chumhneachan air na seanchaidhean agus na bàird ainmeil bho'n tàinig e. Rinneadh a leithid an Eirinn, agus tha againn an seo neach a tha cheart cho airdh.

Faodar a ràdh gur e mac do Dhonnchadh a chaidh a chrùnadh mar bhàrd aig a' Mhòd seo mu dheireadh. An dualchas a rithist. Guma fada a leanas e mar sin.

U. M.

Composer Honoured

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Unfortunately, Mr. MacDonald was unable to be present at the happy gathering in his honour, and when during the evening a presentation was made to him on behalf of Comunn Cìvil an Obain by Mrs. Black, Convener of the Ladies Committee, as a token of their respect, the gift was accepted by Miss Cairna MacDonald on behalf of her father, while her brother, Mr. Johnston MacDonald, thanked all present, and in particular those responsible for the arrangements for the evening and for the great tribute paid to his father.

The Rev. William MacDonald proposed a vote of thanks to Miss MacPhee for providing such excellent accommodation and to Mrs. Black and her committee for the tea arrangements.

The evening closed with a short, but enjoyable, dance.

Language Policy in Caernarvonshire

By JENNIE THOMAS

BOTH Ireland and Wales during the 19th century suffered the deleterious control of English government on their linguistic policies. In Ireland the native language was killed, except in the west and south of the country and in isolated communities. In Wales it would have been killed but for the teaching of the Circulating Schools and the Sunday Schools and the various religious bodies.

When education became compulsory in 1870 English was the only official language recognised in the day schools, and children were punished for speaking Welsh. Any child caught speaking Welsh in class in those days was made to hang a wooden board around the neck, a board familiarly known as the "Welsh Not," and this was worn until another culprit could be found, when board and punishment were willingly transferred.

The Welsh Bible

BUT, fortunately for Wales, by 1870 the Sunday Schools had penetrated to the remotest hamlets of the countryside and were attended by adults and young people and children alike, and in them Welsh was the only medium of teaching and discussion. Moreover, the Sunday Schools maintained the tradition of the Circulating Schools of the 18th century and taught all their members to read the Welsh Bible, which is recognised as a literary masterpiece of great beauty in our language. This religious tradition persists in the Wales of today to a remarkable degree, in spite of opposing forces, and we are thankful that it is a reading tradition, which has given colour and strength to our native speech.

When the governmental attitude to the use of Welsh in day schools changed at the beginning of this century, the Local Education Authority for Caernarvonshire quickly availed itself of its new facilities. In 1904 a bilingual policy was enunciated for the schools of the county and increasingly implemented through the years, until today our county is recognised as holding a pioneer position amongst the county authorities of Wales. Its main recommendations may be summarised as follows:—

A Bilingual Policy

1. All young people must be taught through the medium of the mother tongue. They must be

taught to speak freely and clearly, to read with understanding and interest, and to express in writing simple statements.

2. Facility in the speaking, reading, and writing of the mother tongue, *whether English or Welsh*, must be developed by daily lessons throughout the child's school career, emphasis being placed continuously on clear, free speech, containing local dialect idioms, but without debased phraseology and mixed linguistic terms. Parallel classes of children of the same age, or vertical groups of children of varied ages, should be formed where the percentages of English and Welsh children necessitate separate classification in the same school.

3. Preparatory training in the second or minor language should be given to young children by teaching simple rhymes, jingles, and songs, while they are developing the necessary facility in the speaking, reading, and writing of the mother tongue.

4. Formal training in the second language, English or Welsh, should be commenced at about seven years of age, through the medium of oral conversations based on a selected and restricted vocabulary. A daily period of not less than forty-five minutes should be devoted to the oral teaching of the minor language, and a careful record should be kept of the words and phrases used and learnt during these periods. These should be used as the basis of subsequent reading and writing exercises.

5. Regular daily practice in the speaking, reading, and writing of the second language must be developed consistently throughout the junior school, each lesson being based upon the vocabulary already learnt and extended carefully to meet new requirements. Parallel classes.

6. Where Welsh is the major language, the minor language, English, should be developed as a teaching medium between nine and eleven years of age, until it occupies a place of almost equal importance with the mother tongue by the time the children leave the primary school.

7. Where English is the major language, the use of the minor language, Welsh, should be developed as a teaching medium between nine and eleven years of age, with certain subjects such as

music, craft work, local lore, and Scripture knowledge. The use of English and Welsh for the Morning Service on various days helps to give official status to the two languages in school.

8. In the entrance examination for secondary schools from 1950 onwards every child shall be required to obtain a minimum standard of efficiency in Welsh and English as first or second languages, subject to safeguards for late monoglot immigrants.

9. During the first three years in the secondary school every child must be taught Welsh and English as first or second languages, due regard being paid to the basic vocabulary learnt previously in the primary school. Where schemes of parallel or vertical classification have been in existence in the early years particular attention should be paid to the organisation of varied courses of language teaching at the secondary level.

10. In all districts care should be taken in the framing of the timetable, so that Welsh and English are not made alternative to other languages and subjects for at least the first three years. They are essential languages to all living within the county, and children should not be allowed or required to learn a third or fourth language in preference to the basic two after transfer to a secondary school.

Equal Status

IN particular, the official policy seeks to stress the fact that Welsh and English should be given equal recognition in the educational and social life of the secondary school, and in the daily use made of the two languages by the staff, but that condition has not been satisfactorily achieved as yet. The majority of the children in the primary schools are Welsh-speaking children from Welsh-speaking homes, who normally play in Welsh when there are no English children present, and who are taught mainly in Welsh until about nine years of age, gradually becoming more bilingual as they reach the senior stage.

But in the grammar schools we suffer from a difficulty which has been overcome in Ireland. Our children have to sit their public examinations in English, with the result that the text-books prepared for their use in the past have been

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Ann's a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

CAMANACHD

AIR an dearbh latha air am faca suas ri ceud mìle neach gillean na h-Albainn a' toirt buaidh air na Sasannaich aig cluich ball-coise, bha deich mìle cruinn an achadh bregaha an Glaschu agus sgioba Ceilteach an Obain is sgioba Bhaile Ur an t-Sléibhe ag iomain air son àrd-urram na camanachd.

Mar a dh'fhaodas fios a bhith aig gach neach a leughas na briathran seo, 's e sgioba an Obain a choisinn a' bhuaidh. B'e seo an dara turas dhaibh an Cupa a chosnadh. Choisinn balaich Bhaile Ur an t-Sléibhe e deich turas cheana, is ged a dh'fhaodas iad a bhith faireachadh car lom as aonais air an t-samhradh seo, cha mhise iadsan no aobhar na camanachd gum faicear an Cupa car tacain an caochladh chearnan eile de'n dùthaich.

Tha atharrachadh mór air tighinn air an iomain, mar air gach nì eile. Air latha na cluiche mòire an Glaschu thug paipear Ghlaschu gu m' chuimhne iomradh air camanachd mu'n do sgrìobh Màiri Mhòr nan Oran, agus chuir sin mi a thoirt sùla air an leabhar-oran aice.

THA Màiri, ma thà, ag innseadh dhuinn mu chamanachd mhòir a bha an Glaschu aig a' bhliadhna ùir, 1876. Ann an litir a chuir i gu caraid san Eilean Sgitheanach sgrìobh i mar seo:—

"Tha sinne a' falbh an màireach gu Pàirc na Ban-Rìgh—tri fichead gille tapaidh Gaidhealach, deich thar fhichead fo'n fhéile, agus deich thar fhichead le brìgisean-ghlùine, le an cuid camanan air an guallean, piobarean rompha agus as an déidh, agus mi fhéin le each agus càrn làn chliabh bhonnach, mulchag chàise uiread ris a' ghealach, agus deur beag de'n Tòisidheachd a chur spreigidh anns na gillean."

"Innsidh mi dhuit mu'n chamanachd an uair a bhios i thairis," ars ise. "Bheir i'nad chuimhne làithean ar n-òige, an uair a b' àbhaist do thuath Sgiathabhos is Charabost a bhith air a' bhùth-mhòr le buideal air gach ceann de'n raon agus pailteas bhonnach agus càise."

"Nam bhithinn cho beairteach 's a tha mi bochd," ars ise, "bheirinn pùnd Sasannach gum biodh tu far a bheil mise an nochd, ann an Talla Mòr nan Gaidheal an Glaschu, mu dhà mhuilichinn gu m' ghuaillean, is am fallus 'gam

dhalladh a' fuineadh agus a' bruich bhonnach do na gillean-Callainn, ceann-suidhe na fàrdaiach 'na shuidhe ann an teas-meadhoin tri fichead caman, 'gan cur air dòigh air son an là màireach."

An sin shin Màiri Mhòr àn òran mu'n Chamanachd:—

'S iad gillean mo ghràidh
Tha 'n Glaschu nan sràid;
'S fhada bho àit' an eòlais iad.

'Ann goirid roimh 'n Chàllainn
A chruinnich an comunn,
'S a chuireadh an iomain an òrdugh leò.

Nuair thàinig an t-àm
Gun chruinnich na suinn,
'S bha càman an làimh gach òigeir dhiubh.

'S e sealladh as breagh'
A chunnaic mi riamh,
Gach òigeir gun ghìomh 's a chòta dheth.

Gach fleasgach gun mheang
'S a chaman 'na làimh,
'S a' chnapag le srann 'ga fògar leò.

Bha cuid diubh cho luath
Ri féidh air an ruaig,
'S cha chluinnt' ach "A suas i, Dhòmhnaill," leò.

'S ann ann a bha 'n eadhlain
Le glagadaich chaman
'S gach curaidh cur fallais is ceòthainn deth.

Nuair chuireadh am blàr
Gun choisich na sàir
Le pìob gu Sràid an Dòchais leò.

Rinn Màiri Mhòr òran eile mu chamanachd Ghrianaig, "aig an t-seann Chàllainn, 1877, eadar tri fichead de Ghaidheil Ghlaschu agus an t-àireamh ceudna de Ghaidheil Ghrianaig."

Aig an àm ud agus greis an déidh sin dh'fhaodadh àireamh sam bith dol an sàs anns a' chluich, ach a mhàin gum feumadh an aon àireamh a bhith air gach taobh.

Language Revival in Ireland

After Twenty-Five Years

WHAT is the position now, after twenty-five years of our own rule?

There is a debit side and a credit side. On the debit side I would put first that, though Irish is holding its own as a spoken tongue in the Irish-speaking districts,

Tha a' chluich an diugh fo riaghailtean glé theann, agus cha mhise an gnóthach sin, oir an dà chuid ann an cluich agus ann an nìthean as cudthromaiche is truaigh a' bhuil mu cheadaichear do gach neach riaghailtean a dheanamh dha fhéin agus riaghailtean eile nach còrd ris a bhriseadh.

IS e iomain chaman, faodaidh sinn a ràdh, a' chluich as sine a tha againn an Albainn, no eadhon ('s dòcha) anns an Roinn-Eòrpa gu léir. Tha iomradh air ann an seann eachdraidh is seann bheul-aithris nan Ceilteach, an dà chuid an Eirinn agus an Albainn. Anns na sgeulan a tha againn mu Chu-chulainn is mu Dheidre is Fionn is Calum-cille tha iomradh air seann chluichean bho'n d'fhàs an iomain chaman as aithne dhuinne.

Mar a dh'éirich do iomadh cleachdadh eile air a' Ghaidhealtachd thàinig mùthadh air iomain an déidh bhliadhna Thearlaich, agus air feadh dara leth an ochdamh linn deug agus a' cheud chuid de'n naoidheamh linn deug is iad na gillean beaga am bitheantas a bha ris a' chamanachd. Ach aig amannan sònraichte de'n bhliadhna, mar air Là na Bliadhna Uire, bhithheadh fir a' bhaile, sear is òg, a' toirt a' bhàir-iomain orra, baile an aghaidh baile, sguir an aghaidh sguire, ann an cath-cluiche a mhaireadh bho mhòch gu dubh.

'S e Comunn Ceilteach Ghlaschu saoilidh mi, agus an déidh sin Comunn na Camanachd, a chuidich gu mór ann a bhith ag aiseag na camanachd gu àite urramach agus gu spéis am beachd nan Gaidheal mu thuath is mu dheas.

'S ann air tìr-mòr siorrachdan Earragaidheal, Inbhir-nis, agus Rois, agus anns an Eilean Sgitheanach agus an Glaschu is Dùn-éideann a tha na sgioban iomain an diugh. A bheil gin anns na h-eileanan a muigh 's an Ile 's am Muile, air neo an e ball-coise a mhàin a tha iad sin a' leantainn?

(Continued from page 58)

largely because of the schools (and the Free State did not come a moment too soon in this regard), yet the Gaeltacht is rapidly becoming bilingual. There seems no help for this, what with tourists, the radio, buses, the expansion of administration, the great impor-

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Cape Breton News and Views

JUST as our worthy maritime neighbour, Prince Edward Island, is known everywhere as "the Garden of the Gulf," so is Cape Breton Island recognised today as "the Cradle of Celtic Culture in North America."

It will therefore be greatly appreciated in Gaelic circles in Nova Scotia that, from "the World's Cradle of Gaelic Culture," *An Gaidheal*—that doughty veteran of forty-four years' successful crusading and continuous championing of the Gaelic Cause, has issued a very generous and pressing invitation requesting Cape Breton to participate actively in the worthy crusade carried on for the preservation of Gaelic culture in Scotland and the Dominions beyond.

On behalf of Cape Breton Gaels the Gaelic College accepts the invitation with humility and gratitude, considering it a high privilege as well as a great opportunity to serve, in what will now be an international sphere, in the promotion of the highest values of our common heritage. We therefore greet all brother and sister Gaels with the ever-inspiring Gaelic war-cry, "*Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig*."

"Up with the Gaelic" being one of the two slogans which have greatly inspired the work of the Cape Breton Gaelic College, it will not be difficult to make the adjustments as we transfer a portion of our energies to the larger field of service under the banner of *An Gaidheal*. We hope our Cape Breton column will ever be what we want it to be—a real source of inspiration and encouragement, especially to Gaels in the Homeland, never allowing pessimism to enter into any detail of our effort, having room only for the furtherance of constructive action, leading the progress of Gaelic culture to a still brighter future.

To have able leaders in the Gaelic field, as we enjoy that boon here in Cape Breton, is the best insurance against pessimism and defeatism. Here, as in Scotland, the cause of Gaelic has a bright, bright future.

TO Church leaders in Cape Breton we owe much for the contribution of clergymen in ever keeping Gaelic in use in religious duties so that the language still has much of its old-time vigour. Next in deserving our praise is the Gaelic precursor, for indeed, even when the Gaelic clergyman is absent, he leads the congregational singing, presenting

the Gaelic psalms, in many Cape Breton churches.

Heading the long list of Gaelic-speaking clergymen in Cape Breton and active today are the Rev. Dr. A. D. Mackinnon, Dean of the Gaelic College and Presbyterian minister at Whyccomagh and Little Narrows; Rev. Stanley P. MacDonald, parish priest at Big Pond, Cape Breton County, who is an older brother of the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Hon. Angus Lewis MacDonald, K.C., LL.B., Halifax; Rev. Donald MacLean Sinclair, B.D., minister at Fort Massey United Church, Halifax, formerly of Sydney, and great-grandson of the noted bard, John MacLean of Tiree, author of "*A' Choille Ghrumach*"; Rev. Duncan J. Rankin, parish priest, Iona, Victoria County, and Vice-President of the Gaelic Foundation; Rev. Donald MacDonald, Presbyterian minister on Bouladerie Island, and recently from Harris, Scotland; Rev. James Fraser, United Church minister on Bouladerie Island, who is a native of his present parish; Rev. Donald MacPherson, parish priest, Port Hood, Inverness County; Rev. J. A. MacLellan, United Church minister at Marion Bridge, Cape Breton County; Rev. D. J.

MacLeod, United Church minister at Orangedale, Inverness County; Rev. C. Angus MacDonald, Presbyterian minister, Lake Ainslie; and many others in these three churches.

With such leaders in the Gaelic field in Cape Breton the future of Gaelic as a living, active language is bright indeed.

In closing, we must congratulate *An Gaidheal* on its improved and brighter look and its timely bid for international favour and influence. May its banner shelter all true sons and daughters of the Gael in a single family-circle around the Gaelic-speaking world, so—"*Clanna nan Gaidheal ri Guailibh a Cheile!*"

RUGG MACKENZIE.

Caernarvon Language Policy

(Continued from page 60)

mainly in English, and the teaching medium too frequently is English, even with Welsh-speaking children. This is an awkward problem which can only be solved satisfactorily by the concerted action of Welsh local authorities, and we are glad to know that Glamorganshire in South Wales and Denbighshire in North Wales have now adopted a bilingual policy similar to that of Caernarvonshire, and that they will work together to secure new arrangements on a national basis for Welsh schools.

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William Meikle, Kilbarchan, weaving tartan.

(Photo by Fay Nicholls)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AN CEITEIN, 1949

Aireamh 5

Eagal an Tairbh

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“AN robh eagal riamh ort?” arsa Bus-dubh ri Blàran.

“Eagal orm, a bhòinein? Có air nach robh e, uair no uair-eigin?”

“An robh eagal mór ort uair-eigin?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Dé uibhir is a bhitheadh e mum biodh e mór ort?” ars an tarbh ris.

“Cho mór seo,” arsa Bus-dubh, agus e togail a spòig os cionn na cluaise.

“O, seadh,” ars an tarbh, “nam bu bheag bu rud-eigin!”

“Dé,” ars an cuilean, “an t-eagal bu mhotha a ghabh thu riamh?”

“Innsidh mise sin duit,” thuirt an tarbh. “Bha mi aon latha an déidh domh mo leòir itheadh, agus mi 'nam laighe am measg nan clachan cnapach air cùl Gàradh-nam-molt, agus bha mi cho sona dheth agus nach robh guth agam gu robh duine no beathach eile air an t-saoghal a bhos ach mi fhéin. Latha an àigh a bha ann, le grian theth an t-samhraidh a' sgoltadh nan creag agus an cuan mòr maiseach 'na aon linne réidh eadar mi is bun sgòth. Is ann eadar mo chadal is mo dhùisg a bha mi, agus is ann 'nam chadal a b'usa dhomh a bhith mur b'è na cuileagan grannda.”

“An e na meanbh chuilleagan?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Chan iad fhéin, ach feadhainn as miosa leam na iad.”

“Na cuileagan dubha,” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Chan iad leis,” ars an tarbh; “agus cuimhnich, chan 'eil mise dol as àicheadh nach 'eil an té dhubb gu h-olc. Is e bha ann na creitheagan, a mhic; agus de na thig 's na thàinig is iad sin na cùisean-diùmbaidh aig buar 'gham blianadh am blàths na gréine, agus gun de mhodh orra na chumas iad an taobh aca fhéin. Ach, gun stad a chur air mo sheanchas, siud agadsa mar a bha mise, a chuilein, agus gun dad eadar mi is mo cheòl-suaimhnis ach plàigh nan cuileagan. Cha robh air sin ach sin fhéin, ach is ann a thàinig dubhar eadar mi is grian agus ghrad chaidh an t-uamhas ud thar mo dhroma, agus chaidh crith orm leis an eagal gus an robh gach calg a bha orm air èirigh dìreach as a bhun. Agus mun d'fhuair mi cothrom uibhir is gaorag a ligeil asam chunnaic mi fàth mo chunnairt.”

“A'agus dé bha sin?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Dé a bha ach dà bhalach chas-ruisgte a' leum seachad orm 'nan deannaibh dearga agus gun iad ach air an sgoil fhàgail. Is ann a b' àbhaist do na balaich a bhith fuireach bhuam. Ach siud dìreach mar a rinn Seumas is Ruairidh. Gheàrr iad sùrdag de leum seachad air cnaimh caol an droma agam. Chan 'eil fhios agam nach robh iad fhéin cho làn de'n eagal agus a bha mise (ma tha leithid de rud is eagal idir air siubhal nan creutairean neònach sin), ach, creid uam e, chan 'eil uair a nis a chì mise Seumas no Ruairidh nach 'eil dearg eagal mo bheatha orm.”

“Agus a bheil eagal agad roimh na daoine móra?” ars an cuilean.

“Eagal roimh na daoine móra! Gu dearbh, chan 'eil no dad de'n t-seòrsa! Faodaidh tu fios a bhith agad dé tha iad sin ag iarraidh, ach rudan beaga a leumadh seachad ort air àird a' mheadhonn-latha, tha mise ag innseadh duit nach 'eil iad cneasda.”

“Am buin iad dhòmhsa?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Nan gabhadh tu mo chomhairle-sa,” arsa Blàran, “sheachnadh tu iad. Tha mise a' smaoinreachadh nach sòradh iad do bhàthadh.”

“Tha mi a' dol dachaidh,” arsa Bus-dubh.

Ceartachadh

“LEUM AN EICH”

A'NNS na duilleagan seo, an àireamh a' Ghearrain, chò-bhuail sinn seugl, “*Leum an Eich*,” agus thuirt sinn gun deachaidh a sgrìobhadh le Catriona NicDhòmhnaill agus gun do choisinn e a' cheud duais an co-fharpais litreachais aig Mòd Nàiseanta 1947.

Tha sinn glé dhuilich gun d'rinneadh mearachd a thaobh an sgeòil seo. Cha d'fhuair an seugl duais-litreachais aig Mòd 1947, agus chan i Catriona NicDhòmhnaill a sgrìobh e ach Anna NicGhilleathain, Rùnaire a' Chomuinn Thiridich—ban-ùghdar a tha air mòran a sgrìobhadh an Gàidhlig, gu sònraichte dealbh-chluicheadh. Leis an seugl seo aice choisinn Niall MacGhille-dhuinn duais-aithris aig a' Mhòd.

Tha sinn ag iarraidh maitheanas air Anna NicGhilleathain agus Catriona NicDhòmhnaill air son na mearachd, ach cha d' rinn sinn ach innseadh mu'n seugl mar a dh'innseadh dhuinn uime an uair a thugadh dhuinn e air son a chò-bhualadh. AM FEAR-DEASACHAIDH.

Co Iad? — Seo Iad!

AN d'fhuair sibh a mach có no ciod iad an fheadhainn a dh'ainmich mi air a' mhìos seo chaidh? Seo dhuibh na freagaritean.

1. Eachann Ruadh nan Cath

B'e seo Eachann MacGilleathain, Triath Dhubhaird is Ceann-feadhna Clann Ghilleathain. Chaidh a mharbhadh ann an Cath Gairbheach anns a' bhliadhna 1411, ann an còmhrag aon-fhir ris an Ridire Alasdair Irbhin, Fear an Droma. Thuit Alasdair fo làimh Eachainn is thuit Eachann fo làimh Alasdair. Tha seann òran ag ràdh mu Eachann:

“ Bu Sheanlair buadhach uasal ainmeil
Eachann ruanach Ruadh nan garbh chath.”

2. Iain Dubh nan Cath

B'e seo Iain Greumach Chlèbheris, Mòrair Dhun-dèagh, ris an abradh iad anns a' Bheurla “*Bonnie Dundee*.” Chaidh a mharbhadh an 1689 aig Cath Raon Ruairidh no Coille Chnagaidh. Seo mar a tha Iain Lom ag ràdh uime:

“ A shàr Chlèbheris nan each,
Bu cheann-feadh'n' thu air feachd:
Mo chreach léir an tùs gleac mar dh'èirich
dhuit.

“ Bu lasair theine dhaibh t'fhearg
Gus an d'èirich mi-shealbh:
Bhuail am peileir fo earball t'èididh thu.”

3. Gillesbuig Gruamach

B'e seo Gillesbuig Caimbeul, Marcus Earraghaidheal. Thug Marcus Mhontròis buaidh air aig Blàr Inbhir-lòchaidh an 1645. Chaidh a dhith-cheannadh an Dun-èideann an

1661. “Triath nan Gaidheal Gillesbuig”—sin an cliù a tha air ann an seann bhàrdachd, ach bha ainm eile aig Iain Lom dha fhéin agus d'a shluagh—“Caimbeulaich nam beul slig-neach.”

4. MacCailein

Seo an sloimeadh a bha aig na Gaidheil o shean air Ceann-feadhna nam Caimbeulach, Triath Earraghaidheal. Air uairean theireadh iad “Mac MhicCailein.”

5. Mairi Mhor nan Oran

B'i seo Màiri Nic a' Phearsain, no Màiri nighean Iain Bhàin. Rugadh i anns an Eilean Sgitheanach an 1821, agus tha feadhainn beò fhathast a chunnaic i. Chuir i seachad greis d'a beatha an Glaschu agus rinn i mòran òran, 'nam measg “*Nuair bha mi òg*” agus “*Breacan Màiri Uisdein*.” Is ise a rinn an t-òran seo:

“ Ged tha mo cheann air liathadh
Le deuchainnean is bròn,
Is grian mo leth-cheud bliadhna
A' dol sìos fo na neòil;
Tha m'aigne air a lìonadh
Le iarratas ro mhòr,
Gum faicinn Eilean Sgiathach
Nan siantannan 's a' chèò.
“ Tha còrr 's dà fhichead bliadhna
Bho'n thriall mi as 'gam dheòin,
'S a chuir mi sìos mo lìon
Am meadhon baile-mhòir;
Is ged a fhuair mi iasgair
A lìon mo thaigh le stòr,
Cha do dhì-chuimhnich mi riamh
Eilean Sgitheanach a' Chèò.”

(An còrr air an àth mhìos)



Is toigh le Iain is Anna a bhith còmhla ri Calum Ciobair is Fraoch, an càige, is iad ag obair air na h-uain bheaga.

Bha aon uan beag ann— Sìusaich an t-ainm a bha oirre— a chail a màthair. Thug Anna deoch-bhainne dhi, agus nach ise a bha air a dòigh!

Bha caora bhoichd an siud is bhàisich an t-uain aice. Chuir Calum Ciobair còta de chraiceann an uain mhairbh air Sìusaich, agus ghabh a' chaora rithe mar a h-uain féin.

Litir Eachainn

AN uair a tha mise a' sgrìobhadh na litreach seo, ged a bhios a' Chàisg air a fàgail fada 'nur dèidh mun ruig i sibhse, tha i latha no dhà air thoiseach oirnn an seo fathast. B'ionmhainn leamsa riamh a bhith a' meòmhrachadh air a' Chàisg, agus cha b'ann uile gu léir a chionn gur ann air madainn Di-dòmhaich Càsg a rugadh mi féin. B'e an latha de'n mhìos air an do thuit a' Chàisg a' bhliadhna ud an t-ochdamh là fichead de'n Mhàrt, is fàgam agaibh féin e gu fhaotainn a mach ciod a' cheart bhliadhna a bha ann!

Uibhean Casg

Bha e 'na chleachdadh againne an uair a bha mise 'nam bhalach a bhith a' deanamh "folachan" air uibhean a bhiodh boireannaich fhialaidh, chòire na coimhearsnachd a' toirt dhuinn roimh làimh, agus an uair a thigeadh mu dheireadh thall an latha ro-àraidh seo, bha na h-uibhean air an toirt am follais, agus nam biodh a' mhadainn idir leth-char tioram, bha sinn a' fadadh teine an sgor no cùl creige anns a' chladach 's a' bruich nan uibhean an sin. Tha mi cinnteach nach biodh iad air am bruich aon nì na b'fheàrr na bhiodh iad air teine an taighe, ach bu mhiadhar leinne iad air am bruich mar sin, eadhon ged a b'ann air thuaireamas, gun uaireadair gainmhich no uaireadair eile againn, a bha sinn 'gam bruich.

Bha bliadhna an siud agus bha na h-uibhean air an cur am folach mar a b'abhaist. Tha cuimhne ro-mhath agam gu robh ubh mòr tunnaig a thug caomhag, bean Alasdair Mhic Eoghain, dhomh air aon dhiubh; agus leiginn fhaicinn dhuibh an diugh fathast a' cheart uirigh anns an robh m'folachan priseil agam air cheann na féisde.

Thuit a' Chàisg a' bhliadhna ud car mar a tha i am bliadhna fhéin, no rud beag na b'fhaide air aghaidh. Co-dhiubh, is e àm cur a' bhuntàta a bha ann. Mar a bhitheamaide ag cur a' bhuntàta leis na pleadhagan, bhiodh pòcain bheaga air an deanamh gu giùlan nan sgealb ceangailte mu'n mheadhoin, mar a cheanglar apran. Latha no dhà roimh an Chàisg bha mise is Seumas, bràthair na b'òige na mise, ri cleasanachd bheag dhuinn féin, is bha am pòca buntàta air aon de na nithean de an robh sinn a' deanamh ar cuid féin 'nar cluich.

Tubaist Eachainn!

Uair de na h-uaireannan chaidh am pòca a thilgeadh suas air tugha an taighe, is stad e an sin, an àite tighinn a nuas a rithist 'na charan mar a bha dùil againn.

Stepre mise an sin suas air oisinn an taighe

gu gréim fhaotainn air a' phoca, agus nach ann a thuit mi thar a' bhalla is chaidh mi as an uilinn chli! Chaidh mi a staigh is ciùchran agam agus mi ag gearan ri m' mhàthair gu robh mo làmh briste. Thug mo mhàthair chaomh nach beò dhìom an t-seacaid, agus chunnaic is thuing ise mar a bha.

Bha mo mhàthair-sa de theaghlach a bha anabarrach sgileil anns gach nì de'n t-seòrsa seo, agus a thiota chaidh i an gréim 'na mo làimh. Cha robh léigh mar astar dhuinn, is cha robh fios agamsa gu robh a leithid de nì ri *ambulance* anns a' chruthachadh idir! Ciamar a chaidh i mun cuairt air chan urrainn domh innseadh dhuibh gu cothromach, ach gu robh aon làmh aice ag glacadh m'uilne is an t'eile a' snlomh mo ghàirdein air dhòigh-eigin. Co-dhiubh, mar a theireadh i féin e an uair a bhiodh i ag aithris air a' chùis, dh'fhairich i an cnàimh "a' tionndadh beò" 'na glaic, is bha m'uilnean-sa air a h-ais mar bu chòir. Ach chaidh mo chàireadh do m' leabaidh, le ceanglan teann mu m'uilinn, is á siud cha robh mi ri gluasad!

Bha a' Chàisg a nis dlùth, agus an uair a thàinig feasg Di-sathuirne, cha robh aig Eachann bochd, 's gun e féin air chomas streap gu uirigh nan uibhean, ach seòladh a thoirt air càite an robh iad air an cur am folach, briseadh-dùil a bha anabarrach leis an uair ud, agus thugadh dhachaidh na h-uibhean, ubh mòr na tunnaige aig Bean Alasdair air a h-aon dhiubh! Chan urrainn dhomh innseadh dhuibh cia na dh'ith mi de na h-uibhean madainn Di-dòmhaich, ged is cinnteach gu robh ubh na tunnaige air aon dhiubh; ach tha mi dearbhte nach robh iad idir cho blasda leam 's a bhitheadh iad le am bruich shìos an taic na tunne, ri cùl gaoithe 's ri aodann gréine!

Reannagan

Tha mi an dùil gur còir dhomh tilleadh ris na bha mi ag ràdh an litir a' Mhàirt, agus mearachd bheag a thog ceann (chan 'eil fios agam ciamar) a chur ceart. Chan i *Bhega* idir an reannag a chì sibh a' seòladh seachd bho'n iar gus an ear an cridhe na h-àirde tuath mu mheadhoin oidhche am meadhon an t-samhraidh ach *Capella*. Tha *Bhega* an uair sin am fìor mhullach na speur; is tha ise, ach a mhàin gu bheil i nas ìsle na slighe *Chapella*, a' tarraing bho'n iar gus an ear 's a' deanamh "éirigh gun laighe" mu mheadhoin oidhche am mìos meadhonach a' gheamhraidh.

(An còrr air an ath dhùilleig)

Naidheachd a Inbhir Asdal

VI—TURUS IAIN AN FHEILIDH DO EILEAN IUBH

BHA a' mhuir sèimh gu leòir an uair thug Iain an Fhéilidh an t-eilean air. Ràinig e an cladach eadar a' Ghualainn Mhór agus làrach taigh 'ic Chéitein. Tharraing e an t-eathar a nuas, agus 'chaidh e an sin air chéilidh air Iain an Tàilleir. Air an t-slighe, a' dol tarsainn air an eilean, bha Iain a' smaùineachadh glé thrìc air a charaid usal, an t-Urramach Seumas Noble MacCoinnich—Seumas na Bantraiche—a tha nis ag gabhail còmhnaidh am Melbourne, Astràlia, ach a bha air a bhreith air Eilean Iùbh bho chionn cheithir fichead bliadhna agus a trì.

Chuir Iain an Tàilleir fàilte chridheil air Iain an Fhéilidh, agus bha conaltradh taitneach aca ri a chéile. Tha caoraich agus crodh aig Iain an Tàilleir, agus tarbh dubh. Mar seo chaidh mòran de an latha seachd, agus anns an fheasgar thug Iain an Fhéilidh a' mhuir air a rithist. Ach bha a' ghaoth a nis air éirigh, agus a' séideadh a nuas gu maith cruaidh á beul an locha; bha gluasad cheana air aghaidh na mara, agus thàinig glumag mhaith fhaige an dràs agus a rithist a steach air taobh leis an eathair. Eadar féileadh agus sporan, chaidh Iain a fhliuchadh; bha a' ghaoth agus an fhaige a nis ro bhras air son gun ruigeadh e Inbhir Asdal. Chunnac Alasdair Og Néill Ruairidh Aonghais an t-eathar bho an rathad mhór, agus chrath e a làmh ri Iain air son fios a leigeil dha gum bu chòir dha ruith cladaich a thoirt do an eathar shìos aig Naast, aig bun an uillt, fo thaigh Anabella Chailein. Rinn Iain seo, agus thàinig Alasdair Og, Dòmhnall Ruairidh, Eachann Aonghais, agus mac Alasdair Chailein a nuas do ionnsaigh a' chladaich air son cuideachadh a thoirt dha, agus b'e cuideachadh maith a bha ann. Is e dearg amadan a tha glé thrìc an Iain an Fhéilidh, ged is e fhéin a tha ag ràdh sin ris.

VII—AN RON MAOL BAN

Tha Niall Thormoid ag ràdh nach 'eil an seann ròn maol, bàn ri a fhaicinn a nis shìos aig laimrig Néill Ruairidh Aonghais. Tha e ag ràdh gum faca e an ròn seo fad chòig seachdainean, mu ochd uairean anns a' mhadaoinn. Uaireannan chunnaic Niall am beathach 'na sheasamh air an laimrig air a dhà chois, agus e a' leum a nuas agus a nìos, agus a' dannsadh, mar gum biodh e 'ga thiomachadh anns a' ghaoith.

VIII—A' CHOINNEAMH URNUIGH

Is e Coinneach MacCoinnich as an Fhàidhir Mhór a tha mar is trice air cheann na seirbhìs.

Tha Iain Ruairidh Aonghais agus Coinneach a' Ghobhainn agus Niall Ruairidh Aonghais còmhla ris. Bithidh cuimhne agam air coinneamhan ùrnuigh Inbhir Asdal fhad 's beò mi. Tha Loch Iùbh ri a fhaicinn a mach air na h-uinneagan, agus monaidhne agus beanntan móra Shiorramachd Rois fada air falbh. Am feasgar mu dheireadh bha Ruairidh an Dòbhadh ann. Is milis an dòigh labhairt a tha aig an Ruairidh seo. Tha mi 'ga chluinntinn fhathast: " 'Na biodh cagal ort, ' a deir Criosd, 'oir is mise a shaor thu; ghairm mi thu air t'ainm; is leam-sa thu, agus mo choibhneas gràidh chan atharraich bhuait-sa, agus cùmhnant mo shìth cha tilgear bun os cionn. "

Agus b'e Niall mo ghràidh a thuig fìor mhaith cìod e an salm a bhiodh freagarrach am feasgar sin, agus a' ghrian a' dealradh air na beanntan a bha ri am faicinn gu soilleir ceann shuas na dùthcha:

Mo shùile togam suas a chum
nam beann, o'n tig mo neart.
O'n Dia rinn talamh agus nèamh,
tha m' fhurtachd uile teachd.

IAIN AN FHEILIDH.

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 19)

Tha rud beag eile a bu mhaith leam a thoirt faineair an dràs, ged tha, agus feumaidh sin crìoch a chur air an litir seo. Tha an Ard-chomhairle air a shuidheachadh gum bi cuairt-litir air a cur a dh'ionnsaigh gach Feachd de Chomunn na h-Oigridh a' sparradh air gach ball fa leth a bhith ag ceannach a' "*Ghàidheil*" gach mìos mar a thig e a mach. Ma ni na Feachdan sin uile is leantainn air, bidh e 'nar comas "*An Gàidheal*" a thoirt dhaibh le beagan lùghdachaidh air a' phris. Togaibh oirbh, ma tà, agus na fanaibh air bhur n-uillnean, mar a dh'fhan an Fhéin an uair a chuala iad dàra sgàl na trompaid, is na bithibh a' feitheamh ris an treasa sgàl gun dol gu feum. Tha "*An Gàidheal*" air a mheudachadh gu mòr, is seann na h-òige air a thoirt dhà. Tha fios agaibh gu bheil duilleagan air an cur air leth ann a nis air bhur son-se a mhàin, agus ma bhios sibhse is na Gàidheil uile 'ga cheannach, is chan 'eil e ag cosg ach bonn beag shè sgillean, cìod am fios nach ann a bhios e 'nar comas beagan tuille de mheudachd a bhuileachadh air, le paipear, a réir gach coltais, ri bhith nas fhasa a shòlar bho seo a mach.

Tha fughair agam gum bi làn-fhiosrachadh mu Champ an t-samhraidh agam dhuibh an àireamh an Og-mhìos.—Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Language Revival in Ireland (continued)

tance now of the U.S.A., and above all the poverty of those districts, which necessitates a constant flow of emigration.

Second I would put a certain despondency and irritation among ourselves. The thing has not worked out quite as we had hoped. Teachers, I think, consciously or unconsciously feel that they have to shoulder more than their share of the burden, and are inclined to question whether teaching of infants through Irish is bringing about the result originally claimed for it.

The blame for part of the general disappointment may be laid at the door of the old Gaelic League. It gave, to me at any rate, the impression that the national schools had brought in English, and ignored all the other mighty factors concerned, and the suggestion was that the national schools could therefore restore Irish. The fact is that the national schools were an essential means for the replacing of Irish by English, at least for doing it in a short time, and are certainly essential for the restoration of Irish, but that is a very different thing from saying that they could carry out the task alone.

To restore Irish will require a stupendous effort of will on the part of the Irish people during many generations, and I think that our greatest mistake is to expect results too soon. Some of the foremost workers for Irish have sinned alternately by presumption and by despair because they were in too great a hurry. Irish did collapse almost under the eyes of the founders of the Gaelic League, but the edifice had been sapped and tunnelled and undermined for many generations.

The reverse process will have to take place in the same way, and so this generation cannot hope to see quick results, but should not be despondent for all that. Presumption is part of the Irish make-up, perhaps, but despair is not and never was. The Irish people always had a habit of appearing to be out for the count but of refusing to stay down.

Another point on the debit side is that no Irish *milieu* has been created so far, no large compact body of people outside the Gaeltacht, no town (as they have in Wales), with the native language in the ascendant.

On the credit side, there are the things well known to you, many of

which are beyond the wildest hopes of the early Gaelic League, but above all, I would say—even more than the acceptance by all our Governments of the restoration of Irish as a national duty—is that we have reversed the judgment of the National Board against which Cardinal Cullen protested. Irish is no longer the mark of the uneducated, and no educated Irishman now would say that the teaching of Irish should not be encouraged, much less that it should be abolished.

The best way, perhaps, to put the practical result of the last twenty-five years' work is to recall Douglas Hyde's remark that during his whole period as a student in Dublin he heard only one phrase spoken in Irish: and that, in Hyde's lifetime, our Secretary, when asked recently by a party of visiting inspectors from across the water what exact point we had reached, was quite justified in replying, "We have got to the point where, if you want a secret to remain a secret it is not safe to tell it in Irish in the hearing of others."

(From "The Irish School Weekly,"
December 11 and 18, 1948.)

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Early Scotland

EARLY SCOTLAND, by H. M. Chadwick (Cambridge University Press, 1949, 172pp., 15/-).

This important book, left unfinished by the late Professor Chadwick and edited by his wife, Mrs. Nora K. Chadwick, will be eagerly read by all who are interested in the beginnings of the Scottish Nation and the many unsolved problems to which many of our best scholars have given much attention.

This book, although not a large one, covers an extensive field. In 1876 Dr. W. F. Skene's great work on "*Celtic Scotland*" appeared and has held the field ever since as the one book comprehensively covering the period with which it deals. In the last seventy years, however, many new facts have come to light and new interpretations have been given to facts long known. In archaeology and toponomy, especially, much work has been done. Scholars like the late Professor W. J. Watson, John Fraser, F. C. Diack, Eoin MacNeill, V. Gordon Childe, A. O. Curle, and A. O. Anderson have added considerably to the body of knowledge about these far-off times.

Professor Chadwick sought to re-examine early Scottish history in the light of the new knowledge made available since Skene's time. He discusses the value of the early sources and writes interestingly, if not always convincingly, of the Picts, the Scots, and the Welsh of Southern Scotland. When we have had more time to digest this fine book, we hope in a future issue of our magazine to discuss at some length Professor Chadwick's reinterpretation of early Scottish history. Suffice it to say here—to mention only one important matter—that, contrary to the generally held opinion nowadays (strongly argued for by W. J. Watson and others), Professor Chadwick holds that Gaelic did not originally come to Scotland from Ireland; it was already in Scotland over a thousand years before the Scots crossed from Ulster to Dalriada. The Picts, therefore, were Gaelic-speaking ("Q" Celts rather than "P" Celts).

Norse Scotland

THE SCOTTISH HISTORICAL REVIEW, Vol. xxviii, No. 1 (April, 1949) (Nelson, 96pp., 6/-).

Among the varied and interesting contents of the latest number of

the Review, one very important article deserves special attention. It is on "Naval Defence in Norse Scotland," and is by Dr. Hugh Marwick. Farm lands in Orkney, under a valuation system going back to the Norse period, were assessed in units known as "urichlands" or "oucelands," which were subdivided into pennylands, farthinglands, etc., the Orkney ouceland containing 18 pennylands. The Norse kings divided their coastal territories into regions, each of which had to provide, man, and equip one vessel for the royal navy. These longships varied in size, from the 13-sesser (with 13 benches and 26 oars) to 25-sessers and even larger ones. The oucelands, pennylands, etc., had to do with the payment of "scat" or the levy for naval defence. In the Gaelic areas we have place-names incorporating "peighinn" (for penny-land), while "tir-unga" (ouceland) appears in old charters. "Tir-unga" appears in the Isle of Man as "treen."

Scottish Folklore

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SCOTTISH ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND FOLKLORE SOCIETY, Vol. III., No. 3 (1948).

Canon J. A. MacCulloch, in "A Survey of Some Scottish Folklore and its Origins," discusses fairies, dwarfs, the brownie, mermaids, seals, wells and springs, the urisug, second sight and evil eye, and other items of folklore, and seeks to determine the origins of the various beliefs, whether from pre-Celtic, Celtic, Norse, Teutonic, or other racial elements in the amalgam which has gone to the making of the Scottish people as they are today. He concludes: "Enough has been said to show that there has always been a large amount of Scottish folklore. Some of it may and doubtless does still exist in remote places, though education, so-called, wireless, cheap newspapers, and the like are swiftly killing all beliefs of the kind."

Vol. IV, No. 1 (1949). This is a special number about the Folk Music and Folk Dance Festival held in Edinburgh last summer. Of special Scottish interest are Miss F. Marian McNeill's lecture on "Hebridean Lullabies," Miss Jean Milligan's on the work of the Scottish Country Dance Society, Mr. Charles Henderson's on "Lowland Scots Folk Songs," and Lord James Stewart Murray's on "Scottish National Dances."

The Life of the People

THE DAWN OF SCOTTISH SOCIAL WELFARE: A Survey from Medieval Times to 1863, by Thomas Ferguson (Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1948, 322pp., illustrated, 21/-).

This book must not be overlooked by anyone interested in the well-being of the community and nation. The author, who is Professor of Public Health in the University of Glasgow, has done considerable research in an almost neglected field, and the fruits of years of study are here presented in a very readable narrative. Food and housing, diseases and sanitation, the care of the poor, prisons and hospitals, the development of the medical services and the health and welfare of children—these are the subjects dealt with. After reading this book one is less inclined to talk about "the good old days." It was, indeed, a case of "the survival of the fittest," and one had to be very fit, and very lucky(!), to survive at all. One of the illustrations is of the medicine chest of Prince Charles Edward. There are many interesting references to the Highlands and Highlanders. In 1837 the Glasgow Celtic Dispensary was instituted to provide advice and medicine "for poor strangers coming from the Highlands in quest of employment but who had not yet acquired a settlement in Glasgow, and who therefore had no legal claim on the various charitable institutions in the city."

The Language of Brittany

LA LANGUE BRETONNE ET SES COMBATS, par Roparz Hemon (Editions de Bretagne, La Baule, 1947).

This little volume is a useful introduction to the language and literature of the Breton people. It traces the history of the language, describes its characteristics (grammar, syntax, and vocabulary), and discusses the present situation.

Breton is in daily use by at least a million people, but very few of these do not also know French. Most Bretons cannot read or write their own language, which is not surprising as it is taught in very few schools and not at all in the State schools.

In the last hundred years Breton has become a literary language and has been so developed that it is claimed that it is as adequate as any other language for the expression of modern ideas. The

(Continued on page 68)

An Ard-Chomhairle

CHUMADH Coinneamh Ghàidhlig na h-Ard-Chomhairle air Di-haoine an t-ochdamh là de'n Ghiblean, 1949, ann an seòmar an Caisteal Inbhirnis.

Cha robh e comasach do'n Cheann-suidhe, an t-Ollamh Iain Camshron, LL.B., a bhith an làthair, agus ghabh Mgr. Iain M. MacGille-na-brataich, Iar-Cheann-suidhe, a' chathair. Bha seachd buill dheug an làthair.

Aig toiseach na coinneimh labhair Fear-na-cathrach mar a leanas:—

A' Bhean-usal Chamshron

"Is beag a bha dùil againn an uair a shocraich sinn an Glaschu, le cridheachan aotrom, an ath-choinneamh a bhith an Inbhir-nis, gun tigeadh sgaradh cruaidh ann am bàs a chéile comh air ar Ceann-suidhe gràdhach, an t-Ollamh Iain Camshron. Bha dùth-còlas aig a' chuid as motha againn air a' Bhean-usal Chamshron, gu sònraichte bho'n àm anns an tàinig an t-Ollamh gu bhith 'na Cheann-suidhe, oir sheas i ri a thaobh gu dìcheallach aig gach mòd is coinneamh agus anns an obair chudthromach a ghabh e os làimh. Bha i 'na cùl-taic agus 'na co-chuidiche anns gach nì a rinn e, agus cha do chuir e iongantas idir orm an uair a dh'innis e dhomh an là roimhe nach biodh e comasach dha a bhith an làthair an diugh.

"Tha ar co-fhaireachdainn domhain, dùrachdach leis aig an àm chràiteach seo, agus leis an nighinn òig a chail a màthair. Tha mi cinnteach gur h-e iarrtas na coinneimh seo gun cuirte litir a dh'ionnsaigh a' Chinn-suidhe, ag cur an cèill ar co-fhulangais ris fhéin agus ri a nighinn, Anna, anns a' bhronn dhòrainneach a thàinig orra le chéile. Tna sinn ag guidhe gum bi comhfhurtachd Dhé leotha."

An dèidh nam briathran seo agus air iarrtas Fhìr-na-cathrach, sheas a' chuideachd bìne bheag ann an ùmhlach fhaireachail.

Leugh an Rùnaire litir bho'n Cheann-suidhe a' toirt taing do bhuilt a' Chomuinn air son am mòr-choibheis agus an co-fhaireachdainn a nochd iad da fhéin is d'a nighinn aig àm am bròinn, agus air son nan tioidhlacan de bhlàthan lurach a chur iad thuca mar chomharradh air an co-fhaireachdainn.

Ceap Breatainn

NA litir thug an Ceann-suidhe sanas gum biodh a thri bliadhna ann dreachd

Ceann-suidhe a' Chomuinn a' tighinn gu crìch aig an ath choinneamh bhliadhnaile agus gum biodh e iomchuid beachdachadh air neach a ghabhas an dreachd sin 'na dhéidh. Thubhairt e mar an ceudna nach urrainn dha a nis dol a null gu Ceap Breatainn, mar a bha e rùnachadh, ach bha e an dòchas gun toir muinntir na Colaiste Gàidhlig an Ceap Breatainn cuireadh do neach-eigin eile de luchd-dreachd a' Chomuinn a dhol a null 'na àite gu frithealadh aig a' mhòd bhliadhnaile an St. Ann's. Fhuaradh fios gun gabhadh iad gu toileach ri riochdair bho'n Chomuinn.

Bha a' Chomhairle duilich nach robh e comasach do'n Cheann-suidhe an turas a ghabhail gu Ceap Breatainn agus gu robh e a' leagail dheth dreachd Cinn-suidhe. Air iarrtas Mhgr. MhicGhille-na-brataich chaidh aontachadh gu h-aon-ghuthach gun iarrteadh air an Rùnaire agus a chéile an Comunn a riochdachadh aig Mòd Cheap Breatainn, agus dh'earbhadh ris a' Chomhairle Earalaich gach ullachadh a dheanadh fa chomhair an turais seo. Thug an Rùnaire taing do na buill air son an urrainn a bha iad ag cur air fhéin agus a chéile.

Thug gearr-sheanchas coinneimh de Chomhairle an Ionmhais mion-chunntas air rian-pàidhidh do luchd-seirbhis a' Chomuinn, an dèidh bliadhnaich an saothrach a bhith seachad, agus mholadh gum biodh sin iomchuidh do chòr a' Chomuinn agus gur h-e àireamh bheag co-dhiubh a thig fo a leithid de shochair.

Thugadh aithisg gur e an t-suim iomlan a tha còrr air Mòd Ghlaschu £5,446, na a tha air a mheas le mòr thaitneas. Chuir a' Chomhairle an cèill am mòr-thaigh dhaibh-san uile a shaothraich cho dealasach anns gach oidhirp a thug seo gu buil.

An Sgoil Shamhraidh

LEUGHADH gearr-sheanchas co-choinneimh de Chomhairle an Fhoghlum de Chomhairle a' Ghniomhachais is nan Ealdhain, anns an do chliùthaicheadh gu h-aon-ghuthach gum dol air aghaidh leis an Sgoil Shamhraidh air a' bhliadhna seo, agus sin a chionn 's nach do chuir àireamh mòr gu leòir a steach an ainmean ag ràdh gum frithealadh iad an Sgoil. Chuireadh air mhàireann anns a' gheàrr-sheanchas mòr-bhuidheachas do'n Ollamh Iain A. MacGilleathain, Fear-stiùraidh an Fhoghlum an Siorrachd Inbhir-nis, air son gach

cuideachaidh a rinn e anns a' chùis seo.

Thug gearr-sheanchas coinneimh de Chomhairle a' Chraobh-sgoilidh aithisg air obair nam Fo-chomhairlean fa leth agus mu na mòdan dùthchail a tha ri'n cumail air a' bhliadhna seo.

Ann an gearr-sheanchas coinneimh de Chomhairle a' Ghniomhachais is nan Ealdhain thugadh aithisg air clàr-cagair agus co-fharpaisean na bliadhna 1950.

Leughadh gearr-sheanchas air dà choinneamh de Chomhairle a' Mhòid 's a' Chiùil. Thugadh aithisg gun d'fhuaradh Cupan Airgid mar chuimhneachan air an Ollamh Seòras U. MacAoidh a bha 'na Cheann-suidhe air a' Chomuinn. Thèid an Cupan a thoirt do'n bhalach no do'n chailleig as fheàrr an co-fharpaisean sònraichte beul-aithris an Earrainn na h-Oigridh. Bheachdaich a' Chomhairle air clàr-cagair Mòd 1950, agus tha iad a' deanamh oidhirp air còbl nan còisrean a bhith ullamh an deagh àm.

Bòrd an Fhoghlum

AN co-cheangal ri gearr-sheanchas coinneimh de Chomuinn na h-Oigridh leughadh iomradh air coinneamh de Fhìrth-chomhairle na Chomhairle sin, agus mar an ceudna litir bho Mhgr. Dand, an ainm Bòrd an Fhoghlum an Dun-èideann. Dh'antaich a' Chomhairle gu robh iad toilichte leis an tairse a bha Ard-riaghladh an Fhoghlum a' toirt seachad, an co-bhann ri comuinn-fhoghlum nan ceithir siorramachdan Gaidhealach agus ris a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach, agus gum biodh iad leagte ris an rùn a bha air a chur fios anns an litir aig Mgr. Dand, nam binn Comhairle Co-bhoine ag combairleachadh a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach a thaobh dleasnaid an luchd-deilbhe.

Dh'fhoillsich gearr-sheanchas coinneimh de Chomhairle a' Chumhneachain 's a' Bhrèith-bhuidheachais an t-ullachadh a thàtar cheana a' deanamh fa chomhair a Fèille Mòra a tha ri a cumail an Glaschu aig toiseach an Og-mhios 1950. Tha fo-chomhairlean air an cur air bonn gu bhith toirt gu buil na tha anns an amharc.

Ghuidh a' Chomhairle deagh dhurachd do Mhgr. Calum Iain N. MacLeòid a tha gu bhith 'na Oide Gàidhlig an Colaiste Gàidhlig Cheap Breatainn. Thug Mgr. MacLeòid taing do'n Chomhairle air son an deagh dhurachd.

Thugadh a' choinneamh gu crìch le taing chridheil a thoirt do Fhear-na-cathrach.

Ann's a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

The Development of Musical Talent in the Highlands and Islands

Dear Sir,—As students and collectors of Gaelic folk-music we have read the article by Miss Bassin in your January number with something like perturbation.

The Highlands and Islands are the richest storehouse in Western Europe today of ancient traditional music, usually pentatonic and modal, and sung in the natural scale, and not in the artificial equally-tempered scale.

We are amateurs of classical music ourselves, and we would never seek to deny a modern musical education to any Highlander who sought it, but we do feel constrained to protest that modern harmonized music of the equally-tempered scale is the deadly enemy of the traditional modal music of the Highlands and Islands.

As Alain Danielou, in his "Introduction to the Study of Musical Scales," remarks: "All those who have been in contact with ancient Western modal music or with the music of the Middle and the Far East have deplored the ruin of the melodies and rhythms consequent upon the development of harmony, a phenomenon which could be observed all through the nineteenth century and which is still perceptible in Northern countries, Russia, and even Scotland and Ireland." This is very apparent in some modern arrangements of Gaelic folk-songs.

We believe that it is on the traditional music of the Highlands that the musical education of the Highlander ought to be built in the first place, and not upon the non-Gaelic musical idiom (which some people believe, in any case, has nearly exhausted its possibilities). In support of our view we would like to quote from one of the greatest of folk-music collectors, Dr. Cecil Sharp, who said in his Introduction to his Collection of English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians, that:—

"The value of such songs as these as material for the general education of the young cannot be over-estimated. For, if education is to be cultural and not merely utilitarian, if its aim is to produce men and women capable, not merely of earning a living, but of holding a dignified and worthy position upon an equality with the most cultivated of their generation, it will be necessary to pay at least as much

attention to the training and development of the emotional, spiritual, and imaginative faculties as to those of the intellect. And this, of course, can be achieved only by the early cultivation of some form of artistic expression such as singing, which, for reasons already given, seems of all the arts to be the most natural and the most suitable one for the young. Moreover, remembering that the primary purpose of education is to place the children of the present generation in possession of the cultural achievements of the past, so that they may as quickly as possible enter into their racial inheritance, what better forms of music or of literature can we give them than the folk-songs and folk-ballads of the race to which they belong, or of the nation whose language they speak? To deny them these is to cut them off from the past and rob them of that which is theirs by right of birth. To put it another way, the aim of the educationist should be, not to forge the first link of a new chain, but to add a fresh link to an old one."

We believe that to attempt to educate Gaelic-speaking children on Bach, pianos, string quartettes, and the English Community Song Book is to cut them off from the past and deny them their birth-right in exactly the sense of Cecil Sharp's words. In contradiction we believe that the musical education of Highland and Island children should be based on their ancient traditional music, which is of great natural beauty, sung unaccompanied in the natural scale

and the natural modes; and that for this purpose every effort should be made to collect and record and teach this music in its genuine traditional form, so that the apparatus of education may be used to perpetuate and not to obliterate it.—We are, etc.,

J. L. CAMPBELL.
MARGARET FAY SHAW.

A' Ghaidhlig Nodha

Dear Sir,—I am in absolute agreement with your first paragraph (March issue, *Thall 's a Bhois*), which, I am afraid, is but too true.

Getting ready for church in Islay once, I overheard my landlady remark: "Tha am *bell a' yingeadh*." Some years later I made my way to Skye, where I expected to hear Gaelic emerge from a well pure and undefiled. Hence my surprise when, after rising the first morning, I overheard a conversation beginning thus: "Ciamar tha sibh an diugh?" "Tha gu *fresh*." My experience may, I hope, have been exceptional; but it raised within me thoughts "too deep for tears."

Some writers, too, whose Gaelic would otherwise seem faultless, insist upon spelling words in a way peculiarly their own. E.g. I have seen "*Chunna mi*" for "*Chunna mi*" for "*Chunna mi*" (I saw). I have also seen "*Nidh e 'n gnothach*" for "*Ni e 'n gnothach*" (It will do).

To the expert these divergences cause no difficulty, but to the uninitiated they cause confusion, and it is our duty, I think, to make the path of the learner as reasonably easy as possible.

ALASDAIR MACLEOD.

(Alas! even in Lewis, not to speak of Islay and Skye, we have heard: "Cuir anns a' *front e*" and "Cò a dh' *overtahig e*?"—Ed.)

Caernarvon Language Policy

(Continued from page 62)

The range of books for children in the Welsh primary schools is increasing in number and variety each year, and this is as it should be: for Welsh is an easy language to read, in so far as it has a strong phonic basis, and the average child learns to read fluently by seven years of age. It so happens, too, that the phonic groundwork of Welsh forms an easy introduction to English reading, and many children find that they can master a simple English Reader at sight, once they have understood the elements of Welsh reading.

This bilingual facility has to be handled with care, however, lest the wonderful plethora of books

and reading apparatus which is available in English should smother the interest in less abundant or less attractive Welsh material which may be at hand. Welsh teachers are convinced that books in the native language must compare favourably in content and format with those available in English, if the children are to continue with their Welsh reading outside school hours.

In this sphere we are proud to know that the teachers in Ireland have taken a selection of our Welsh authors and have translated their stories for their children.

(From "*The Irish School Weekly*," December 11 and 18, 1948.)

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

Balnain

THE Organiser was present at a function held at Balnain, Glenurquhart, on 16th March, in aid of National Mod funds. This effort was organised by Mr. Kenneth MacLean, Headmaster, and proved very successful.

Kingussie

On the following evening Mr. MacPhail paid his annual visit to the Kingussie branch. Mr. Duncan M. MacKenzie, Headmaster, Newtonmore, acted as Fear-an-Tighe. Mr. MacKenzie has now removed to Edinburgh, where he has received an important appointment in his profession. In the course of the evening the branch made a presentation to Mr. MacKenzie, after which Mr. John MacKinnon, M.A., Hon. Secretary, paid a warm tribute to Mr. MacKenzie's work in Badenoch, where he had given great assistance to the various branches over a period of nine years. Mr. MacPhail also conveyed the sincere thanks of the Northern Committees to Mr. MacKenzie for his grand work in the area, especially for his assistance in promoting several very successful local mods at Newtonmore. The best wishes of the Badenoch district go with Mr. MacKenzie to his new home in Edinburgh.

Inverness

Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhirnis held its closing ceilidh in the Town Hall on 19th March, with Mr. Donald MacPhail, President, in the Chair. Mr. Allan Smith, Lewis, was the *oraidiche* for the evening. There was again a large attendance at this all-Gaelic gathering.

National Mod Concerts

The first series of Gaelic and Scots concerts, in aid of National Mod funds, was held during the week commencing 21st March.

Provost Hugh Ross presided at the first of these in the Town Hall, Inverness, before a large audience. The guest artistes, Iain R. Douglas and Mary C. MacNiven, Mod Gold Medalists, were very warmly received. They were ably supported by local artistes and by Miss Mary MacDonald, Aviemore.

On the following evening Mr. J. N. MacLeod, President of the Beaully branch, presided at the second concert, held in the Phipps

Hall, Beaully. There was a satisfactory attendance, and the concert was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Ex-Provost Fletcher presided at the third of these concerts, held in the Town Hall, Nairn. There was a fair attendance, and sincere thanks are due to Miss Catriona MacDonald, Branch Secretary, who made all the arrangements.

Craig Dunain Hospital

In opening the fourth of the concerts, Dr. William McWilliam, Medical Superintendent, said that the concert filled a dual role, that of providing an entertainment for the patients and also to help with the National Mod funds. There was a satisfactory attendance and, at the close of the concert, the Chairman thanked Mr. MacPhail for bringing such a talented company to the hospital and said how much the patients appreciated a concert of this nature.

Dingwall

The last concert of the series was held in the Town Hall, Dingwall. Unfortunately Provost A. MacRae was unable to preside as he had been involved in a motor accident that evening. Dr. D. J. MacLeod, Branch President, took the place of the Provost and Mr. MacPhail gave a short talk in Gaelic and in English. The organisation of this concert was in the hands of Mrs. N. A. S. Campbell, Honorary Secretary, and, in addition to the Mod Gold Medalists, she had a galaxy of talent, among whom were Mr. Duncan Morrison, the famous pianist, Mr. I. A. MacSween, Mrs. Hester MacLeod, a charming troupe of Highland Dancers, Miss Helen R. MacRae, noted violinist, Mr. Donald MacLeod, Avoch, Mr. A. W. Calder, Embo, and supporting local talent. The hall was full to capacity and the concert was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Lairg

The second series commenced at Lairg on Monday, 28th March. The guest artistes for this series were Iain R. Douglas and Petrine M. Stewart. At Lairg Mr. William Grant, President, presided. The night selected (Monday) did not seem to be suitable and the audience was not as large as was hoped. Nevertheless, all present enjoyed a very fine concert.

Helmsdale

On the following night a similar concert was held under the auspices of the Helmsdale branch and, in the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. MacPhail presided. There was a fair attendance. All the arrangements were made by Mrs. M. C. Ross, Honorary Secretary, and her committee.

Brora

Mrs. Wilson, Sunrise, President of the Brora branch, presided at this concert, held in the Drill Hall. The attendance here was very satisfactory and sincere thanks are due to Mr. Nicolson, Secretary, and Mr. R. MacDonald, Treasurer, who made all the arrangements.

Golspie

Mr. Donald MacLeod, Branch President, opened the Golspie concert with bagpipe selections and then invited Mr. MacPhail to preside. There was a fair attendance and the concert programme was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Dornoch

The last concert of the series was held in the Drill Hall, Dornoch, on Friday, with Mr. John MacLean, Branch President, as Chairman. The arrangements for the concert were in the hands of Mr. Calum MacDonald, Honorary Secretary, and the success of the effort reflects, very creditably, Mr. MacDonald's organising abilities. At the close Mr. MacPhail spoke in Gaelic and in English and voiced the sincere thanks of the Mod Committee to all who had in any way helped to promote such a successful concert in aid of a worthy Cause.

Recent Books (from p. 65)

author, however, makes the point that some of the ardent protagonists of Breton have made the mistake of confirming the man-in-the-street in his opinion that Breton belongs to the category of stage-coaches, candle-lighting, and other out-of-date things. We fear that many people regard Scottish Gaelic in this light also.

It appears that the most enthusiastic supporters of Breton and the keenest workers in the cause are "literary townsmen" who have learned Breton and who quite often have to face the opposition of the native speakers of the language.

The book ends with a long bibliography of the most important Breton publications—poetry, tales, novels, plays, translations from other languages, religious works, etc.

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

A CONCERT TOUR arranged in aid of the Perthshire Provincial Mod proved very successful. It was intended that Neil MacLean and Jenny M. B. Currie would take part but unfortunately both had to cancel their engagements through Mr. MacLean's illness. Capable deputies were found in Dorothy Hunter and Alasdair Matheson, and, assisted by prominent local artistes, splendid concerts were given at Ballinluig, Kenmore, and Kinloch Rannoch. Mr. John Anderson, Ballinluig, arranged the tour and he was ably assisted by Mrs. MacLaren, Kenmore, and Mr. Archibald Robertson, Kinloch Rannoch. The funds of the Perthshire Provincial Mod should benefit as a result.

Dumfries

The General Secretary paid a visit to the Dumfries branch on 24th March. This branch has had a most successful session and the Gaelic class, conducted by the President, Mr. Colin Morrison, M.A., was well attended and good

progress was made. An excellent programme of Gaelic and Scots songs and instrumental music was submitted, and Mrs. Duncan Campbell in her customary efficient manner officiated at the piano. Mr. Shaw thanked the members for their splendid work. He was pleased to see many of the founder members present, with Mr. Duncan Campbell, Secretary and Treasurer, officiating in the same capacity with unabated enthusiasm.

Dundee

Mr. Shaw paid his annual visit to Dundee on 25th March and found the branch in a flourishing condition. Chief Dugald MacTaggart presided, and Mr. Shaw gave a short resumé of the work of An Comunn in general. Miss Morag MacDonald, Edinburgh, was the guest artiste and along with local talent contributed to a very fine programme. Mr. Roderick MacDonald reported good progress by the members of the Gaelic class. The Country Dance class has also had a very successful session.

Paisley

The Paisley Highlanders' Association continue to attract large audiences to their Saturday evening concerts, and Mr. Shaw presided on 26th March. The hall was packed to capacity and a fine and varied programme was submitted. The Misses Helen and May Margaret MacMillan were the Gaelic artistes. The Gaelic class conducted by the Rev. A. C. MacGillivray was attended by a large number of students and good progress was made. Mr. Shaw thanked the members for their generous support of the recent Glasgow Mod.

Gourock

The Gourock Highland Society closed their session with a largely attended ceilidh on the evening of 14th April. Mr. Neil Shaw presided and conveyed greetings and thanks from An Comunn to the members for their excellent work. A most enjoyable evening brought a most successful session to a close. Mr. John MacLachlan, President, introduced Mr. Shaw and he was thanked by a fellow worker of the Bute branch in the olden days, Mr. John C. MacLean.

Treasurer's Notes (Continued from page 70)

Magazine Fund—(Continued).

Miss N. Shaw, Glasgow	—	5	—
John Johnstone, Esq., Port Ellen, Islay	—	1	—
J. P. Morrison, Esq., Stornoway	—	7	—
Mrs. Anne Macdonald, Inverloch	—	10	—
Miss A. L. Macfarlane, Aberfeldy	—	2	6
Mrs. C. Bannatyne, Blackwaterfoot	—	10	—
Miss Mary MacInnes, Glasgow	—	5	—
D. Morrison, Esq., Oban	—	10	—
Miss H. R. Miles, Isle of Kerrera	—	5	—
Mrs. C. Codrington, Salisbury	—	10	—
Alex. MacKenzie, Esq., Blairgowrie	—	5	—
Miss R. K. Aspin, Dulnain Bridge	—	10	—
David Whitelaw, Esq., Balornock	—	5	—
	<u>£</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>3</u>

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged	£	3,727	6	5
A. MacLaren, Esq., Edinburgh	—	10	—	—
Stirling Branch	20	—	—	—
Proceeds of Raffle at Work Party Meetings	1	—	9	—
Mrs. Kelso, Glasgow—Individual Effort	1	17	6	—
Miss MacKechnie, Craigendoran	—	5	—	—
Largs Branch	2	—	2	—
Mrs. Armour, Largs	—	10	—	—
Roderick Thomson, Esq., Edinburgh	1	—	1	—
Alex. MacKenzie, Esq., Glasgow	—	1	—	—
Miss Bridget MacFarlane, Fort Augustus	—	5	—	—
	<u>£</u>	<u>3,755</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>

An Comunn Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged	£	146	3	7
Donald Ross, Esq., Edinburgh	—	10	—	—
Neil Cameron, Esq., Acharacle	—	2	6	—
Mrs. A. Macdonald, Glasgow	—	5	—	—
Stirling Branch	—	5	5	—
Mr. and Mrs. Archd. Campbell, Fortrose	—	10	—	—
Kyle Branch	—	8	8	—
Luss and District Highland Society	—	11	—	—
Largs Branch	—	1	1	—
Millhouse Branch	—	5	—	—
Miss Bridget MacFarlane, Fort Augustus	—	5	—	—
	<u>£</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>

Ionmhàs a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod, Inverness.

Received at Inverness:—

Gaelic Discussion Group, Inverness ..	£15	15	—
Miss MacLeay, Hyde Park Mansions, London	—	10	—
Ceilidh, Inverness	41	15	6
Mrs. Tinker, Kilmartin	1	1	—
Gaelic Discussion Group, Inverness ..	26	5	—
A. MacDougall, Esq., Inverness ..	3	—	—
Misses MacKenzie, Aberdeen	2	2	—
Loch Laggan Branch	10	10	—
Lochinver Branch	15	16	—
Proceeds of Concert at Dingwall ..	7	—	9
Nairn Branch	10	—	—
Proceeds of Concert at Kiltarlity ..	6	11	9
Malcolm MacLean, Esq., Tobermory ..	—	10	—
Hallow'en Ceilidh, Inverness	23	5	1
Bridge and Whist Drive, Inverness ..	21	4	—
Mrs. Spragan, Fort Augustus— Individual Effort	8	16	9
Mrs. D. MacPhail—Individual Effort ..	2	9	—
Highland Industrial Caterers, Cannich ..	10	—	—
Proceeds of Concert at Ardersier ..	12	10	—
Mrs. A. MacDonald, Balmacara— Individual Effort	18	—	—
Hugh Paterson, Esq., Letterfearn ..	5	—	—
Miss J. E. MacKenzie, Inverness— Individual Effort	5	1	6
Proceeds of Concert at Croy	18	—	—
Highland Industrial Caterers, Cannich ..	15	—	—
Ceilidh, Inverness	12	9	6
Dance in Caledonian Hotel, Inverness ..	18	7	6
Mrs. Leslie, Tomatin—Individual Effort ..	12	2	—
Newtonmore Gaelic Choir	10	—	—
Proceeds of Concert at Conon Bridge ..	10	8	—
J. MacDonnell, Esq., Buntait	2	5	—
Coffee Morning and Sale, Inverness ..	49	2	—
Whist Drive, Inverness	19	18	—
Miss M. S. Young, Glasgow—Individual Effort	5	5	—
Mr. and Mrs. MacColl, Knockbain School	5	15	—
Rockfield School Choir, Oban	3	3	—
Proceeds of Concert at Gollanfield Ceilidh, Inverness	6	13	6
Glenfinnan Branch	16	1	8
Tigharry Branch	10	—	—
Carinish Branch	2	—	9
Torlum Branch	13	—	—
Iochar Branch	—	12	1
Howmore Branch	2	3	—
Proceeds of Concert at Fortrose ..	14	10	—
Bridge Drive, Inverness	22	1	—
Jumble Sale, Inverness	5	1	6
Ceilidh, Inverness	9	16	9
	12	4	9

Received at Headquarters:—

Celtic Society	£3	—	—
London Gaelic Choir	2	—	—
Col. and Mrs. Ritchie of Craigdhu ..	6	—	—
Dr. Duff, Fort William	3	3	—
Mrs. Hugh Johnstone, Rothesay ..	2	2	—
"A Friend"	—	10	—
Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee ..	5	—	—
Edinburgh Branch	15	—	—
Stirling Branch	5	5	—
Largs Branch	5	5	—

£543 3 4

£590 8 4

Magazine Fund.

Rev. Malcolm Maclean, M.A., Conon ..	£1	—	—
K. Blair-Watson, Esq., Cardiff ..	—	3	—
Charles Loch, Esq., St. Albans ..	—	5	—
Mrs. S. C. B. Edgar, Bearsden ..	—	5	—
Charles Loch, Esq., St. Albans (further)	—	7	—
Mrs. D. Livingstone, Fort William ..	—	3	3
Miss J. B. Stewart, Morayshire ..	—	7	6
Miss Alexandrina MacKay, Lairg ..	—	7	—
George McLennan, Esq., Bucks ..	—	7	—
Rev. T. M. Murchison, Glasgow ..	—	1	1
Mrs. A. Fraser, Uddingston	—	2	6
Mrs. K. Potter, Sunderland	—	5	—
Hugh Macleod, Esq., Edinburgh ..	—	10	—
John Stewart, Esq., Dunblane ..	—	7	—
Mrs. MacNaughton of Ardachearnabeg, Glenaruuel	1	1	—
Dr. John Forbes, London, W.C.2 ..	—	2	2
Alex. Duncan, Esq., Manchester ..	—	2	2
Miss M. P. MacEwen, Carr Bridge ..	—	7	—
Miss Grace MacAllister Hall, Bellochintury	1	—	—
Angus L. Macdonald, Esq., Nairn ..	—	1	—
D. Shaw MacKinnon, Esq., M.B.E., Edinburgh	—	1	1
Peter M. Maclean, Esq., Bearsden ..	—	7	—
Malcolm MacPhee, Esq., Irvine ..	—	10	—
Donald Ross, Esq., Edinburgh ..	—	5	6
D. S. Stewart, Esq., Rugby	—	10	—
Miss M. S. Young, Paisley	—	10	—
R. B. Levack, Esq., Lossiemouth ..	—	1	—
Peter A. MacBrayne, Esq., Greenock ..	—	3	3
Mrs. I. Stewart, Aberfeldy	—	1	—
W. L. Lorimer, Esq., St. Andrews ..	—	1	—
Roderick K. M. Nicol, Esq., Glasgow ..	—	1	1
R. Kelso, Esq., London	—	5	—
Laxdale	—	5	—
Mrs. E. M. MacNeill, Appin	—	10	—
Mrs. W. Malcolm, Dunoon	—	5	—
James B. Lawrie, Esq., Glasgow ..	—	1	1
A. MacLaren, Esq., Edinburgh ..	—	10	—
Alex. Watson, Esq., Paisley	—	5	—
J. D. Macdonald, Esq., Glasgow ..	—	1	—
G. Calder, Esq., London, S.W.3 ..	—	1	1
Malcolm G. Davidson, Esq., Nairn ..	—	1	—
Mrs. Wm. Denny, Cardross	—	10	—
John MacGregor, Esq., Strachur ..	—	2	6
Mrs. H. MacFlcher, Campbeltown ..	—	7	—
A. D. Mackie, Esq., Edinburgh ..	—	5	—
Mr. and Mrs. K. MacLeod, Fortrose ..	—	1	1
Neil Macleod, Esq., Tighnabraich ..	—	10	—
Colonel D. C. S. Ballingall, Kippen ..	—	5	—
Dr. Colin Sinclair, Glasgow	—	3	3
Dr. R. A. Rankin, Cambridge	—	5	—
William Brown, Esq., Glasgow	—	1	1
J. W. Cameron, Esq., Dunoon	—	10	—
Rev. B. B. Blackwood, Campbeltown ..	—	5	—
Miss F. M. E. Brereton, Inverness ..	—	10	—
Col. and Mrs. Iain M. Campbell (Airds), Berks	—	1	1
Miss Agnes M. McLaren, Edinburgh ..	—	5	—
Farquhar MacRae, Esq., Clarkston ..	—	1	—
Mrs. B. A. George, Dorset	—	6	—
Kenneth Cameron, Esq., Ullapool ..	—	7	—
Miss H. Russell Ferguson, Port Appin ..	—	10	—
N. M. Macrae, Esq., Glasgow	—	6	9
Alex. Macleod, Esq., Aberdeen ..	—	7	—
Angus MacLachlan, Esq., Torridon ..	—	5	—
Miss Bridget MacFarlane, Fort Augustus ..	—	10	—
Mrs. W. Marjoribanks, Edinburgh ..	—	15	—
Rev. D. MacKellaig, Roy Bridge ..	—	5	—
Alex. MacKenzie, Esq., Glasgow ..	—	7	—
Hugh Duncan, Esq., Bridgend, Islay ..	—	5	—
Miss C. Campbell, Glasgow	—	2	6
Iain V. MacDuffie, Esq., Bowmore, Islay	—	10	—

(Continued on previous page)

HIGHLAND ASSOCIATION EVENTS.

MULL HIGHLAND GAMES. — Tobermory, Thursday, 21st July. Full particulars later. First appearance in Western Isles of Glasgow Police Pipe Band.

GLENURQUHART HIGHLAND GATHERING. Drumnadrochit, Saturday, 27th August. Mrs. I. Lockie, Secretary, Milton.

NATIONAL MOD, Inverness, 4th-7th October. Syllabus now available from Secretary, An Comunn Gaidhealach, 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow. Entries close 2nd July.

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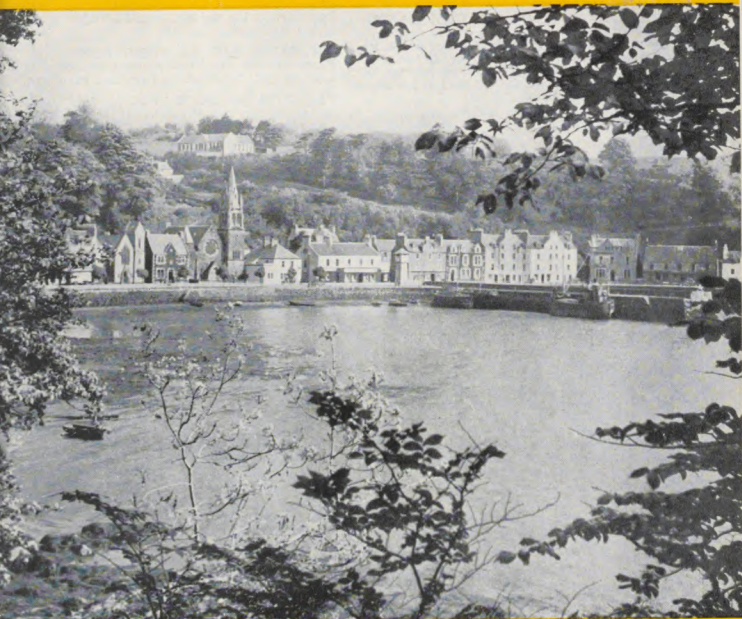
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AN GAIDHEAL *THE GAEL*

Vol. XLIV

JUNE, 1949

No. 6



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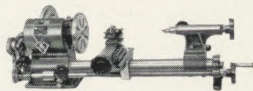
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AN T-OG-MHIOS, 1949

Clar-Innsidh

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Building Grants for Crofters

IT is good news that regulations are now in force whereby landholders, including crofters and cottars in the Highlands and Islands, may receive grants towards the cost of new houses and farm buildings or for replacements or improvements. The grants are half the cost of the skilled labour and materials, subject to a maximum of £500 for new houses and £250 for improvements. As crofters may find it difficult to buy material, this will be purchased in bulk by the Department of Agriculture.

Heavy Freights

AT a recent conference in Edinburgh, under the auspices of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry), the question of Highland freight charges was discussed, and it was urged that the present costs of transport impose a heavy burden both on the existing industries and on new ones which may be established. It was recommended that a Working Party, with Mr. John Cameron, K.C., as chairman, should investigate the matter.

Fios gu Africa a Deas

THA Mgr. Greum Croll, Samalaman, Gleann Uige, a' dol a null gu Africa a Deas air son ùine a chur seachd an sin air sgàth a shlàinte, agus bithidh e a' fuireach còmhla ri caraid dha faisg air Capetown. Bu ghasda leis nam faigheadh e eòlas air duine no dithist a tha fuireach an Capetown agus a bhiodh toileach Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ri coigreach á Taobh an Iar Albann. Ma thig seo gu stùil leughadair an Capetown, am bi e cho math is fios a chur gu Mgr. Croll no gu Fear-deasachaidh a' Ghaidheil. Turus math do ar caraid agus aiseag slàinte is tilleadh sàbhailte.

"MacCaillein"

IN a Highland newspaper a correspondent has been asking for "the correct form, or forms, of the Gaelic style of the Duke of Argyll," and points out that usage seems to vary. In *Bardachd Ghaidhlig* (2nd ed., p.275) Professor W. J. Watson writes that "*MacCaillein*" is "the patronymic by which the Duke of Argyll, Chief of the Campbells, is known in Gaelic. In the older poetry, *Mac Mhic Caillein* is also found. Sir Walter Scott, with his usual carelessness where Gaelic is concerned, styles the Duke *Mac Callum More*." In at least two poems of Duncan Ban Macintyre and in one by Silis Nighean Mhic Raghnaill, as well as in *The Book of Clanranald*, the usage is "*MacCaillein*."

Mr. Archibald Macpherson

AMONG the many Highlanders in Glasgow there is no one better liked by so many people than Mr. Archibald MacPherson. As President of the Gaelic Society of Glasgow, as an active official of the Glasgow Skye Association, and particularly as a prominent leader in shinty circles, he has given long and useful service, and the best wishes of a host of friends go with him as he returns to his native Isle of Skye.

Mr. Murdo MacLeod

WE offer cordial congratulations to Mr. Murdo MacLeod on his appointment as headmaster of Whittinghame House School, East Lothian. Ever since his undergraduate days Mr. MacLeod has been active in Highland and scholastic circles in Glasgow. He has done particularly good work as Secretary of the Glasgow Central branch of An Comunn, and is widely known as the genial and quick-witted Quizmaster on the Gaelic Radio.

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Na diobair caraid anns a' charraid.

Firinn air son a' Mhìos seo

Feumaidh fear aig am bi càirdean càirdeas a nochdadh; agus tha caraid ann a leanas nas dlùithe na bràthair.—

Gnath-shacail xviii. 24.

Sgiobair Coir

CAPTAIN DUNCAN ROBERTSON, of the Outer Isles mail steamer, has now retired after 32 years' service with Messrs. MacBrayne, 27 of these years being spent on the Outer Isles route. His familiar figure and voice on the bridge will be missed, but we hope that from time to time his voice will be heard on the radio, retelling his experiences. He has broadcast many times already. Captain Robertson, a keen supporter of An Comunn, was closely associated with the Kyle branch. Slàinte is sonas is saoghal fada dha!

A Cancelled Mod

THE cancellation of the Lorn, Mull, and Morvern Provincial Mod, which was to have been held in Oban on 10th June, should be regarded, not merely as a matter for regretful comment on the decline of Gaelic in that area, but as a challenge to An Comunn, as a matter of urgency, to pay particular attention to this and similar areas, to see whether some method or methods may be found to strengthen the language and increase interest. The success of the many provincial mods which have been held since the end of the war must not blind us to the possibility that, unless more strenuous efforts are made, we shall have been found experiencing only a temporary revival of interest after the long deprivation of the war years.

"Iron Curtain" at Connel

THE RIGHT HON. THOMAS JOHNSTON has been writing in the press about "the crazy barrier of tolls on bridge traffic at Connel on Loch Etive." Now that the railway bridge there is State-owned, surely the time has come when these tolls can be abolished. In pre-war days, to take a drove of sheep across the bridge meant paying 2/- per animal, each animal to be driven across singly, and the person driving them to pay 2d each time he returned for another. "But we progress. In 1949 we pay only 6d for the privilege of driving a sheep across the 400 yards bridge; a cow 9d.; a bull 1/-; and we are permitted to take several at one time."

Fios a Toronto

MORAN taing do Mhgr. Iain MacGilleathain, an Toronto, air son a litreach agus air 'son a dheagh dhùrachd. Chì e gun do chuir sinn gu feum air duilleig eile na chuir e d'ar n-ionnaisg. Cluinneamaid bhuaith a rithist. Cha mhise sinn seachas is naidheachd fhaotainn bho na Gaidheil an tìrean céine.

FOLKLORE INSTITUTE NEWS

A SUCCESSFUL joint recording session was recently held in Oban by Professor Dillon, for the Linguistic Survey of Scotland, and Mr. J. L. Campbell of Canna, for the Folklore Institute, when songs and stories from Coll and Canna were recorded by Messrs. John and Lachann MacFadyen from Coll and Mr. Hector MacDonald from Canna. Professor Dillon, who proceeded to Fort William to make recordings of Lochaber, Glencoe and other dialects, expressed himself as well pleased with the material recorded.

It is hoped to arrange for future collaboration of a similar nature, when cattle and sheep sales bring in Gaelic speakers from outlying districts to centres where electric power is available to operate modern recording apparatus.

FIOS's wire recorder is still in the clutches of the Customs at London. Meanwhile a disc recorder is stationed at Bornish, South Uist, in charge of Rev. A. MacKellaig, and an Ediphone is being used in the Mallaig district by Mr. John MacLean. Later in the summer Mr. MacLean is to take this machine to the Isle of Barra.

A Report Bulletin will be issued soon. Funds are urgently required to buy recording materials and help pay the expenses of collectors.

THE CELTIC CONGRESS

8-14 August, 1949

THE Celtic Congress will be held in Bangor, Wales, from Monday evening, 8th August, to Sunday night, 14th August, 1949.

Scotland was not adequately represented at the last Congress, and it is felt that it would be a pity if such a situation were to recur. An appeal is therefore made to Scottish Gaelic organisations to send delegates. Ten official delegates will represent Scotland, and will be chosen by the Scottish Committee. For the official delegates hospitality will be provided. But, besides these ten delegates, all Gaels will be welcome, going of course at their own expense.

The Scottish Secretary of the Congress is the Rev. John MacKechnie, B.D., 3 Eldon Terrace, Glasgow, W.2., to whom organisations wishing to send delegates should apply as soon as possible.

Mrs. G. J. Jones, "Eldir," Farrar Road, Bangor, has a list of hotel and other accommodation and will be glad to help, but it is suggested that accommodation should be sought early.

The National Eisteddfod of Wales is to be held during the first week in August, and to it also Scottish Gaels are cordially invited.



Beinn na Callich at Sunset
Broadford, Skye

In Praise of Gaelic

By ARCHIBALD FARQUHARSON

(This is a shortened reprint of Farquharson's "Address to Highlanders respecting their Native Language," first published in 1868.)

BEFORE the time of the singing of birds shall ever dawn upon Scotland, the Scots must not only return to their native tongue but to their native melodies also. I would not be surprised although the native language and the native melodies of Scotland are destined to give songs of praise to every part of the world where the English language is spoken.

A lover of my country I am, and ever have been; and, if there is anything more than another that is peculiar to my native country which I love, it is the language. It was the language that gave us a name, and that made us to differ from the rest of Scotland. I am also a great lover of the native melodies of my country. I am sorry that the old beautiful melodies of the Highlands are only to be found now, in most places, amongst the aged, and that the young race have lost them almost entirely. As the friend of our race, I would say to them: "Gather them all up that none of them be lost. You can scarcely leave a better inheritance for your children."

Decline

AS a lover of my country, I cannot but be grieved to see the Gaelic dying away in many parts. In several districts where, thirty or forty years ago, the great body of the people remained after the English service, now the great body of the people retire. In those districts where Buchanan's, Grant's, and MacGregor's poems were read and sung, now the great body of the people cannot read a word of them; and, as for their beautiful airs, they have lost them almost entirely.

This has arisen, no doubt, from the youth not having been taught to read it in their schools; and the reason of that again is that it is generally considered as a barrier in the way of their education. Parents wish to make scholars of their children, and they think the best way to do so is by renouncing the Gaelic altogether. This, I have no hesitation in saying, is a false, and quite an erroneous, view of the subject.

Another thing that has a tendency to do away with the Gaelic is because individuals from the low country are getting in amongst

them, and, as they find the people able to converse with them, they do not put themselves to the trouble of acquiring a knowledge of their language. I would not wish my countrymen to act uncivily towards such, yet I think they might show them at least that they respect their own language; and, as they have chosen the Highlands as their place of residence, they should also choose their language as their own. I have known many who could not speak one word of Gaelic, and who in a short time could speak it quite well.

Blaming the Wives

ANOTHER thing that has a tendency to do away with the Gaelic is that many Highland ministers marry wives who cannot speak one word of Gaelic. Their children, especially their daughters, follow the mother, and not one word of Gaelic is spoken in the family, nothing but genteel pure English. So that the man, however hearty a Highlander he might have been, is fairly vanquished in his own house. He loses heart in the

(Continued on page 74)

San Francisco Mod

WE have received the following account of the 7th Annual Gaelic Mod, held in the Druid's Temple, San Francisco, in April, under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. C. MacDonald Hay.

"Chuireadh crìoch air an Sgoil Ghàidhlig le Mòd a bha air a chumail am Baile an Naomh Fhraing. Thàinig cuideachd mhòr de Ghaidheil a' bhaile sin gu Talla nan Draoidhean, gus cuideachadh a thoirt do mhuintir na Sgoile air dhaibh seachd mìosan de ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig a choimhionadh.

"Dh'fhoghladh an seachdamh Mòd Bliadhnaile le Seumas MacGaraidh, fear-teagaisg na Gàidhlig ann an Oil-thaigh, agus thug e earail d'a luchd-èisteachd mu dheidhinn cor na Gàidhlig agus cor na Gaidhealtachd air an là an diugh, agus coigriche de na h-uile seòrsa air an craobh-sgaoileadh agus air am measgadh air feadh na Gaidhealtachd, agus na Gaidheil féin a' fàgail an dùthaich féin dìreach mar a bha iad bho'n chaidh Alba agus Sasann aonadh fo'n aon riaghladh—là brònach air son nan Gaidheil.

"Dh'innis Seumas do luchd a' Mhòid nach dùisgeadh na Gaidheil a suas gus am biodh na glinn air am fàgail lom de Ghaidheil agus dùthaich nan Gaidheil loma-làn de choigriche bho Shasann agus bho gach cèarn de'n Roinn-Eòrpa. Bha na Gaidheil tur-ainnealach mu dheidhinn an naimhdean féin, agus cha chreidheadh iad e nan innseadh e dhaibh cò iad an naimhdean. Nan tuigeadh gus nan creidheadh na Gaidheil gur i a' Ghàidhlig an soitheach anns am faighear fìor spiorad na saorsa, fìor eachdraidh an sinnsir féin, agus gach urram agus cliù a bhùineas do shluagh mar chinneach air leth, cha bhithheadh iad caoin-

shuarach a thaobh an còir-bhreith. Cha tig saorsa ach trid cànan, agus, ma chailleas sinn a' Ghàidhlig cha bhì annainn ach sluaigh gun spiorad, gun anam, gun saorsa."

Prize Winners

The prize-winners included the following:—

Reading at sight (learners)—Margaret Howland (Pasadena). Solos (female)—Muriel French. Recitation (learners)—Catum Morrison. Solos (male, learners)—Charles Oram (Menlo Park). Bible reading (Luke xix, learners)—A. J. Wall. Reading (beginners)—Jean Howland (Pasadena). Singing (Nova Scotia song)—Domhnall Camshron. Singing (Welsh song)—Thomas Hughes. Sreulachd—Iain G. MacDhomhnaill (Altadena). Celtic airs on violin—D. D. Cameron. Unison singing—Pasadena Group. Prescribed reading (learners)—M. Morrison. Solos (school children)—Jean Howland. Duets—Bessie Hendry and Mairi Lynam. Irish Gaelic recitation—Thomas Loughran. Conversation—D. Cameron and M. Morrison. Prescribed song (ladies)—Bessie Hendry (Los Angeles). Gaelic recitation—Domhnall Camshron. Singing (Lewis song)—Dolina NicDhomhnaill (Oakland). Singing Gaelic hymn or psalm—Dolina NicDhomhnaill. Bible reading (Eoin i)—Mrs. Southard (San Francisco). Prescribed reading—Iain G. MacDhomhnaill. Puirt-abeul—Mrs. MacNab (Oakland). Medal winners:—(ladies) Bessie Hendry; (men) Domhnall MacRuaraidh.

The Medal for the highest points in Gaelic Literature was won by Calum Caimeub, a Leodhasach from Ontario.

New Policy on Small-Holdings

BUT NOT FOR SCOTLAND ?

ACCORDING to *The Glasgow Herald* (27th May, 1949), the Government have decided to develop small holdings in England and Wales on a limited scale in an effort to attract more people to the land. Following upon the first report of the Small Holdings Advisory Council, Part IV of the English Agriculture Act—it has been announced in the House of Commons—will be brought into operation in October.

The above-mentioned report declared that "holdings must be large enough and properly equipped to provide a full-time occupation and a reasonable livelihood upon present conditions of £400-£500 annual net income for the tenant and his family."

Three main types of holdings up to 50 acres, and exceptionally 75 acres, are advocated. They are (1) dairy holdings, carrying 15-20 cows; (2) mixed holdings with some semi-intensive arable cultivation; and (3) market-garden holdings. Where suitable land cannot be acquired by agreement, the Government will have powers of compulsory acquisition.

Applicants for small holdings must have five years' practical experience on the land. Most new tenants, it is recommended, should be in the age range 25-40. Loans for working capital, which can be given up to 75 per cent. of the estimated amount required, should be at rates not exceeding 3 per cent. All existing small holdings should be reviewed in the light of the new policy.

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that the Government does not intend to take over a lot of big estates for breaking up.

THE Agricultural Correspondent of the *Glasgow Herald* comments as follows:—

"Similar provisions for the creation of small holdings are contained in the Scottish Agriculture Act, and whether or not the Secretary of State will decide to follow up his Cabinet colleague will be awaited with a good deal of interest. An undoubted demand for small holdings exists north of the Border, as is demonstrated by the long waiting list at St. Andrew's House, but generally their development is not regarded favourably by the farming industry as a whole. The Scottish Land Settlement Committee reflected this point of view

a few years ago, recognising the pitfalls of small agricultural enterprise by entering a qualified support for future expansion. The Committee underlined the opinion that no mixed holding could hope to be economic unless it had at least 75 acres, an area which is to be allotted in the new English proposals only in exceptional circumstances.

"Small holdings have a vital place in Danish agricultural economy. A substantial proportion of the total number of Danish farmers occupy from 1 to 20 acres. Their net income from dairy produce, bacon, and eggs does not exceed £250 per annum."

The Scottish Land Settlement Committee, reporting in 1945, made many recommendations, only one of which, so far as I am aware, has been acted upon by the Secretary of State for Scotland, namely, the recommendation not to embark on large-scale land settlement operations in the immediately post-war period. Three reasons were put forward for this recommendation: (1) economic instability in agriculture; (2) unduly high costs of creating and stocking holdings; (3) the interruption to large-scale home-grown food-production caused by sub-division of estates, coupled with shortage of materials and labour and of feeding-stuffs.

IT is apparent that, for whatever reason, the Scottish Office is not now disposed to meet the clamant need for new holdings. The treatment meted out to the Knyodart applicants is an indication of what, at the very least, is lack of sympathy with the desire of many men, in Highlands and Lowlands, to settle on the land, and may even suggest an intention to reverse the whole trend of agricultural policy in the last sixty years—since the Crofters' Act, in fact. Can it be that "a government of the people" prefers large estates to small holdings, large-scale capitalist farming to an independent peasantry?

The new policy to be inaugurated in England and Wales in October and the quite different policy or lack-of-policy in Scotland cannot very well be reconciled.

The Agriculture (Scotland) Act, 1948, gives authority to the Secretary of State for Scotland to acquire or appropriate land and to provide and equip holdings (not exceeding 75 acres in area or £150

IN PRAISE OF GAELIC

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Gaelic; not accustomed to speak it in his family, he loses his relish to preach in it. He gets careless about it in his sermons, in the school, and in the whole parish; and perhaps whispers in the ears of some that it is in vain attempting to keep it up, and that it is as well that it should die a natural death.

The daughters are no doubt taught music and drawing and, of course, French, but not one word of Gaelic, which is considered too vulgar for young Misses. I think that a minister's wife, when she enters the manse, should provide herself with Munro's Grammar and MacAlpine's Dictionary, and, with the aid of her husband and servants, master the Gaelic, which would be more to her credit than to be in the habit of leaving her pew and retiring with the genteel, the fashionable, and the gay when her husband was about to commence the Gaelic service.

It has a tendency likewise to do away with the Gaelic that the genteel, the polite, and the fashionable do not speak it. Genteel! That man does not deserve the name of a Highland gentleman who does not speak, not only the English, but the Gaelic properly. It is true that there are many Highland proprietors going about through the country dressed in the Highland garb, who cannot speak one sentence properly in the Gaelic. Were I to meet any such, I think I would be disposed to give them the following salutation: "I am glad, sir, to see you in that dress, but how dare you wear that kilt without speaking the Gaelic?"

I am certain, if there is a language upon earth that might be called the language of a warm-hearted people, it is the Gaelic. As a race we have received our shape from the mould into which we have been cast by the lips of our mothers pouring the eloquence of their affectionate souls into our tender minds. Let any person compare the endearing epithets in the Gaelic with those in the English, and even in the broad Scots, which is far in advance of

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(Continued from previous column)

in rental), and to make loans to provide working capital for holders (up to 75 per cent. of the capital required). It is time that the public should be told whether the Secretary of State intends to exercise the authority thus granted to him. T. M. M.

Cape Breton News and Views

AS stated last month, the Gaelic Cause "has a bright, bright future" in Cape Breton. This is due, in part, to the able leadership of numerous Gaelic-speaking clergymen who are enthusiastically behind the Gaelic culture renaissance beginning with the birth of Gaelic Foundation College effort in 1939.

Gaelic Precentors

NEXT to the "men of the cloth" in making a major contribution to the preservation of Gaelic in Cape Breton today, are the Gaelic precentors who are active in Presbyterian and United Church congregations throughout the island. In Victoria County, one of the island's four counties, situated in the Cape Breton Highlands, there are over twenty active Gaelic precentors, many of them belonging to the younger generation.

Heading this long list of precentors the most active are the groups to be found in the Presbyterian and United Churches of North Shore-North River communities where Gaelic finds its rightful place in eighty-five per cent. of the homes of farmers and fishermen alike.

Leading precentors in these three Presbyterian churches include Malcolm Angus MacLeod, Skir Dhu, Neil R. MacDonald, French River, John Alex. (John X.) MacDonald, Breton Cove, Councillor Thomas Angus MacDonald, North Shore, Angus Englehutt, Path End Smoky, Dan. A. (Jim) MacLeod, North River, Chas. Angus MacDonald, Tarbot, and Councillor John P. Matheson, St. Ann's. Likewise, leading precentors in these three United churches include Dan. Kenzie MacLeod and Duncan MacLean, North River, Chas. MacAskill, Englishtown, Sandy K. Morrison, Philip MacLeod, Kenneth A. Morrison, and Alex. J. Morrison, Wreck Cove, Smoky Cape.

Old Psalm Tunes

ALL of these precentors are strictly traditional-school singers and give fully extended intonations and slurs to all tunes, and so deserve great credit for truly preserving the authentic style of the Highland Scottish pioneer in Cape Breton. Their favourite tunes are Coleshill, Bangor, St. Paul's, St. David, and New London.

Their favourite Psalms are Psalm 103 ("O m'anam, beannaich thusa nis") and Paraphrase 2 ("Dhù Bhteil, le d' làimh thoir-bheartaich").

In other churches in Victoria County precentors are less active today, and a few names will suffice to show that Gaelic still finds a place in public worship. Active in the United Church, Baddeck, are precentors Murdoch Donald MacAskill and Dan. J. Smith, and in the Presbyterian Church are Angus N. MacKenzie, Daniel MacIvor, and Neil MacKay. In Boularderie United Church active precentors are John Campbell, now a resident of Sydney, and Adam MacKenzie, and in the Middle River United Church John Dan MacKay.

RUGG MACKENZIE.

Gaelic in Mull

(continued from page 78)

such as Duncan MacLeod and John Cameron (better known as "Lochiall"). Mr. Cameron was the mainstay of the Tobermory Ceilidh for many years and will be remembered by the present generation for his pawky humour and old-time sgulachdan, but, above all, for his great love of Gaelic. At Bunessan Gaelic interests are in safe keeping in the hands of Mr. MacDonald, Headmaster, and Mr. Hugh Lamont, merchant. A number of the older members at Tobermory will give their support, and with the aid of the many Gaelic-speaking teachers in the Secondary School there, a flourishing branch should be easily established.

My visit on this occasion aroused great interest in Gaelic matters and I consider that it proved of inestimable propaganda value.

N. S.

News from Toronto

RECITAL OF GAELIC SONGS

AT the National Mod in Glasgow last year one of the several visitors from overseas was Miss Jean MacLeod, Toronto, who also competed in some of the solo competitions.

On 2nd April, in the Eaton Auditorium, Toronto, Miss MacLeod gave a recital of Scottish and Hebridean songs to a very appreciative audience. This was her first appearance since her return home from Britain. The programme included—"Ath-chuinge" (by John Macdonald, Oban), "O Mhairread Og," "Thig, a chuinneig, thig," "The Bens of Jura," "An Eriskay Lullaby," "M'Euadail, m'euadail, Mac 'ic Ailein," "Lord Randal (Scottish ballad), "Come o'er the stream, Charlie," "Westering Home," "The Cockle-Gatherer," "The Christ-child's Lullaby," "'S e 'n gille dubh as àille," "Godfrey Crovan's Galley," "Sine Bhàn," "Eilean mo ghaoil," "The Uist Tramping Song," "The Road to the Isles," "My Ain Folk," and "The Misty Isle of Skye" (by Mary Julia MacCulloch).

The *Toronto Globe & Mail* wrote: "The recital was a basically artistic event, for the singer was too deeply imbued with the culture of this national music to exaggerate either its rhythm or its sentiments. It made for thrilled listening. With the rhythm of

marching feet, of dance, or of galley oars, never too obvious and yet firm, the flow of the songs gripped the emotions.

Jean MacLeod's pianissimo in some of the old Gaelic songs was hauntingly beautiful. The 'Eriskay Lullaby' and the 'Christ-Child's Lullaby' especially benefited by this quiet artistry.

"In view of the general discussion today on the concertizing of folk music, it was significant that Miss MacLeod made her offerings neither folksy nor studio-like, but gave them with the sympathetic candour of a refined singer with Scottish blood in her veins. She looked the part, and a sprig of real heather on each programme left a souvenir of the mood created."

The *Telegraph* wrote:

"She is a singer whose Gaelic and Hebridean songs are folk-music absolutely innocent of the 'tricks and manners' of concert platform convention. . . . The majority of her songs were sung in Gaelic, and Hebridean rhythms and modal progression gave every phrase an enchantment new and lovely. Unfamiliar intervals in melody or accompaniment started emotion and thought far clearer than familiarity prompts. . . . To hear Jean MacLeod was to realise what singing was meant to be, and what love of homeland weaves into everyday life."

the English in that respect, and he cannot but see how far short they come.

Uniformity or Variety?

MAN'S great effort in the present time is to do away, not only with the Highland Gaelic, but also with the provincial dialects in Scotland and in England, and to substitute in their place pure English. All are drilled with the same grammars, regulated by the same vocabularies, without one word but proper English, and every word to be pronounced with the same accuracy. This is what they aim at, and rejoice in their success, and are apt to pity those poor creatures that are not willing to be ruled by them. Well, should they be successful and get every man, woman, and child from John o' Groat's to Land's End under the sway of pure English, what shall they behold? One universal, uniform level. Should they be successful, they would have a greater cause to weep over the havoc they have made in the beautiful variety of nature, more resembling the work of locusts than of rational men. Man's great effort is uniformity, perfect uniformity. God's method is variety. Which is the most glorious—man's uniformity or God's variety?

Who is not delighted with the different varieties of Gaelic spoken in the Highlands? Is it not much more agreeable than were the whole under the sway of our standard Gaelic? The same words used, the same pronunciation, the same tones everywhere—which would make the whole Highlands, as regards the Gaelic, a perfect level. Whereas in its present state there is a variety of scenery to relieve the mind—towering mountains here and there.

There Ben Nevis lifting its head above the rest, as bidding defiance to the whole for having the best Gaelic. That was the native place of MacLachlan, one of the best Gaelic scholars that ever lived, and a first-rate poet too. Ben Cruachan again, at the other end of that range of magnificent mountains, representing the mainland of Argyllshire. Ben Lawers represents the Breadabane Gaelic, a *chainnt shoerach, chòir*. Some consider it too drawing; yet I am delighted with it, being the most appropriate that could come from the lips of a Breadalbanite. They are the best people for being heard in the distance that I know. A person would be almost led to think they acquired that habit by their fore-

fathers having been accustomed to talk with one another across Loch Tay!

Sìdh-Chailleann, again, representing the Glenlyon, the Strath-tummel, and the Rannoch Gaelic. Rannoch has perhaps the best Gaelic in Perthshire. *Beinn a' ghìò* represents the Blair Athol and the Strathardle Gaelic. *Beinn a' bhvachdaidh* represents the Athol Gaelic, rich in pasture, noble in appearance; but let it take care of a colony forming at its base, that they will not undermine it and blow it up. Pitlochry is extending its cottages, filled with foreigners. *Glas-mhaol*, on whose summit the three counties of Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen meet, we may almost score out of our list, as it has almost deserted us.

Benmaclui representing the Badenoch and the Braemar Gaelic, but let it take care that it will not be in the descending scale.

In the Islands

BEINN BHIOGAIR in Islay raises its head as high as it can, representing the Islay Gaelic, which is certainly good. The females in Islay, with the exception of those in North Uist, are the sweetest speakers of Gaelic that I know. *A' Bheinn Mhòr* in Mull raises its head high, and so it may, for its Gaelic is excellent. Its inhabitants speak it generally with great correctness and fluency.

There is an island beyond it, namely, Tiree, whose inhabitants are amongst the prettiest and the most fluent speakers in the Highlands. They have no tone whatever, like many others, and it is seldom they commit a grammatical blunder; their very peculiarities are pretty; a person would be almost led to think that they are born grammarians. Their only fault is having too many English words in their vocabulary. As this is not a fault peculiar to the Tiree people, I would caution Highlanders against the practice. If they can find a Gaelic word to suit the purpose, why use an English word?

An Cailiunn Sgitheanach, the chief mountain in Skye, raising its head aloft as if saying, "We have the best Gaelic in the Highlands." Certainly, they have good Gaelic, and they speak it in a way peculiar to themselves, which is delightful to listen to, but still no one but a simpleton would attempt to imitate them. Hough Mor, South Uist, raises its head as if determined not to be behind the rest; and so it may, for it is second

to no other place in the Highlands. As for Lewis, it is like a kingdom by itself. There we have the only individual that attempted to write the history of Scotland in Gaelic. As there is a good deal of provincialism in the Gaelic of Lewis, I think, in writing, it would be better, if possible, to follow our standard of Gaelic.

As I have never been in Sutherlandshire, nor on the mainland of Ross-shire and Inverness-shire, I am not prepared to speak from personal knowledge of the various shades of difference there, resembling their chief mountains; but I know there are differences. Let each class not be ashamed of their own peculiarity. It is the language of their nature, and they act according to their nature when they speak it. For a Ross-shire man to attempt to imitate an Argyllshire man would make him ridiculous, and for the latter to attempt to imitate the former would make him equally so. I have known men who, when they sold their stirks, spoke their own language, but, when engaged in prayer to God, spoke in the language and tones of Ross-shire.

There are several districts in the Highlands where the Gaelic has sadly degenerated; their best plan would be to get teachers from those parts where it is not so.

The great object, then, at present is not only to do away with our Gaelic in all its beautiful variety, but to do away with the broad Scotch in all its beautiful variety likewise, and to establish upon their ruins pure English. Now, I have not one word to say against the English. I admire it as the best that could be used for our halls of learning, for discussing any public question, and for handling any intricate subject. But I must declare that it has a baneful effect on society. It is the worst language that could be used for parents, children, brothers, sisters, companions, and for the social gathering. Being an artificial language, it makes society so too.

There is danger from the Dominie's tawse. Take care that he will not rob you of many wee bits o' things which you have tingling about your hearths and around your affections, which make you so sociable and happy, and moreover give you such unparalleled tongues for melody and music. The pure English has not only committed a great havoc amongst us, both in the Highlands and

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Annas a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

FEUM NA MONA

IS iomadh linn bho thòisich na Gaidheil air a bhith deanamh feum de'n mhòine. Bha uair ann agus bha coilleatan dumhail llonmhor ag còmhachadh mór-chuid na dùthcha, tuath is deas, ach is fada bho ghearradh sìos no losgadh na craobhan agus a dh'fhàgadh na sléibhean lom nochdte. B'fheudar do'n t-sluagh mar sin teannadh barrachd is barrachd ris a' mhòine a bhuan, agus thàtar 'ga bhuan fhathast.

Tha saothair mhòr an co-cheangal ri buain na mòna. Mar is trice tha na mòintichean astar mòr, chan ann a mhàin bho na taighean, ach bho'n rathad-mhòr, agus mar sin tha toirt dhachaidh na mòna 'na obair sgìtheil, eadhon le cuideachadh bho each no asail. Am bitheantas, ged thà, 's ann an clèibh air an dronnag a bha, agus a tha, mòran a' toirt dhachaidh na mòna, agus is iad na mnathan gu sònraichte a fhuair an sàrachadh ris an obair seo. Chan e nach 'eil a' chuid mhòr dhìth air a thoirt dhachaidh an cairtean no an uidheaman-giùlain eile.

Is iomadh boinne falluis a thuites gu làr air a' bhàr-mhòna agus na fir a' rùsgadh a' bhaic leis a' chaibe-làir, 'ga riachadh 's 'ga ghlhanadh le spaid, ag gearradh a mach nam fad leis an toirsigian, 'ga sgaioleadh a mach agus an tiorrachadh agus an cruadhachadh, agus an sin a' deanamh rùdhanan agus an ceann ùine 'gan cruchadh agus a' tughadh na cruaiche.

BHLATHAICH an teine-mòna taighean nan Gaidheal, agus dheasaich e biadh dhaibh. Is ann a mhàin mar chonnadh a rinn iad feum de'n mhòine. Mar sin, an uair a thòisich gual ri tighinn nas pàilte do'n Ghaidhealtachd thòisich a' mhòine air dol a' feum. Ri linn a' chogaidh, agus an gual gann is daor, bha féill air a' mhòine a rithist, ach tha iad ag ràdh rium gu bheil a' mhòine an dùgh, ma cheannaicheas tu i, a cheart cho daor ris a' ghual fhéin.

Ach tha a' mhòine math air son fheuman eile a bharrachd air a bhith 'ga losgadh mar chonnadh. Tha dà adhbhar aig daoine a bhith a nis a' rannsachadh cìo a ghabhas deanamh leis a' mhòine. An toiseach, tha iad ag creidsinn gu bheil dòighean ann air an gabh a' mhòine cur gu feum. A rithist, tha iad ag caoidh gu bheil uiread de'n fhearann gun fheum air son àiteachaidh cho fad 's a tha e air a chòmhachadh le doimhneachd mòna.

O chionn bhliadhnan an Leódhas chosgadh mòran airgid, a thug an t-Uasal T. B. MacAmhlaidh nach maireann seachad, a' feuchainn ris a' mhòintich a rùsgadh 's a mhathachadh 's a chur gu feum. Ged a dh'amaiseadh air mòran fearainn a dheanamh torrach, fhathast b'fheudar sgur de'n obair air sgàth a' chosgais.

BEAGAN ùine air ais bha e air a ràdh aig coinneamh an Glaschu gu bheil dà mhuilleann acair de mhòintich an Albainn agus gur math a dh'fhaodadh a' mhòr-chuid de sin a bhith air a thoirt a steach mar fhearann-àiteachaidh. Faisg air Glaschu tha còig mìle acair de mhòintich an aon àite, far am faodadh còrr is dà fhichead tuathanas a bhith le suas ri ceud gu leth acair anns gach aon dhuibh.

Tha an t-ochdamh cuid de thalamh na Gaidhealtachd 'na mhòintich le doimhneachd dà

through is còrr de mhòine, agus ann an Breatain gu h-ìomlan tha suas ri sia muilleann acair agus a' mhòine an àitean cho domhain ri deich ar fhichead troigh.

Tha sia fichead mìle tunna mòna 'ga dheanamh anns an dùthaich seo gach bliadhna, a bharrachd air na thàtar a' buain air a' Ghaidhealtachd. Tha a' mhòine seo a' dol gu iomadh seòrsa feuma. Gheibhear as a' mhòine ola is céir is stuthan luachmhor eile, agus tha Rùnaire na h-Albainn an dèidh innseadh gu bheil suim leth-cheud mìle not ri bhith air a chosg a' lorg dhòighean air mòine a chur gu feum mar chonnadh ann an beairtean-gas. Ma dh'amaiseas na h-innleachdaich air dòighean air a' mhòine a thionndadh gu cumhachd, mar chumhachd an dealain, faodaidh seo cuideachadh gu mòr le oibrich-ean ùra is cosnadh ùra a thoirt do na Gaidheil 'nan tìr féin.

Iain Ciar Agus an Robair

BHA sinn an raoir 'nar suidhe Bmu'n chagailte ann an taigh bràthair mo mhàthar an uair a thàinig seann chompanach do'm b'ainm Dòmhnall Dhòmhnail Mhic Fhionnlaigh a steach agus thòisich e air innseadh naidheachd an dhuinn. A' cheud naidheachd a dh'innis e dhuinn 's ann mu Iain Ciar agus an Robair.

Thubhairt e gu robh Iain Ciar agus gille-ùil a' dol troimh choille mhàir anns an Fhraing. Bu Ghaidheal Iain, oir bha mòran de'n t-sluagh sin air am fuadach bho thair an àraich rè àm Bliadhna Thearlaich. Air adhart leis an naidheachd, ma ta.

Cha robh iad air a dhol fada air adhart an uair a choinnich boireannach riutha agus dh'innis i dhaibh nach robh e sàbhailte a bhith dol troimh an choille oir bha robairean ag gabhail còmhaidh innte.

Thug Iain taing do'n boireannach agus chaidh iad air adhart. Air a dhol troimh earrainn dhomhain de'n choille chunnaic iad duine a' tighinn 'nan coinneamh. Mu thuairream dà no trì de throighean air falbh stad an duine agus thug e mach daga airgid, agus thubhairt e riutha iad a luibhairt na bha aca de airgead orra.

Cha tug an Gaidheal géill do'n robair, agus mu dheireadh thuit an robair, "Tha mi ag creidsinn gu

bheil mo chaidheamh-sa nas fearr na 'fhear-sa."

"Dearbhaidh mise sin," ars Iain, agus thòisich an car.

Shaoileadh fear-coimhidh nach robh buaidh gus a bhith air taobh Iain idir, oir bha e fann le cion-bidhe.

"Cò tha seo?" ars an gille-ùil.

Thug an robair sìil, ach, ma thug, bha a làmh chearr air a gearradh gu talamh. Ann am prìobha sùlach thug an robair a mach feadag òir agus shéid e i. Gheàrr Iain deth an ceann agus sreath de na putain bhuidhe a bha 'na sheacadh, agus rinn e fhéin agus an gille-ruith as leis a' cheann, na putain, agus an fheadag.

Chaidh iad am falach air son greis agus an uair a shaoil iad gu robh iad sàbhailte rinn iad as gu an do ràinig iad caistéal mòr. Coinnich nigheanag òg iad aig a' gheata agus an uair a chunnaic i ceann an robair léig i sgreid aiseid agus ruith iadsan as a dèidh ag ràidhtinn rithe i a dh'innseadh do a maighstir, agus an uair a rinn i sin thug an rìgh a bha anns a' chaisleal suim mhòr airgid do Iain, agus ann am beagan ùine sheòl e do Alba, an dùthaich nach fàgadh e air son na bha de robairean anns an t-saoghal.

Chithear an fheadag agus na putain ann an àite falach. Chan 'eil cuimhne agam air an dràsda.

DOMHNALL IAIN MACPHEIL.

Mull Children and Gaelic

MR. NEIL CAMERON'S PRIZES

AS instructed by the Propaganda Committee and Executive Council I visited Mull to ascertain the number of children under ten years of age who speak Gaelic, and to distribute the prizes generously donated by Mr. Neil Cameron, Sunderland. I had previously advertised in the "Oban Times" that I was about to visit the island and asked those mothers who considered themselves eligible for the prize to communicate with me at the six principal Post Offices on the island.

I arrived at Tobermory on 19th May and collected four letters at the Post Office. I had previously advised Mr. Alan MacLean, M. A., compiler of "Approach to Gaelic," a new school-book to be published shortly, of my visit and he called on me at the Hotel, where we planned our approach to Gaelic in Tobermory. Mr. MacLean's knowledge of conditions in the town and neighbouring districts was of immense help to me and I wish to acknowledge here my indebtedness to him for his guidance and support.

We commenced our visitation that evening and by nightfall we had registered six Gaelic-speaking children, ranging in age from 3 to 7 years. The following day we registered twelve, the oldest being 10 years. This includes three at Cnoc Fuar and one at Glengorm.

In the evening I went to Salen where I collected other two letters. I had arranged to spend the weekend at Fionphort and proceeded by steamer to Craignure on Saturday morning. Two letters awaited me at Craignure Post Office and I was able to call on the writers in the forenoon. Two children, aged 3 and 9 years, were registered. I continued my journey to Fionphort by bus in the afternoon and collected three letters at Bunessan and two at Fionphort. On Monday, 23rd May, I visited seven homes in the Ross of Mull and registered eight children between the ages of 3 and 10 years.

I returned to Salen on the 24th and made calls in the evening at Gruline, Fanmore, and Torloisk, where I registered six children from 7 to 9 years of age. This completed my visit, which resulted in registering thirty-four Gaelic-speaking children and awarding twenty-four mothers, in name of Mr. Cameron, the sum of £1 for each child.

Mr. Cameron's generous gesture is very much appreciated by the people in Mull and the encourage-

ment thus given is sure to stimulate interest in Gaelic. One was encouraged to learn on good authority that, even before the announcement of Mr. Cameron's award, parents were taking a greater interest in Gaelic and were anxious that their children should grow up with a knowledge of the language of their fathers and mothers. Mr. Cameron's acknowledgement of what these parents have done for the preservation of Gaelic has come at an opportune time and we thank him most heartily.

THE mode of approach to ascertain the children's knowledge of Gaelic had to be varied as some children are more shy in presence of strangers than others. The three-year-olds were sometimes more chatty than the older children, and one little boy, who answered a number of questions with ease, turned the tables and asked—"Am bheil balach beag agaibhse?"

A general complaint by parents was that children lose their Gaelic

when they go to school. This is readily understood when one realises that there are a number of non-Gaelic-speaking children in each school and that, in a number of one-teacher schools, the teacher has no Gaelic. The only Gaelic these children hear is in their own homes and they readily acquire the language of the school and playground. Gaelic is systematically taught at Tobermory, Bunessan, and Salen, and for that we are most grateful and thank the teachers for their splendid work.

The schools in Mull were closed on the Friday and Monday of my visit but what might otherwise have been some disadvantage enabled me to meet the children in their homes and question them in the presence of their mothers, and in some cases in presence of their grandmothers. God bless the Grannies for their influence on parents and children!

BRANCHES of An Comunn had not been functioning regularly, and I was earnestly asked to return in the autumn and give them a fresh start. Tobermory has lost a number of its stalwarts,

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Cill Amhlaidh an Uibhist a Deas

IS dòcha nach 'eil fios aig a' mhòrshluagh an Uibhist a' Chinn a Deas gu bheil ùir choisrigte as an Eadailte air a sgapadh air raointean fuara fiuch anns an eilean sin, ach is e sin mar a tha.

Shìos anns an Iochdar tha baile beag ris an canar Cill Amhlaidh, no Cladh Amhlaidh, agus faisg air a' bhaile sin tha an Eaglais Chaitlic-each anns a bheil sluagh an àite ag aoradh aig an là an diugh. Ach is e Ard Choinnich a chanar ris an àite anns a bheil an eaglais, agus is ann air an Naomh Coinneach, sagart ainmeil aig an robh aghdarras spioradail air Uibhist a' Chinn a Deas gu léir, a tha an t-àite air ainmeachadh.

Mar dhearbhadh air sin faodar ainmeachadh gur h-e Beinn Choinnich as ainm do'n bheinn na tha tuath air acarsaid Loch Baoghasaid, agus bhiodh an Naomh Coinneach sin ag aoradh ann an eaglais a bha air a togall an àite ris an canadh iad Aurotoit faisg air taigh-òsda Loch Baoghasaid. Tha làrach na h-eaglaise sin ri fhaicinn fhathast, agus o chionn ghoirid fhuair an t-Athair Urramac Mgr. Caimbeul clach bhaistidh bhreagha trì-oisinneach am measg an fheòir air an làrach sin, agus chuir e suas

i ann an Eaglais Chaitliche an Daileabrog.

Ach am baile beag air an robh sinn a' bruidhinn—Cill Amhlaidh, is ann air sagart eile, an Naomh Amhlaidh, a tha e air ainmeachadh, agus bha ean 'na shagart dileas agus treibhdhreach re iomadh bliadhna anns an Iochdar. Chaochail e an sin aig aois mhóir, agus a réir a iarrtais fhéin chaidh a thiodhlacadh anns a' bhàd ris an canar Cill Amhlaidh o an uair sin. Tha e freagarrach ainmeachadh nach robh dàimh sam bith aig an Naomh Amhlaidh so ri Cloinn Mhòir Amhlaidh Leòdhais a bha de thréibh eadar-dhealichte.

Tha beul-aithris ag ràdh gur h-e an Naomh ainmeil, Bliannan, an ath shagart a bha anns an Iochdar, duine a bu chòir a bhith air a chumail air chumhne le muinntir Uibhist a' Chinn a Deas nas motha na tha e a thaobh a eud diadhaidh. Bha e déidheil gum biodh an sluagh a bha fo a chùram a' mealtainn cuid de na gràsan a bha air am buileachadh air na daoine sin a bhiodh an còmhnaidh, agus imeachd air fearann naomha, agus do bhrìgh sin thug e uair sgrìob do'n Ròimh agus cha bu bheag a' chosgais a

(An còrr air t.d. 83)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AN T-OG-MHIOS, 1949

Aireamh 6

Leabhar Gaidhlig A Leugh Mi

Le "UILLEAM"

(Tha seanfhacal againn a tha ag ràdh, "Mas math leat do mholadh, faigh bàs." Is fheadar gun deachaidh an seanfhacal sin a dhealbh le neach-eigin a bha faireachadh car searbh mu cho beag ùidh 's a bha daoine cur as oidhirpean. Ach seo agaibh moladh i. "Alasdair Mór" a tha fhathast an tìr nam beò agus au foghainteach mar an ceudna. Sgrìobhadh na leanas le "Uilleam" aig ceasnachadh ann an spoil air an àird-an-iar. Ged a bha "Uilleam" aon bhliadhna dheug mum b'urrainn dha Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn, is toigh leis a nis, aig aois seachd bliadhna deug, a bhith leughadh gach leabhar Gàidhlig a gheibh e.

Chan ann gu foghainteachd "Uilleam" a shealltainn a tha seo sgrìobhte air an duilleig seo, ach mar bhuidheachas do "Alasdair Mór" air son na thug e do Ghaidheil oga is sheana de thlachd le a sgrìobhadhann grinn. Guma fada beò ar caraid agus guma fada a bheir a litrichean agus a sgrìobhadhann toileachadh do na leughas iad!)

CHA do leugh mi leabhar Gàidhlig fhathast a chòrd rium cho fìor-mhath ri "*Litrichean Alasdair Mhór*." Gun teagamh, chan e an aon chuspair a tha aig an leabhar seo air fad, ach 's e cruinneachadh a tha ann de litrichean a sgrìobh bodach Leódhasach do'n phaipear sin, *Gazette Steòrnabhagh*, fad iomadh bliadhna. Thòisich e air sgrìobhadh nan litrichean seo an uair a thàinig am paipear a mach an toiseach, agus lean e air, a' sgrìobhadh litir gach seachdain nam b'urrainn dha idir, fad còig bliadhna deug.

Air an dòigh seo dh'innis e a h-uile nì a bha dol air aghaidh anns a' cheàrn de Leódhas anns an robh e—Bèarnraidh. Dh'innis e a h-uile rud a bha e fhéin 's a bhean—Sine—agus a chàirden a' deanamh, agus tha e a' toirt dhuinn dealbh soilleir air na tha a' dol air aghaidh ann am baile beag mar a tha Bèarnraidh fad na bliadhna.

Cha mhór nach saoil sinn gum b'aithne dhuinn fad ar beatha na daoine a tha anns an àite—Scottie is Calum Sheòrais is Bean Bhìll. Tha na naidheachdan aig Alasdair Mór air an cur sìos ann an dòigh cho fìor-mhath agus gu bheil na daoine sin a' tighinn beò mu'r coinneamh.

A bharrachd air na litrichean a bhith air an cur sìos cho math, tha a' Ghàidhlig cho neo-mhearachdach 's a sgrìobhadh sgoilear sam bith an diugh, agus sin bho sheann duine a tha

ag aideachadh nach d'fhuair e riamh mòran sgoile!

Aithnichidh sinn bho na litrichean gur e duine làn creidimh a tha ann an Alasdair Mór, agus chan e a mhàin Alasdair Mór ach muinntir an eilein air fad. Tha e ag innse dhuinn mu na deasbaiden a bhios aige fhéin 's aig na daoine a bhios a' tighinn air chéilidh air mu rudan a leughas e anns a' Bhiobull. Ach cha saoil sinn uair sam bith gu bheil e a' toirt dhuinn searmoin.

Bhithidh Alasdair Mór aig gu leòir an uair a thogas e fhéin cuideachd, ach 's e glé bheag air nach biodh snodh-gàire an uair a bhios e ag innse mu an turas a thug e do'n Ghalldach a dh'iarraidh speuclairean agus gun aige ach glé bheag de Bheurla.

Rìgh nan Eun

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID.

Bha iolair ag argumaid ri dreathann-donn, agus thuir i: "Is mise Rìgh nan Eun. Ciamar a tha de bhathais agad bruidhinn riума air mhodh mhì-mhodhail?"

"Car son a tha thu ag ràdh gur tu Rìgh nan Eun?" dh'fhoighnich an dreathann-donn.

Fhreagair an iolair gu h-uailleil, "A chionn gun téid mi suas air iteig nas àirde na eun sam bith eile."

"Chan 'eil mi cho cinnteach," arsa an dreathann-donn.

"Glé mhaith," arsa an iolair, "feuchaidh sinn dìreach an làraich nam bonn ar comasan anns a' chùis sin."

Chaidh an dreathann-donn suas dìreach air iteig anns an adhar, agus dh'éirich an iolair is i deanamh chuirtean móra.

Cha robh fada gus an d'fhàs an dreathann-donn sgèth, agus an sin shuidh i air druim na h-iolaire, agus, a chionn gu robh i cho aotrom, chad d'fhairich an iolair idir gu robh i air a druim.

Dh'éirich an iolair air a sgéith glé àrd anns an speur agus dh'aithnich i nach b'urrainn do an dreathann-donn a dhol suas na b'àirde, agus dh'èibh i: "O, a dhreathann-donn, càite bheil thu nis?"

Dh'éirich an dreathann-donn air iteig o dhruim na h-iolaire sgithe agus fhreagair i, "Tha mi an seo, fada fada os do chionn!"

Rinn an dreathann-donn a' chùis anns an t-strì agus thagair ise gum b'i Rìgh nan Eun.

Faodaidh na daoine as móralaiche agus as glìce a bhith air am mealladh le cleasaiche beag.

Na Baird Ghaidhealach a B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID.

4. Dòmhnall MacDhomhnaill á Bèarnaraidh.

B'ANN an Tobson, am Bèarnaraidh Leòdhais, a rugadh Dòmhnall MacDhomhnaill no "Dòmhnall Bheàrnaraidh," mar a theireadh iad, anns a' bhliadhna 1856. Chaidh e do Ghlaschu an uair a bha e glé òg, agus is ann anns a' bhaile mhór sin a rinn e a dhachaidh agus a thog e a theaghlach.

Fhuair mise eòlas air fhéin agus air a chuideachd an uair a bha mi am Bèarnaraidh, agus chuir mi meas mòr air mar bhàrd is mar sheanchaidh agus mar neach aig an robh dùrachd cridhe do litreachas is ceòl a cho-Ghaidheal.

Tha beachd cumanta an Innse-Gall: is e sin, ma bhios fiacail no dhà aig leanabh-gille an uair a thig e chun an t-saoghail, gum bi e aon chuid 'na bhàrd no 'na dhilleachdan. Cò-dhiubh tha mòran brìgh anns a' bheachd sin no nach 'eil, tha e coltach gu robh dà fhìcail aig Dòmhnall an uair a rugadh e.

Is ann an uair a bha e 'na bhalach òg a thòisich an t-ar-a-mach eadar na croitearan am Bèarnaraidh, agus air tìr-mòr mu a choinnibh, an aghaidh eu-ceartan Dhòmhnail Mhìc an Rothaich, an seumarlan a bha aig an Ridire Seumas MacMhathain Leòdhais. An uair a chuir muinntir Bheàrnaraidh rompa gun rachadh iad a dh'aon sgrìob gu Caisteal a' Ghearraidh-chruaidh an Steòrnabhagh air son an diòl a bha 'ga dheanamh orra innse do an Ridire Seumas, agus Aonghus MacArtair á Circeobast air an ceann, cha robh Dòmhnall idir air dheireadh. B'esan an duine a b'òige a bha anns a' chòmhlan iomraideach sin anns a' bhliadhna 1872, agus is iomadh latha mun téid dhù-chuimhne dheanamh air an ionnsaigh bhuaidhaich sin an Eilean Bheàrnaraidh.

Ged a chuir Dòmhnall Bheàrnaraidh seachd a latha air cabhsairean cruaidhe Ghlaschu, bha a chridhe agus a aigne an còmhnaidh an Innse-Gall, agus gu h-àraidh am Bèarnaraidh "a laigheas gu sàmhach am bàgh Loch-a-Ròg," mar a thuir Aonghus Chalum an Tàilleir nach maireann. Is ann an déidh dha tighinn do Ghlaschu a thòisich e ri bàrdachd. Bha dùrachd a chridhe gu h-iomlan ann an cùisean ar Gàidhlig; agus a chum na Gaidheil òga a chumail cruinn còmhla ri chèile anns a' bhaile-mhór sin gach oidhe Shathurna anns a' gheamhradh bha e 'na fhear-cathrach fad iomadh bliadhna air aon de na céilidhean Sathurnach.

Bha a luchd-dùthcha ag cruinneachadh mun cuairt da, agus bu chaomh leotha an còmhnaidh a bhith 'ga chluinntinn a' seinn a òrain

Co Iad? — Seo Iad!

(Air a leantainn)

6. Iain Og Ile

B'è seo Iain Caimbeul á Ile, duine-usal a rinn obair ionmholta anns an naoidheamh linn deug ann a bhith a' trusadh seann bheul-aithris de gach seòrsa. Chuir e mach "*Leabhar na Féinne*" agus "*West Highland Tales*" agus àireamh leabhraichean eile.

7. Mac MhìcAilein

Seo an sloinneadh a bha air Triath Chlann Raghnaill.

8. Fear-iuil a' Phrionnsa

B'è seo Dòmhnall MacLeòid á Galltrigil anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, duine fìor-thapaidh. Thug e fhéin is sgioba an Prionnsa Teàrlach ann am bàta ochd-ràmhach a null á Mùideart gu Beinn a' Bhaoghla, an uair a bha Teàrlach 'na fhògarach an déidh Chuil-lodair.

9. Ealasaid a' Chuain

Seo an t-ainm Gàidhlig air an eilean bheag chreagach a tha 'na laighe deas air beul Abhainn Chluaidh. Theair ris cuideachd "*Creag Ealasaid*," agus anns a' Bheurla "*Ailsa Craig*."

10. Seumas a' Ghlinne

Anns a' bhliadhna 1752 chaidh Cailean Caimbeul Ghlinn-lubhair a mhòrt faisg air aiseag Bhaile a' Chaolais. Mar pheanas chaidh Seumas a' Stiùbhart, no Seumas a' Ghlinne, a chrochadh air cnoc an aiseig, ged is coltach nach b'esan idir a rinn an gnìomh.

IAIN AGUS ANNA

Tha sinn duilich gu robh uiread ag iarraidh àite air a' mhìos seo ann an duilleagan a' *Ghaidheil Oig* 's gum b'fheudar Iain is Anna fhàgail a mach. Ach tha iad beò, fallain— 's iad a thà, agus iad ag amharc ri dùbhadh na goile air son làithean saora an t-samhraidh.

fhéin. Bha guth grunn, ciùin aige, agus sheinneadh e na seann fhuinn Ghàidhlig anns an t-seann dòigh. A dh'aindeoin agartasan laghan-ciùil an là an diugh as dòcha nach biodh sìnte ri stéidh-chiùil nam fonn sin, chan 'eil nì as taitniche leis na seann Ghaidheil na òran Gàidhlig air a sheinn anns an t-seann dòigh, gun phiano, gun fheadan-gleusaidh no co-sheirm air an talamh ach an guth 'na aonar.

Chaochail ar caraid còir an uiridh, ach bidh spiorad a bhàrdachd beò fad iomadh latha an cridheachan a chàirdean.

Litir Eachainn

AN uair a tha mi a' teannadh ri litir a' mhìos seo a sgrìobhadh, tha latha Iurach againn an Glaschu, is tha mi ag creidsinn latha cho blàth 's a bha againn am bliadhna fathast, le gealltanais nach 'eil droch bhriseadh ri tighinn oirre gu cionn latha no dhà co-dhiubh. Mar sin, is cinnteach gur e camp an t-samhraidh an smuain a bu luaithe a thàinig fainear dhomh, agus tha mi cinnteach gum bi e air bhur-ninntinn-sa glé thrìc mar an ceudna.

Biotar ag cur na brataich ri crann air a' cheathramh là deug de'n Iuchar, an uair a nochdas na caileagan air faire, agus, an uair a ghabhas iadsan an turas dhachaidh a rithist, bidh na balaich ag gabhail seilbh 'nan àite air a' chòigeamh là fichead de'n Iuchar. Chan 'eil air fhàgail agamsa ach bhith ag guidhe gach Sòlais a bhith agaibh, sld mar bhur miann, grian gu bhur n-àilgheas, is gun de uisge agaibh ach na chumas feur is bàrr gun searg is na bric anns an allt gun dol a dhith leis a' phathadh!

A' Ghrian A' Dannsadh

A nis, nì eile mu'n Chàisg: is còir dhomh innseadh dhuibh gu robh sinne ag creidsinn gun biodh a' ghrian a' dannsadh an uair a dh'èireadh i air madainn Di-dòmhaich Càsg—creideas faoin, their sibh' ach bha na Gàidheil a' faicinn deagh aobhar air gum biodh a' ghrian a' dannsadh air a' mhadainn àghmhor ud, coimealadh an là air an do chloisnaich Slànaighear nam Buadh am Bàs, is an d'èirich e as an uaigh 'na làn chumhachd. Chan fhaca mise riamh a' ghrian a' dannsadh an àm dhi éirigh air Di-dòmhaich Càsg, a chionn nach cuimhne leam a faicinn ag éirigh air a' mhadainn ud uair sam bith, oir cha robh mi ro mthath air a' mhoch-éirigh Dhòmhnach riamh; agus, co-dhiubh, mum faicinn a' ghrian ag éirigh, a shamhradh no a gheamhradh, dh'fheumainn, mar am mullach a bu dlùithe do'n taigh, an Càrnan Mór a ruigheachd, is bha an cnoc àillidh sin astar math bhuainn.

Ach their mi seo: chuala mi m'athair ag ràdh gum faca e fhéin i a' dannsadh an àm dhi éirigh madainn Di-dòmhaich Càsg; agus tha fios agam ciod air bith mar a chunnaic e a' ghrian a' mhadainn ud, no ciod air bith a b'aobhar dha—nàdurra gu leòr, theagamh—gu robh e féin ag creidsinn gur ann a' dannsadh a bha i!

Am Bearnan-Bride

Is dòcha gu bheil cuimhne agaibh gu robh mi a' sgrìobhadh mu bhlàthan bho chionn ghoird, agus gu robh am beàrnan-brìde air aon de'n

fheadhainn ris an do bhuin mi. Thug mi fainear cho tràth sa' bhliadhna 's a chithear e, agus mar a mhaireas e fo bhlàth eadhon gus an cuir ceud reodhadh a' gheamhraidh as dha. Chunna mi féin e cùl an taighe seo cho fada anns a' bhliadhna ri deireadh a' mhìos Samhna agus cho tràth ri làithean mu dheireadh a' Ghearrain—am bliadhna féin. Tha mo charaid, an t-Urramach Calum, Conon, ag innseadh gum faca esan e cho tràth (no cho anmoch, ma thogras sibh) ri Latha na Bliadhna Uire, agus nach ann a rinn e rannan bàrdachd dha. Is math a thig a' bhàrdachd do ar caraid, agus car son nach tigeadh, le fuil Màiri Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh a' bualadh cho bras 'na chuise!

An Duan

Seo agaibh na rannan—"Beàrnan-Bride (air do'n ùghdar fhaicinn fo bhlàth air Latha Bliadhna Uire.)"

Beàrnan-Bride buidhe buadhach,
Anns an fhuachd air tùs Bliadh'n Uir';
'S mi tha uasal as do chruadal,
Do ghnùis a luaidhne rium as ùr,
Beagan gréine 's móran géire,
Dùbhlachd speur gun sèimhe dhuinn,
'S lom thu nis ach 's mór nuair ruigeas
Buaidh, mar thuigear, air do chùl!
"Buaidh 's gach bealach 's a b'fheàrr fuireach,"
Meirg a bh'aidh Féinn Mhuile tràth,
Bratach buidhe teachd air tùs leo,
Leis nach cùladh iad sna blàir!
Ged is cruaidh iad ròs is chuaran
Cà san uair a bheil iad ann?
A' chlach mheallain mu mo chluasan,
Chan 'eil luchd do chluain ach gann.
Thig an samhradh 's thig làn gàraidh
De gach blàth is fùr,
Ach Beàrnan-Bride buidhe buadhach,
Anns an fhuachd air tùs Bliadh'n Uir'!

Feuchaibh Seo

A nis, dh'innis mi dhuibh an litir a' mhìos a dh'fhalbh gu robh rud beag agam cùl mo lùdaig 'ga ghlèidheadh dhuibh gus am faighinn cothrom air a thoirt dhuibh. Tha mo charaid féin, agus bhur caraid-sa, an t-Urramach Calum MacGilleathain, an Conan, a' toirt tairgse dhuibh, is e air miann fhaicinn ciod cho math 's a chuireas sibh Gàidhlig air ràidhteanais am Beurla a chuir e chugam. Tha e a' tairginn leth-bhreac de'n leabhar ùr Gàidhlig ud, "Am Fìlìdh Lathurnach," bàrdachd Mhic-Phàil, a thoirt do'n aon as fheàrr a thionndas na ràdhan gu Gàidhlig. Tha e a' fàgail na breith

(An còrr air an ath dhuilleig)

Cathair na Caillich

OCHIONN fhada fhada an t-saoghal bha na cailleachan a cheart cho math air iasgach ris na bodaich agus nan rachadh tu sìos chun a' chladaich chitheadh tu té thall 's a bhos 'na guraban air creig.

Tha anns na Hearadh creag àrd am beul na mara ris an canar "Cathair na Caillich," agus an uair a sheallas tu suas oirre cha mhòr nach toir thu chreidsinn ort fhéin gur h-e cathair a tha innte is aon de na gairdeannan air briseadh. Bhiodh mo sheanmhair ag ràdh gu robh cathair eile de 'n aon seòrsa anns an Eilean Sgitheanach dìreach mu choinneamh "Creag na Caillich."

A nis, o chionn fhada—bliadhnaichean is bliadhnaichean mun d'rugadh tusa no mise—bhiodh cailleach 'na suidhe an "Cathair na Caillich" agus té eile 'na suidhe anns a' chathair a bha air taobh thall a' Chuain Sgith. A h-uile feasgar 'nam beatha bhiodh iad 'nan suidhe mu choinneamh a chèile ag iasgach. Bha farmad mòr aca r'a chèile agus air son a h-uile cudaige a mharbhadh a' chailleach Hearach dh'fheuchadh a' chailleach Sgitheanach ri a dhà a mharbhadh, agus nan toireadh a' chailleach Sgitheanach a steach liùgha cha b'fhada gus am biodh liùgha air slait na Ban-Hearach. Agus b'e barail mo sheanmhair nan toireadh té dhiubh a steach muc-mhara nach lugha na muc-mhara a dh'fhoghnadh do'n té eile.

FEASGAR a bha siud, is na cudaigean ag gabhail, bha na cailleachan a' faotainn mar a tharraingeadh iad. Bha iad a' sìor bhlàthachadh ris an obair is na slatan a' sìor dhòl a mach anns a' chuan. Ach turus de na tursan nach ann a chaidh dubhan na dara té an sàs an dubhan na té eile! Thug a' chailleach Hearach dubhadh agus thug a' chailleach Sgitheanach spraghadh ach as a siud cha tigeadh dubhan. Cha b'fhada gus an robh na driamlàichean air amladh 'na chèile is na cailleachan a' sìor shlaodadh is a' sìor tharraing.

Mu dheireadh thug a' chailleach Sgitheanach —is an fhearg 'ga dalladh—an spadhadh a b'uamhasaiche, agus nach ann a thog i a' Bhan-Hearach beò glan as a cathair! Chum i gréim air gairdean na cathrach is i de'n bheachd gu robh muc-mhara co-dhiubh air gabhail air an t-slait. Bha an cudthrom air ceann na slaite a' sìor mheudachadh is gréim na caillich air a' chathair a' sìor theannachadh. Mu dheireadh siud a' chailleach Hearach a mach air a' mhuir is an t-slat anns an dara làimh is gairdean na cathrach anns an làimh eile! Ach mun do bhuail i an t-uisge thug i aon slaodadh mòr eile air an t-slait agus siud a' Bhan-Sgitheanach a mach anns a' chuan! Tha e anns

an sgeul gun do bhàthadh an dà chaillich air ball, ach b'e beachd mo sheanmhair gu bheil na cailleachan fhathast a' sìor shlaodadh air na slatan is gun tàmh ag iasgach chudaigean.

(Bho "An Cabairneach," 1944, le cead.)

LITIR EACHAINN (bho t.d. 23)

a thoirt seachad agamsa; agus tha mise mi féin a' dol fo bhann gun toir mi leabhar eile do'n dara aon as fheàrr a ni. Agus tha mi dearbhte gun faigh mi aon-eigin eile a bheil leabhar do'n treas aon.

A nis, an uair a chuireas sibh a steach bhur n-oidhirp, cuiribh sìos bhur làn-aimm le bhur sloinneadh: cha dean "D." an àite "Dòmhnall" no "A." an àite "Anna," abairibh, feum, ach an t-ainm slàn, le bhur n-àite-còmhnaidh agus am feachd do'm buin sibh, ma tha sibh ceangailte ri feachd. Theid ainmeannan an trìuar as fear a ni a bhreacadh anns a' Ghaidheal an dèidh dhuinn breith a thoirt seachad. Bithibh, ma tà, ag geurachadh bhur bioran sgrìobhaidh gu dol gu feum.

Seo agaibh na ràidhteanais:—

- (1) Among the ancient Greeks, Ajax and Achilles were excellent warriors. We can never think of the Acropolis and Athens without recollecting their fame and prowess.
- (2) Alexandria is a city in Egypt called after Alexander the Great.
- (3) The Romans and the Carthaginians had a long and bitter struggle for the mastery. It ended in the total destruction of Carthage.
- (4) Among the English clergy the Archbishop of Canterbury holds the highest place.
- (5) Charlemagne was one of the most outstanding of European kings.
- (6) The French still call the Germans Alemanni.

Feill na h-Oigridh

Tha rud beag eile a bu mhath leam a thoirt fairnear air a' mhìos seo, nì a bha meur Comunn na h-Oigridh de'n Ard-Chomhairle a' beachdachadh air a' choinneimh mu dheireadh a bha aca. Tha fios agaibh gu bheil Féill-mhòr-mhòr as leth na h-oigridh ri bhith air a gleidheadh am Baile Ghlaschu anns a' Chéitean an ath bhliadhna. Tha sinn am beachd gum bu ghasda nam biodh oisinn bheag, no *stall*, dhaibh fein aig Comunn na h-Oigridh ann. Beachdaichibh air seo feuch ciod a shaoileas sibh a ghabhas deanamh.—Bhur Caraid Dìleas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Lowlands, but there is also an Engliſhed style accompanying it in many places which is diſgusting. Cockneyism in Cockneydom does very well, but Cockneyism from the lips of a Scotsman, and far more from a Highlander, I abominate.

Where Gaelic Excels

It is true that the Gaelic is not to be compared as a learned language with the English, being very deficient in those technical terms that are used in the various branches of education. But for ordinary purposes the Gaelic is not only equal but in many things surpasses the English. The tongue of a Highlander surpasses any that I have listened to for sarcasm, wit, and good humour. For showing the good qualities of one or the bad qualities of another it is before the English. For expressing sympathy with a fellow sufferer, for the house of prayer, for the family and the social circle, for expressing the conjugal, the parental, the filial, the brotherly, the friendly feelings and affections of the heart, it is far in advance of the English. Its very simplicity gives

it a power which the English does not possess.

There is one thing, however, in which the Gaelic greatly exceeds the English, namely, in lyric poetry. To translate lyric poetry from English into Gaelic is comparatively easy, but to translate Gaelic poetry into English is not only more difficult, but we have many pieces which cannot be translated at all so as to rhyme. Let any person compare our metrical version of the Psalms of David with the English, and he cannot but see how superior it is, and even the Paraphrases, although originally composed in English, the Gaelic not only comes up to it but actually surpasses it in many places.

Cumaibh suas a' Ghàidhlig ghrinn
Ann 'ur srathaibh is 'ur glinn;
Deanaibh teagasg do 'ur cioinn,
'S na cuireadh Goill fo'n casan i.

Cainnt na h-aogheachd is na fàilt,
Cainnt a' choibhneis is a' ghràidh,
A bheir aobhneas 's gean gu fàs,
'S a chuireas blàths 'nur
n-aighean.

TAYINLOAN CEILIDH

ON 16th April a most successful Ceilidh was held in the Territorial Hall, Tayinloan, Kintyre, the crowded audience being drawn from a radius of twenty miles. The programme was provided by members of the Govan Gaelic Choir, who travelled down for the Easter week-end.

Those taking part were Donald MacRitchie, Eoghan Brown, Donald Johnstone, and Flora MacKinnon, who sang, while Donald Johnstone also played the violin. Flora Campbell from Campbeltown also delighted with her playing and singing of puirt-a-beul. Two local singers, Miss Annie MacMillan and Mr. Bunting Newhouse, also sang and received a great ovation.

The local doctor, Dr. Donald MacIntyre, who very ably acted as Fear-an-tighe, expressed appreciation of the work being done by the Govan Choir and urged the local young folk to start a Gaelic choir of their own.

Captain J. R. Maxwell MacDonald of Largie moved the votes of thanks and announced that the proceeds, amounting to £19, would be given to the committee of the Local Hall Fund.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Good Reading

THE SCOTTISH BEDSIDE BOOK (W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh, 128pp., 5/-) is "an Anthology of Prose and Verse in Scots and English" compiled by W. R. Kermark, who is the author of three very useful books: *Historical Geography of Scotland* (2nd edition, 1926), *19 Centuries of Scotland* (1944), and *Here's Scotland's Story* (1946).

The pieces selected are mostly from well-known Scottish authors, some sixteen being represented, from Allan Ramsay and James Hogg to Burns, Scott, Stevenson, Aytoun, and Carlyle. Humour, witches and warlocks, bygone beliefs and customs, war, and love and loyalty are some of the section-headings. The extracts on the Highlands include pieces from Sir Walter Scott, General Wade's report in 1724, and Boswell's Tour. Where necessary, a glossary of less well-known words is provided. The end papers give a coloured "clan map" of Scotland.

This is a useful and pleasant little book, and nothing better with a Scottish flavour can be recommended for dipping into in odd moments. Among the many good stories are the following.

The late Sir D'Arcy Thompson one Saturday night found himself in a crowded tramcar opposite a drunk man. To his horror, the latter proceeded to address him in a loud voice. "A ken ye, Professor Thoampson, A ken ye." "Yes, yes," said Thompson hastily; "I dare say, I dare say." "Ay, ye're a cliver man, Professor Thoampson, but A ken something that you dinna ken—A'm wearin' yin o' yer shurts: ma wife washes fur ye."

New Clearances?

THE SCANDAL OF THE HIGHLAND CLEARANCES (16pp., 6d.), by A. MacAindreis, poses the question, "Is history repeating itself?" with recent happenings in Knoydart in mind. There is a statement on the value of crofting, very much to the point, while a long article by a proprietor is reprinted from *The Celtic Magazine* of November 1881 urging the encouraging of crofting. Mr. MacAindreis concludes that "land settlement remains the one and only way of bringing life back to the Highlands (and many other places in Scotland besides), and every effort should be made to force the situation and compel the authorities to use the Land Settlement Act."

Miosachan Eireannach

FEASTA (Clò-bhuailte aig Clo-lann Uì Mhathghamhna, Ath Cliath).

Is e seo "iris" no miosachan Connradh na Gaedhilige an Eirinn, agus tha e a' tighinn a mach gach mìos. Tha mòran fiosrachaidh r'a fhaotainn ann, seachas mu'n dràma is mu'n ràdio is mu leabhraichean ùra is mu thachartasan an là an diugh aig a bheil buntainneas ri cor na Gàidhlig. Tha àireamh dhealbhan ann, agus tha e uile anns a' Ghàidhlig Eireannach, agus a' mhòrchuid dheth anns a' chlà Eireannach ('s e sin, anns a' chorra-litir). Is math as fhiach e ceithir sgillinn.

Ceòl air son a' Mhòid

Gheibhear a nise clàr-eagair a' Mhòid Nàiseanta a bhios an Inbhninis as t-fhoghar, agus gheibhear mar an ceudna na leabhraichean a dh'achaidh air son Earrann na h-Oigridh agus Earrann nan Inbheach. Tha an leabhar, le òrain aon-neach is rosg is bàrdachd, air son co-fharpaisean na h-oigridh ag cog tasdain. Tha naoi òrain ann, agus coig earrannan litreachais. Tha ochd òrain air son chòiseirean òga ann an leabhar eile. Air son nan inbheach gheibhear "Orain Aon-Neach, Leabhar 2," (a' phris, 1/6), le ochd òrain ann agus trì piosan litreachais.

Gaidhlig na h-Eireann

TOBAR FIORGHLAN GAEDHILGE (1450-1850); Colm O Lochlainn do thiomsuigh agus do chuir in eagar (Baile Atha Cliath: Comhartha na dtrì goinneal, 1939, 260t. d., 4/-).

Is e seo clòthadh ùr de leabhar feumail a thàinig a mach an toiseach deich bliadhna air ais. Tha e a' cur fa chomhair an leughadair piosan litreachais air an cruinneachadh a' iomadh leabhar agus a' iomadh linn agus air an cur sìos gu dòigheil a chum 's gum faic neach na caochlaidean a thàinig air a' chàin anns na ceithir cheud bliadhna mu dheireadh.

Student Verse

SCOTTISH STUDENT VERSE, 1937-47 (Scottish Union of Students, 1948, 96pp., 3/6), shows that our Universities and Colleges still harbour poets of no mean order. The strain and stress of our time have faced our young poets with grave issues, but the student penchant for light verse is still much in evidence. At least one of the authors is from the Highlands and at least one poem takes its inspiration from a Highland Scene.

Collectors of Gaelic Song

THE JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH FOLK DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY, Vol. V, No. 3 (December, 1948)—which is a special number celebrating the jubilee of the Folk Song Society (founded in 1898)—contains two interesting articles by Miss R. Ethel Bassin, one on "Frances Tolmie (1840-1926)" and the other on "Marjorie Kennedy-Fraser and *Songs of the Hebrides*." It was the Folk Song Society that, in 1911, published Miss Tolmie's important collection of 105 Gaelic songs.

For Pipers

PIPING TIMES (price 6d.) appears monthly (it first appeared in 1948) and is the official organ of the League of Young Scots College of Piping. In the numbers which we have seen, while the items are mainly of interest to pipers, there is much of general interest.

"Awful Truth about the Kilt"

THE CANADIAN MILITARY JOURNAL, May, 1948, a copy of which we received recently, contains, among a variety of interesting features, an article by Dr. W. J. Edmondston Scott entitled "Cock O' The North." Ranging from the dim ages of prehistory to modern times, the author traces the history of the kilt from the remote past and discusses the various attempts to "de-kilt" the Gael.

"The Celtic Time"

The May and June issues of *An Aimsir Cheilteach* have come to hand. They contain as usual a variety of informative and interesting articles, crammed into the very limited space available, reporting on activity and thinking in the several Celtic countries.

Murchadh is Crun a' Phension

Fhuair dithis bhàrthrean ann an Nis na còig tasdain anns an t-seachdain a thug an Rìaghalas an làmh gach fir is té 'nan sean aois, agus is e beairteas a bha an sin aig an àm. Bha na h-oghaichean aca le chéile, ach bha Murchadh 'na bhantraich. Chaidh cagar troimh an bhaile gu robh Murchadh a' suirghe air seann mhaighdinn àraidh anns an nàbacadh. Chuala Pàdraig a bhàrthair fathunn air a' bhruidhinn a bha dol.

"A Chatrona," thuir e ri a mhnaoi, "tha eagal orm gun dean Murchadh mo bhàrthair an donas leis a' chrùn!"

IAIN N. MACLEOD.

FEACHD A' PHRIONNSA

(Nuair a ràinig arm a' Phrionnsa tìr Shasainn, agus iad air an abhainn a chur as an deidh, thiondaidh iad, rùisg gach fear a chlaidheamh, agus dh'amhairc iad gu tosdach air Albainn car tacain.)

Nuair a chuir an t-arm an abhainn 's a sheas iad air ceud raointean Shasainn, thiondaidh iad gun ghlaodh, gun fhacal, dh'amhairc iad le dùrachd dhainginn air Albainn, 's rùisg gach fear a chlaidheamh. Bheachdaich iad 'nan tosd car tacain, is gheall iad dhi an neart 's an gaiseag.

Sgrìoch na truaillan fo'n stàilinn, dh'èigh a' phìob is lean am màrsal.

Tha an còrr againn air chuimhne. Chaidh an gealladh sin a chumail le ceumnan sgìth 's le lotan fuilteach. Chuir iad Gollat mòr air uidil, is, aon ri trìuir, mu dheireadh thuit iad.

Dhùin iad an greis a bhos le alladh—Aon chuairt, aon chuairt gheibh sinn air thalamh a nochdadh an fhaghairt a th'annainn, a dheuchainn faobhar ar tapachd, a chosnadh cliù do'r tìr no masladh.

Is e bu chòir dhùinn stad is tionndadh, amharc air ar tìr le dùrachd, le gealladh blàth gun bhòsd, gun bhùitich, is lann ar spioraid theth a rùsgadh, seann lann lasair-gheal ar dùthcha; 's a liuthad bliadhna meirg' is dùsail a mhaolaich I san truaill dhùinte. B'e 'n dùsal dubh e—seo an dùsgadh.

DEORSA CAIMBEUL HAY.

INVERNESS GAELIC SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

AT the Annual Dinner of the Inverness Gaelic Society, held in the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, in April, the new Chief, General Sir Philip Christison, Bart., presided over a company of about sixty.

General Christison, who not only spoke in Gaelic and English but also sang in Gaelic, recalled that Gaelic was commonly spoken in Badenoch in his boyhood days there forty years ago, but today it is rarely spoken by the young people. Though Gaelic is taught in many schools, and the young have an opportunity of acquiring it, many have not the will.

Minerals in the Highlands

THE North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board have announced that they are carrying out an investigation into the development of the raw materials of the Highlands by the use of electricity. The investigation will be supervised by Mr. Robert H. S. Robertson, a Glasgow geologist and chemical engineer. Mr. Robertson, incidentally, is a member of the Council of the Highland Development League and of the Committee of the Clan Albainn Society.

The investigation will cover a general examination of the resources of the Highlands in the hope that the application of new technical processes may lead to the commercial exploitation of undeveloped minerals and other raw materials, and to the establishment of new industries which will provide employment for the people of the area. Many of the raw materials

"With the coming of these new industries to the North," said Sir Philip, "there is a great danger of a loss to our language and our culture. Young people will be drawn from the small villages and the Islands to the industrial towns on the east coast, and, if they don't lose their Gaelic tongue, their children certainly will not be brought up as Gaelic speakers, unless something is done to change the outlook. I feel we are living in a very critical time as regards the future of the language."

of the North of Scotland have not been worked because of lack of power and other facilities, or because firms have been unable to experiment with special techniques.

Minerals of widespread occurrence in the Highlands will receive attention. These include limestone, dolomite, felspar, talc, serpentine, dunite, diatomite, clays, sands and gravels.

The Hydro-Electric Board have endowed a Research Scholarship at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, where scientific research will be directed by Professor W. M. Cumming. Technical research will be carried out in the Board's electrical research laboratory at Dundee. This will be chiefly concerned with the development of suitable electrical apparatus for processing. A start has been made with experimental work to examine the de-watering of wet materials, such as peat and diatomite, by electrical methods.

Investigations will be directed towards finding processes which will permit the finishing of products in the area, instead of involving transport of materials to manufacturing centres in the South; and also towards developing processes which will supply products for which there is a demand in the North.

Enquiries are also being made about the purification, separation, and treatment of raw materials.



Camping by the Sound of Mull ("Caol Muile Mo Ghraidh")

Annas a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

"Beinn Dorain"

Dear Sir,—Your reviewer says, "Surely 'laoghan' (line 76) is 'little calf,' not 'calves.' The plural of 'laogh' is invariably 'laigh,' not 'laoghan.'"

I regret that I disagree with him, and that for the following reasons:—

- (1) 'laoghan' is given as a plural of 'laogh' by Dwelly.
- (2) Calder in his textbook took 'laoghan' in line 76 as a plural.
- (3) Duncan Ban himself followed in line 77 with the plural possessive, viz.: 'n.
- (4) texts A (by Stewart of Luss), B, C, and D, all read "laoghian," which I take to be a plural amended to "laoghan" in E on account of the "chao!" in line 75.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN MACKECHNIE.

The reviewer replies:—

- (1) While Dwelly gives both "laogh" and "laoghan" as the plural of "laogh," he cites no instance of "laoghan" as a plural, but he does give "laoghan" as a diminutive of "laogh," and actually quotes this very phrase from line 76 of "Beinn Dorain" as an example of "laoghan" as a diminutive. Therefore, even if Dwelly were correct in supposing that "laoghan" is sometimes a plural, he himself did not regard "laoghan" in line 76 as a plural but as a diminutive.
- (2) In this particular instance Dr. Calder was as mistaken as Mr. MacKechnie is, and probably for the same reasons.
- (3) The plural possessive in line 77 obviously refers to "eilid" and her "laoghan," not to "laoghan" alone. After all, the "eilid" also has a "gasgan geal."
- (4) "laoghian," as well as "laoghan," is heard in common speech, but both mean the same—the diminutive of "laogh." In both words, as pronounced, the "a" of the final syllable is unmistakably different from the "a" of the plural ending "an". On paper of course, they look the same.

- (5) In the first edition of the Gaelic Old Testament (1783-1801), for which Stewart of Luss was editor-in-chief, the plural of "laogh" occurs twelve times, but never as "laoghan" or "laoghian." The forms used are: nominative plural, laigh; genitive plural, laogh; dative plural, laigh or laoghaibh.
- (6) None of the following dictionaries gives "laoghan" as a plural (the first three specifically mention it as a diminutive): Highland Society's, MacLeod and Dewar, MacEachen, MacLennan, MacFarlane, and Dieckhoff.

Gaidhlig an Radio

A Charaid Chòir,—Tha sinn an comain luchd-na-Gaidhlighe air am B.B.C. airson a' chumail suas a tha aca air taobh Gaidhealach na cùise. Bu mhath leam gu robh fhios aca gu bheil mòran buidheach orra air son sin. Agus an dràda "s" a rithist thig o'n ràdio nithean a bheir ùrachadh is fiosrachadh duinn.

Nach bu chùis mholaidd na seanchasan aig Donnchadh Mac Dhòmhnaill? Sin seanchaidh ceart! Agus nach bu taghte a' chòrlaidh a bha feasgar eile aig Eachann MacIomhair, agus nach bu chùis aire an t-seinn a bha leotha? Tha iad siud, le chéile, a deanamh soilleir gur leipideach a bhith cur fath-rudan an àite nan rudan cearta a tha beò 's a' brea-badaich far 'eil mac a Ghaidheil is nigean a' Ghaidheil "air am bòrd mòr." Buidh is piseach!—Gu deas dìleas,

DONNCHADH DONN.

Gaidhlig nam Pìoghaidean

A Charaid,—Tha mise gu mòr an comain an Urr. Calum Mac-Gilleathain, Conon, air son suim a ghabhail de "Ghaidhlig nam Pìoghaidean" mun robh mi sgrìobhadh anns a' Ghaidheal.

Gun teagamh sam bith, mar a tha mo charaid ag ràdh, tha mi fhéin ag creidsinn gu mòr ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh nan òran Ghaidhlig air a teagaidh do an chloinn. Tha iad fhéin ag gabhail tlachd anns an iomairt sin, agus ged nach biodh iad comasach air aon fhacal Gaidhlig a labhairt rè an beatha, bidh meas aca air na òr-àrain, agus cha dì-chuimhnich iad na fuinn cò-dhuibh.

Ach ciod am feum a ni e do an Ghaidhlig an uair a thig inbhidh gu Mòd le dà òran air an teagaidh, is gun fhios air an talamh aca air brìgh nam faclan a tha iad a' seinn? Is dòcha gu faigh cuid aca duais, ach cha bhi guth tuille mo ionnsachadh na cànanan an dèidh sin gun an tig an ath Mhòd, agus an uair sin ionnsaidh iad òran eile air an teagaidh.

Sin, 'na mo bheachd-sa, iomairt nan "learners" anns a' choitcheann: agus an saoil sibh fhéin gu bheil mòran feuma anns an rian sin? Nach bu chòir deuchainn a chur air na "learners" o bhliadhna gu bliadhna feuch ciod an t-adhartas a rinn iad ann am foghlam na cànanan?

Feumar rud-eigin de an t-seòrsa sin a dheanamh air neo thèid àireamh nam "pìoghaidean" am meud o bhliadhna gu bhliadhna.

IAIN N. MACLEOID.

A' Cunntas Linntean

A Charaid,—Is còir duinn cur mu dheidhinn nì riaghailteach as fèarr na an dòigh seo againn air bhliadhnaichean fada ainmenchadh an Gaidhlig. B'e an dòigh a bha aig na seann sgoilearan na miltean, na ceudan, na ficheadan, is an còrr àireamh. Chuireadh iad 1647 sìos mar "mìle, sè ceud, dà fhichead is a seachd." Tha mi an dùil gur i an dòigh eile—a bhith ag àireamh, as eughmhas a' mhìle, a réir nan ceudan—fada as fèarr. Sin an dòigh ris a bheil sinn cleachde 'nar Beurla—"fourteen" an àite "one thousand four hundred." Bhiodh sinn cho sgiobalta an Gaidhlig mar "ceithir-deug" (agus thuigeamaid gu robh sin ceud fillte). Mar sin dheanamaid 1447 'na "ceithir deug dà fhichead 's a seachd," agus am bhliadhna seo "naoi deug dà fhichead 's a naoi." Is nàr duinn "nineteen forty-nine" a ràdh agus sinn ri Gaidhlig, agus dol as againn air! Chan 'eil a dhith oirnn ach an cleachdadh ris. Ghabhadh e deanamh na bu sgiobalta mar "ceithir deug dà fhichead seachd," agus "naoi deug dà fhichead, naoi."—H.

GILL AMHLAIDH (bho t.d. 76)

chuir sin 'na luib, agus thug e dhachaidh leis trì a chladhaidh e á uaignean na naomh.

Bha an t-astar fada agus duilich ach ràinig e Cill Amhlaidh mu dheireadh thall agus sgap e an ùr choisrigte a thug e as an Ròimh an sin le comharradh na Croise. O an latha sin tha Cill Amhlaidh air a mheas mar àite naomh sìanta. Is tric a sheas mi air an talamh seo.

(Eadar-theangachadh o an *Celtic Magazine*, àireamh an Fhaoillich, 1888).

IAIN N. MACLEOID.

Naidheachd an h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

THE work of the session is drawing to a close and branches are now arranging for their annual general meetings. Activities will continue for some time in those districts where provincial mods are to be held.

Beaully

At the annual general meeting of the Beaully branch, it was reported that the past session had been a very successful one. Mr. J. N. MacLeod continues as President and Mr. Ewen Campbell as Secretary and Treasurer. The sum of £40 was donated to the National Mod funds, and sincere thanks are due for this handsome donation.

Inverness

Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhirnis held its annual meeting recently. Mr. Donald MacPhail continues as President for another year. Mr. Murdoch MacLeod was appointed Hon. Secretary and Miss J. E. MacKenzie Hon. Treasurer. A warm tribute was paid to Mr. Angus MacLeod who had to resign the office of Hon. Secretary as he is to leave the district. A similar tribute was paid to Miss Morag MacDonald who had held the office of Hon. Treasurer for several years. A donation of £10 10/- was made to the National Mod and £5 5/- for the use of the children attending at the Gaelic Camp at Inverailort this year.

National Mod

The net proceeds from the series of concerts organised by Mr. MacPhail, in aid of the National Mod funds, realised £121 11/1.

Sub-Committees

Meetings of the Northern Propaganda and Education sub-committees were held recently and the work of the session reviewed.

Reelig

The Northern Organiser presided at a ceilidh organised by Major and Mrs. Fraser of Reelig. This was an effort in aid of the National Mod funds and realised a sum of £10. The Chairman thanked the good people of Reelig for their support for the Mod.

Kyle Area

Three days were devoted to the South-West Ross Mod area, and the Organiser was present at a meeting of the local mod committee at Kyle when arrangements for the forthcoming local mod were

brought forward. It is feared that no senior choirs will be competing this year due to the lack of a music teacher in the area. A good entry of junior choirs is expected and other sections of the mod will be well represented. Visits were also made to the schools at Plockton, Dunraig, and Dornie.

Tain

At a ceilidh under the auspices of the Tain branch, Mr. Donald MacPhail acted as Fear-an-Tighe. The hall was full to capacity, and the proceeds are to be donated to the National Mod funds. Mr. A. R. MacKenzie, President, moved the customary votes of thanks and the Chairman thanked the branch for their support. Mr. Angus MacLeod accompanied Mr. MacPhail and sang several Gaelic songs.

National Mod

Several functions have been held recently under the auspices of the Ladies' Committee and the Entertainments Committee and proceeds from these are helping to swell the Mod funds.

Mod Executive Council

At a meeting of the National Mod Executive Council satisfaction was expressed with the work of the various Committees.

Gaelic and Shinty

A six-a-side shinty competition is to be held in the Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday, 28th May, in aid of the National Mod funds. This will be the first of its kind and the intention is to hold this Tournament annually in support of the Mod wherever it may be held. This could be termed shinty's contribution to Gaelic. (This event will, of course, be over by the time these 'Notes' appear).

Elgin

Mr. D. C. Cowan, who has been teaching a Gaelic class under the auspices of the County Education Committee during last session, was met by members of the class and entertained in the Station Hotel.

Tributes were paid to the good work accomplished by Mr. Cowan. In reply, Mr. Cowan said it was a great joy to teach them and he looked forward to their further advancement. He then presented Gaelic books to two of the pupils for the excellence of their work. The singing of the 23rd Psalm in Gaelic brought a happy and successful evening to an end.

Aviemore

The Organiser was at Aviemore recently and assisted the local Mod Secretary to prepare the time-table and programme for the mod to be held on 3rd June.

Aberdeen

The Aberdeen branch has had a very successful session and proceeds from several functions have been earmarked for the National Mod funds. At the closing meeting of the session, Major Calum Iain MacLeod was the speaker. He took the place of the Northern Organiser who was unable to be present. Calum Iain sails for Cape Breton on 27th May to take up his new post in the Gaelic College there. We take this opportunity of congratulating him on his important appointment and wish him well in all his endeavours. *Gach beannachd a bhith 'na chois!*

Mr. Donald MacDonald

Readers will be glad to know that Mr. Donald MacDonald, Inverness, a member of the Executive Council, who has been indisposed for some time, is making good progress towards recovery. The wish of his many friends is that he may soon be restored to health and vigour again.

KINLOCHLEVEN CEILIDH

AT the April monthly ceilidh of the Kinlochleven branch the President, Mr. Hugh MacGregor, presided over a good attendance despite the inclement weather.

The guest artistes, Miss Dorothy Hunter and Mr. Angus Whyte from Glasgow (Mr. Alasdair Matheson, unfortunately, was unable to come), acquitted themselves well, and were ably assisted by local artistes, Anne Mackintosh, R. L. Maguire, Jack MacLeod, and Colin MacInnes. Piper Allan MacLean gave stirring airs on the bagpipes, and Wendy Barrie rounded off a well-balanced programme with highland dancing. Miss Jenny McCulloch was the accompanist. A dance followed, with Donald Currie as M.C. The arrangements were in the hands of Mr. James Frew, Secretary.

Clachan Clubs in Skye

MISS ANNE GRANT, Further Education Officer for Skye, has in two years managed to establish a number of "Clachan Clubs" in Skye, and—in spite of the lack of material and of instructors—much has been done to teach useful crafts. It is hoped that a "souvenir-industry" may be built up.

The Knoydart Reply

OCH NAN OCH, MAR A THA

In a Memorial which they have sent to the Secretary of State for Scotland the Men of Knoydart have given their reply to the report and proposals of Mr. John A. Cameron (see *An Gaidheal*, April 1949, p. 42).

They point out that Mr. Cameron's conclusions are inconsistent with recommendations made in 1946 and 1947 and, indeed, as long ago as 1895, for land settlement in Knoydart. In the early 19th century Knoydart supported on small holdings a population ten times larger than it does today. The chief cause of the disappearance of the holdings and of the crofting townships was the change-over to large-scale sheep farming under single direction, such as Mr. Cameron now advocates.

They complain that Mr. Cameron has confined his attention too much to the potentialities of Knoydart as a stock-raising or afforestation area, and scarcely discussed social issues at all, although that was included in his terms of reference. They also reply in detail to Mr. Cameron's four main assumptions underlying his objections to family holdings, namely, (1) lack of arable land; (2) lack of "mossing"

for winter "feed"; (3) dependence of former population on sea-fishing; and (4) failure of the sea-fishing.

Other difficulties, stated by Mr. Cameron to be "insuperable," are discussed and found to be not impossible of solution.

Finally, they draw the Secretary of State's attention to "his statutory duty" under various Acts of Parliament to provide holdings where land is available and men are desirous of working it.

B'Aithne Dha Ioseph

Bha cailleach an siud an Inns-Gall uair, agus bha e 'na chleachdadh aice a bhith leughadh a' Bhiobuill air feasgar na Sàbaide, is bhiodh am bodach an comhnuidh ag éisdeachd.

Air an fheasgar seo thachair gu robh i leughadh eachdraidh Ioseph agus a bhraitean anns an Eiphit. An uair a chuala am bodach "Ioseph," thuir e: "Stad, a Mhàiri, chunnaic mise a cheart duine sin aig iasgach Cheann-Phàdraig!"

Is e ceannaiche-siubhal a thachair ris aig an iasgach air an robh am bodach a' smoinneachadh aig an àm. IAIN N. MACLEOD.

(Fhuair an t-òran seag air bloigh pàipeir a bha am measg leabhraichean an Ollaimh Fhris-ealaich nach maireann. "Taken down from my mother's recitation, c. 1919" 'S e marbhrann do neach air choireigin a th'ann.—J. L. C.)

Och nan och, mar a thà,
Thuit mo chridhe gu làr,
O'n a fhuair mi sgeul bàis mo
rùin.

Thàinig an oiteag o'n àrd
'S leig i an t-ubhal a bhàn:
'S iomadh bothan a dh'fhàg i
rùiste.

Mar ghàir sheillean am bruch
Déis a' mhil a thoid uadh',
'S ionann stod 's mar bha sluaigh do
dhùthcha.

'S e do theagaisg le buaidh
Dhùis'ghadh peacaidh á suan
'S a dh'fhàgadh cridheachan cruaidh
cùirte.

'S tu bhireadh léirsinn dha'n dall
'S a chuireadh treun an neach fan
A réir 's na bhiodh ann do dhùinn.

'S tha na h-easbuigean bàn
An trom-chadal a' bhàis
'S e mo chreach ri là bhàrach nach
dùisg.

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Proceeds of Raffle at Work Party Meeting ..	—	1	14

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Received at Inverness—

Previously acknowledged	£543	3	4
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Proceeds of Whist Drive, Dochgarroch W.R.I.	9	—	—
Special Effort at Culca- bock, per N. J. Mac- Leod	54	4	10
Special Effort at Balmain, per K. MacLean	24	1	1
Mallaig Branch	10	—	—
Proceeds of Ceilidh, Inverness	2	7	10
Proceeds of Whist Drive, Inverness, per Misses Zena Beaton and Mairi MacRae	11	—	—

£687 15 7

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	£47	5	—
David Urquhart, Esq., Glasgow	—	10	—
Vale of Leven Branch	15	—	—
Gaelic Society of Glasgow	5	—	—
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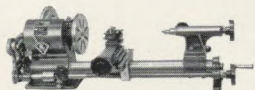
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Clar-Innsidh

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Magazine

THE change-over to the new form at the beginning of the year led to considerable delay in issuing the January number, with the result that each monthly issue since then has been anything from three to four weeks late. We had hoped gradually to work our way back to the first of the month as our publication-date, but we find that it is impossible to do so, since the Magazine in its new form means a great deal of extra work both for the editor and manager and for the printers.

We have therefore decided, but very reluctantly, to omit the July number, and to call this issue the "July-August Number." Subscribers, of course, will have their current subscriptions extended one month.

Every effort will be made to have the July-August Number available by the 1st of August, and thereafter, we hope, each monthly issue will appear promptly on the 1st of each month.

Honoured by the King

AMONG those who were honoured in the King's Birthday Honours List was Mr. Albert E. McColl, M.I.E.E., Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chairman of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, who received a Knighthood, a deserved recognition of the remarkable progress made by the Board in the few years since its inception. Sir Edward McColl, as he must now be called, belongs to Dumbarton, and from 1927 to 1948 was Manager for Scotland of the Central Electricity Board.

The M.B.E. was awarded to Mr. Lachlan MacRae, a native of Gairloch, who is Assistant Staff Administration Officer of the B.B.C.; and to Miss Morag A. Sinclair, a native of Loch Aline, who has for

many years been school-mistress at Strontian School.

We offer to them all our congratulations.

Poignancy attaches to the award of the C.B.E. to Colonel the Rev. Alasdair Ross, chaplain to the Forces (1st Class), Royal Army Chaplains' Department. Colonel Ross died a few days after the announcement of the Honours List. Tributes to him appear on pages 89 and 91 of this issue.

"The Stornoway Gazette"

THE *Gazette*, so ably edited by Mr. J. S. Grant and with its readers all over the world, has entered upon a new stage in its history. Established in 1917, it has hitherto been printed on the mainland, but it is now being printed in Stornoway, printing plant having been installed there.

One wonders what printing-presses, if any, have previously been at work in the Western Isles. There was at least one. It was owned and operated by the Rev. John Swanson, minister of Small Isles from 1839 to 1843 and Free Church minister there from 1843 to 1847. He used it chiefly for printing religious tracts. Do any copies of these survive? Mr. Swanson, by the way, lived after 1843 in a "floating manse," the yacht *Betsy*, as the congregation were refused a site for a manse. (See Hugh Miller's "*The Cruise of the Betsy*.")

Caiptean Dùghall MacCormaig

THA ar caraid còir air tilleadh air ais do Astràlia, agus bithidh mòran 'ga iondrain an Glaschu air an ath-gheamhradh. Bha e glé fhrithheilteach aig coinneamhan Gaidhealach agus gu sònraichte aig a' Chéilidh. Turus math dha agus tilleadh sàbhailte!

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Cha dean dubhan rùisgte iasgach.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Bha mi san uile chruth do na h-uile dhaoine, chum air gach uile dhòigh gun saorainn cuid-eigin.—1 *Corint.* ix. 22.

Rev. Roderick Morison

THE REV. RODERICK MORISON, Lit.A., minister of the High Church, Stornoway, has resigned his charge and is retiring from the active ministry. Born in 1860, Mr. Morison is the oldest minister in the Outer Hebrides, and right up to his demission has been wonderfully able to fulfil the duties of his large congregation.

A native of Stornoway, Mr. Morison was minister of Lochcarron Free and United Free Church from 1899 to 1911, in which latter year he was inducted to the High Church, Stornoway. He was clerk of the United Free Presbytery of Lochcarron and for many years of the Presbytery of Lewis, and has served the Church in many ways. In 1907 he visited the South African Mission Field as Deputy of the Foreign Mission Committee.

Mr. Morison has composed a number of Gaelic hymns and translated English hymns into Gaelic. Many of these have been published in *An Fhianais*, while several appear in the Gaelic hymnary, *An Laoidheadair* (1936). In 1926 he edited "*Glimpses of Portrona*" by the late R. M. Stephen.

We wish Mr. Morison a happy retirement. Shàinte is sonas is gach beannachd eile a bhith maille ris, agus e air obair mhór a choimhionadh.

Miss May Margaret MacMillan

FOR some years there has been in operation a scheme whereby a number of teachers from this country interchange posts for one year with teachers in the Dominions. Among the fifty-seven teachers who are this year interchanging with Canadian teachers is Miss May Margaret MacMillan, M.A., of Hamilton Crescent Junior Secondary School, Glasgow, who is going to Toronto for a year.

As our readers know, May Margaret, like her sisters, Annie and Helen, is a Mod God Medallist and one of our most popular Gaelic singers. We extend to her our best wishes for a happy year in Toronto, although she will be much missed here. We feel sure that the Scots, and especially the Gaels, in Toronto will give her a warm welcome.

Lovat Scouts

THE War Office have decided that the Lovat Scouts, who at present form a squadron of the Scottish Horse, will be a separate unit on their own again. Their official title will be: 677 Mountain Regiment, Royal Artillery (Lovat Scouts), T.A. The Regiment will be equipped with mortars pending the issue of a mountain gun. It

will consist of a Regimental H.Q. centred at Inverness and two Batteries each of two Troops. Each Troop will have four guns.

One Battery will be centred in Inverness and will recruit from the mainland of Inverness-shire, Ross-shire, and Sutherland. It will be chiefly a mechanised Battery equipped with jeeps. The other Battery will be raised in Skye, North and South Uist, and Benbecula, and will be a Pack Battery using ponies, and so will be the only horsed unit in the Army apart from the Household Cavalry and the King's Troop Horse Artillery.

The Commanding Officer will be Lieutenant-Colonel D. Welsh, D.S.O. The Honorary Colonel is Colonel I. M. Campbell.

Miss Normanna MacAskill

IT was with great regret that many of us learned that Miss MacAskill, Organiser of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund, had resigned. It is natural, of course, that a trained nurse should be strongly attracted back to her own profession, and we would wish Miss MacAskill every success in her career. We are grateful for the large amount of good work she did as Organiser. Both in her office and in her travels about the country she worked hard, and the fruits of her labours are still in large measure to be gathered in.

Dr. Mackay of Toronto

IT is always a pleasure to meet Scots from overseas, and a few days ago we were glad to meet Dr. MacKay, Chief of the Gaelic Society of Toronto, and to get from him news of the Gaels in the great dominion of Canada. Dr. MacKay, who is a medical specialist, has been working on the staff of an Oxford hospital for six months and by the time this note appears will have returned home to Toronto.

Grounds for Optimism

EARLIER in the year, at the annual dinner of Glasgow University Ossianic Club (Miss May Margaret MacMillan, President, in the chair), Dr. D. J. MacLeod, Honorary President, in replying to a toast, said there was considerable optimism about the future of the Highlands. He instanced ways in which progress was being made, but felt that Orkney has much to teach the West Highlands and Isles.

Urging the Club to support the Gaelic language, Dr. MacLeod said there is as much practical value in knowing Gaelic as in knowing French. French, after all, was just "the Latin of Julius Caesar's camps" filtered through Gaelic throats."

Gaelic in the Preliminary Examination

IN our February Number (*Notes and Comments*, p.14) we wrote: "A correspondent tells us that a person wishing to sit Gaelic in the Scottish Universities Preliminary Examination must pay, in addition to the examination fee of £1 11s. 6d. (which covers English, Mathematics, Science, Latin, Greek, French, German, Italian), an extra fee of £4 4s. (as for Armenian, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Gujarati, etc.)."

The authority for our correspondent's statement was the 1948-49 Calendar of St. Andrews University, where (on pp. 78-80) it is distinctly stated that candidates offering Gaelic in the Preliminary Examination pay an extra fee of four guineas. Our correspondent naturally assumed that the same regulations and scale of fees applied to all four Universities.

The Registrar of Glasgow University, on having the above allegation brought to his notice, wrote to say: "the information contained in the paragraph is quite wrong. The fee for the Preliminary Examination in Gaelic is £1 11s. 6d., with no extra fee whatsoever."

We thereupon wrote to the Secretaries of the other Scottish Universities, and received replies from which it was apparent that the Universities did not all deal with the matter in the same way, and the situation was still not clear. There was the added complication that, as from March 1949, new regulations for the Preliminary Examination have come into force, although the Entrance Board's "Announcements" concerning this make no mention of a scale of fees.

We therefore wrote to the Secretary of the Scottish Universities Entrance Board (Sir William Tennant), and asked him to be good enough to clarify the position.

Sir William, having investigated the matter, has now replied:

"I have now ascertained that, at least from 1947 onwards, no Scottish University has charged an extra fee from candidates taking Gaelic at the Preliminary Examination. I understand that you have received replies direct from Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities on this subject, and St. Andrews University, which has had no candidates in Gaelic from 1947 onwards, is aware of the fact that no extra charge should be made. Glasgow University, as you already know, has never made an extra charge." EDITOR.

Sop As Gach Seid

LE NIALL MAC-AN-TUAIRNEIR

NACH iomadh caochladh a thug dian ruith nan timean air Eileanan an Iar na Gaidhealtachd agus air cleachd-ainn an t-sluaigh a tha tuineachadh anna.

Anns a' cheud àite, tha e duilich ri luaidh nach 'eil idir uibhir dhaoine air na h-eileanan 's a bha orra, eadhon bhò chionn àireamh bheag de bhliadhnan air ais. Tha mo chuimhne gu robh mu thuireamh còig ceud anam air an eilean bheag ud a rinn m'arach, agus iad gun dìth gun deireas orra ann. An diugh 's gann a tha trì cheud air.

Gu dé is coireach? Sin ceist nach 'eil glé fharasda a fuasgladh —tha caochladh adhbhar air.

Nuair a thog an òigridh orra air falbh ri linn a' chogaidh mhóir (1914-18) 's a chunnaic iad cho goireasach 's a bha chisean air an t-ir-mhór, cha robh an t-iarraich ceudna anna gu tighinn a chomhnaidh san àite san d'rugadh iad. Cha b'e nach ann a b'fheàrr leotha bhith tàmh, nan robh gach cùis is goireas eile mar am miann. Cha robh cosnadh no teachd-an-tir dhaibh uile anns na h-eileanan, agus mar sin nach fheumte am fàgail? Gidheadh, tha dùil aig gu leòir dhiubh crìoch an latha a chur seachad am measg nan àitean ud san d'fhuair iad a' cheud chuireadh. Chan 'eil e gu defir càite an cuir thu an t-eileanach, no gu dé cho math 's a tha e air dòigh, tha iarraich 'na chridhe is 'na anam gu bhith tilleadh a dh'ionnsaigh an eilein ud san cùal e an toiseach nuallan a' chuan uamhalta bhorb, agus far an do dh'òl e gaoth fhallain a tha séideadh thar muir is monadh.

Abhachdas

THA aon nì eile a tha doannan ri bhith tàladh inntinn is iargain an eileanaich dachaidh, agus 's e sin gu bheil an sluaigh a dh'fhàg e coibhneil, bàidheil, lomalan de spòrs 's de chridhealas, fad air thoiseach air muinntir sam bith eile am measg an d'fhuair an t-eilthreach ud e féin. Tha tomhais mhór de àbhachdas 's de spòrs neo-lochdach am measg muinntir nan eilean—spòrs air nach 'eil an Gall eòlach 's air nach ruig a thuigse ach air iomall.

Bha agus tha géiread cainte ri chluinntinn am measg luchd nan eilean, agus tha iad comharrachichte seach buidheann eile ris an tachair thu. Dheanadh e cnapach leabhair na tha de naidheachdan gasda air àbhachdas nan eileanach.

Chuala mi turus mu Sgitheanach a thàinig air tìr le grunnan chaorach air laimrig Loch-nam-madadh an Uibhist a Tuath, agus dùil aige an iomain gu baile-fearainn àraidh. Air an rathad a steach gu ruige Baile-MhicPhàil cò a thachair air ach Beàrnarach 's e air turus gu ruige Loch-nam-madadh.

"Càite," ars am Beàrnarach, "a bheil dùil agad an spréidh sin a thoirt?"

"Tha," ars esan, "gu ruige Beàrnaraidh, far am faigh mi seachd luach air gach aon dhiubh."

"Gu cinnteach," fheargair am fear eile, "bu bhochd duit nach do dh'fhan thu leotha an eilean t'aracha far an do rcic Gillesbuig Aotrom an trosg seachd uairean!"

Duine Sgaiteach

UAIR eile bha duine còir, agus duine sgaiteach air a theanga, a Beàrnaraidh air féill Loch-nam-madadh le spréidh a bha e ri creic. Thachair gu robh aige làir, agh, agus gamhainn. Fhuair e creic air a' ghamhainn an toiseach, agus bha aige ri thoirt sìos thun an taigh-òsda far an robh an dròbhair gu a pháidheadh. A chionn nach

robh aig Ailean duine a chumadh an làir 's an t-agh gun an tilleadh e bho lioobraigeadh a' ghamhna, chan fhac e nì a b'fheàrr air son an cumail cuideachd na taod an aighe a cheangal ri iorball na làra. Bha seo cho annasach leis an òigridh a bha mun cuairt agus gun deachaidh gille a mhuinntir taobh-an-iar Uibhist a dh'fheorach de Ailean an i an làir a rug an t-agh aige.

"Gu cinnteach," fheargair Ailean, "chan abair mise gur làir do mhàthair-sa, ach rug i each an latha a rug i thusa!"

Bha Ailean latha eile 's e ri coiseachd air an rathad dachaidh bho Loch-nam-madadh gu Port-nan-long, far am faigheadh e an t-aiseag null do Bheàrnaraidh. Tha e coltach gu robh "suagan" math an ceann a' bhodaich air chor 's gu robh e ri beataidh an rathaid. Cò a rug air ach am bàillidh le carbad.

"Tha an rathad an diugh ro chumhann duit, Ailein," ars esan.

"Chan ann air a leud a tha mi gearan," ars Ailean, "ach air fhaid."

"Thig a steach, ma tà," ars am bàillidh, agus mar seo fhuair Ailean faigh air a cheann-uidhe air bheag dragh.

(An còrr air l. d. 93)

The Late Rev. A. Ross

A LOSS TO GAELDOM

MANY will have learned with great regret of the death on 12th June of Colonel the Rev. Alasdair Ross, M.A., Assistant Chaplain - General, Scottish Command.

Born at Glendale, Skye, in 1891, Mr. Ross was educated at the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, and Edinburgh University. During the first World War he served in France and Flanders. Following a short period as assistant minister at St. Stephen's Church, Edinburgh, he became parish minister of Stornoway in 1922, but after a two years' ministry there he was appointed to an army chaplaincy.

When the second World War began in 1939 Mr. Ross was a senior chaplain in Cairo and, taking part in General Wavell's first desert campaign, was mentioned in despatches. Returning home in 1942, he held various appointments and in 1947 became Assistant Chaplain - General, Scottish Command. Only a few days before his death his name appeared in the King's Birthday Honours List as the recipient of the honour of C.B.E.

Colonel Ross took an active part in Gaelic and Highland affairs

and interested himself particularly in several of the Highland societies in Edinburgh, where he will be greatly missed by the Highland community. He was Honorary President of Celticladh nan Gaidheal an Dun-eideann and an office-bearer of the Celtic Union. He was also a member of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and only recently he was appointed editor of the "Clan MacLeod Magazine" (his mother and his wife were both MacLeods).

Colonel Ross was a brother of the late Rev. Neil Ross, C.B.E., D.D., D.Litt., renowned as scholar, preacher, and poet, and a former President of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and, like his brother, was also a Gaelic poet of ability.

After an impressive funeral service in St. Giles' Cathedral, the funeral cortege with full military honours moved to Princes Street Station and the burial took place on the following day at Dunvegan.

Alasdair Ross was highly esteemed by all who knew him, and beloved by those who knew him well. His death is a severe loss. We would extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and son and other relatives.

Local Mod Reports

EDINBURGH

THE fifth annual mod was held on 21st May in the Central Halls, and the entries included competitors from Glasgow, Hawick, Perth, Pitlochry, Dunoon, and Campbeltown, although most of those competing were from the city itself. A large audience was present at the competitions.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic Mr. Sorley MacLean, Mr. Hector MacIver, Rev. J. K. Murchison, and Rev. Roderick Smith; for Music, Mr. J. B. R. Whitfield, Miss Morag MacDonald, Mr. A. M. Ross, Mr. R. Greenfield, and Mr. Calum Johnston. Mr. Douglas Young presided over the mod concert, and the guest artistes were Misses Kitty MacLeod and Madge Campbell Brown, and Messrs Gilbert MacPhail and Iain R. Douglas. Mr. Young referred to the interest in Gaelic shown by non-Gaelic speakers. He said that it was perhaps the case that people who had Gaelic already were less interested in it than those who did not know it.

First-Prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Conversation (learners)—Catherine Montgomery. Solo singing (confined)—Murdo Montgomery. Solo singing (open)—Christine MacBride, Glasgow. Pianoforte—Sheila Campbell. Violin—Mona Connolly. Bagpipe playing—John Burgess.

SENIOR SECTION

Reciting from memory—Kenneth Campbell. Reading modern Gaelic prose—Peggy MacDonald. Sgeulachd—Johan MacLeod.

Solo singing (ladies' voices, confined)—Flora MacNeil. Own choice (open)—Flora MacNeil. Prescribed song—Flora MacNeil. Solo singing (men's voices, confined)—C. R. Ross. Own choice (open)—C. R. Ross. Prescribed song—C. R. Ross. Solo singing (learners)—Rona MacLeod. Duet—Tom Crawford and Carol Galbraith. Piirt-a-beul—Carol Galbraith.

Pianoforte—Eric Campbell. Violin—Mona Connolly. Piobair-eachd—John Burgess.

GLASGOW

THE Glasgow Local Mod on 27th and 28th May was an outstanding success and the officers-bearers and committee of the joint-branches, Govan and Glasgow

(Central), are deserving of congratulations on the result of their efforts.

A large number of juveniles competed in the oral section, and over thirty competitors recited "Tir nan Og," all of whom acquitted themselves most creditably. The singing was of a high standard, and the continuance of this mod is fully justified.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. John MacLean, H.M.I.S., Rev. John Mackay, and Rev. D. W. Mackenzie; for Music, Mr. J. Gillmour Barr, Mr. James MacTaggart, Miss Mary C. MacColl, Mr. T. Sinclair Rae, and Pipe-Major John MacDonald.

The chairman at the mod concert was Miss Violet Robertson, LL.D., who also handed over the prizes. The programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners, with Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Brown as guest artistes.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Solo singing (under 11)—Catriona Shillinglaw. Solo, 11-16—Sheila Murray. Boys, 11-16—Alistair M. MacCulloch. Duet (under 16)—Christine MacBride and Sheila MacDougall.

Choral singing (under 16)—Govan Junior Gaelic Choir.

Recitation—Christina Dick. Reading at sight—Mona MacDonald. Sgeulachd—Christina Dick.

SENIOR SECTION

Solo singing: men—Peter MacKay. Ladies—Aunice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead. Duet—Tom Crawford and Carol Galbraith.

Reciting prose—Margaret MacMillan. Reciting poem—John MacLeod.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Pianoforte—Norma Campbell and Duncan Young (equal). Violin—Charles Cowie. Piping (March)—Daniel MacDonald. Piping (Strathspey and Reel)—Alistair MacDonald.

ISLAY

THE second post-war Islay mod, held at Bowmore on 3rd June, was very successful. There was a very large entry in all sections, the competitors numbering 350 altogether. Competitions were held simultaneously in five different halls, and each had a large audience of the general public. The standard was very high in all sections, and the Islay people

must be congratulated on their fluent use of Gaelic. The local committee deserve praise for the excellent arrangements made for such a large gathering.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Rev. Alexander MacDonald, Ardchattan, Rev. Murdo MacRae, Mr. Donald Jackson, and Mr. Neil Shaw; for Music, Miss Mary L. Hogg, Mr. Donald MacAllister, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, and Pipe-Major John MacKenzie, Campbeltown.

Two concerts were run concurrently, in the Bowmore Hall and in the Church Hall, presided over respectively by Mr. J. M. Bannerman and the Rev. M. MacRae. The programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners and the following guest artistes—Miss Helen T. MacMillan, Miss M. L. Hogg, Miss Matheson, Mr. Gilbert MacPhail, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, and Pipe-Major MacKenzie. The prizes were handed over by Mrs. Winnard, Bowmore.

First-prize Winners'

JUNIOR SECTION

Reading at sight—Douglas Bruce, Bridgend. Recitation—A. MacMillan, Kildalton. Conversation—Neil MacEachern, Mulreesh.

Solo singing (under 11)—John MacIntyre, Colonsay. Cann-tair-eachd—Margaret Matheson, Kildalton. Duet—Nancy Campbell and P. Ferguson, Bridgend.

Girls' Pendant—Catherine Hastie, Kildalton. Boys' Pendant—Donald MacCalman, Kildalton. Choral singing: two-part harmony—Ardbeg Junior Choir. Unison—Port Charlotte Junior Choir. Pianoforte—Margaret Matheson.

SENIOR SECTION

Reading at sight—Mary MacKechnie, Port Charlotte. Recitation—Hugh Duncan, Bridgend. Reciting original piece—Calum MacIntyre, Colonsay. Sgeulachd—Calum MacIntyre.

Solo singing: Ladies' Medal—Mrs. Donald MacLean, Kells. Men's Medal—Alistair Hay, Rhinns. Former medallists—Duncan MacCalman, Kildalton. Solo singing (Duncan Ban song, Mary MacIntyre Memorial Cup)—Duncan MacCalman. Singing a Duncan Johnston song—Duncan Duncan, Bridgend. Unpublished song—Calum MacIntyre. Cann-tair-eachd—Duncan Duncan. Duet—Mrs. MacTaggart and Miss M. MacLean, Port Charlotte. Quartette—Ardbeg. Trios—Rhinns Trio. Psalm singing—Hugh Duncan.

Choral singing: four-part harmony—Bowmore Gaelic Choir.

(Continued on page 94)

Executive Council

THE Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Gould Hall, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, on 18th July, 1949. The President, Dr. John Cameron, LL.B., was in the Chair, and there was a good attendance of members. Attending were Mr. J. T. Graham, Treasurer; Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary; and Miss Chris Turner, Clerkess.

COLONEL ROSS

THE President paid tribute to the late Colonel Alasdair Ross, who was a member of the Council.

"Meeting Colonel Alasdair Ross," said Dr. Cameron, "one was immediately impressed by his enthusiasm for all things Highland, his profound knowledge of our history, traditions, and literature, and his whole-hearted helpfulness and kindness. He was greatly beloved by his friends. By his death there has passed from our midst another brave and distinguished son of Skye. We would record our deep sense of loss, and we would convey to Mrs. Ross and to their son, Iain, our heartfelt sympathy in their great sorrow."

MR. SHAW AND CAPE BRETON

THE President also, in name of the Council, extended to Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary, best wishes for a pleasant trip to Canada to attend the 11th annual mod at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, Cape Breton, which opens on 27th July.

"Mr. and Mrs. Shaw," said Dr. Cameron, "will, I am sure, receive a most cordial welcome from our kinsmen across the sea. No better known nor more highly esteemed Highlander could represent An Comunn Gaidhealach nor the Highlands generally than Mr. Neil Shaw with his long experience of thirty-six years as General Secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach. He is conversant with the difficulties we have had to encounter in order to preserve our language and the steps we have taken to this end. Mr. Shaw will inform them of the progress made and our hopes for the future. Our kinsmen across the seas will also have had difficulties to contend with and our story will be of interest to them.

"Most of us here are of opinion that it is in the glens and the

islands of our country that Gaelic will best thrive. We often fear the result on our language of our youth crowding to the towns and emigrating to Canada and other countries, and we wonder, if this emigration cannot be stopped, what is to happen to our language. We have considerable consolation, however, in the fact that our kinsmen in Nova Scotia and in Cape Breton, whose forefathers (whether of necessity or from choice) emigrated to these parts at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries, still speak the language well; and this fact proves that our people do not lose their language although they settle in a strange land.

"Mr. Shaw will convey to our kinsmen abroad our warmest greetings and our thanks for their splendid gesture in providing the special prizes—the Gaelic College Gold and Silver Medals—to be competed for each year at our National Mod for the best rendering of Gaelic songs composed in Nova Scotia. I hope we may do something on similar lines. This may be the beginning of a movement to strengthen the ties and bind the scattered children of the Gael more closely together. Let us hope it may.

"We wish for Mr. and Mrs. Shaw a very happy and pleasant voyage."

Minutes of meetings of the Finance, Publication, Mod and Music, Comunn na h-Oigridh, Advisory, and War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund Committees were read and approved.

MOD SURPLUS

THE Treasurer submitted the accounts for the financial year which ended on 30th April, 1949. The most notable feature in the accounts was the large and gratifying surplus from the National Mod at Glasgow in 1948, amounting to £5,859, by far the largest sum raised in connection with any Mod in An Comunn's history. On the year's working there remained a credit balance of £3,226 which was added to Capital Account.

Mr. Graham pointed out that, despite this very satisfactory surplus for the year under review, the costs of maintaining An Comunn's various activities at the present level are most onerous and the fixed ordinary annual income is quite inadequate to meet them. He therefore appealed to Branches, Members, Affiliated Societies and

others interested to contribute substantially and regularly to the Central Fund so that the necessary expenditure in any year may be met out of the income for that year.

The accounts and other reports were approved by the Council.

GAELIC DOCTORS

THERE was some discussion about the recent appointment of a non-Gaelic-speaking doctor to a Gaelic-speaking parish in Lewis, a Gaelic candidate for the post being rejected although he had served as locum tenens. It was alleged that in making the appointment it was stated that for such a parish "Gaelic is not essential."

The following resolution was unanimously approved: "Arising out of a discussion on a recent appointment in a parish in Lewis, the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach assert as a matter of principle that in appointing medical practitioners and making other public appointments in Gaelic areas preference should be given to Gaelic-speaking persons, provided that they are professionally fully qualified and experienced for the post."

EDINBURGH CELTIC CHAIR

THE Council also decided unanimously to remind respectfully the curators of patronage of the Chair of Celtic at Edinburgh University, now vacant, that, while the official title of the Chair is the Chair of Celtic Languages, Literature, History and Antiquities, and the occupant is empowered to teach all of these subjects or some of them, the ordinance founding the Chair contains (it is understood) the proviso that, "so long as Gaelic continues to be a medium of spiritual instruction in the Highlands of Scotland, the professor must give instruction in the uses and graces of Scottish Gaelic."

There was some discussion about the proposed scheme whereby An Comunn, jointly with Highland County Education Committees, will have several Gaelic organisers at work in the Gaelic areas. As the scheme is still under discussion no decisions are yet called for.

Nominations were received for the Offices of President and Vice-President, and for ten places on the Executive Council. Notices of motion to amend the Constitution and Bye-laws were tabled, and will be circulated to members along with the notice and agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Cape Breton News and Views

THE outstanding event in Gaelic Culture circles in Cape Breton this month (June) is the arrival of Major Calum Iain N. MacLeod, who has commenced the duties of his new position at the Gaelic Foundation College as Director of Gaelic and Assistant Executive Director of Gaelic Foundation activities.

Major MacLeod was welcomed to Nova Scotia in a truly traditional manner, as the following news item and editorial from the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* will show.

Lecturer for Gaelic College

"The veteran Cunard White Star Liner Aquitania docked in Halifax last night from Southampton to disembark 1656 passengers.

"Among the arrivals was Major Calum Iain MacLeod, Inverness, Scotland, coming to Canada as the first permanent lecturer of Gaelic at the Gaelic College at St. Ann's, Cape Breton. He was accompanied by his wife.

"Attired in kilts of the Hunting MacLeod plaid, Major MacLeod was greeted on his arrival at the pier by the familiar skirl of the bagpipes played by Pipe-Major George Dey and Malcolm MacAulay. Also on hand to greet Major MacLeod was Alexander MacAulay of Halifax.

"Major MacLeod will leave Halifax today for Cape Breton, where he will assume his new position of assistant executive director of the Gaelic College. He received his appointment from the Gaelic Foundation. His duties will include instruction in bagpipe music and lecturing in Gaelic.

"Major MacLeod will become the first native of Scotland to lecture in Gaelic in Cape Breton." (*Halifax Chronicle-Herald*, news item, 3rd June, 1949).

A Highland Welcome

"The stout links which bind New Scotland and Old Scotland become even stronger with the arrival in this Province of Major Calum Iain MacLeod, of Inverness, who assumes the position of Assistant Executive Director of the Gaelic College at St. Ann's, Victoria County.

"Major MacLeod, the first native Scot to become a Gaelic lecturer in Cape Breton, will not only instruct in the Gaelic, but in bagpipe music as well. And his presence on the instructional staff will add much interest to this year's summer courses.

"Highland tradition is very much alive in Cape Breton and it may be taken for granted that Major MacLeod and his family will find themselves at home there. They will hear the Gaelic spoken as a living tongue, they will hear English spoken with the Highland lilt, and they will find the very scenery reminiscent of the Old Land.

"Not the least of the Highland traditions prized in Cape Breton is that of hospitality, and these newcomers from Scotland will be among friends from the outset.

"The active undertakings at St. Ann's, dedicated to preserving Highland traditions and customs, are contributing much to the richness and colour of the life and culture of this Province. And the addition of a native Scot to the energetic staff at the College can mean a great deal to this interesting movement."

(*Halifax Chronicle-Herald*, editorial, 4th June, 1949)

Major MacLeod has consented to contribute a Gaelic column to "Cape Breton News and Views" each month and there follows his initial letter commenting on his reception and early contacts with Cape Breton Gaels during his first week in Canada. RUGG MACKENZIE.

Naidheachd á Ceap Breatann

"Gu bheil mi am ònrachd 's a choille ghruamaich,
Mo smaointinn luaineach, cha tog mi fonn:
Fhuair mi an t-àit' seo an aghaidh nàduir,
Gun thréig gach tálanta bha 'nam cheann."

'S e sin na smaointean a bha 's siomanaich mu chridhe Iain MhìchGhilleathain an uair a bha e a' tathaich an Canada san naoidheamh linn deug, ach ar leam gur e glé bheag a b'urrainn sin a ràdh le firinn an diugh.

An uair a bhuail sinn feamainn na h-Albann Nuaidhe bha plobair-ean a' feitheamh oirn air an laimhrig, agus chuir Alasdair MacAmhlaidh á Halifax fáilte oirn le chéile. Fhuair sinn cuid na h-oidhche an taigh a' Ghàidheil chòir sin, agus air an ath là thog sinn oirn gu ar ceann-uidhe thairis air Caolas Chanso.

Tha Colaisite na Gàidhlig air a suidheachadh faisg air an àite 's an tainig an t-Urramach Tormod MacLeòid agus a chuideachd air tir anns a' bhliadhna 1820.

'S e dùthaich eireachdail a tha seo air gach dòigh. Tha coilltean uaine a' streap suas gu mullach nam beann. Tha na h-aibhnichean a' lùbhadh troimh ghlinn nan ruadh-bhoc agus a' teachd le gàirich gus an ruig iad an cuan.

Tha a' Ghàidhlig mar chainnt mhàthaireil aig a' chuid as motha de'n t-sluagh, agus chan 'eil nàire orra a bhith 'ga bruidhinn. Tha na daoine air leth còir, coibhneil. Tha iad sàsaichte leis an t-saoghal, ag cosnadh an lòn a' stri ri muir agus fearann. Ri linn na h-oibre cuir tha sith agus toileachas a' suartachadh am beatha làitheil, oir tha iad a' ruith an réis an dlùth chàirdeas ri obair Nàduir.

'Nam suidhe an dràsda aig uinneig na Colaisite chì mi farsaingeachd a' Chuain Mhòir eadar mi agus bu sgòth. Ar leam gu faic mi "Long nan Eithreach" aig acair anns a' bhàgh, agus na suinn ag gearradh na coille as a bonn mar a rinn iad o shean. Feumar saothair a dheanadh fhathast anns an eilean seo a chum leas na Gàidhlig a chumail suas, dìreach mar a rinn na laoiach anns na linntean a dh'aoim.

CALUM IAIN N. MACLEOID.

DEAGH EISIMPLEIR

CHUTREADH thugam clàr-eagair Mòd Iar-Dheas Rois is Ghlinn-Eilge, agus gu dearbh 's e tlachd a th'ann a bhith 'ga leughadh. Chan e mhàin gu bheil e (mar a tha clàr-eagair gach mòd a' deanamh) ag innseadh mu na co-fharpaisean agus a' toirt ainnean nan co-fharpaiseach, ach tha moran shanasan ann mu na tha ri cheannach am bùitheat a' Chaol is mar sin, agus anns a' mhòr-chuid de na sanasan tha rannan is ràdhan Gàidhlig a tharraingeads aire. Seo feadhainn diubh:—

"Gheibh sibh anns an stòr ainneil seo gach nà dhith oirbh air son obair-taighe agus obair-mara—bho'n t-snàthaid agus air acair!"

"'Bidh mis' air uisge 'n lònain duibh': car son a bhitheadh? Tha bainne chruidh is gu leòir dheth ann a Taigh-bainne Loch Aillse."

"Cha bhì na mnathan air am brath,
Ma cheannaicheas iad an stòr MhìcRath!"

"Bha sinn an seo bho thoiseach, 's tha sinn air thoiseach fhathast" (*Pioneer Stores*).

"Ars an langa ris an liugha,
'Cùm o Mhr. Peuton!
Ars an liugha ris an langa,
'Sin as fhèrr dhomh, m'eaduail!'"
'Nàmhaid an eìsg, ach deagh charaid an t-sluagh' (*Marsantia-èisg*).

Annas a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

NA MODAN DUTHCHAIL

THA an Comunn Gàidhealach a nis' a' dol an uidheam fa chomhair a' Mhòid Mhóir an Inbhir-Nis aig toiseach mìos an Dàmhair, agus tha mòdan dùthchail na bliadhna seo uile seachd— a ceithir-deug dhiubh, tha mi smaoineachadh. Is ann bho na mòdan dùthchail a tha am Mòd Nàiseanta a' tarraing a spionnaidh. Bha Mòd Nàiseanta ann fada mun robh guth air mòd dùthchail, ach 's ann bho thòisich na mòdan dùthchail a ràinig am Mòd Mór a làn-mheudachd.

Tha dà bhuaidh mhatha aig na mòdan dùthchail. Anns a' cheud àite, tha iad 'nam meadhan air a bhith toirt am follais cò iad anns gach roinn-dùthcha fa leth a tha airidh air a bhith a' strì ann an co-fharpaisèan a' Mhòid Mhóir, agus tha iad a' misneachadh an leithid sin. Tha iad mar an ceudna a' toirt cothrom do cho-fharpaisich nach urrainn an Mòd Mór a thoirt orra cuid a ghabhail ann an deuchainnean mòid agus anns an oilean 's an tlachd a tha co-cheangailte ri sin.

Anns an dara àite, tha na mòdan dùthchail feumail ann a bhith cumail fa chomhair an t-sluaigh anns gach cèrn de'n dùthcha riùntean is saothair a' Chomuinn agus, tha sinn an dòchas, 'gam brosnachadh gu bhith cuideachd le adhbhar na cànaire, gu sònraichte 'nam dachaidhean agus 'nam beatha làitheil.

Tha am mòd dùthchail as lugha a bh'againn air a' bhliadhna seo fada fada nas motha na bha am Mòd Nàiseanta 'na cheud thòiseachadh, agus thug am Mòd Nàiseanta iomadh bliadhna mun d'ràinig e meudachd feadhainn de na mòdan dùthchail a tha againn a nis.

THA an Comunn fo fhianach tromha do na fir agus na mnathan, na balach agus na caileagan, a tha le dìcheall is le dìlseachd ag cuideachadh leis na mòdan dùthchail. 'S e beagan as urrainn na prìomh-dhuaisean a chosnadh, ach chan 'eil neach ag gabhail pàirt ann an obair nam mòdan aig nach 'eil duais nas fheàrr na duais-àirgid no urram-buadha. Is còir gu sònraichte moladh a dheanamh air na pàrantan a tha a' misneachadh an cloinne gu bhith ag gabhail tlachd ann an obair nam mòdan, agus tha ar taing aig an luchd-teagais de gach seòrsa a tha ag cuideachadh ann an dòigh cho dìleas.

Bha e 'na thoileachadh agus 'na urram dhomh a bhith am bliadhna aig a dhà de na mòdan dùthchail. Chaidh mi an toiseach gu Mòd Dhairiada an Ceann-loch-gilb. Bha mi ann an uraidh cuideachd. Bha dà latha againn dheth—òigridh 'nan sgaothan a' cheud latha, agus inbhidh air an dara latha, ged nach robh iad sin idir cho lionmhor ris an òigridh. Tha Gàidhlig mhath agus seinneadairèan matha aca anns a' chearnaidh ud de Earraghadheil, agus chuala sinn feadhainn a chluinneas sinn fhathast a' toirt a mach àrd-urraim aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta uair no uair-eigin.

Tha Dailriada 'na dhùthchail ainmeil an eachdraidh nan Gàidheal. B'ann an sin, a réir aithris is eachdraidh, a thuinich na Gàidheil an toiseach, agus tha fhathast na combharraidhean againn air an ealdhain agus an gaisge. B'e Dùn Ad prìomh-chathair nan Gàidheal anns na làithean o chian, agus an sin agus mu'n cuairt air tha iomadh cuimhneachan air prìomh eachdraidh na dùthcha.

Ghabh mi an cothrom sgrìob a thoirt gu Caisteal Charnasairidh faisg air Cill-Mhàrtainn. B'e seo àite-fuirich a' Charsalaidh Mhóir, an t-Easbuig Eòin Carsuel, ainm urramach ann an litreachas na Gàidhlig.

SOP AS GACH SEID (bho t.d. 89)

Crodh Pharaoh

BHA uair a b'fheudar do chroitèaran Bhuirbh seasamh a mach air son an còraichean air eileanan chaorach a bha air an cumail bhuapa. Bha aig na croitèaran an cuid chaorach a chumail aig baile agus gille a chur 'gam buachailleachd mar a bha ris a' chrodi. Bha seo 'na adhbhar nach robh an crodh cho reamhar 's a bu chòir daibh. Bha cor nan croitèaran ri bhith air fhiachainn air beulaibh an t-Siorraim an Loch-nam-madadh. Chaidh Calum a chur air a mhionnag agus e ri aithris cho truaigh 's a bha an sprèidh le coire bhith cumail nan caorach air a' bhaile an àite iad a bhith anns na h-eileanan a bha air 'àicheadh orra.

"Seadh," ars an Siorram, "gu dé cho caol 's a tha crodh Bhuirbh?"

DA sheachdain an déidh dhomh DA bhith an Ceann-loch-gilb bha mi aig mòd dùthchail an Eilein Sgitheanaich am Port-rìghheadh. Bithidh taobh agam ri Port-rìghheadh fhad 's is bè mi, oir is ann an àrd-sgoil an àite sin a fhuair mi a' chuid a b'fhearr de oilean-sgoile sam bith a fhuair mi. Bha sia ceud is ceithir fichead de cho-fharpaisich aig mòd an Eilein, agus an dara leth dhiubh clann-sgoile. Bha ochd còisèirean òigridh ann. Tha a' Ghàidhlig fallain aig na Sgitheanaich, ged is mise tha 'ga ràdh; ach bha Leòdhasach còir foghlumite ri m'uillinn agus e de'n bheachd mur an robh Gàidhlig an Eilein cho math ri Gàidhlig Leòdhais, cha robh i fada bhuath sin—agus cò a dh'iarraidh teisteanas na b'fhearr an sin?

'S e misneachadh mòr a th'ann gu bheil uibhir àitean ann—ann an Innse-Gall agus air tìr-mór—far a bheil a' cheart dhìlseachd is saothair 'gan nochdadh 's a chunnacas an Ceann-loch-gilb agus am Port-rìghheadh, agus sin a chum leas is neartachadh cànan nan Gàidheil.

A dh'aindeoin nan nithean a tha ag cathachadh an aghaidh na Gàidhlig, agus a dh'aindeoin na cuid sin de na Gàidheil a tha caoin-shuarach mu'n chùis, tha na mòdan dùthchail a' taisbeanadh gu bheil air feadh na Gàidhealtachd gu ìre mhóir iarrtas làidir air a bhith cumail na brataich ri crann.

"Cho caol," arsa Calum, "ri crodh caol Pharaoh."

"Innis dhòmhsa gu dé cho caol 's a bha crodh Pharaoh," ars an Siorram.

"Direach," arsa Calum, "cho caol, mo thighearna, 's gur ann an aising a dh'fheumte am faicinn."

Dh'aidich an Siorram nach d'fhuair e freagair ceist a chuir e riamh cho sgìobalta geur-chuiseach 's a thug Calum MacLeòid da an là ud.

Sin gaibh té no dhà air àbhachdas nan eilean, 's nan ceadaicheadh tim e bheirinn seachad beagan eile. Co-dhiubh, mar a thubhairt mi a cheana, tha fealla-dhà is cuireidheachd ri'm faotainn am measg na muinntir sin a tha fuireach aig an taigh 's a tha toirt am beò-shlàint gu comh-fhurtaidh fonn 's a' faireag.

Gach buaidh is piseach daibh!

Three-part harmony—Bowmore Ladies' Choir. Choral puirt-a-beul—Port Charlotte Gaelic Choir. Unison—Kilmeny Ladies' Choir. Singing of "Birlinn Ghoraidh Chrobhain'" in four-part harmony (Duncan Johnston Memorial Cup, presented by Kildalton branch of An Comunn)—Port Ellen Gaelic Choir.

Bagpipe playing (open)—D. Ferguson, Kildalton. Bagpipe playing (under 16)—D. Ferguson.

S. W. ROSS AND GLENELG

BHA mòd barraichte anns a' Chaol air Di-haoine an 10mh là de'n Og-mhios, agus gu h-àraidh Earrann na h-Oigridh. Chuireadh 70 oidhirp litreachais a staigh agus mhòl am breitheamh iad gu mòr—"an deagh obair," ars esan. Anns na co-fharpaisean leughaidh is aithris bàrdachd cha robh na bu lugha na 209 balach is caileag an sàs gu dìcheallach. Tha seo 'na thoileachas-intinn nach beag do na laoch sin a tha dol gu uchd an dèidh gus a' Ghàidhlig agus gach cleachdadh a tha fuaighte rithe a chumail ri crann. Gach beannachd a bhith 'nan cois! See

iad—Cean-suidhe, Dòmhnall Mac-Neacail; Ionmhasair, an t-Urramach Iain MacDhùghaill; na Rùnairean, Cairistiona Chamshron agus Dòmhnall MacDhòmhnail.

For the S.W. Ross and Glenelg Provincial Mod, held at Kyle of Lochalsh on 10th June, five halls had to be used, and the public showed their interest by large attendances. The adjudicators were; for Gaelic, Rev. Dr. John MacPherson, Mr. J. N. MacLeod, Mr. Alex. Robertson, Mr. Donald MacPhail, and Mr. John MacKinnon; for Music, Mr. James Curr, Mr. John MacRae, and Colonel John MacDonald.

For the mod concert the Kyle Hall was packed, many failing to secure admission. The chairman was Colonel John MacDonald, O.B.E., Portree. The guest artistes were Miss Cathie B. MacLean and Mr. J. B. Munro. The prizes were presented as follows—juniors, by Mrs. J. MacDougall; seniors, by Mrs. D. Nicolson; trophies and medals by Lady Paget, Achnashellach. The Northern Organiser expressed the warm thanks of the Northern Committee

for the excellent work being done in the S.W. Ross and Glenelg area.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Essay—Angus Morrison, Balmacara House Boys' School. Dictation—Christie Mary MacLeod, Duncraig Castle Girls' School. Translation into Gaelic—Angus Morrison. Translation into English—Duncan MacLean (b), Lochcaron School. Silver Medal for highest aggregate in literary competitions (presented by Mrs. J. MacDougall)—Angus Morrison.

Reading from Bible (Silver Medal presented by Kyle Children's Welfare Association)—Christie Mary MacLeod. Reciting "Tir nan Og"—Mary MacRae, Plockton H.G. School. Reciting Psalm (beginners) (Silver Medal presented by Kyle C.W. Association)—Iain MacKerlich, Plockton H.G. School. Conversation—Anne MacLeod, Duncraig Castle G. S. Sgeulachd—Duncan MacLean (b).

Solo singing: Girls (under 12)—Joan MacKenzie, Craig School Boys, Iain MacLennan, Plockton H.G. School. (Over 12)—(Silver Medals presented by Scottish Co-

(Continued on page 95)

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Leabhar I

IUCHAR-LUNASDAL, 1949

Aireamh 7

Mac an t-Sronaich

Le MURCHADH MAC-AN-TUAINNEIR

CHAN 'EIL teagamh nach cuala sinn uile cìomradh air Mac an t-Sronaich a bha cho ainmeil anns na h-Eileanan an Iar ceud bliadhna air ais. B' e seo fear-reubainn a rinn mort is marbhadh is goid.

Chan 'eil cinnte cò as an tàinig e, ach is e barail a' chuid as motha gur ann á Cinn-t-sàile a bha e, ged a chuir e seachad a bheatha anns na h-Eileanan. Shiubhail e na h-Eileanan bho Leódhas agus air feadh an Eilein Fhada agus dh'fhàg e cuimhneachain as a dhéidh. Bhiodh e ag goid chaorach agus ag cadal a muigh ann an càrn no an uaimh.

Cha d'fhuaras a mach mòran de na rinn e an Leódhas, ach tha beul-aithris ag ràdh gur ann am beanntaibh Uige a bha e ag còmhnaidh. Bha e ag cur muinghin anns na beanntaibh agus thubhairt e, "Fhad 's a chumas mise beanntan Uige cumaidh beanntan Uige mi."

Thàinig e do na Hearadh, agus tha cunntas air a thoirt air iomadh mort a rinn e fad 's a bha e ann. Seallaidh an sgeul bheag a leanas cho borb, an-ìochdmhor is a bha e.

Ann am baile beag air taobh an ear na Hearadh ris an abrar Cluir choinnich Mac an t-Sronaich ri seann duine is e a' dol dhachaidh le cliabh éisg aige air a mhuin. Chaidh Mac an t-Sronaich an sàs ann ach thàrr am bodach as le a bheatha. An uair a ràinig e a dhachaidh dh'ìarr e air an teaghlach cadal anns an t-sabhal. Rinn iad seo agus mu dhà uair sa' mhadaoin dhùisgeadh iad le geumnaich a' chruidh ann an ceann de'n taigh-chòmhnaidh. Dh'éirich iad agus fhuair iad an taigh 'na theine ach chaidh aca air an crodh a shàbhaladh.

Air an rathad sìos gu deas thadhail Mac an t-Sronaich ann am Pabaidh. Thàinig e gu taigh àraidh ach cha robh duine a staigh ach leanabh beag ann an creathall. Bha an leanabh beag ag gàireachdaich ris agus mharbh e le bhiodaig e. Bha balach beag eile 'na shuidhe ri taobh an teine ag criomadh cnaimh. Bha Mac an t-Sronaich a' dol 'ga mharbhadh ach dh'ìarr an giullan air fhàgail gus an criomadh e an cnaimh air fad. Dh'fhàg e esan beò.

Chaidh e a dh'Uibhist leis an t-aiseag a ghabhail á Bèarnaraidh. Is ann anns an

Eilean Sgitheanach a chaidh a ghlacadh. Bha e a muigh air an rathad eadar an Aodann Bhàn agus Dùn-bheagain feuch am faigheadh e neach a chreachadh. Choinnich fear ris an déidh tighinn bho'n iasgach mu dheas agus bha sporan làn aige a' dol dhachaidh. Thug Mac an t-Sronaich ionnsaigh air agus bha aige ri a chuid airgid a thoirt seachad air son a bheatha. Thàinig e dhachaidh dubhach, brònach agus dh'innis e dhaibh a staigh mar a dh'éirich dha. Bha bràthair aige a bha am barail gach neach gòrach. Chuala esan mar a thachair ach cha do leig e dad air. Chruinnich e poca shligean agus dh'fhalbh e air an rathad a ghabh a bràthair, ma b'fhòr a' tighinn dhachaidh bho'n iasgach. Choinnich e ri Mac an t-Sronaich agus chaidh a chuid airgid iarraidh air.

"Cha bhi aig duine ri ràdh," ars am balach, "gun tug mise dhuit airgead. Tog as a siud e!"

Thilg e am poca air an rathad mhór. Chrom Mac an t-Sronaich 'ga iarraidh agus tharraing am balach air leis a' chuaille a bha aige. Chaidh Mac an t-Sronaich ann an tuaineal agus gheàrr an gille féith mhór cùl a chois. Dh'fhalbh am balach agus leig e fhaicinn do na maor-shìthe an rud a rinn e. Thàinig iadsan do'n àite far an do thachair seo ach cha robh sgeul air Mac an t-Sronaich.

Thachair gu robh sneachda air an talamh aig an àm agus lean iad a chuid loraigh agus an fhuil anns an t-sneachda. Thèoraich seo iad gu taigh a mach as an Aodann Bhàn agus dh'ìarr iad air a' bhoireannach a thàinig a mach Mac an t-Sronaich a chur a mach as an taigh.

Thubhairt ise nach b'aithe dhi fear de'n ainm sin ach ramnaich iad an taigh. Cha d'fhuaras sgeul air Mac an t-Sronaich. Dh'fhosgail iad ciste-mhine ach cha robh Mac an t-Sronaich an sin. Mhothaich fear dhuibh gu robh a' mhin àrd anns a' chiste, agus chaidh na bùird air an robh a' mhin a thoirt air falbh agus bha Mac an t-Sronaich an sin. Bha dà ùrlar anns a' chiste-mhine. Dh'aicidh am boireannach gur e a bràthair a bha ann am Mac an t-Sronaich.

Thug iad Mac an t-Sronaich air falbh do Inbhir-nis agus chaidh a chrochadh an sin. Mun deachaidh a chrochadh dh'fhaighnich-eadh dheth dé na trì nithean mu a bu mhotha a ghabh e aithreachas riamh. Thubhairt e gur

(An còrr air t. d. 28)

Na Baird Ghaidhealach a B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

5. An t-Urr. Domhnall MacCalum

IS ann an uair a bha an t-Urramach Dòmhnall MacCalum 'na mhinistear an Sgìre nan Loch an Leòdhas a chuir mise eòlas air an duine chòir sin an toiseach, ach cò an Gaidheal nach cuala mu gach spàirn agus dealas a chleachd e aig àm ar-a-mach nan croitearan Gaidhealach anns a' bhliadhna 1882? Is iomadh ceum a shiubhail e, agus bu lionmhor gach òraid chomasach a rinn e, ann a bhith brosnachadh nan Gaidheal an uair a bha iad ri cath gu buadh-mhor air son còirichean an fhearainn a chur air bonn anns am biodh saorsa aca o uachdaran agus bàillidh.

B'esan aon de'n iarmadh bheag do na ministearan Gaidhealach a sheas air taobh nan croitearan anns a' chàs sin, agus cha do mheas e idir 'na thàmailt a bhith oidhche no dhà am prìosan Phort-rìghtheadh air son còirichean a chumail suas. Agus, ma fhuair na croiteirean saorsa agus stéidh bhunaiteach air am fearann troimh Achd nan Croitearan anns a' bhliadhna 1886, b'esan aon de na dùilnaich threuna a rinn strì gu buadh-mhor air son an latha sin a thoirt mun cuairt.

Bha an t-Urramach Dòmhnall MacCalum 'na bhàrd barraichte. Bha e 'na sgoilear achfhuinneach an Laideann is an Greugais, agus bu tric e a' stéidheachadh a ranntaireachd air na cànaean sin, agus, o nach biodh e a' bonntachadh a bhàrdachd air fuinn nan òran Ghàidhlig, cha robh uibhir de fhéill orra mar sin air beul an t-sluaigh. Ach sheall e gu robh lionsgaradh mòr aig a mhac-meanmna an uair a chuir e ri chéile "*Domhnullan*: bàrdachd an ceithir earrannan," anns a bheil cunntas air gach cruaidh-chàs a dh'fhuiling balach Gaidhealach anns a' cheud chogadh, agus mar a bhuaicheadh e mu dheireadh a' chailleag air an robh gaol aige. Gheibhear a' mhòr-chuid de'n bhàrdachd eile a rinn e ann am "*Bàrdachd Leòdhais*," agus tha gràdh dùthcha agus smuaintean àrsaidh anns gach rann a tha sin.

Bha an t-Urramach Dòmhnall MacCalum 'na dhuine còir, iriosal, bàidheil. Cha robh spéis aige do neach seach a chéile, agus b'e a shòlas an còmhnaidh a bhith deanamh còbhrach air staid an duine bho chd agus nach ann ris an t-strì sin a chosg e a bheatha, agus chunnaic e tomhas mòr de thoradh a shaothrach an deir-eadh a bheatha. Chunnaic e na beannachdan a thug Achd nan Croitearan do na Gaidheil agus nach robh esan ag cath gu dùrachdach air son an latha sin a thoirt mun cuairt! Chunnaic e crioich air a chur air mòran de na h-eu-ceartan

Am Platapus

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

"SEALL seo!" arsa Bus-dubh ris an tarbh, agus e sgaioleadh paipear-naidheachd a thàinig à Astràlia air a bheulaibh.

"Nach ann agad a tha am paipear mòr!" arsa Blàran; "is fhada o nach fhaca mi an uibhir sin de thomad am paipear-naidheachd."

"Tha iad ag innseadh dhòmhsa gu bheil iad nas motha aca an Stàitean Aonaichte America. Ach b'fhiach duit suil mhaith a thoirt air an fhear seo còmhla rium."

"Agus dé an ulaidh a tha agad san fhear seo, ma tà?"

"Tha an creutair neònach seo agus am *Platapus* aca air. Dé air an aon saoghal an seòrsa do am buin e?"

"Tha gob air?" arsan tarbh.

"Chan 'eil a dhìth air," arsa Bus-dubh; "mac-samhail gob leathann na tunnaige lachduinne a bhios mi faicinn am poll Ois."

"Tha ceithir casan air?" arsan tarbh.

"Tha sin air co-dhiubh, agus cò riamh a chunnaic eun agus ceithir casan air?"

"Tha spògan-snàmh air," arsan tarbh. "Sin rud nach fhaca mise air ceithir-chasach eile riamh. Agus, seall, tha earball air cuideachd!"

"Tha, agus tha fionnadh air mar gum faiceadh tu air coineineach no rodan. Dé idir a thàinig air?"

"Uill," arsan tarbh, "an uair a bha mise anns an Eilean Sgitheanach agus a thigheadh balach an taobh a bha an teaghlach aig an robh mi, bhithinn 'gan cluinntinn ag ràdh, 'Tha suilean a mhàthair air,' agus 'Tha sròn athar air,' agus 'Tha falt a sheanar air,' agus 'Tha faclan a sheanmhar ann,' agus 'Tha casan mòra 'Iain Mhic Ruairidh aige,' agus is tric a bhithinn a' feuchainn an deanainn a mach dé mu'n robh iad. Ach seo a nis fàth an t-seanchais! Sin agadsa beathach is sròn no gob a mhàthar air agus casan a sheanmhar air agus fionnadh athar air, ach càite as an tàinig an t-earball?"

"Chan 'eil an sin ach rud a bhios air gach creutair cneasda co-dhiubh," arsa an cuilean, agus e pasgadh a' phaipeir gu grobach is e 'ga thogail 'na bheul agus e toirt dachaidh air, agus e sìor ruith thairis 'na intinn air eòlas an tairbh—"gob a mhàthar air, spògan a sheanmhar, agus fionnadh athar!"

a bha an luchd-riaghlaidh, uachdarain agus seumarlain a' deanamh air daoine bochda gun tacas, agus thug sin gu leòr sòlais d'a chridhe anns gach iomairt bhuaidhaich a rinn e. "Caraid nan Croitearan"—b'e sin an teist a b'fhearr air an Urramach Dòmhnall MacCalum.

Litir Eachainn

THA mi anns an litir seo a' dol a dh'innseadh dhuibh mar a chaidh seann chuimhne ùrachadh dhomh an là-romhne, agus mar a thàinig seann fhacal nach cuala mi bho chionn iomadh bliadhna gu m' mheomhair. Is e am facal seo "bonnach-luirg," agus innsidh mi an toiseach ciod a thug gu mo chuimhne e.

An cuala aon agaibh riamh am facal no an nì air a bheil e air a stéidheachadh? Ma chuala, bu mhath leam gun innseadh sibh dhomh e, no facal sam bith eile a chuala sibh co-cheangailte ris an nì a thug dhuinn e.

Bha mi, ma tà, an là-romhne shuas aig an iomaire bhuntàta a tha agam air a' bhruthach ud shuas. Is ann a' togail uime a bha mi, agus an latha a bha ann bha an t-sld briagha, blàth. Bha aon seachd no ochd de chrodh breac Gallda ag ionaltradh air réidhlean a bha rud beag bhuam, ach cha tug mi a' bheag de umhail dhaibh an toiseach, oir tha mi eòlach gu leòr air a bhith 'gam faicinn ann, gus an cuala mi raoiceil is langanaich anabarrach a' tighinn orm bho'n achadh-ionaltraidh.

Laoghan Beag

AN uair a sheall mi an taobh a bha iad chunnaic mi gur e té a bha leth-oireach leatha féin a bha ris an langanaich, agus dìreach an uair a sheall mi theann an còrr de'n chrodh ri ruith 'nan leum an taobh a bha i. Thuig mi gasda ciod a thachair. Bha a' bhò seo dìreach an déidh breith; agus, an uair a ghreas mi orm a nunn an taobh a bha i, an dà chuid gus an còrr a chumail bhuaipe agus gu teachdaireachd a chur chom an tuathanaich mar a bha—mas e sin a bha ann, chunna mi gur e an rud a bha mi an dùil gun teagamh a thachair, agus bha an siud laogh breac, bòidheach 'na shineadh air an fheur, 's a mhàthair 'ga shior imlich, 'ga chaisleachadh le a sròin a nunn 's a nall mar gum biodh i a' feuchainn r'a chur air a chasan, agus fad na h-ùine i a' sior langanaich 's a' toirt purradh d'a h-adhairc do thé sam bith de'n chòrr a bhiodh cho dalma 's gum tigeadh i ro dhlùth. Bha a h-ùile nì gu rianail, ceart, ged nach d'fhuair a' bhò bhochd nì de chuideachadh bho làimh duine beò, is cha b'fhada gus an robh an laogh ag oidhirpeachadh gu faotainn air a chasan.

Mar a thubhairt mi, dhùisg an nì a bha ann seann chuimhne dhòmhsa. Chan 'eil mi a' dol a dh'innseadh dhuibh cia mheud bliadhna a tha bhuaithe, ach bha e iomadh bliadhna mun do rugadh ann agaibhse! Bha latha an siud is mi féin is mo bhràthair, Lachainn nach beò, a bha dlùth air trì bliadhna na bu shine na mise,

shuas mu na h-aoineachan os cionn Pollagan Iain Mhic Caluim, is ciod a fhuair sinn an siud fo oir a' bhruthaich ach b'ò riabhach le Donnchadh Eoghainn 's i dìreach an déidh breith, le laogh gasda aig a cois!

Creidibh nach bu ruith ach leum leinne a' deanamh air taigh Dhonnchaidh leis an teachd-aireachd, is fios againn gum biodh ar deagh cheannach againn air tàille na cùise. B'e an ceannach seo "am bonnach-luirg" a dh' ainmich mi; agus innseam dhuibh a nis ciod an seòrsa bonnach a bhiodh an sin—an duais a bhiodh air a tagar leis-san no leatha-se a gheibheadh bó is i air breith a mach.

Ceapaire

BHA bonnach tiugh de choirce no de eòrna—ciod air bith a' mhin a bu fhreagarraiche 's a bhiodh aig làimh—air a dheanamh, 's e air fhuine cho tiugh 's gun gabhadh a sgoltadh 'na dhà libhridh mar gum biodh ann ceapaire. An uair a bhiodh e làn ghréidhte 's a rachadh a sgoltadh, bha nàdur de ghruth-shlamann air a dheanamh air ceud-bhainne na boin le uibhean air am briseadh is air am measgadh 'na luib; agus, an uair a bhiodh na dh'fheumadh e de bhruch air a thoirt do'n cho-mheasgadh seo, bha deagh chuibhreann dheth air a sgoileadh eadar dhà libhridh a' bhonnaich is e air a chur 'nar tairgse.

Is e "bonnach-luirg" a theirte ris anns an eilean againne, agus chan abairte an t-ainm sin ri bonnach eile ach e féin. (Chan 'eil am facal seo an aon de na foclairean Gàidhlig a tha aig mo làimh.) Sin an duais a fhuair sinne ri linn bó riabhach Dhonnchaidh Eoghainn faotainn 's i an déidh breith, agus bu tàrmasach am beul a dhiùltadh e! Is e féid da-rìreadh a bha ann leinne an uair ud, eadhon mar na h-uibhean Càsg a bhrùicheamaid air an teine anns a' chladach air an tug mi iomradh bho chionn ghoirid.

Na Bodaich Ghallda

CHAN 'EIL fios agam ciamar a thigeadh an seòrsa bonnach ud ri m' chàil an diugh; ach, eadhon ged a tha sinn air ar cleachdadh ri bidheannan nas rìomhaiche a réir beachd cuid de dhaoine an diugh, is mise a tha cinnteach nach diùltainn am bonnach-luirg. Ach cha d'fhuair mi an cothrom aon chuid gu itheadh no a dhiùltadh an latha a bha an seo; agus tha mi cinnteach, nan ainmichinn no nan tagrainn bonnach-luirg bho'n tuathanach do'm buineadh a' bhò 's a laogh, gum biodh a shùilean

(An còrr air an ath dhuilleig)

An Droch Shùil

Le EOGHANN MACGHILL-FHAOLAIN

IS iomadh cleachdadh iongantach agus creideamh neònach a bha bitheanta ann an duatharachd nan linntean a dh'fhalbh. Air aon de na saobh-chràbhaidhean sin bha "An Droch Shùil." An siud is an seo air feadh na Gaidhealtachd bha daoine aig an robh "an droch shùil," agus cha robh eadh no mart no creutair air bith eile a mhiannaicheadh iad nach gabhadh galair seargach bàis. Ach, air a shon seo, chan fheum sinn a bhith smuain-eachadh nach robh leigheas r'a fhaotainn do na beathaichean truagha seo.

Thall 's a bhos ann an cùltean iomallach de'n dùthaich gheibhte cailleachan a chaith greis de'm beatha anns an sgoil-dhuibh agus do'm b'aithne geasan a chur a leighisheadh na h-ainmhidhean. Cha robh Uibhist-a-Tuath idir air dheireadh anns a' ghnòthach seo.

Aig bodach còir, air cnocan uaine feurach air an Taobh-an-iar, bha mart nach robh a leithid anns an eilean air fad. Co-dhùibh no co-dhèth, 's ann a thàinig a' bhò dhachaidh ann an ciaradh feasgar samhraidh is coltas oirre a bhith glé thinn, agus an àite loma-làin cumain de bhainne beartach blàth cha robh aice air an oidhche ud ach làn cupain. Bha là an dèidh là a' dol seachad agus, ged a gheibheadh a' bhò na bha de dh'ola is de lusan leighis ann an Innse-Gall, cha rachadh i mir na b'fheàrr, agus mar a bha an ùine dol seachad bha a shùilean a' sìor shìoladh 'na ceann, a bian a' fàs ceigeach tioram, is i gun lùths éirigh. Bu mhór cùram bean an taighe mu thimcheall na h-aon bhà, agus mu dheireadh, air feasgar sàmhach Sàbaid nuair a fhuair i a céile air falbh do'n éisdeachd, is ann a dh'èalaidh i air a loman shocair a null gu taigh bana-charaid sgileig aig an robh cumunn ris an sgoil-dhuibh.

An seo dh'innis Mór a ghnòthach. Thubhairt i gu robh amharus aice gur e an droch-shùil a' laigh air a' bhoin, agus gum biodh i fada an comain Maireid nan deanadh i "snàithle" dhi gun dàil, feuch am faigheadh i dhachaidh mun tilleadh Dòmhnall as an taigh-ùrnuigh.

THUG Mairead chuide ceithir no còig de cheairlean snàth de gach seòrsa dath, agus thòisich i air an toinneamh agus an suain-eadh am measg a chéile is aig an aon àm ag gabhail rann neònach nach cuala Mór a leithid riamh. Nuair a bha am figheachan sia no seachd de dh'òirlich air fad chrìochnaich i e agus shìn i do Mhóir e ag ràdh.

"Seo a nis, gabh dhachaidh, agus, cho luath 's a ruigeas tu, ceangail seo mu earball na bà, agus thèid mise an urras nach bi i fada gun

fhaothachadh fhaighinn. Ma thachras nach leighis seo gu buileach i, thig a rithist agus ni mi snàithle eile dhuit."

Chuir Mór a h-aghaidh air an taigh, a leth shùil air an rathad a bha fo casan is an t'èile air an fhrith-rathad chun an taigh-ùrnuigh, agus an snàithle ann an gréim bàis 'na làimh, falaichte fo sgòd de a h-aodach.

Cha bu luaithe ràinig i dhachaidh, is a h-anail an àird a cléibhe, na rinn i mar a dh'ùir Mairead, agus an sin thug i an taigh oirre feuch an ullaicheadh i biadh Dhòmhnail. Bha an teine air a dhol dubh as, na cearcan 'nan grunnan aig an doras, agus an cat a' ruagail nan isean tunnaig air feadh an ùrlair.

Leis an othail a bh'air Mór a' tèarnadh nan isean is ag cur rian air an taigh cha d'fhuair i sùil a thoirt tuilleadh air a' bhoin agus an robh Dòmhnall ris an altachadh. An uair a thug, a ghràidh mo chridhe!, nach ann a bha a' bhò 'na seasamh is smùid aice air itheadh na seann chonnlaich a bha aig ceann na bàthcha!

Bha a' bhò cho slàn, fallain is a bha i riamh, ach chaidh còrr is bliadhna seachd mun do leig an t-eagal le Mór innseadh do Dhòmhnall ciamar a leighisheadh a' bhrùid. Nuair a chuala esan e, 's ann a thubhairt e;

"Nan robh fhios agamsa air sin aig an àm, bha a' bhò air a dhol do'n t-sloc mun leiginn leat do chorra-mheur a chur air obair an Droch-Fhir!"

Mac an t-Sronaich (bho t.d. 25)

e duine a mhòrt air Mol na Hearadh a bha a' tighinn dhachaidh le deoch-bainnse. Tha Mol na Hearadh eadar Leòdhas agus crìoch na Hearadh. Ghabh e aithreachas an leanabh beag am Pabaidd a mhòrt. Dh'aicid e fhéin gun do mhòrt e a phiuthair ann am mearachd an àite a companaich aig an robh neamhnaidean, agus bha e fo aithreachas air son seo cuideachd.

B'e Mac an t-Sronaich am fear mu dheireadh a chrochadh an Inbhir-nis.

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 27)

cho leathann ri beanntaig ag amharc 'nam aodann feuch ciod idir a bha mi ag ciallachadh no an robh mo thùr agam!

Tha fios glé mhath nach cuala e iomradh air a leithid de ni ri bonnach-luig riamh; ach, air a shon sin, is dòcha gu robh facal aig na bodaich Ghallda co-ionann ris, ged nach aithne dhomhsa e. Ma tha no ma bha, bu ghada leam am facal fhaotainn. Ma tha fios aig aon agabhis air, no ma tha fios aig aon sam bith as aithne dhuibh air, nach faodadh sibh a thoirt dhomh.—Bhur Caraid Dilcas, EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

LOCAL MOD REPORTS (Continued from page 94)

operative Wholesale Society)—Girls: Elsie Moore, Plockton H.G.S. Boys: Duncan MacLean (b). Duet—Chris A. Murchison and William Fraser, Kyle School. Traditional singing of Ross-shire or unpublished song—Malcolm MacDonald, Balmacara House B.S.

Choral singing: Unison and purt-a-beul (Dalby Peters Rose Bowl)—Kyle School Choir. Two-part harmony (Challenge Shield) presented by Mr. John MacLennan—Kyle School Choir.
Pianoforte (Highland airs) (Celtic Badge) presented by Miss M. Cameron—Jenny MacKenzie, Plockton.

SENIOR SECTION

Sgeulachd—Christina Cameron, Kyle, and Farquhar MacGregor, Ardelve (equal). Recitation—Mary Cameron, Kyle. Reading (beginners)—Christina MacGregor, Ina Matheson, and Jean Matheson, Kyle Continuation Class (equal). Reading at Sight—Christina and Mary Cameron, Kyle (equal).

Solo Singing: ladies (own choice) Christina Cameron. Men (own choice) — Donald MacLennan, Dornie. Prescribed songs—Ladies (Margaret MacDonald Medal)—Christina Cameron. Men (Douglas Memorial Medal)—Peter MacRae, Lochournhead. Song composed by bard in Mod area (Calum Iain MacLeod Medal)—Christina MacGregor. The Kyle Medal (presented by Kyle branch of An Comunn) for highest aggregate marks in solo singing—Christina Cameron. Duet—Mary Cameron and Catherine MacKay, Kyle.

Bagpipes (March, Strathspey and Reel)—Samuel Stewart, Plockton.

MOD DHAILRIADA

THE twenty-first annual mod in Mid Argyll was held at Lochgilphead on 14th and 15th June, and was very successful. Favoured with beautiful weather, large crowds attended the competitions and completely filled the hall for both concerts. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Miss May M. MacMillan, Mr. Neil Shaw, Rev. J. A. MacDonald, and Rev. T. M. Murchison; for Music, Mr. J. Gilmour Barr.

Mr. Neil Shaw presided over the junior concert and the Rev. T. M. Murchison was chairman at the senior concert. The programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners, along with Miss May M. MacMillan, Mr. Iain R. Douglas, Mr. Donald MacVicar, and the Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir (conductor, Mrs. Crawford).

The prizes were handed over to the juniors by Miss Madge Campbell Brown and to the seniors by Mrs. J. Graham Campbell, Yr. of Shirvan.

The mod committee deserve much credit for the success of this mod, and especially the Convener, Mr. J. MacKellar, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Duncan Hunter.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Gaelic letter—Peter Wilson, Lochgilphead. Dictation—Peter Wilson. Translation into English—Peter Wilson. Translation into Gaelic—Peter Wilson.

Reading poetry (own choice)—Mairi MacCallum, Tayvallich. Reading prose (own choice)—Mairi MacCallum. Reciting poetry—own

choice (under 14)—Mairi MacCallum. Reading prose at sight—Peter Wilson. Reciting 'Tir nan Og'—John MacVicar, Cairnbaan. Reciting poetry: own choice (under 16)—Flora Dunlop, Lochgilphead. Conversation—Peter Wilson.

Solo singing: Girls (own choice)—Isobel Campbell, Tarbert. Boys—John Smith, Ardrishaig, and James R. Gillies, Lochgilphead (equal). Prescribed songs (boys and girls)—James R. Gillies and Margaret Darroch, Cairnbaan (equal). Solo singing (under 8)—Myra Currie, Cairnbaan. Solo (8-12)—James C. Burnett, Ardrishaig. Prescribed songs (prizes presented by Mrs. A. C. Scott)—Sheila MacSparran, Tarbert. Singing Psalm-tune "Torwood"—James R. Gillies. Puir-t-a-beul—James C. Burnett. Duet—Isobel Camp-

(Continued on page 93)

Oran Caoidh

LE CALUM MACNEACAIL

(Oran-caoidh air a bhràthair, Gillesbuig MacNeacail, a bhuintir Bràigh Phort-righeadh san Eilean Sgitheanach, a chaidh a mharbhadh am Malaya air an 6mh de'n Dàmhar, 1947. Bha Gillesbuig 's mi fhéin còmhla an àrd-sgoil Phort-righeadh. Balach còir a bh'ann.—F.-D.)

1. An ám dùsgadh sa' mhadainn
'S dol a chadal na h-oidhe,
Tha mo smuaintean air a chaidh
Chun a' chalaigh ud a' lathaidh
mi,
Thall an dùthaich Mhalaya,
Aite nach téid as mo chuimhne;
'S ann a shin iad thu, *Erchie*,
Far nach éirich thu chaoidh as.

2. Dh'fhàg siud duilich do
bhràithrean,
Do chàirdean 's do chuideachd;
Bha do pheathraichean cràiteach,
O! cha b'fheàrrid iad a' bhuilt
ud;
Thriall t'athair 's do mhàthair
Mun tàinig an guth seo;
Bha sinn gillean ann mòran,
'S tusa b'òige againn uile.

3. Cha chuir sinn air diochuimhn'
A' mhios ud de'n fhoghar,
Aa siathamh latha dh'October,
Mios a' bhòin is an dragh
dhuinn,
Nuair a ghearradh air falbh thu,
'S gun thu amoch 'nad latha,
Le luchd-foill air an armadh—
O, nach searbh mar a thachair!

4. 'S ann air oidhe Dhi-luain
bh'ann
Nuair a fhuair thusa an acad,
'Nad charabad bha luath,
'S do bhean thrugh leat dol
dhachaidh;
'S e am peilear glas luaidhe
Rinn do bhualadh aig astar,
'S ann am mionaid na h-uarach
Dh'fhalbh do chuairt air an
talamh.

5. Chaidh an rathad a dhùnadh
Leis na brùidean an toiseach;
Siud a mheall air do stiùradh,
'S gun thu 'n dùil ri'n cuid
mallachd;
'S nam bh'e sabaid nam blàr
bh'ann
'S cothrom lànhan 'gar tannaig,
'S ma bha thusa mar bha thu,
Bha fear no dhà dhiubh ri
talamh.

6. Bha sinn uile fo thùise
Thu bhith 'n dùthaich fad as
bhuainn,
Fad bho eilean nam mór-bheann
Dh'àraich og thu 'nad bhalach,
Eilean mùineach do chàirdean;
Cha robh làmh dhiubh 'gad
phasgadh;
Fhuair sinn saighead nach
bàisach,
Fad ar latha 'gar gaiseadh.

7. 'Ga do chaoidh mar is còir
dhuinn
'S bhith ri bròn mar a thachair,
Ged nach aithnìcht' air mo
dhòigh-s' e,
Tha thu an còmhnaidh air
m'aire.
Thàinig bristeadh bha mór
oirn
Nach inns' òran no earrann,
'S cuiream crìoch air mo
rann—
Tha mo chaint air mo lagadh.

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Leabhraichean Ura

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Lochaber

ROMANTIC LOCHABER, by Donald B. MacCulloch (Moray Press, Edinburgh, 231pp., 29 illustrations, 10/6), is a new and revised edition of a book first published in 1939. Lochaber is an area full of scenic and historic interest, and Mr. MacCulloch does full justice to his subject, while his delightful photographs enhance the interest of the narrative.

Lochaber—at least by the inhabitants thereof—is regarded as being the area between Loch Arkaig on the north, Loch Treig on the east, Loch Leven on the south, and Glen Finnan on the west. The north-eastern district is known as Brae-Lochaber, while the district between Ben Nevis and Loch Leven is Nether Lochaber.

Here you will read about many things and many incidents and many places, too numerous even to name here. Incidents of the "Forty-five," of course, and the two battles of Inverlochy, the story of Mary of Callart and the plague-ship, the Camerons of Lochiel and the MacDonnells of Keppoch, Iain Lom and Ewen MacLachlan, and much more. Always there is the vivid description of scenes and places, possible only to an author who knows intimately every mile of country side.

The preface usefully summarises the part played by Lochaber in the last eight or nine years, including the war years, and the industrial and other developments that have taken place. There is a useful bibliography of topographical and historical works on Lochaber and a list of works of fiction associated with the district.

Sùil Aisle Air Ais

HIGHLAND MEMORIES, by Colin MacDonald (Moray Press, 160 pp., 7/6).

Those who have not yet read any of Mr. MacDonald's books are to be pitied. Beginning with "Echoes of the Glen (Mac Talla nan Gleann)" in 1936, followed by "Highland Journey (Sùil Air Ais)" in 1943 and "Croft and Ceilidh (Corra Chagailte)" in 1947, Mr. MacDonald has now given us another book in the same delightful style—"Highland Memories."

The author was born sixty-seven years ago on a croft near Achterneed, Ross-shire, and, after serving for many years with the Department of Agriculture for Scotland and latterly for over five years as

a member of the Scottish Land Court, he has now retired and intends to take up residence on the croft where he was born and of which he has remained tenant all along.

Mr. MacDonald's books are the fine fruit of his many interesting experiences and his contacts with many types of men and women in the years of his service in the Highlands and Islands. There is an entertaining chapter about a landlord's claim for compensation for heavy damages because of the advantage taken by crofters of certain powers (under Defence of the Realm Regulations) to kill trespassing deer. The crofter witnesses, on appearing in court, exercised their right to give their evidence in Gaelic, although they knew English quite well.

Another amusing chapter is about the famous "Cùirt nan Con" (or, as the Barra bodach put it, "Ma tà, b'e sin cùirt nan galla!") at Lochmaddy, when 1,542 dog-owners in the Hebrides were summoned to court because of the landlords' objection to the numerous exemptions from paying dog-licences. The crofters' agent won his case easily by a clever and logical line of argument.

No one who knows what the arrival of the steamer at Lochmaddy, Tarbert (Harris), Stornoway, Portree, or other West Highland or Island pier, means in the life of the community should miss Mr. MacDonald's chapter about the arrival of the first motor-car to be seen on a certain western island. What consternation among beasts and men! "And now the beasts on the island will hardly get up from their siesta on the warm sandy road to let your car pass; the cow, whose granny the sight and sound of the first aeroplane drove frantic from the machair, is annoyed if you disturb her cud-chewing bliss by shooting her away to allow a bomber to land!"

Mr. MacDonald gives much useful information about the workings of the Department of Agriculture and the Land Court and other bodies concerned with the Highlands and Islands. It is even as we supposed. The "office-wallahs" find it difficult at times to appreciate the local situation, while agricultural technicalities must often be a trial to civil servants who cannot understand how one animal, a sheep, can assume so many different forms—"a lamb, a hogg, a gimmer, a maiden ewe, a ewe, a fine ewe,

a yeld ewe, a cast ewe, a milled ewe, a dinmont, a wedder, a keb, a piner, a pallie, a peellie, a straggler, a tup, a top, a mid, a shott!"

We hope that Mr. MacDonald, in the peace of Achterneed, will give us more of his reminiscences.

Shetland

LETTERS ON SHETLAND, by Peter Jamieson (Moray Press, 272 pp., 21 illustrations, 9/6).

It is a far cry from Barra or Skye to Shetland, although the Shetlands and Orkneys are reckoned (by the Department of Agriculture at least) as being included in the "Highland Counties." In many ways Shetland and the Hebrides are alike—many islands, isolated communities, difficult communications, a hard living for most of the folk, always the great ocean to make them brave and keep them humble. But there are differences, mainly on the human level, for the Shetlander like the Highlander is quite a distinctive person. The Norse, of course, left their mark on the Hebrides, but Shetland is or was 100 per cent. Norse.

This book by Mr. Jamieson (who is, I think, the editor of "The New Shetlander") is a valuable account of what it means to live and work in Shetland. Here one learns a great deal of the history of Shetland, and of the tyranny that unfortunately held sway there at certain periods in the past, as in the Highlands also.

In 1931 the population of Shetland was about 21,000, and it is dwindling, chiefly because of economic and social causes. Crofting and fishing are the two mainstays of Shetland's economy. Present conditions and prospects, as well as very practical proposals for future development, are here set forth, and there is a great deal also about social life, customs, and folk-lore. It is a fascinating book, stirring in one the longing to visit Shetland.

'S TU AS FHAISGE

Bu dhuine mór Tormod—bha e còrr is sia troighean air àirde. Bha e a' dol dhachaidh an oidhche seo, is còl a thachair ris ach Dhòmhann. Thug Dhòmhann sùil air a' ghealach.

"A bheil thu faicinn Bodach na Gealaich, a Dhòmhann!?" arsa Tormod.

"Chan 'eil mise 'ga fhaicinn,'" fhearraig Dhòmhann, "mur a faic thu fhéin e—is tu as fhaigse air!" (Bho An Cabairneach, 1945, le cead)

PADRAIG

"Chunnaic mi 'm bàrd air tràigh na mara,

Is ràn na gaillinn 'na chluais."

THAINIG briathran a' bhàird gu bàrr mo theanga nuair a thachair mi air Pàdraig 'na sheasamh air bàrr a' chladaich ag gear-amharc air a' chuan.

Is e latha foghair a bha ann, agus aig an ùm bha na tuinn a' deann-ruith gu cladach.

"Dé tha thu faicinn?" arsa mise.

"Tha mi faicinn agus ag éisdeachd a' chuin siar. Dh'éigh an naoidheamh tonn rium, 'A bheil mi cur iongantais ort?' Fhreagar mi, 'Tha do mheud 's do chumhachd ag cur ionghnàth orm.' 'Fuirich,' ars an tonn, 'gus am faic thu m'iar-ogha aig toiseach an earrach.'"

Their na seann iasgairan gu bheil gach naoidheamh tonn nas motha na càch.

Cha b'e bàrd a bha am Pàdraig, agus cha robh e riann ann an sgoil Bheurla, ach cha b'e a h-uile bàrd a chaidh cho domhain ris ann am beachdachadh air obair a' chruthachaidh agus miorbhuilean nàdur.

Is e tlachd a bha ann éisdeachd ris a' chainnt anns an deanadh e iomradh air rudan a bha e toirt faicnear—air ealtainn ghiadh a' dol thairis troimh an adhar ann an cumadh geinne, "agus Caipitean *Otter* air an toiseach" (ri linn Phàdraig b'e Caipitean *Otter* sgiobair ainmeil a bha seòladh a mach a Steòrnabhagh); air sgoath neochumanta mór de shùlairean ag iasgach air tràigh Shannndaigh, agus air son a leigeil faicinn cho lionmhor 's a bha iad thuirte e gu robh shùlairean *New Zealand* ann.

Chuala mi e ann an taigh-cèilidh a' deanamh inneas air a' bheart air a bheil an damhan-allaidh a' fighe a lìn, agus a' foillseachadh a leithid de mhion-eòlas air caithe-beatha a' chreutair bhig sin agus gu robh am beag 's am mór, an t-òg 's an sean, ag éisdeachd le ionghnadh.

Chuir e croch air a sgeul leis na faicil, "Siud an rud a chi Pàdraig: tha mo nàbaidh an sin—chan fhaic càil nas motha na chi mart?" Tha bliadhnaichean bho shìubhail e, ach gus an là an diugh cluinidh mi aig fear no té, ann a bhith bruidhinn no a' deanamh seanchais, "Mar a thuirte Pàdraig—"

Cha robh "leam-leat" na nàdur. Arsa fear ris uair-eigin: "An dubhairt thusa (ris a leithid seo de bhobhairnann) gun ghòid mise còig chléibh buntàta ort."

"Cha dubhairt mi sin idir," arsa Pàdraig. "'S e thubhairt mi gun do ghòid thu seachd!'"

A. M.

HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

ANNUAL MEETING

AT the annual general meeting of the League (which is now in its fifteenth year) the Rev. T. M. Murchison was reappointed President and Mr. Donald MacKay, Solicitor, 190 West George Street, Glasgow, C.2., was reappointed Secretary and Treasurer.

Among the resolutions passed at the meeting were the following:—

Knoydart

"The Highland Development League deplores the decision of the Secretary of State for Scotland to act on the recommendations of the Cameron Report on Knoydart, and particularly repudiates the explicit assumption that the primary purpose of developing Knoydart or any similar area should be the maximum production of beef and mutton of which the area is capable.

"The League holds that the primary purpose of any such development should be the building up and maintaining of a reasonable level of population by land settlement schemes and subsidiary means of livelihood.

"The League doubts whether the single-unit development proposed in the Cameron Report will achieve the maximum production of beef and mutton envisaged.

"The League regards the Secretary of State's decision on Knoydart as providing a dangerous precedent which may justify the clearing of the crofter population from other Highland areas and the setting up of extensive farms thus further depopulating the Highlands."

Land Settlement

"The Highland Development League notes with interest that the Government have decided to develop small-holdings in England and Wales in an effort to attract more people to the land.

"The League notes that, while the Scottish Agriculture Act, 1948, gives authority to the Secretary of State to proceed with land settlement schemes, no announcement has yet been made in regard to land policy in Scotland.

"The League once again calls upon the Government to proceed with suitable land settlement schemes in Scotland, especially in view of the fact that several thousand applicants have had their names on the Department of Agriculture's list for years past."

FORTY-SIXTH NATIONAL MOD, INVERNESS, 1949

4th, 5th, 6th and 7th October

The Daily Sessions will commence each day at 9 a.m. and Concerts have been arranged as follows:—

JUNIOR CONCERT:

Tuesday, 4th October, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets: 3/- (Reserved). 2/- (Unreserved).

RURAL CHOIR CONCERT:

Thursday, 6th October: First House, 7.30 p.m. Second House, 9 p.m.

Tickets: 3/6 (Reserved). 2/6 (Unreserved).

MOD GRAND CONCERT:

Friday, 7th October: Empire Theatre, 7.30 p.m. Playhouse, 8 p.m.

Tickets: 5/- (Reserved). 3/6 and 2/6 (Unreserved).

Life and Ordinary Members of An Comunn will have a special priority (Reserved Seats being limited to two per Member for each Concert) in obtaining Concert Tickets until Monday, 15th August. Application should, however, be made to the office at 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2. as soon as possible.

IT SHOULD BE SPECIALLY NOTED THAT NO RESERVATION WILL BE MADE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPROPRIATE REMITTANCE MADE PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF AN COMUNN GAIÐHEALACH.

Mr. ANGUS NICOLSON

MR. ANGUS NICOLSON, M.B.E., Land Officer of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, has retired after forty-five years' Government service, and his colleagues have presented him with gifts in appreciation of his worth and work.

A native of Staffin, Skye, Mr. Nicolson, having served in the Kilmuir Estate Office for four years, entered Government service in 1904. After World War I he had an active part in the establishment of new smallholding settlements in Skye. Mr. Nicolson is to live at Kilcamb, Strontian, and, although retired, will be factor of the Department's Sunart Estate. A keen churchman, Mr. Nicolson taught in the Sunday School at Portree (when the Editor of this magazine was a pupil there) and was for many years an elder in Gynfriars Kirk, Edinburgh. Tha sinn ag guidhe do ar caraid slàinte is soirbheachadh.

THE PROVINCIAL MODS

BY the end of June some fourteen local and provincial mods had been held, and all of them have been very successful, especially in the junior section. The Editor was privileged to attend and adjudicate at two—Mod Dhailriada at Lochgilthead and the Skye Mod at Portree. Each was a two-day mod.

The Mid Argyll area is still strongly Gaelic, despite the fact that it is within a few hours' bus-run of Glasgow and the industrial areas. The Gaelic one hears at the Mid Argyll Mod is not just Gaelic learned from a printed page for the purposes of the Mod, but (as noticeable localisms and dialectal peculiarities indicate) a Gaelic still to a great extent living "common speech."

Skye also is increasingly subject to non-Gaelic influences, but there the old language is still vigorous, and one encouraging feature of this year's mod was the number of districts, which never previously were represented, which sent up choirs or individual competitors. Eight junior choirs competed. There were six hundred and eighty competitors altogether at Portree, a much larger number than the National Mod could muster for many years.

All honour to the competitors, teachers, and parents, all of whom throughout the year play their part in preparing for these mods, and thanks especially to the local committees and officials who give so much time and effort to making the necessary arrangements and raising the necessary funds.

Mod Reports (from p. 95)

bell and Sheila MacSporran and Susan MacArthur and Mary MacCallum (equal).

Choral singing: two-part harmony (Silver Cup presented by late Ex-Provost Brown)—Kilmartin Junior Gaelic Choir. Unison (James Buchanan Strang Memorial Challenge Shield)—Ardriahraig Public School Gaelic Choir.

Pianoforte (under 16)—Helen Black, Tarbert. Pianoforte (any age)—Helen Black.

SENIOR SECTION

Reading at sight—Morag MacCallum, Tayvallich. Recitation—Morag MacCallum.

Solo singing: Ladies—(own choice)—Mary Jane Gillies, Lochgilthead. Men—Dugald MacDougall, Tarbert. Own choice (16-18), Morag MacCallum and Margaret C. MacArthur, Inveraray (equal). Singing Psalm-tune "Glencairn"—Mrs. MacLeod, Kill-

(continued in next column)

(from previous column)

martin. Prescribed songs—Elizabeth C. MacPhail, Lochgilthead. Puirt-a-beul (prizes from Sir George Campbell of Succoth)—Morag MacCallum. Oran Mor—Mary Jane Gillies. Duet—Mary Jane Gillies and Aunice Gillies, Lochgilthead.

Card with Celtic design in colour—Mrs. Govan, Lochgilthead.

Winner of Gold Pendant (presented by Miss Madge Campbell Brown in memory of late Ex-Provost Archibald Brown and Mrs. Brown), for highest aggregate in junior solo singing—James R. Gillies, Lochgilthead.

Winner of Gold Pendant (presented by Mr. Donald Crawford, Lochgilthead), for highest aggregate in senior solo singing—Mary Jane Gillies, Lochgilthead.

PERTSHIRE

ENTRIES for the second post-war mod, held at Aberfeldy on 17th June, were almost double last year's figure, and the Mod Convener, Rev. Ian MacLellan,

Weem, expressed the hope that by next year the numbers competing would reach the pre-war figures. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. Roderick Mackinnon and Mr. Neil Shaw; for Music, Mr. Malcolm G. MacCallum, Campbelltown, Mr. Duncan Menzies, Aberfeldy, Mr. Ian C. Menzies, Edinburgh, and Mr. Neil Shaw.

A large and enthusiastic audience filled the Town Hall for the mod concert. Mrs. Molteno, Glenlyon House, presided, and the programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners, along with Miss Mary C. MacNiven and Mr. Iain R. Douglas, guest artistes. The prizes were handed over by Mrs. MacLellan. Anne Douglas, Glenlyon, was again the winner of the Marjory Cameron Memorial Cup (for the junior Competitor with the highest aggregate of points), but, as she gained this award last year, the cup is being withheld meantime pending a decision on her eligibility. The joint runners-up were Rachel Macleod, Glenlyon, and James S. MacDiarmid, Lawers.

(continued on next page)

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

THE Organiser was present at a meeting of the Fort William branch on 20th May. On the following morning, along with the Convener of Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee, he travelled to Inverailort and, with Mr. and Mrs. Cameron-Head, visited the site for this year's Camp. On that afternoon they were present at two shinty finals under the auspices of the Schools' Camanachd Association at Fort William. The schools concerned were Oban High School and Kingussie Secondary School. The Cup for the "under 13s" was worthily won by Kingussie, but the one for the "under 15s" was shared for the year. After playing two periods of extra time, the result was a draw.

On 25th May Mr. MacPhail presided at a concert at Kingussie, organised by Mrs. John MacKinnon in aid of the Mod funds. The programme was for the most part provided by the junior choir and soloists prepared by Mrs. MacKinnon, while she herself delighted all with several Gaelic songs. Violin and pianoforte selections were given by Miss Gordon and Mrs. White, while Angus MacLeod sang several Gaelic songs which were much enjoyed.

26th May found the Organiser at the annual general meeting of

the Golspie branch. Satisfactory reports were submitted and several donations were made. The officers-bearers remain as last year.

THE Organiser was present at one of the sessions of the Glasgow Local Mod, and what impressed him most was the high standard in the oral section. There were some excellent performers in the junior recitation, "Tir nan Og." Mr. MacPhail attended a conference in Edinburgh on the following day and was back in Inverness that evening.

The Organiser adjudicated the Gaelic section of the Ross-shire Musical Festival, held in Dingwall on 1st June, while he and Mr. Graham, Convener, attended at the Badenoch-Strathspye Provincial Mod at Aviemore on 3rd June.

Arrangements are proceeding apace for this year's National Mod, and the North has responded well to the appeal for funds. Contributions are still required, however, and donations, however small, will be thankfully received and officially acknowledged. These can be sent to Mr. George A. Smith, Local Treasurer, North of Scotland Bank, Queensgate, Inverness, or to the General Treasurer, 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.I. *Nìthear carn mòr de chlachtaibh beaga.*

(continued from page 99)

In an address Mr. Neil Shaw, general secretary of An Comunn, recalled that it was at Aberfeldy he had given his first address as secretary thirty-six years ago. Aberfeldy and district, he said, had given loyal support to the Gaelic movement, and it was most encouraging to find competitors coming forward in such numbers.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Reading prose—Anne Douglas, Glenlyon. Reading prose (learners)—Eila MacLellan, Weem. Recitation—Anne Douglas. Conversation—Anne Douglas. Reciting

from memory—Anne Douglas. Solo singing: Girls (under 12)—Christine Ramsay, Kenmore. Girls (12-16)—Catherine Fraser, Fortingall. Boys (12-16)—James S. MacDiarmid. Duet (learners)—Catherine Fraser and Jean MacAulay, Fortingall.

SENIOR SECTION

Reading prose at sight—Hugh MacPhee, Kenmore. Reciting poetry—Elizabeth C. MacDiarmid, Lawers. Acted dialogue—Ina MacArthur and Mrs. Margaret MacDiarmid, Lawers. Solo singing: Ladies—Annie Dewar, Logierait. Men—William Allan, Killin. Oran Mor—Ladies—Mrs. Elizabeth Cameron, Scone.

Men—Christie MacDonald. Male Voice Quartette—Logierait M. V. Quartette. Singing Perthshire song—Mrs. J. Shearer, Weem. Duet—Mrs. J. Morris and James Hamilton, Aberfeldy. Quartette—Logierait 'A'. Choral singing (two-part harmony)—Killin Ladies' Choir.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Bagpipes (March, Strathspey, and Reel)—Edward Clark, Derulich. Violin (junior)—Donald Hepworth, Aberfeldy. Violin (senior)—John MacMillan, Keltneburn. Pianoforte (junior)—Gladys MacDonald, Ballinluing. Pianoforte (senior)—John Boath, Aberfeldy.

Treasurer's Notes (Continued from page 101)

An Comunn Central Fund

The high levels of present day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged	£10	—
Dundee Highland Society	2	2
Alexander Stewart, Esq., Glasgow ..	—	15
Tir nam Beann Association, Greenock ..	5	—
John MacPherson, Esq., Berks	—	5
John MacAskill, Esq., Isle of Harris ..	—	10
Aberdeen Branch	2	2
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Dingwall Branch	5	—
Mrs. N. S. Bevir, Eire	—	10
Govan Branch	3	—
Dr. T. K. Monro, Glasgow	1	1

£30 10 —

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£6	18	—
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Miss Alice A. Smith, Edinburgh	—	5	—
Mrs. M. F. Soutar, Dingwall	—	1	—
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Miss Iseabail Murray, London	—	10	—
Dr. T. K. Monro, Glasgow	—	2	—

£21 9 6

New Ordinary Members (contd. from p. 102)

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Ionmhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Flag Day Collection in Sandwickhill District, per D. Matheson, Esq., Stornoway	£4 2 1
Mrs. M. F. Soutar, Dingwall	1 1 —
The Highland Ball, per Adam Maitland, Esq., London	10 — —
Proceeds of Work Party Meetings	1 6 6
Tir nam Beann Association, Greenock	10 — —
Collection Box in Albert Hall, Gounock, per J. Sinclair, Esq.	— 5 —
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(Continued on page 100)

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Vol. XLIV

SEPTEMBER, 1949

No. 8



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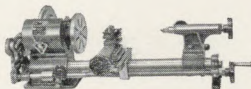
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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

Kilchurn Castle, Loch Awe

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Inverness National Mod

THE entries for the National Mod presage keen and exciting competition.

18 junior choirs are competing for the Mrs. Campbell Blair Trophy, 13 for the Mrs. Miller Trophy, and five for the Oban Times Shield and Mrs. Hobbs of Inverlochy Trophy.

Twenty-five girls and nine boys have entered for the silver medals for junior solo-singing.

In the senior section twenty-two choirs have entered, from places as far apart as London and Stornoway, Campbeltown, Harris, Lairg, and Golspie. Indeed, most areas seem to be represented in the choral competitions. Nineteen persons aspire to the Bardic Crown. 51 have entered for the Nova Scotia competitions. 68 ladies and 43 men are competing for the Bessie Campbell Prizes, 57 and 53 for the Oban and Lorn Medals, 49 and 45 for the James Grant Prizes, and 48 and 41 for the Orain Mhora.

Professor Holmer

WE were glad to have news recently of Professor Nils M. Holmer, the well-known Scandinavian Celtic scholar. Eleven years ago he published a valuable monograph on "Studies on Argyleshire Gaelic." He also contributed an important article to *Alba* on "New Words in Gaelic."

A member of An Comunn, Miss Anne Gunn, when attending a conference in Sweden this summer, renewed acquaintance with Professor Holmer. He is now at Lund University, and in recent years has been engaged on the study of Central American languages. He has not forsaken Celtic studies, however, and Miss Gunn brought back prints of two learned articles by him—one on "Post-vocalic S in Insular Celtic," and the other on "Old Irish -icc, -uccí."

Miss Annie Johnston

WE congratulate Miss Annie Johnston, Barra, on receiving the honorary Fellowship of the Educational Institute of Scotland. Miss Johnston received her training as a teacher at Notre Dame, Glasgow, and was headmistress at Brevig, Barra, from 1906 to 1908. Thereafter she held appointments at Castlebay and St. Ninian's School, Gourrock. In 1917 she returned to Barra to teach at Castlebay.

Miss Johnston is well-known, not only in Scotland but furth of it, as an authority on Gaelic music, language, and culture. Many writers, artists, and poets have sought her advice and help in their work. For many years she has taught Gaelic classes and prepared children for mods. She is also a traditional singer with an extensive knowledge of unpublished music and lore, and is a member of the Council of the Folklore Institute of Scotland.

Dr. T. F. O'Rahilly

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of LL.D. on Professor T. F. O'Rahilly, D.Litt., the distinguished Celtic scholar, who was until recently Director of Celtic Studies in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. In 1946 he published his great work, "Early Irish History and Mythology" (reviewed in *An Gaidheal*, June, 1947).

Inverness Clarsach Class

INVERNESS COUNTY COUNCIL have given permission for an evening class in clarsach playing to be held in Inverness Royal Academy. General Sir Philip Christison, who is keenly interested in the Clarsach Society, has inaugurated a fund for the award of scholarships for clarsach playing.

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Aisling caillich mar a dùrachd.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Duine acrach a chì aisling, agus, feuch, tha e ag itheadh, ach, air dùsgadh dha, tha anam ciocrach.—*Isaiah* xxix.8.

Mr. Donald Nicolson, Kyle

MR DONALD NICOLSON, Police Sergeant, Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross-shire, has recently retired after 36 years' service in the Ross-shire Constabulary. A native of Braes, Portree, he joined the Police Force in 1913, and was stationed at Dingwall, Stornoway, Aultbea, and Gairloch, before coming to Kyle 15 years ago. In 1947 he was awarded the King's Police Medal for Gallantry. Mr. Nicolson belongs to a gifted family. One of his brothers is Mr. Alexander Nicolson, M.A., Lecturer in Gaelic at Jordanhill College, Glasgow, while among his nephews are Mr. John Maclean, M.A., H.M.I.S., Mr. Sorley Maclean, M.A. (one of our best modern Gaelic bards), and Mr. Calum Iain MacLean, M.A., of the Irish Folklore Commission.

Mr. Nicolson himself is a bard also and several of his songs are widely known. At Kyle he has taken a leading part in the life of the community, and he is President of the Kyle branch of An Comunn and Convener of the S.W. Ross and Glenelg Mod Committee.

We wish Mr. and Mrs. Nicolson a long and happy retirement.

Wick Branch

ONE of the most northerly outposts of An Comunn Gaidhealach, the Wick branch, has completed its twenty-fourth year. For many years the membership has averaged between sixty and seventy, but the ceilidhs are often attended by many non-members as well, and a crowded hall is the rule rather than the exception.

Caithness, of course, could never be claimed as a Gaelic-speaking area, and the long continued success and popularity of the Wick branch is all the more remarkable and praiseworthy. There is no doubt that here the secret of success is the unflinching enthusiasm of the office-bearers of the branch, conjoined with a consistently high standard of programmes for the monthly lecture-ceilidhs. Last session's syllabus included lectures on "Dr. Johnson's Tour in the Highlands," "Celtic Art," "Some Aspects of Gaelic Poetry in the 19th Century," "The Campbells," and "Caithness Events." The President is Mrs. A. Rossie and the Hon. Secretary is Miss E. M. Miller.

Dr. W. M. Mackenzie

DR. WILLIAM MACKAY MACKENZIE, the well-known Scottish historian, recently received the degree of LL.D. from Edinburgh University. Previously he was awarded the D.Litt. degree.

Dr. Mackenzie has also gained the Senior Hume Brown Prize in Scottish History for his recent book on "Scottish Burghs." Dr. Mackenzie is a native of Cromarty.

Highlanders' Institute

THE Rev. Magnus J. G. MacIntosh has completed a four-year term of office as President of the Institute, and in that capacity has rendered excellent service. The new President is Mr. Alexander MacRae, a native of Strath, Skye, and Detective-Inspector in the Glasgow Police. Mr. MacRae has been for fifteen years a member of the Executive Committee of the Institute and is a Past President of the Clan MacRae Society and a Director of the Glasgow Skye Association.

Pipe-Major John MacLellan

PIPE-MAJOR John MacLellan, D.C.M., died recently in Dunoon at the age of seventy-three. He served in the Boer War and in World War I. He was a well-known composer of pipe band music, among his compositions being "The Road to the Isles."

Mr. Angus MacLellan

THE death has taken place at Griminish, Benbecula, of Mr. Angus MacLellan, a well-known seanchaidh. In recent years he gave a large amount of folklore material to the Irish Folklore Commission, and also made recordings for the Linguistic Survey of Scotland and the B.B.C.

Mrs. A. N. Nicolson, Inverness

WE extend our sympathy to Mr. A. N. Nicolson, well-known as Secretary of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, on the death of his wife, Mrs. Nicolson, who belonged to Glendevon, Perthshire, was at one time teacher of French in Oban High School. She was deeply interested in Gaelic and assisted her husband in his secretarial work for the Gaelic Society.

Mr. J. M. Skinner

WE regret to record the sudden death on 27th July of Mr. John M. Skinner, solicitor, who for almost forty years was Burgh Prosecutor at Oban and also served for a long time as Burgh Assessor and as J.P. Fiscal for Lorn, Mull, and Ardnamurchan. A keen follower of football and shinty, Mr. Skinner was also interested in the Gaelic cause. He was a founder of the Oban branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach and for a number of years was treasurer of the branch.

THE LATE

SIR STEWART MACPHERSON

WE regret to record the death on 6th August of Sir Thomas Stewart Macpherson, C.I.E., LL.D., who served for some years on the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Sir Stewart, who was born in 1876, belonged to Newtonmore and was the elder brother of Sir Ian Macpherson, first Baron Strathcarron. Educated at Edinburgh and Oxford, he became a barrister and entered the Indian Civil Service in 1899, and there gave long and distinguished service, latterly being Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature, Patna. He was also for a period Honorary Vice-Chancellor of Patna University. He retired in 1936, and in his retirement interested himself in Highland and Gaelic affairs, serving on Inverness County Council, the Executive Council of An Comunn, and other bodies.

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved family.

NEW PROFESSOR OF CELTIC

Mr. Kenneth Jackson

MR KENNETH HURLSTONE JACKSON, M.A., Professor of Celtic in the University of Harvard, U.S.A., has been appointed to the Chair of Celtic Languages, Literature, History and Antiquities, in Edinburgh University, which recently became vacant by the appointment of Dr. Myles Dillon as senior professor in the School of Celtic Studies of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

Mr. Jackson, who is thirty-nine years of age, is an Englishman of partly Scottish descent, and his wife is a graduate of Edinburgh University.

The new Professor of Celtic was educated at Whitgift School, Croydon, and St. John's College, Cambridge. In 1934 he was elected a Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and was appointed Lecturer in Celtic in the University Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology. In 1939 he became Associate Professor of Celtic in the University of Harvard and recently became the first full Professor of Celtic there. During the recent war he was associated with the British censorship in Bermuda, where he qualified as a censor in twenty-three languages.

Professor Jackson, it is stated, is unlikely to be free to take up his new duties in Edinburgh until October, 1950.

Frances Tolmie, 1840-1926

By ROSE ETHEL BASSIN

1

IT is no exaggeration to say that among the collectors of Gaelic traditional song the most honoured name is that of Frances Tolmie. During a long life she contributed songs and lore of her own garnering to numerous publications, but her most striking memorial is No. 16 of the *Journal of the Folk Song Society*, consisting of one hundred and five songs from her large collection.

Frances Tolmie was born in 1840 in the MacLeod Country of Skye. On both sides she was descended from distinguished Hebridean families, her father, John Tolmie (I), being hereditary tacksman (small land-owner) of Uignish, and her mother, Margaret Hope MacAskill, the daughter of Donald MacAskill, tacksman of Kildonan in the Island of Eigg and doctor of the Small Isles.

Her interest in Gaelic tradition began in her infancy: as a child she begged her mother to teach her the old songs she had known in her youth. As time went on she became recognised among Gaelic scholars as a dependable authority on traditional song and lore. In addition to Scottish Gaelic she had a sound knowledge of Irish Gaelic and was familiar, in a lesser degree, with Welsh and Manx. I am told that she played the piano much and derived great enjoyment from it. She had travelled widely in France, Switzerland and Italy, and was in every sense of the word a highly cultured woman.

Her father died when she was only five. She was one of the youngest members of a large family and in her late teens and early twenties lived in the Manse of Bracadale, on the west of Skye, where her brother was parish minister. It was an ideal atmosphere for the development of her growing interest in Gaelic lore. Among friends of the family were Dr. Alexander Carmichael, collector and editor of *Carmina Gadlica*, and Mr. Thomas, Constable of Edinburgh, while through Miss MacLeod of MacLeod her work was known to Professor Blackie.

(1) "The Mackenzies of Ballone," by Hector Hugh Mackenzie, J.P., F.S.A. (Scot.), published by *The Northern Chronicle*, Inverness, 1941, gives the genealogy of the Tolmie family, including a section about the noted folk-lorist. Mr. Mackenzie has very kindly given me some details about Miss Tolmie that I have incorporated in this article, and I take this opportunity to thank him most warmly.

The next part of her story I was privileged to hear from her own lips.

It was in the autumn of 1925 that I had tea with her at "Kilchoan," her cottage in Dunvegan from whose north windows she could see her birthplace. Having lived in the Lake Country—where Ruskin was one of her circle of friends, in Edinburgh and Oban, she had returned to Skye in 1915.

At the time I met her she was eighty-five years of age, but tall and stately, a delightful talker and the possessor of a happy sense of humour. She told me how her real collecting began and how her songs came to be published by the Folk Song Society. Looking back on that conversation I am struck by the way circumstances provided both the work to be done and the right person to do it. It happened when she was living at Bracadale, at the age of twenty. She was asked by Miss MacLeod

of MacLeod, who was often in London, to distribute wool among the women of the district in connection with a home-knitting scheme. As this would involve long walks over lonely moors, her mother said she must have an escort. Rather than have a girl of her own age she chose elderly women. She mentioned two in particular, Effie (Oighrig) Ross and "Little" Margaret Gillies. Both were singers with well-stored memories and the long walks were made pleasant by song, story, and talk of ancient ways. In this way were gathered and learned a great number of waulking songs, i.e. songs used at the fulling of home-woven tweed, when the wet cloth is beaten for a considerable time on a specially contrived board.

She spoke feelingly of another friend and singer, Mary Ross. "Alas, poor woman, she is now lying on her deathbed at Kilmaluag." Thirty-eight of the one hundred and five songs in the *Journal* are attributed to Mary Ross—noted mainly around the turn of the century—and a special article is devoted to her by Miss

(Continued on next page)



MISS FRANCES TOLMIE

(Photograph by kind permission of Miss Anne G. Gilchrist)

(From previous page)

Tolmie. The Preface to the collection should be quoted here, for I believe it is to Mary Ross it refers.

"The following collection is offered to the Folk Song Society with considerable diffidence. It consists merely of the notes and fire-side memories of two friends, natives of the Hebrides, who are fully aware of many gaps amongst the verses; gaps which, to their regret, they are now unable to repair in the way that would be most efficient, by returning to those haunts of early youth from which they have been separated for many years."

THAT afternoon Miss Tolmie brought out Dr. Keith Norman MacDonald's *Gesto Collection* (1895), in the Appendix to which several of her songs appear. She sang several of them to me, remarking, with a glance at the old instrument in the corner, that these songs did not go well with the piano.

From the beginning she had been encouraged by Alexander Carmichael and others to write down all she heard and learned. "Fortunately," she said, "I was able to write down the tunes in sol-fa." Later, visiting North Uist, she had noted further songs. She went on to tell me how she had kept her notes for many years, a rolled-up bundle of manuscript. One day in 1900 while spending a day with the Carmichaels at Taynuit she met Dr. George Henderson, the famous Celtic scholar and author, at that time Lecturer in Celtic subjects at Glasgow University. On hearing her sing some of the songs and learning of the existence of this manuscript he arranged that she should meet Miss Lucy Broadwood: finally her songs were published by the Folk Song Society.

The full story is told in the *Journal*.

I met her once or twice again, but reproach myself now that I did not return to her often to learn some of the songs as she sang them. She died on the last day of 1926, the result of a fall.

II

IT was a fortunate circumstance that brought the Tolmie collection into the hands of the Folk Song Society. For her part Miss Tolmie gave material faithfully noted and carefully documented, the Gaelic being edited and certain notes on language and folk-lore contributed by Dr. Henderson. On the Society's side Miss Anne G. Gilchrist contributed

an illuminating study of the modal and pentatonic character of the tunes, classifying the tunes according to their modes, and drawing parallels between many of the tunes and those of other countries. Miss Lucy Broadwood added notes both on music and language, sometimes comparing tunes with variants in her own Gaelic collection, and occasional notes on the music were made by Mr. J. A. Fuller-Maitland.

Full details are given about the singers. For instance a few years ago in North Uist I mentioned the name of a woman who had sung to Miss Tolmie in 1871 and was at once greeted with an exclamation of recognition. Indeed, a child I knew was pointed out to me as a descendant!

The collection presents a very satisfying and complete picture of the different types of Gaelic song, Songs of Labour—Waulking, Reaping, Rowing, and Milking Songs—Lullabies and "dandling" tunes, Vocal Dance Music (*Puirt-a-beul* (2)), Songs to Chiefs and others (*Orain Mhóya*, or "great songs"), ancient Heroic Lays, as well as Love Songs and Laments.

PARTICULARLY valuable are the seven Heroic Lays. J. F. Campbell of Islay, in *Leabhar na Féinne* (the Book of the Feinn or Finglians), 1872, gave various

(2) *Puirt-a-beul*, or "mouth tunes," are still very popular among Gaelic-speaking people. Miss Tolmie gives only three in this collection, but she contributed others to the book entitled "*Puirt-a-beul*," edited by Keith Norman MacDonald, 1901. In the Appendix to "The Gesto Collection of Highland Music," on p. 15, will be found an acknowledgment by the same Editor as follows: "I am much indebted to Miss Frances Tolmie of Skye for the following waulking songs and most of the other airs, most of which would have been lost had she not preserved them as sung of old." Mr. Mackenzie has kindly supplied me with this quotation in a letter.

BOLA BROIS

Bha seann duine ann aon uair a bha glé thinn agus cha robh dùil gun bitheadh e fada beò. Bha a bhean is e 'na cheist oirre dé am biadh a bheireadh i dha air son a neartachadh.

Thubhairt ban-charaid dhì rithe cupa brochain a thoirt dha. Rinn a bhean am brochan agus thug i ga ionnsaigh e. An uair a chunnaic an duine tinn, am brochan, ars esan, le greann air aodann:

"Thoir leat do bhrochan tana! B'e sin am biadh do dhuine a tha triall air an astar dheireannach. Nuas dhómhsa bóla bróis!"

(Bho *An Cabairneach*, 1944, le cead).

versions of the texts of these ancient lays, but how much richer a legacy would they have been had only the tunes or chants to which they were sung been noted too. Miss Tolmie mentions having found in Campbell's book versions of two of these lays that she had noted, adding that her versions were "much popularised to suit the requirements of the company seated at the waulking-board." Three of the seven, without refrains, are probably closer to the ancient bardic style of singing or chanting. (3)

The following passage opens Lucy Broadwood's Introduction: the words I have italicised are still true of Scotland:—

"Miss Frances Tolmie's collection of one hundred and five Songs of Occupation from the Western Isles of Scotland opens a mine of interest and delight to musicians, poets, folk-lorists and historians, and undoubtedly forms one of the most important contributions yet made towards the preservation of the purely traditional music and poetry of our British Isles in general and of Scotland in particular."

The value of the collection is enhanced by its form and presentation, a model of what such should be. An enormous amount of work went into the production of the volume, but what a fascinating labour it must have been for all concerned—and what a magnificent monument it remains!

(Reprinted by permission from *Journal of the English Folk Dance and Song Society*, Vol. V. No. 3.)

(3) I noted five such tunes as recently as this summer (1948) from the traditional singing of a woman of eighty-five in South Uist. The numerous verses of these and other lays and songs from the same singer have been scrupulously noted by Mr. K. C. Craig, of the Celtic Department of Edinburgh University, and it is hoped that a selection at least will be published shortly.

ETYMOLOGICAL NOTES

Fraoch (W. *grug*), heather. Russian *veres(k)* and Polish *wrozas* are cognate.

Smàglach: làn do dhà làimheadh. <smàg-lach. Prothetic s, màg, childish or ludicrous for the "hand," cp. *casag* for *cas*, and -lach meaning -ful as in *teaghlach* (houseful), household, family, children).

Smiotag (South Uist), *smiatag* (North Uist). "Cuff, light blow," like *pais*, *pais bheag*. <smiotag, s-miatag. Prothetic s and miotag, meatag, "a glove."

U'pìreachd (South and North Uist), "ill-natured conduct, waspishness." <English *viper*.

K. C. CRAIG.

Dr. Douglas Hyde

THE death took place at Dublin on 12th July of Dr. Douglas Hyde, one of the greatest Irishmen of modern times and first President of Saorstát Éireann.

The son of a clergyman of the Church of Ireland, Douglas Hyde was born eighty years ago in Roscommon. After a brilliant career at Trinity College, Dublin, he taught modern languages in the State University of New Brunswick for a short time.

In 1893 he, with others, founded *Conradh na Gaedhilge* (The Gaelic League), of which he remained President from its inception until 1915, when he resigned. He gave himself whole-heartedly to the task of furthering the aims of the League in its endeavour to revive and promote the ancient language and culture of Ireland.

Dr. Hyde was Professor of Modern Irish in the National University of Ireland from 1909 to 1932, and was Chairman of the Folklore Institute of Ireland from 1930 to 1934.

He was appointed the first President of Ireland in 1938 and held that office until 1945.

A historian, poet, and folklorist, as well as an active propagandist for the Irish language, Douglas Hyde published many books in Gaelic and English, perhaps the best known being "Love Songs of Connacht" (1894), "A Literary History of Ireland" (1899), and "Religious Songs of Connacht" (1906).

AN APPRECIATION

By PROFESSOR AGNES O'FARRELLY

THE passing of the beloved *Craoibhin Aoihbhinn* marks not alone the disappearance of a man unique in our generation, but also the end of a long and remarkable period in the history of our country.

To me, personally, it means the loss of an old friend and, I may say, a comrade in arms in the struggle for the Irish language.

It is a long panorama, but so full and varied that details are impossible. Hyde, the folklorist; Hyde, the poet; Hyde, the dramatist; Hyde, the leader of a lowly cause tearing off the trammels of its servitude and showing it to all the world as the slave descendant of lofty and cultured traditions; Hyde, the Protestant, making common cause with his Catholic fellow-countrymen — not the emancipated Catholics of Whig tradition but the submerged of the race.

An La Geal

I SEE him clearly as I saw him first at that early *Oireachtas* — a strange-looking young man with fire in his eyes as he spoke of the apathy towards the language: "Eireochamuid feasta, ta an la geal ag teacht." How well he foresaw the "la geal" which heralded both sunshine and sorrow.

Above all, I see him on many a platform throughout the country, where at *Feiseanna* and open-air meetings the vital energy of our small group was lavished in an effort to rouse an indifferent people to the national value of the old language and the old traditions. That was in the young days of the Gaelic League when our gospel was new and strange to a people who saw in the Irish language an emblem of poverty and — what was far more intolerable to a race that loved education — illiteracy. So far had the rot set in in the nation's soul.

As the organisation grew and we found it necessary to get in funds to pay organisers and to publish books, he responded to the S.O.S. and undertook the difficult and prolonged task of touring America on behalf of the Gaelic League.

A Long Fight

THE next historic event was the big campaign for Irish at matriculation in the new university. Here I remember him untiring and good-natured during a fight that raged for years.

His methods were not those of the politician or the trained orator. They were dictated by his feeling, and the people from the hill-sides and the valleys, from the bogs of his native Connacht or the plains of Waterford — these plain people sensed this new unselfish enthusiasm for a losing cause, and by degrees they backed his action and that of his comrades and brought the endorsement by the County Councils and the University Senate to triumph.

A new facet to the many-sided personality of the *Craoibhin* presented itself when the University was finally established and he became the first Professor of Modern Irish at University College, Dublin. On my appointment as Lecturer we were again associated in work which for us was most congenial. "You and I," he often used to say, "are very lucky in being appointed here to do work which we should be doing in one form or another anyhow."

Sunshine and Sorrow

MANY happy years followed, laden with work and full of interest — interest in our students and their careers and interest in the spoken and literary development of the language, but sad years followed as well — the outbreak of World War I; the fate of our own comrades in 1916 — Pearse, O'Rahilly, and the others; the tension of the long-drawn-out struggle; the coming of the Black and Tans; the deception over Ulster and the division of our people.

Later again, as I saw him in the Arus, bearing lightly the honours of Presidency, and happy when recreation time allowed him the joys of the golf course near the house, I recalled a saying he often quoted: "An rud is fuide o do chroidhe, is e an rud is goire do do laimh."

Again I see him when he relinquished the cares of State, enjoying the tranquillity of the second *Ratra*, joyful and pleasant, full of old-time anecdotes and of inquiry about his friends, happy in the loving care of his devoted sister and daughter, and, above all, feeling happy in the love and gratitude of the Irish people.

[Reprinted from *The Irish Independent*, 14th July, 1949.]

A SCOTTISH TRIBUTE

By REV. MALCOLM MACLEAN

"CHA bhi duine beò ach seal." Douglas Hyde "is dead." It would ill become us, Gaels of Scotland, to fail to bring our tribute. To all Celts he was a leaf friend: to us he was a true brother. In his own Celtic generation he surpassed all as the outstanding man of vision. There has never been one like him. He was a great gentleman. He was a scholar. He was a great teacher. He was an inspiring leader for whom men went out to dare and to do. He was more than all these things: he was a seer and a saint.

Let no one misunderstand us. This saint was no cloistered recluse, no detached and distant luminary, and no fugitive from the ways and delights of common days; but he was splendid in his simplicity and in his transparent integrity of mind and spirit. "Torna," his friend, has written that he was "childlike without being childish," and I think that that is very near the mark. To look into his eyes was to see the winsomeness of greatness and the gentleness of goodness and simplicity. His eyes too seemed to be full of the wonder of the man who sees the land of distant horizons. And he

(Continued on next page)

was a man of strength, a man of firmness and boundless force when the rights and honour of the Gael were at stake.

And what did he see? He saw a dying race, an ancient and once proud Celtic nation now compelled to conform in language and culture under the yoke. He saw the Irish broken and helpless, and they themselves ashamed of their name and language! He once told us of how he entered an Irish cabin and talked in Gaelic to the girl he found there. Her brother came in and addressed her thus: "Is it not a shame for you to be speaking to a stranger in Gaelic!" But Mr. Hugh Macphee told us of the Irish Gael he met in Ireland who answered him in Irish with, "I will not speak except in my own language!" The change between these two men was due to the fact of Douglas Hyde.

He had no school education. He was taught by his father, a clergyman of the Church of Ireland. His school was the West and the Gaels there! He went to Trinity College, Dublin, and found it a stronghold of "The Ascendancy" with its "English" pride and its utter contempt for "The Irish." The enemy was "in like a flood." So he raised a banner against him! "The Irish must be completely de-anglicised." Here was a lad from the West who set himself to undo all that England had done from the days of Elizabeth to the days of Victoria. If you want to see what he has done, look across the sea.

He has not done all. Much remains to be done. But no Irish disgrace will ever equal any failure to carry out his plan. Others took the field and had a new slogan, "Ireland free and Ireland Gaelic!" Britain was in the throes of a life-and-death struggle when Irishmen decided to strike her in the back. Hyde, being the man he was, could be no party to that. Forfeiting leadership and all, he retired and waited.

THE years brought political freedom, and ultimately Hyde became the first Irish President. His tenacity and loyalty were nowhere more apparent than when he left his home in old age to be the nation's head. But it is still none too clear that those who forced the issue and compelled Hyde to withdraw in 1915 were keener eyed or more far-seeing than he. For one thing, Ireland is free. But this freedom may seem to many in Ireland to be the very end of the road for all. And yet Ireland is still largely the "Little England"

that Hyde found and rejected as the totally unworthy and pathetically inadequate thing. And so the present problem for Gaels in Ireland is how to maintain in a free Ireland now the will to be Gaelic. Hyde's aim was to create that first of all. His aim is recognised now as the lawful Irish aim. But men who looked to the revival of Gaelic as a mere political weapon are tempted to throw that blade into the sea! Only a Gaelic-speaking Ireland can be free in Dr. Hyde's sense of freedom.

One wonders what he thought of it all. How often do we see the end as an achievement almost entirely different from the ideal? How different and how unexpected the world at the end of a war! How different the issue when every battle is over!

AT a Celtic Conference in Edinburgh at the end of the first World War the Scottish and Welsh delegates united in advising their fellow-Celts from the "Green Isle" to give up their anti-English ways. They were inclined to "talk down" to the Irish in Edinburgh! Quietly and suddenly Hyde stepped on to the platform. Everyone was silent and attentive. He told a story. The tension was released and all were happy again! and he walked away again and through the hall. I had to go out a moment or two afterwards and in the hall I found Hyde, a solitary figure, crying like a child.

I had the honour of visiting him in his "Aros" when he was President.

A strange sight, surely, an Irish Gael talking in Gaelic in that exalted seat! On the walls were portraits of the great Ascendancy men who had at different periods reigned there. I suggested that these might make him uncomfortable. "Oh," he said in Irish, "you become quite used to them!" He had "burst the bubble" at last!

When Hyde as a youth raised the banner of the Gael in Ireland, when he declared himself to be on the side of "Eoghainn Ruadh," men did not dare to speak or write of "Gaelic." They dared to say and to write "Celtic," for to the anglicising party that only suggested "Gaul" and all that. Feuchris a nis, ma tà! Chan 'eil an latha ach òg fhathast, agus is ann aig deireadh an latha is fhearr na Dòmhnallaich. Chan 'eil fhios dé a thig as, agus is e am fear as fhaide a bhios beò as motha chì. Ach tha cliù an duine usail seò gun smal air agus a bhuaidh léir do na h-uile. "Gaidheal Gaidheal, ionmhuinn ainm."

No one surpassed Hyde in his love of the past—Gaeldom with its song and story. As a scholar he did much to make the past plain for us. For some scholars Gaelic is an old timber-yard in which one can find wood! Dr. Hyde was more interested in afforestation! He thought highly of saplings. That is why he called himself "An Craoibhin." The Sapling. He was not in love with death: he was in love with life. He wanted a future for the Gaels as well as a past. He has made that future possible.

Brilliant Highland Student

DR. UNA MACLEAN

AT a recent graduation ceremony at Edinburgh University, Miss Catherine Margaret Una Maclean, Conon Bridge, Ross-shire, graduated M.B., Ch.B. with Honours. As the most distinguished woman graduate of the year she was awarded the Scottish Association for Medical Education of Women Prize, and she also gained the Buchanan Scholarship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the Mouat Scholarship in the Practice of Physic, and the Dorothy Gillfillan Memorial Prize. In previous years she gained several medals and other prizes.

Dr. Maclean—who is a daughter of the Rev. Malcolm Maclean, M.A., Minister of Ferintosh and Maryburgh, member of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidh-

calach, and a frequent and valued contributor to *An Gaidheal*—was born in Applecross where her father was then minister, and was educated at Dingwall Academy, where Gaelic was included in the subjects of her course. Her interests are not confined to Medicine, and her favourite studies include Philosophy and Sociology. She has taken an active part in the corporate life of the University. Like her father, she also has the poetic gift, and some of her poems have been published—appears in "*Scottish Student Verse, 1937-47*" (reviewed in *An Gaidheal*, June, 1949).

We extend to Dr. Maclean our hearty congratulations and cordially wish her a highly successful career.

Ann's a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

LEASACHADH CAINNTE

Le CALUM MACGILLEATHAIN

[Air a' mhìos seo tha mi a' leigheil le mo charaid, an t-Urramaich Calum MacGilleathain, suidhe anns a' Chathair agus a bheachdan a thoirt dhuinn air cuspair a tha glé chudthromach.—F.-D.]

Is e aon de na h-adhbhair a tha toirt air daoine a tha fìor Ghaidhealach a bhith cho ullamh gu bhith seachnadh na Gàidhlig mar chaint a' chomhludair, agus a bhith cho ullamh gu bhith dol gu Beurla, nach 'eil ar leòr fhacal againn air son cuairtean an t-saoghail ùr seo. Tha tuilleadh ann gun teagamh, ach tha seo ann gu cinnteach. Agus do bhrìgh 's gur e a' chumail a chumail beò agus a' chumail an cleachdadh, agus nach e idir air tús a bhith deanamh seud sgoilearachd dhùth, rùn a' Chomuinn seo againn, chan urrainn sinn gun sùim a bhith againn anns gach cas-bheag a chaidh fhàgail oirnn agus gach ceap-starra a tha 'naì slighe.

Mar dhaoine aig a bheil a' chaint beò 'nar beul, chan 'eil sinn riarachtaiche le bhith 'ga fhàgail air a' bheagan. Faodaidh sgoilearan a bhith sàsaichte le bhith beachdachadh air a cnàmhan tioram, garbh is meanbh, agus air eachdraidh is seachas agus air seandalachd is àrsaidheachd na cainnte, ach is ann a tha ar gnòthach-ne gu seachd àraidh ri a beatha is a beò, agus gun amharus ri a fàs.

Bha mi a' leughadh "Leabhar Sheàin i Chonaill" an oidhche roimhe, agus thug mi fainear mar a thuir an seachaidh sin mu'n Gàidhlig—"dheanadh iad a' chùis leatha." Dheanadh—ach an duigh tha ballachan dìon na Gaidhealtachd air tuiteam sìos anns gach àite air chor is nach 'eil baile no eilean an Albainn no an Eirinn nach 'eil fo bhuidhean an t-saoghail nodha Ghallda a tha a' sìor-dhol am meud le iongantais nan nìthean a tha ùr is annasach 'na lùib. Feumaidh daoine tighinn suas ris air dòigh air chor-eigin. Tha e cu-comasach tarraing air ais bhuaithe gun dol a mach as an Roinn-Eòrpa uile gu léir! Is e an dòigh as usa tighinn suas ris a' Bheurla a thogail is a chleachdadh, oir tha làn mòr de chaint is de fhacail aig na Sasannaich air gach nì tha ùr is annasach. Ach is e sin an dearbh dhòigh as luaithe

chuireas as do'n Ghàidhlig, agus is ann mar sin a chuireadh as di an raointean farsaing a cheana.

Is e an dòigh eile oidhirpean a dheanamh air Gàidhlig a chur is a chumail air na nìthean ùra. Chan 'eil sin a leth cho furasda. Tha oilean nan Gall 'ga sparradh oirnn o theid sinn do'n sgoil aig aois coig bliadhna, agus càite bheil an sgoil Ghàidhlig? Agus chan e an sgoil a mhàin e—feuch mar a tha ar suilean cho maith ri ar cluasan air an glacadh aig a' Bheurla. Tha ar paipearan-làitheachd làn leatha, agus a' Ghàidhlig as!

Ri mo linn is ri mo chuimhne rinnadh aon oidhirp fhann air leasachadh. Chaidh a' cheist a thogail aig Mòd Imbhir-Nis eadar dhà chogadh. Chaidh gabhail rithe gu h-aon-sgeulach. Tha mi an dùil gur e an duine geur, gnìomhach à Tobair Mhoire a chuir a' cheist oirnn, Alasdair M. MacLachlainn. Ach dé a rinnadh? Cha do rinn ach am beag-maitheis. Chaidh fichead no dà fhichead no còrr fhacal a chur, mìos àraidh, anns a' Ghàidheal.

AN GAIDHEAL IS AN GUNNA

CAOL

Am baile fear air an toir mise *Aird a' bhàigh* thàinig i mach cho garbh le sìon is uisge agus nach deanadh na gìomanaich a' bheinn dheth. Suas ri deireadh an latha rinn i seòrsa de chaochladh, agus thàinig fir an taighe-mhòir a mach a pheilearachd. Chuir iad ite an àrca agus an uair a shiubhail i sìos an loch fad urrach loisg iad oirre, ach chan amaiseadh a h-aon aca i. Thug iad an seo tairgse do na "gillean" fiachainn, agus thuirtear fear aca ri fear eile, "A Dhòmhnall, nach fhiach thu! Thèid mi fhéin an urras gun deanadh tu a' chùis."

"Cha b'e am manadh a b'fhearr a chuireadh iad air an fhear a dheanadh an gnothaich an dràsda," arsa Dhòmhnall, agus cha do charaich e làmh no cas. Gun tà, bha Dhòmhnall 'na chùis-ionghnadh leis a' ghunna chaol, agus cha robh duine beò ach a luchd-bhaid a shaoileadh gun aithneachadh e dé an ceann dheth a chuireadh e ri leth-cheann. Agus bha adhbhar maith air.

BODACHAN.

Agus an còrr cha chuala mac màthar!

Tha sin cho fann agus cho faoin agus nach 'eil ann ach cùis-chianalais. Dé a tha 'na leithid sin ach frìdean far 'eil feum air mucan-mara! Chan e obair aon latha a tha ann no idir obair aon fhir.

Nam biodh na Gaidheil 'nan luchd-leughaidh nas fhèarr na tha iad, cha bhiodh a' chùis cho deacair. Nam biodh paipearan is irisean is leabhraichean Gàidhlig againn, agus daoine 'gan cur gu feum, bhiodh cotrom ann air leasachadh a dheanamh. Is e sin am meadhan as èifeachdaiche as aithne dhuinn. An latha roimhe bha mi leughadh gearrain aig neach-eigin san *Obanach* air Gàidhlig an ràdio againn. Is e cho ùr is cho annasach agus a tha i a' choire! Ach sin dìreach an dearbh nì as motha tha bhuaie, a bhith ur agus a bhith ceart is cotromach is comasach aig an dearbh àm! Agus is maith gu bheil an cotrom againn nì a dheanamh an Gàidhlig air an ràdio agus a dhol an gleachd

(An còrr air t. d. 110)

ADHAIRCEAN

Latha bha seo bha Alasdair Mór a' dol chun na féille le bó air an robh adhaircean uamhasach mór. Bha e ann an sunnd math is dùil aige ri pris mhòir air a' bhoin. Cò a thachair ris air an rathad ach Seòdail nighean Dhòmhnall Mhòir is i a' tighinn dhachaidh as a' bhùth.

"Nach ann air a' bhoin sin a tha na h-adhaircean!" ars ise.

"O," fhearraig Alasdair, "chan 'eil oirre ach a dhà!"

(Bho *An Cabairneach*, 1945, le cead)

CRUINNE-EOLAS!

Air latha àraidh bha am maighstir-sgoile ag innseadh do'n chloinn mu dheidhinn nam bailtean *Kalgoolie* is *Coalgardie* far an robh iad a' faighinn an òir ann an Astràlia.

"Seadh, Alasdair," ars am maighstir-sgoile an ath latha, "gu dé na bailtean mu'n robh sinn a' bruidhinn an dé?"

"Bha, caillach ag ùrnuigh air cùl gàraidh," ars Alasdair!

(Bho *An Cabairneach*, 1945, le cead)

Local Mod Reports

(bho t.d. 109)

KINTYRE

THE Kintyre Provincial Mod was held at Campbeltown on 19th and 20th May, 1949, and attracted competitors from a wide area. The mod once more maintained its reputation as one of the most outstanding musical and social events of the year in the Kintyre peninsula.

The adjudicators were very favourably impressed with the standards of performance, and Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary of An Comunn, who attended the mod, said, "Kintyre can claim to be one of the leading centres of Gaelic music."

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Rev. Alex. MacDonald, Archdattan, and Rev. Wm. MacDonald, Oban; for Music, Mr. Alexander Gourlay, Glasgow, and Miss Mary L. Hogg, Glasgow.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Reading poetry (own choice)—May Newlands, Campbeltown. Reading prose (own choice)—Anna Cameron, Southend. Reciting poetry—Anna Cameron. Reciting Psalm—Florence Campbell, Whitehouse. Dictation and translation—Anna Cameron. E.I.S. Prize for highest aggregate in oral and literary competitions—Anna Cameron.

Solo singing: girls under 12—Mary L. Graham, Campbeltown. Boys under 12—Allan I. Cameron, Southend. Solo singing of Psalm—James R. Gillies, Lochgilphead. Prescribed song: girls, 12-16—May Newlands, Campbeltown. Boys, 12-16—James C. Burnett, Ardriahag. Own choice: girls, 12-16—Helen Martin, Campbeltown; boys, 12-16—James R. Gillies, Lochgilphead.

Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Silver Medals (for best junior vocalists)—girls, May Newlands; boys, James C. Burnett.

Choral singing: unison—Carrdale Junior Choir.

Pianoforte playing (March, Strathspey, or Reel)—Helen Black, Tarbert.

SENIOR SECTION

Reciting poem—Samuel Andrew. Reading Scripture—Rayma Hughes, Whitehouse.

Solo singing (boys and girls, 16-18)—Catherine Brownie, Carrdale. Own choice: ladies—Aunice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead. Men—Malcolm MacEachran, Campbeltown. Prescribed song: ladies—Mary S. McShannon, Campbeltown.

Men—Archd. Rankin, Campbeltown. Puirt-a-beul—Phoebe S. Stevenson, Campbeltown. Duet—Ella Cameron and Mrs. Betty Robinson, Campbeltown. Former prize-winners—Mary S. McShannon.

T. S. MacPherson Memorial Silver Medals (for best senior vocalists)—Ladies, Aunice M. Gillies; Men, Archibald Rankin.

Choral singing—Southend Gaelic Choir. Choral puirt-a-beul—Drumlemble Gaelic Choir. Choral singing (Campbeltown Cuach)—Southend Gaelic Choir.

BADENOCH-STRATHSPEY

THIS, the first of the local mods in the Northern Area this summer, was held at Aviemore on 3rd June. Mr. John MacKinnon, Gaelic Master at Kingussie Secondary School, in an opening address stressed the need for greater interest in our language, music, and literature, and remarked on the many eminent men and women in the field of Gaelic literature produced by this area.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. Donald Graham; for Music, Mr. J. Gilmour Barr.

At the evening concert Colonel J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus presided and the prizes were presented by Lady Catherine Grant. Sincere thanks are due to the Aviemore and Rothiemurchus branch for promoting so successful a mod. The Hon. Joint-Secretaries are to be complimented on a job well done.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Solo singing: Girls (under 12)—Heather Stewart, Newtonmore. (12-16)—Grace Kennedy, Newtonmore. Boys (under 12)—Robert Fraser, Aviemore. (12-16)—James Finnegan, Kingussie. Boys and girls (under 16)—Minnie Wilson, Aviemore. Duet—Ann Reat and Jean Tennant, Kingussie.

Choral singing: two-part harmony—Kingussie Junior Choir. Unison—Aviemore Junior Choir.

SENIOR SECTION

Solo singing: ladies—Edith MacKerral, Nethy Bridge. Former prize-winners—Mrs. D. C. Cattanach, Kingussie. Duet—Mrs. D. C. Cattanach and Joyce Cattanach, Kingussie. Song composed by local bard—Peter MacKerral, Nethy Bridge.

Choral singing—Newtonmore Gaelic Choir. Ladies' Voices—Newtonmore Gaelic Choir.

(Continued on page 111)

ri cùrsan air an latha ùra agus iad sin a chur an cluasan muinntir na Gàidhlig. Tha an uibhir sin de chomas ion-mholta, agus tha e fada o bhith gun bhrìgh. Ach is e a b'fheàrr buileach nam biodh dòigh againn air a dhòl air aghaidh leis an litreach air tùs. Sin mar a tha gach cainnt eile a' fas agus a' leudachadh o latha gu latha. Facal ùr an siud is facal ùr an seo cor' uair, agus am bi an luchd-leughaidh colach air agus gu an dean iad a ritheth a chur an sàs 'nan cainnt làitheil. Gun teagamh tha na Gàidheil caran leasg air facal ùr Gàidhlig a thogail, ach is e adasbhar do sin nach robh sin aca 'ga dheanamh gu minig. Aon uair agus gu tòisicheadh iad air, agus aon uair agus gu faigheadh an òigridh na facail ùra, chan fhaighte air lár iad. Sheasadh iad.

CHAN 'EIL mòran maith an liost no àireamh de fhacail air paipear. Nam b'e sin ar dragh bu bheag e. Dheanadh Foclairan a' chùis, agus tha iad sin againn agus gu sinn a' toirt ceòl asda. Ach tha ni ri dheanamh, air son sin, a chum agus gum bi a' Ghàidhlig nas saidhbhire innte féin le facail ùra eirmiseach. Is féarr do dhaoine an facal Beurla a chur an sàs far nach fhaighear a chaochladh fhathast na sgrud de bhith strì ri Gàidhlig idir. Ach tha dòigh is dòigh ann air facal Beurla a thogail. Dheanadh ar n-athraichean a thogail agus ath-ràdh an Gàidhlig agus dreach Gaidhealach air. Sin an dòigh iomchuidh. Ach an diugh, do bhrìgh 's gu bheil Gàidhlig is Beurla againn, is ann a bhios e nas usa dhùinn am facal Beurla a chleachdadh agus an dreach Sasannach air.

Ge b'e ciamar a thòisich air, agus ge b'e ciamar a rachar timcheall air, tha seo ri dheanamh agus tha e cheana ro fhada gun feuchainn ris. Tha mise an dùil gum bu chòir do'n Chomunn daoine a thaghadh agus a chur gu gnìomh, daoine a rachadh dich-eallach, dùrachdach, foidhidneach air cùl a' ghnòthaich seo mar aon chùram. Chan 'eil dol as againn o'n deasdanas, ma tha sinn air son leas a dheanamh tràthail is tarbhabh.

Thuir am fear-sgeòil a' Tìr Chonail: "Bi daoine beò air a' bheagan agus bi daoine beò darribh is iad beò air a' bheagan," agus faodaidh sin a bhith fìor an car slàinte dhaoine uaireannan, ach abair nach 'eil e fìor an car cainnt dhaoine. Is e cion na cainnte a' ghlas-ghuib as mìosa a tha ann.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AN T-SULTUIN, 1949

Aireamh 8

Turus Cuain

Le NIALL CAIMBEUL

IS ann air an "Loch Mór," am bàta a tha a' frithealadh Eileanan Innse-Gall, a bhios mise is mo chomh-cileanaich uile ag gabhail air turuis thar a' chuain Sgi, an uair a bhios sinn a' dol air ais 's air adhart gu àrd-sgoil Phort-rìgheadh.

Is iongantach mura cuala sibh beag no mór air chor-eigin mu na h-ioma turuis dhoirbh, dhòlasach a fhuair sinn a' dol thar chuain, agus theagamh gum bu toigh leibh làn-sgeul fhaotainn mu aon de na tursan cuain seo.

Tha e air a ràdh, agus feumaidh mi aideachadh nach 'eil ann ach an fhìrinn, cho fad 's is fhiosrach mise, nach d'fhuair sgoilearan Phort-rìgheadh là math riamh gu dol thar chuain. 'S gu cinnteach bha an turus mu dheireadh a thàinig sinn tarsainn mar bha an còrr, mur an robh e na bu mhiosa!

Thòisich ar trioblaidean aig fìor thoiseach ar turuis. An uair a dh'éirich mise sa' mhadainn Di-luain dh'aithnich mi orm fhéin gu robh turus ar creiche a dh'fheitheamh oirn.

Co-dhiubh, thòisich mi gu tùrsach, cianail air cruinneachadh gach piullaig is gioblaid a bha mi a' toirt leam. Mar a b' àbhaist, a h-uile uair a shaoilinn gu robh gach nì sa' bhaga, mhothaichinn do rud-eigin a bha mi air fhàgail as. Thachair seo uair no dhà, gus mu dheireadh — is mi a' toirt stùil mór-thimcheall orm — bhòidich mi gu robh gach nì mar bu chòir is dhùin mi am бага. Ach fiachadh sibhse ruibh! Direach an uair a bha mi ullamh 'ga cheangal, nach ann a bhual mi stùil air mo leabhraichean Gàidhlig! Cha d'fhuair iadsan am beannachadh! 'S chan e sin a mhàin ach fear-ceasnachaidh na Gàidhliche gu bhith san sgoil an latha an déidh dhuinn ruigheachd! Gu cinnteach, chan 'eil sith dh'an aingidh ann!

Cha robh an uair a' deanamh maille 'na ceun, agus eadar gach leagail is togail a bh'ann cha b'fhada gus am b'fheadar dhòmhsa bhith triall.

Ghabh mi an carbad feagsair a steach do Loch-nam-madadh far am faighinn air bòrd an "Loch Mór" an oidhche sin. An uair a ràinig mise ceidhe Loch-nam-madadh 's a chunna mi coltas na mara, cha mhór nach do chuir mo stamag glan char dhith. Bha na bàtaichean, eadhon ann am fàsadh a' bhàigh, a' tulgadh 's a' dubadh aig an acraichean.

Loch-nam-madadh

AREIR àbhaist, bu chòir do'n bhàta a bhith an Loch-nam-madadh eadar trì 's a ceithir uairean sa' mhadainn, ach thàinig ceithir uairean is thàinig còig uairean 's bàta cha robh air sgial.

"Beannachd sealbh leatha!" arsa fear beag thall an oisean an t-seòmair 's an robh sinn 'nar suidhe, "chan e màireach latha a chì sinne Port-rìgheadh!"

"Gu dearbh," arsa guth tùrsach eile, "nach sinn a dh'fhaodas a bhith cearta coma!"

Nach robh e an déidh sia uairean sa' mhadainn mun do ràinig am bàta Loch-nam-madadh, agus fadalach 's gu robh i cha robh an dà chabhaig oirre falbh.

Cha bu luaithe a ghabh am bàta an ceidhe na thòisicheadh air cur a mach bathair. Sealbh 'gam bheannachadh! chanadh tu nach robh punnd bathair air tighinn air tìr an Uibhist bho chionn bhliadhnachan. Eadar a h-uile trealaih a bh'ann bha e naoi uairean mun do dh'fhàg sinn.

An uair a nochd sinn a mach do'n chuan cha b'e an fhàilt a b'fheàrr a fhuair sinn. Bha a' ghaoth a' séideadh 'na h-uamhas o'n iar-dheas, 's chitheadh tu na tuinn chaoirgeal a' togail cinn cholgarr a eadar thu 's trom neòil na h-iarmailte.

A dh'aon mhathas, 's ann 'nar déidh a bha a' ghaoth, ach ged nach robh seo cho fìor dhona, bha e dona gu leòr. Dh'éireadh am bàta suas air uachdar nan tonn, is shìoladh i an sin sìos cho fada 's gun do shaoil mi iomadh uair nach robh i dol a thilleadh. Mar thubhairt Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair:

"An uair a thuiteamaid bho bhàrr nan àrd thonn giobach,

Gur beag nach dochainneadh a sàil an t-aigeal sligheach."

Is e fìor dheagh stamag nach fàgadh an rùsladh seo neònach, agus tha eagal orm nach robh mòran 'nar measg dhiubh. An fheadhainn aig nach robh leabaidh sa' bhàta, bha cuid dhiubh 'nan sìneadh gun chlos air suidheachain is cuid ri biathadh nan cudaig aig bial a' bhàta.

Bha sinn air an allaban seo gus an do ràinig sinn fàsadh a' chladaich Hearaich, far nach robh gluasad a' bhàta cho luaineach 's far an d'fhuair na bha bochd faochadh o'n tinneas-mhara.

Ràinig sinn Tairbeart na Hearadh aig meadhon latha, is thàinig an sin caileagan is gillean na Hearadh air bòrd. Is ann an sin a bha an othail; rinn sinn dì-chuimhne car greiseige air anshocair na maidne is leis cho cridheil 's a dh'fhàiltich sinn a chéile shaoileadh neach nach robh sinn air a chéile fhaicinn bhò linn nan creach.

Bha an ath chnap bathair is trealach ri dhol air tìr an seo, agus eadar a h-uile nì a bh'ann bha e uair san fheasgar mun do dh'fhàg sinn.

O'n bha a' ghaoth a nis air tighinn suas gu math ris an iar agus a' séideadh gu cruaidh, bha fhios againn nach biodh e furasda do'n bhàta ceidhe Scalpaidd a ghabhail.

Scalpaidd na Hearadh

CO-DHIUBH, an uair a ràinig sinn Scalpaidd, dh'fhiach am bàta steach chun a' cheidhe, ach thachair dìreach mar a bha sinn an dùil. Is beag neart an duine an coimeas ri neart nan dùilean; bha a' ghaoth cho làidir 's nach d'fhuaradh air tìr ach aon bhall, am ball-toisich.

Cha tàinig muir gun stiùradh air na fir a bh'air tìr, gu tà, agus bha sgìoba aca deiseil le eathar beag is chaidh aca air am ball-deiridh a thoirt gu tìr. Ach, air cho ealamh 's gu robh na laoch thapaidd a bha air tìr ag gabhail air a' bhall, bha am bàta a nis air gluasda a mach cho fada o'n cheidhe agus a leithid de chothrom aig a' ghaoth oirre 's gun do bhris na buill.

Thuig an sgiobair glé mhath nach deanadh e an gnothach, agus thill e am bàta a mach an comhair a deiridh. Mu chiad slat o'n chladach thug e riachd air an fhùeig a' leigeil fhaicinn do'n fheadhainn a bha air tìr gun deanadh e co-fhuireach nam fiachadh iad a mach leis an dà eithir bhig a bha aig a' cheidhe.

Is fhada o bha làmh nam fear tapaidh ud ris a' chuan agus cha b'annas dhaibh idir càs na h-an-uair; chaidh gach fear is té a bha ri falbh air bòrd nan eathraichean, is thàinig iad a mach chun a' bhàta, ach cha b'ann gun riasladh.

An uair a nochd iad a mach o'n cheidhe bha iad suas is sìos mar àrca air bhàr na mara, 's an dara uair chan fhaiceadh tu idir iad leis na still mhara a bha a' dol thairis orra.

Fhuair iad air bòrd co-dhiubh, 's cha b'fhada gun robh sinn a rithist

“A' dol gu uidhe a' chuain fhiaidhaich
Mar bu chubhaidh leinn iarraidh.”

Mu'n àm a bha sinn a' fàgail theann a' ghaoth a mach a rithist ris an iar-dheas, 's gu dearbh cha robh i socair. Is ann a nochd sinn a mach bhò thaigh-soluis Scalpaidd thòisich am bàta air tulgadh 's air crathadh mar bu nòs, agus cha b'fhada gun do thog seo ceann do chuid.

Cha robh an ùine fada gus an do thòisich té an siud is fear an seo a' fàs glagach.

Cha tug an tinneas gràineil seo fada 'ga chur fhéin an cèill agus mun do ràinig sinn ceann an Eilein Sgitheanaich cha robh mòran am measg nan sgoilear nach robh e air a bhuailadh. Is e glé bheag 'nar measg a rachadh ro dhàn air seòrsa bidhe sam bith aig an àm ud air cho miannach 's gum biomaid air aig amannan eile. Ach aon uair 's gun do ghreimich sinn ri fearann an Eilein Sgitheanaich cha robh a' chùis cho dona, oir bha sinn an uair sin anns an fhagadh.

Nan robh a' chòir air a cumail 's gu robh am bàta air a bhith tràth, bha sinne a nis air a bhith faisg air crìoch ar turais, ach is cinnteach gun tug cuibheall an fhortain car 'nar n-aghaidh an là ud. O'n bha am bàta cho fada air dheireadh cha b'urrainn dhà tadhail am Port-rìgheadh, 's mar sin dh'fheumamaid a dhol do'n Chaol.

Caol Loch-Aillse

CHA robh againn air an seo ach a bhith leis, Coir cha robh feum no stàth ann cur an aghaidh na bha an dàn dhuinn. Chuir seo smuairinn nach bu bheag oirnn, ach is math nach 'eil e furasda spiorad na h-òige a chumail sìos. Ged a rinn sinn gearan air ar crannchur aig an àm, bha gach neach a nis air cur-na-mara a dhì-chuimhneachadh, agus cha b'fhada gus an robh sinn uile gu sunndach aighearach.

Gu tà, cia fad an duan ruigear a ceann, agus cha do dh'fhairich sinn an ùine cho fada gus an do ràinig sinn an Caol. A' dol a steach do'n Chaol bha gach fear is té ri lora a mach an cuid bhagannan, agus cha bu bheag an othail a bha sin!

Cha bu luaithe cheangail am bàta na bha sinne air tìr. Is gu deimhin, mur an robh sinne taingeil faighinn gu tìr, eadhon air ceidhe a' Chaol fhéin, tha mise briagach!

Fhuair sinn an t-aiseag a null do Chaol-Acainn far an robh dà charbad 'gar feitheamh gus ar toirt do Phort-rìgheadh. Is ann is iongantach an sunnd a bh'oirnn an déidh an treachladh a fhuair sinn air ar turus.

Ràinig sinn Port-rìgheadh mu ochd uairean, 's cha b'ann roimh àm. Bha sinn seachd seann sgìth de ar turus. Theagamh gum b'e seo, 's nach b'e ar toileachas ris an àite fhaicinn, a b'aobhar air a' ghlaodh aobhneis a leig gach neach as an uair a nochd sinn ri Port-rìgheadh. B'e sin an glaoth! Thàtar ag ràdh gun cualas an Ratharsaidh sinn!

Chan 'eil teagamh nach robh ar turus-cuain fìor dhona, ach a réir na h-eachdraidh a rinn sinne do na Sgitheanaich air is iongantach a thàrr sinn idir as!

Litir Eachainn

A N àm dhomh a bhith ag cur litir a' mhìos seo an eagaibh a chèile, tha mi fhathast gun sgeul agam dhuibhse nach robh anns a' Champ air ciomar a chaidh no a thà a' dol dhaibh an sin, nas fhaide na (1) gu bheil sùd gu an àilgheas aca, agus (2) gu robh oidhche shunnadh aca air an Ràdio. Bha mi ag èisdeachd riu an oidhche ud, mar a bhà, tha mi cinnteach, sibhse, òigridh, uile, is gu leòr nach urrainn a thagar gur 'òigridh' iad nas fhaide—is e sin mur a h-òigridh sinn uile anns an t-saoghal a tha againn an seo, co-dhùibh, samhradh rùnach mar a tha againn am bliadhna.

An Campa

Tha sinn uile ro thoilichte gu robh an t-sid cho brèagha am bliadhna. Thubhairt mi an té de na litrichean seo thall mu thoiseach an t-samhraidh gu robh mi an dòchas gum biodh an t-sid cho tioram 's gum biodh na bric anns an allt an impis a bhith a' dol a dhìth leis a' phathadh! Is coltach nach robh an dòchas fada bho'n choimhlionadh, is gu robh na bric gun teagamh ag gearan air an tiormachd. Is ann mar a bhà gu robh tuille na na bric ag gearan air an tiormachd: is coltach gu robh cuid de na h-Eileanan glé dhona a chion uisge, agus nach ann a bha mi a' leughadh anns a' phaipear-naidheachd an diugh féin gun do theirig uisge òil orra an I Chalum Chille is gum b' fheadar do na h-Idhich a bhith a' dol thar a' chaoil do'n Ros Mhuileach a dh'fhaotainn an uillearachd de uisge!

Mar a thubhairt mi, bha mi ag èisdeachd ris a' chloinn an oidhche a bha iad air an Ràdio, agus, gu dearbh, bu shunnadh iad, is bu mhath a ghabh iad na seann òrain a thug iad dhuinn, "Gràdh Geal mo Chrì" 's is gach aon eile a liubhair iad. Tha sinn an dòchas gum bi ionradh nas meana na tha 'nam chomas-sa a thoirt dhuibh an dràs aig Dòmhnall dhuinn an déidh do'n Champ dol m'a sgoail.

An ath nì a tha a' tighinn fainear dhomh an dràs, is e na paipearan ceasnachaidh air cheann na bliadhna seo. Tha mi dìreach an déidh am buagan àbhaisteach fhaotainn; ach cha d'fhuair mi cothrom gu a bheag de shùil a thoirt orra fathast, eadhon an cùntas, ach is e mo bheachd gu bheil tuille air a chur a steach am bliadhna na chuireadh a steach an uraidh. Co-dhùibh, fàgaidh sinn iad an dràs gus an ath litir.

"Ceist nam Brog?"

Tha mi a nis a' dol a dh'innseadh dhuibh mu cheist chudromach a thàinig fo ar comhair an uair a bha mise anns an sgoil, is ceist mun do

rinneadh cnuasachadh gu leòr, an dà chuid leinne a bha anns an sgoil, is mar an ceudna leis na h-inbich. Chan 'eil fios agam ciomar a thàinig i gu mo chumhne an là-roimhe, ach chan 'eil sin gu mutha; is i a' cheist i féin an gnothach, ceist mhór, ceist a bha iomraideach is ceist a roinn an ceann againne de'n eilean 'na dhà leith is a' mhuinntir 'nan dà bhuidheann! Cha robh dealachadh nan Eaglaisean an '43, no eas-aonachd nan *Tories* is nan *Liberals* riann na bu bhuarasaiche na bha eas-aonachd "Ceist nam Bròg," 'an tìodal fo a bheil cuimhne oirre gus an là an diugh.

B' e am maighstir-sgoil a thug dhuinn i an toiseach; agus bha tuille na aon fhuasgladh air a thoirt oirre bho àm gu àm, gus ri ùine an do shùmhlaidh beachdan sìos gu dà fhreagairt is dà fhreagairt a mhàin; agus an sin, "bho leanabh na cìche gu cailleadh a' bhata" anns a' cheann againne de'n eilean, sinn an impis leum an amhaichean a chèile a thaobh fuasgladh na ceiste! Seo agaibh a' cheist.

Chaidh fear a steach do bhùth greusaiche is paidhir bhòg bhuaithe. B' e pris nam bròg a thug e sè tasdain deug, agus an uair a dhùineadh am bargan, shin e not punnnd Sasannach do'n ghreusaiche gu am pàidheadh. Ach cha robh mùthadh aig a' ghreusaiche, is b'fheadar dha dol a mach do bhùth a' ghrosair an ath dhorus gu mùthadh do'n not fhaotainn. Fhuair e sin, is thug e na brògan is na ceithir tasdain mùthaidh dhàsan a cheann-aich iad, is ghabh esan a rathad air falbh leis a' phaidhir bhòg aige 'na achlais is na ceithir tasdain 'na phòca. Ach am beagan mhionaid-ean thàinig an grosar a steach leis an not is e ag ràdh gu robh i feallsa, an nì a bhà i, is e a' tagar a chuid airgid féin air ais. Cha robh an uair sin aig a' ghreusaiche bho chad iasad cheithir tasdain fhaotainn bho'n bhancair, is maille ris na sè tasdain deug a dh'fhàgadh aige, siud a shineadh seachad do'n ghrosair!

Dé Na Chaill E?

B' e an gnothach, a nis, dé na chaill an greusaiche air an droch mhalairt seo a rinneadh ris leis an t-slaointir a thàinig 'na rathad? Bha cuid a bha ag cumail a mach gur e fichead tasdan a chaill e, cuid gur e ceithir tasdain fichead a chaill e, is cuid eadhon gun do chaill e dà not! Rì ùine thàinig an argumaid gu bhith eadar (1) not, agus (2) ceithir tasdain fichead. Bha am maighstir-sgoil is cuid de'n chloinn aig an robh aon bheachd; chan 'eil mi a' dol a dh'innseadh dhuibh cìod am beachd a

(An còrr air an ath dhuilleig)

CAMPÀ COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH, 1949

CHUMADH Campa na bliadhna seo aig Inbhir Ailleart bho'n 30mh là de'n Ogmhios gus an 25mh là de'n Iuchar, agus tha e duilich a chreidsinn nach robh aon latha fliuch ann rè a' Champa.

Ràinig na caileagan, ochd-deug-ar-fhichead dhiubh, air feasgar àlainn, agus chur iad seachad aon-latha-deug cho sona is a dh'iarraidh duine. Chui iad cuairt air a' Ghearasdan is àitean eile sa' choinmhearsnachd. Chumadh Cleasan air raon-cluiche a' Champa air feasgar àraidh.

Bha mòran obrach r'a dheanamh fa chomhair a' chraobh-sgaoilidh a bha ri a chur air clàran leis am B.B.C. air oidhche Shathurna, ach, fo stiùradh Eilidh chòir, chaidh gach iomairt gu rèidh, agus is cinnteach gun cuala sibh uile an craobh-sgaoilidh air an Ràdio. Tha taing àraid ri a thabhairt do'n B.B.C. agus Eòghann Mac-a'-Phi a bha cho laghach ris a' chloinn. Is iomadh teaghlach sna h-Eileanan Siar a bha ag èisdeachd an oidhche ud, saoilidh mi.

BHA céilidh is dannsa aig na caileagan as déididh a' chraobh-sgaoilidh, agus bha na caileagan air fad mar aoidhean aig a' bhean-usal Camshron-Head sa' Chaisteal far an d'fhuair iad rudan milis is cè-reòdhta a chòrd riu gu ro-mhath. Bha cuid de na caileagan car tursach a' fàgail a' Champa, ach ag cur romhpa gun tilleadh iad an ath-bhliadhna ach an comas is an cothrom a bhith aca.

Air feasgar Di-ardaoin ràinig na gillean, ochd-ar-fhichead, brogaich phongail, ged a bha iad car dìùid an toiseach. Coma, cha b'fhada gus an do chuir iad eòlas air a chéile, agus abair sibhse gun do chòrd an Campa riutha-san. A bharrachd air cuairt a chur air a' Ghearasdan is Gleann Fhionghuin, thug iad a mach Arasaig air feasgar chò àlainn 's air an do laigh sùil riamh, agus leis an Uachdaran, Mgr. Camshron-Head, rinn iad dìreach air an uaimh anns an do chuir am Prionnsa Teàrlach seachad an oidhche mu dheireadh air tìr Alba. Air feasgar Di-ardaoin chumadh Cleasan nan gillean, agus bha strì ann nach bu bheag.

CHUIR Ceann-suidhe Comhairle Comunn na h-Oigridh seachad deireadh-seachdain cuide rinn agus bha e air ceann céilidh nam balach. Thadhail Fear-na-Brataich agus a chéile oirn cuideachd agus bha e na thioleachadh dhuinn cuid na h-oidhche a thairgsedh dhaibh. Bha Calum òg cuide riutha agus dh'fhan esan seachdain sa' Champ. Bha an t-Urramach Alasdair Dòmhnallach á Aird-Chatain, ball de'n Chomhairle, cuide rinn fad dà sheachdain, agus

is ann dha fhéin a thigeadh tighinn gu Campa. Bha an t-Urramach air ceann céilidh nan caileag agus anns gach iomairt co-cheangailte ris a' Champ bha e' na theis-meadhan. Am bliadhna a rithist, thadhail an t-Ollamh Iain A. Mac-Gillethain, Rianadair an Fhoghlum an Siorrachd Inbhir-Nis, oirn agus rinn e còmh-radh ris na gillean. Tha sinn 'na chomain air son na h-ùidh a tha aige ann an òigridh na Gaidhealtachd. An deagh eisimpleir!

Do na h-inbhich uile, mile taing air son na h-obrach ionmholta a rinn iad, agus bidh sinn an dòchas gun till iad an ath-bhliadhna.

Thug na caileagan is na balaich taing chridheil do Fhear Inbhir-Ailleart is a chéile chaomh air son gach coibhneis a nochd iad riutha, ach bu mhath leamsa mo thaing fhéin is taing Comunn na h-Oigridh a chur an céill air son a liuthad coibhneis a nochd iad rinn rè am a' Champa is roimhe sin. Guma fada bhios an comas is an cothrom aca a bhith sleadh làmh na fialaidheachd do chloinn na Gaidhealtachd is nan Eilean.

DOMHNALL MACPHAIL,
Ceannard a' Champa.

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 31)

bha aig a' mhaighstir-sgoil, no agamsa air son na codach sin dheth, có a bha ceàrr no có a bha ceart, agus bha atharrachadh beachd aig a' chòrr.

Ràinig a' cheist cluasan nan inbheach feadh nam bailtean, is bha beachdan is caochladh bheachdan acean mar an ceudna, gus (mar a thubhairt mi) an robh daoine an impis leum air a chéile mu a fuasgladh. Chan 'eil mise an seo a' dol a thoirt seòladh sam bith dhuibhse a thaobh a h-òibreachadh a mach: tha mi 'ga fhàgail sin agaibh féin, agus tha dòchas agam gun toir sibh bhur beachd féin seachad, le bhur n-aobhar gu tighinn gu co-dhùnadh sam bith gus an tig sibh. Dh'fhaodainn innseadh an seo gun deach mu dheireadh thall a' cheist a chur chon an *Weekly Mail* gu a fuasgladh; agus ged a rinn an *Weekly Mail* sin, agus gu cothromach, bha iadsan a bha de atharrachadh beachd fathast gun aomadh air a thoirt orra ach de'n bheachd anns an robh iad!

Ciod bhur beachd-sa mu "Cheist nam Bròg," agus dé na chail an greusaiche air a' mhèirleach a thug an car as? Chan 'eil mise a' dol a ghealltainn paidhir bhòg mar dhuais do'n cheud bhalach no do'n cheud chaileg a bheir domh freagairt cheart, chothromach, le làn mhèineachd air a' chùis, ach geallaidh mi gum faigh e no i duais bheag air chor-eigin.

Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

LOCAL MOD REPORTS (Continued from page 110)

Pianoforte — Joyce Cattanach, Kingussie. Violin—David MacIntosh, Kinloch-laggan.

SOUTH UIST AND BENBECULA

THIS Mod was held in ideal weather at Balivanich, Benbecula, on 21st June, and the adjudicators expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the standards achieved.

The adjudicators were: Music, Mr. J. A. Mallinson, Inverness; Gaelic, Mr. Donald MacPhail (Northern Organiser), Mr. Alexander Fraser (Staffin), Mr. Malcolm MacLeod (Lochmaddy), and Mr. Donald MacDonald (Eriskay).

Mr. Donald MacPhail presided at the evening concert, and tribute was paid to all who worked so hard and successfully for the mod, especially Miss Margaret MacDonald, music teacher.

First-prize Winners

Recitation (under 9 years)—Margaret Jean MacInnes, Kildonan School. Recitation (9-12 years)—Catherine MacDonald, Daliburgh School. Recitation (boys, 12-16)—Ronald Johnson, Lochearn School. Recitation (girls, 12-16)—Jean MacLellan, Daliburgh School. Reading at sight (12-16)—Mary Theresa Hutcheson and Jessie Hutcheson, Daliburgh School (equal). Reading at sight (under 12)—Donald Walker, Daliburgh School. Sgeulachd — Ronald Johnson. Dialogue — Patrick Campbell and Donald A. MacMillan, Daliburgh School

Solo singing: under 9 years —Murdina MacInnes, Garrynamonie School. Boys (9-12)—Ian MacLennan, Lochboisdale School. Girls (9-12)—Ann Campbell, Locheynort School. Boys (12-16)—Donald Campbell, Daliburgh School. Girls (12-16)—Christie MacDonald, Iochdar School. Singing unpublished traditional song—Donald A. Thompson, Torlum School.

Duet singing—Rona MacDonald and Ronald MacDonald, Daliburgh School.

Choral singing: Unison—Daliburgh School (Advanced Division). Two-part harmony — Iochdar School Choir.

Chanter playing (March) (boys and girls under 15)—Rona MacDonald, Daliburgh School. Piping (March, Strathspey and Reel) (boys and girls under 18)—Ronald MacDonald, Daliburgh School.

LEWIS

THE Lewis Provincial Mod was held at Stornoway on 23rd June and attracted a post-war record number of competitors. For the first time a second hall had to be used for the junior competitions. In one junior oral class there were 105 entries.

An outstanding achievement was Lionel Choir's winning of all three of their choral competitions. Laxdale, though not represented by a choir, did well, taking six firsts in singing and two firsts in orals, and the first three places for the sgeulachd.

The 1949 Mod was described as "one of the most exhilarating, colourful, and enjoyable Stornoway has ever had."

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic Mr. Angus Macdonald, Harris, and Mr. Derick Thomson; for Music, Miss Mary H. Pate, Glasgow, and Mr. James Curr.

Appealing for a more adventurous choice of songs in the Unpublished Songs Competition, Mr. Derick Thomson suggested that they should go out and get in touch with the old people of the Island who would give them songs of the old tradition. He would like to hear songs that he had never heard before—old songs that were dying out—as well as newly composed songs in this competition.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Recitation: Nicolson Institute, first year—Katie M. Morrison. Class II—Annie M. Graham. Class IIIa—Katie M. Mackenzie. Reading: Nicolson Institute, first year—Willie Carmichael. Class II—Mary A. Campbell. Reading Unseen, Class IIIa—William J. Campbell. Conversation (first year)—Catherine I. Mackenzie and Catherine Macdonald (equal). Recitation (12-15) years — Catherine M. Stewart, Laxdale. Reading (12-15)—Catherine Matheson, Bayble. Reading from Scripture—Doletta Morrison, Achmore. Recitation (under 12 years)—Isabella M. MacIver, Aird. Conversation (under 12)—Mary A. Smith, Sandwick. Conversation (12-15)—Murdo Macdonald, Back. Dialogue—Catherine MacIver and Annie Murray, Bragar. Sgeulachd — Donald Murray, Laxdale.

Prescribed solos: girls, 12-16—Christina MacAskill, Nicolson Institute. Girls under 12—Joan Morrison, Lionel. Boys, 12-16—Iain M. MacLeod, Laxdale. Boys under 12—Donald Murray, Laxdale. Solos (own choice)—Girls, 12-16—Margaret E. MacLeod,

Nicolson Institute. Girls under 12—Mary Morrison, Laxdale. Boys, 12-15—Iain M. MacLeod, Laxdale. Boys under 12—Donald Murray, Laxdale. Singing unpublished song—Norma Montgomery, Laxdale.

Unison singing: choirs over 12—Tong Choir. Choirs under 12—Nicolson Institute Brownies. Two-part Harmony—Lionel School Choir. Unison singing—Lionel School Choir. Unison (own choice)—Lionel School Choir.

SENIOR SECTION

Solo singing: Ladies (own choice)—Jane Mitchell, Shawbost. Men (own choice)—Donald MacAulay. Prescribed song, ladies —Mary T. Morrison, Ness. Unpublished songs—Janet MacLeod. Duets—Addie Macdonald and Anna Maclean. Unison singing—Nicolson Institute Boys' Choir.

LOCHABER

THE Lochaber Provincial Mod was held in Fort William on 24th June, and almost 200 competitors from places as far apart as Glenquhart and Ballachulish took part.

The adjudicators were: Music—Mr. James Curr (Dingwall) and Mr. Malcolm G. MacCallum (Campbeltown); Gaelic—Rev. Alex. MacDonald (Ardchattan), Mr. John MacLean (Mallaig), Mr. Donald MacPhail (Northern Organiser), Mr. Donald MacDonald (Fort William), Mr. Alasdair Fraser (Conon), and Mr. Donald Graham (Inverness).

At the evening concert in the Playhouse the guest artists were Miss Carol Galbraith, Mrs. Petrine Stewart, Mr. Donald MacVicar, and Mr. Ian MacLellan (piper). The prizes were presented by Mrs. Cameron-Head of Inverailort.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Recitation (5-12 years)—Angus J. Campbell, Roy Bridge School. Reading prose—Christine MacLeod, Kinlochell. Verse-speaking (groups from one-teacher schools only) (Challenge Trophy presented by Mrs. Cameron-Head of Inverailort); Kinlochell School. Conversation—Edward MacColl, Ballachulish School. Recitation (12-14 years)—Dolina MacIntosh, Onich. Reading prose at sight (12-16 years)—Katie MacDonald, Fort William Secondary School. Speaking prose—Joan Buchanan, Fort William Secondary School. Reciting Poem—Jean Lindsay, Fort William Secondary School.

Kilmallie Cuach (for competitor with highest total marks in oral

(Continued on page 113)

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Scottish Regiments

THE REGIMENTS OF SCOTLAND, by J. B. Kirkwood (Moray Press, 142pp., 7/6).

For all those—and they are many—who are interested in the history and traditions of the Scottish regiments there can be no better introduction than Mr. Kirkwood's interesting and informative book. It briefly outlines the history of all the Scottish regiments, describes their badges and tartans, and gives other useful information about them, including a list of recipients of the V.C. since 1914.

The Introduction gives much curious information about the soldier's life in the past. Towards the end of the 17th century the soldier's pay was 8d. a day, of which 6d. was set aside for his subsistence. From the remaining 2d. a day, or £3 0s. 10d. a year, 12/2 per annum was deducted for the salary of the Paymaster-General and 8d. for Chelsea Hospital, leaving £2 8s. per annum which was made over to the commanding officer to pay for the soldier's clothing, including belt, bayonet, and cartridge case. Even that meagre pay was always in arrears, often for years.

Between 1740 and 1800 no less than fifty Highland battalions were raised. The oldest regiment in the British Army is the Royal Scots ("Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard"), whose origins go back into medieval times to the Scottish companies in the service of France. The Scots Guards were formed in 1642, the Royal Scots Greys and the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1678, and the King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Cameronians in 1689. All these, of course, were Lowland regiments.

It was not till well on in the 18th century that Highland regiments began to be formed, and for that there were obvious reasons. The oldest of the Highland regiments is "Am Freiceadan Dubh" (The Black Watch), which originated about 1725. The Highland Light Infantry came into being in 1777. The Seaforth Highlanders date back to 1778 and the Gordons to 1787, the Cameron Highlanders to 1793, and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to 1794. Many of these have undergone changes of name, especially in the great army reorganisation of 1881 when many Scottish units were linked in pairs.

Every page of this book has something of interest.

The Highland Problem

THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLES: THEIR REGIONAL PLANNING, by Arthur Geddes and F. D. N. Spaven (The Outlook Tower, Edinburgh, 53pp., four plates, two maps, 5/-).

Dr. Arthur Geddes, Lecturer in Geography in Edinburgh University is not only an expert geographer but an enthusiast for the Highlands and for Gaelic, and in this little book he, with Mr. Spaven, a planning expert, has focussed attention once more, but in a new way upon the perennial "Highland Problem."

The authors survey the present situation in the Highlands and Isles, and set forth their conclusions and convictions. They point out the very definite assets and opportunities which are too often overlooked. They also face up to "the limiting factors." Proposals are made for a new approach to the rehabilitation of the Highlands.

Much of what the authors say is not new to those who have given thought to these problems, but there is a new approach which we hope will find support from the Highland people and from those in authority. By integrated development of resources and services within small areas, using certain methods and agencies, and granted certain changes of outlook and radical action along certain lines by Government departments, local authorities, and local communities, "the Highlands and Islands in the next ten years might become an example to Western Europe and the Dominions in rural rehabilitation, instead of drifting towards the

condition of a man-made desert, a burden to the nation."

This is definitely a book to buy and study and take action upon.

Glen More Forest Park

The Forestry Commission have issued another of their "National Forest Park Guides." This one is about Glen More (published by H.M. Stationery Office, 72pp., with illustrations and maps, 2/-). Glen More is situated in the Cairngorms, west of Aviemore. This beautifully produced booklet describes in chapters by different writers (including Dr. I. F. Grant, Seton Gordon, Professor John Walton, and Lord Malcolm Douglas Hamilton) the history and traditions of the district, its geology and vegetation and wild life, and the hill-walks and climbing grounds. Mr. J. M. Bannerman gives a list of the Gaelic place-names with English translations.

"A Tale About A Fire"

TAM MCGUIRE'S FARM FIRE, by Duncan F. McLaren (Albyn Press, Edinburgh, 35pp., 2/6), with illustrations by Tom Curr, is a long poem in colloquial Scots—not "Lallans"—which "relates about a fire that burnt the hoose whaur Tam McGuire Had lived for a' his married life Alang wi' Katie, his guid wife." The fire began when a burning coal made contact with Tam's "moleskin breeks," which he had foolishly left lying spread "upon a widden fender." The extraordinary series of events that followed had best be read in the poem itself rather than in any bald summary we might give here.

LOCAL MOD REPORTS (Continued from page 111)

competitions)—Jean Lindsay, Fort William Secondary School.

Verse-speaking—The "Eriskay" Group.

Solo singing: Girls (under 12)—Ena MacDonald, Banavie School. Boys (under 12)—Adrian MacIntosh, Banavie School. Boys (12-16)—Thomas MacKenna, Kinlochell. Boys and girls (12-16)—Jessie MacLean, Mallaig. Girls (12-16)—Isa MacDonald, Mallaig School.

Arisaig Trophy (for best junior soloist)—Thomas MacKenna.

Choral singing: unison—St. Mary's School Choir, Arisaig; harmony—Banavie School Choir.

SENIOR SECTION

Reading at sight—Kate Sarah MacInnes, Fort William Secondary School. Reciting prescribed poem

—Kate Sarah MacInnes. Reciting prescribed prose—Katie Ann Haggerty, Fort William Secondary School. Competition arranged by adjudicators and secretary—Mary Alex. MacPhee, Fort William Secondary School. Acted Dialogue—Kate Sarah MacInnes and Mary Margaret Buchanan, Fort William Secondary School. Narrating folktale—Jessie Kennedy, Blarmachfoldach. Original Gaelic Speech—Catherine M. Morrison, Fort William Secondary School.

Solo singing: Ladies (prescribed)—Mrs. MacDonald, Arisaig. Men (prescribed)—Ronald MacLellan, Morar. Open (prescribed)—Anne Mackintosh, Nether Lochaber. Lochaber Cuach (for best lady

(Continued on next page)

FOLKLORE INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND

THE Folklore Institute of Scotland came into existence in 1947. Its purpose is to organise the collection of folklore in Scotland; to record, preserve, catalogue, and publish folklore materials and generally to promote interest in Scottish Folk-Culture.

Unfortunately, as usually happens, the task of organising this enterprise has fallen to a few individuals already burdened with other duties and obligations, and for a long time no suitable person could be found to act as Secretary. Mr. Ian M. Campbell, M.A., Lecturer in Comparative Philology at Glasgow University, has recently undertaken the office of Hon. Secretary. The Council has prepared a draft constitution and formulated plans for future activities. The first annual general meeting of the Institute will be held some time before 30th November next. In view of this, members who paid their subscriptions for 1947-48 need not renew their subscriptions in 1948-49. That is, the payment of one subscription between the inception of the Institute and the first A.G.M. will qualify for participation in the first A.G.M.

While the administrative side has lagged (for reasons above stated), the field-work has gone on steadily and increasingly. Two Ediphone recorders, two clock-work dictaphones, a sound-mirror tape recorder, and two latest-type wire recorders (one of them kindly donated by the Viking Fund of New York) are at present in use, and with them over a dozen persons (mostly in the west mainland and western isles) are busy recording material.

Already the Institute has ready for publication over 200 folk-songs alone, while a still larger number already recorded await transcribing. It is hoped to publish soon, as the first number of a Folk-song Journal, a collection of waulking songs from Barra and Cape Breton, recorded by Mr. J. L. Campbell, with airs and English translations. Also in preparation is "Folklore of a Uist Township," by Margaret Fay Shaw, consisting of songs, stories, cures, and proverbs, with photographic illustrations. Arrangements have been made to publish through the Linguaphone Institute, a set of five 12-inch records of genuine Gaelic folk-songs, with text and translation.

Liaison has been established with the Library of Congress, U.S.A., the International Commission on Folk Arts and Folklore in Paris, and the Linguistic Survey of Scotland.

All those working for the Institute are giving their services free, but we wish to be able to pay their necessary expenses, while we also need funds to purchase recording apparatus and finance the projects above indicated. We therefore appeal both for donations and for individuals and societies to become members of, or affiliated to,

the Institute. Ordinary membership costs only £1 1/- per annum. The Hon. Treasurer is: Mr. Jas. T. Graham, C.A., 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1.

Further information, and copy of recently issued "Bulletin," may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Ian M. Campbell, M.A., 23 Cranworth Street, Glasgow, W.2.

MOD REPORTS (continued from previous page)

soloist)—Anne Mackintosh, Nether Lochaber, and Mrs. MacDonald, Arisaig (equal). Glengarry Cup (for best male soloist)—Ronald MacLellan, Morar. Former trophy winners—Margaret MacGillivray, Fort William.

Duet singing—I. A. Macdonald and A. A. Macdonald, Onich.

Choral singing: Ladies' Voices—Fort William Secondary School Choir. Challenge Shield—Glen Urquhart Gaelic Choir.

Arts and Industry Section: Shepherd's Crook (horn handgrip)—Thomas MacKenna, Kinlochell.

SUTHERLAND

THE County of Sutherland Provincial Mod was held at Lairg on 24th June, 1949, and was very successful.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Messrs. John Mackinnon and John N. MacLeod; for Music, Messrs. J. A. Mallinson and John A. MacRae, and Pipe-Major Donald MacLeod.

Two concerts were held, the one in the School Gymnasium being presided over by Mr. Neil Shaw, while Mr. W. Grant, Local Mod President, was chairman at the concert in the Drill Hall. The prizes were presented by Mrs. W. Grant.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Translation from Gaelic—Una MacLeod, Dornoch.

Reading poetry (own choice)—Bonham Sutherland, Dornoch. Reading at sight—Catherine B. MacKay, Dornoch. Reciting poem—Iris Matheson, Lochinver. Conversation—Mina Menzies, Dornoch. Conversation (learners only)—Donald A. Matheson, Dornoch.

Reciting Psalm (children under 12)—Marina MacKay and Isabel MacKenzie, Lochinver (equal).

Wilson Challenge Cup for highest aggregate in oral section—Catherine B. MacKay.

Solo singing: own choice (girls under 12)—Anna MacKay, Embo. Boys (under 12)—Kenneth MacKenzie, Lochinver. Girls, 12-16—Iris Matheson, Lochinver. Boys, 12-16—W. Ross, Lochinver.

Duet—W. Ross and Uisdean MacLean, Lochinver.

Singing song by a Sutherland bard—Uisdean MacLean, Lochinver.

Choral singing: two part harmony—Lochinver Junior Choir. Unison and Puirt-a-beul—Durness Junior Choir.

SENIOR SECTION

Essay—Lachlan Macdonald, Bonar Bridge.

Reading at sight—Mary Graham, Lochinver. Reciting poem—Mary Graham. Sgeulachd—Mary Graham. Acted Dialogue—Lachlan and Catherine Macdonald, Bonar Bridge.

Londonderry Challenge Cup for highest aggregate in oral section—Mary Graham, Lochinver.

Solo singing: ladies—Irene Macdonald, Bonar Bridge. Men—Murdo MacRae, Clashmore. Singing song by a Sutherland bard—Christy Campbell, Durness. Solo singing (open to former first-prize winners)—Christy Campbell.

Choral singing: four-part harmony (Silver Challenge Cup presented by the Duke of Sutherland)—Lairg Gaelic Choir. Ladies' voices—Golspie Ladies' Choir.

Bagpipe playing (up to 20 years) (March, Strathspey and Reel: East Sutherland Challenge Cup)—Innes Macdonald, Lairg. Violin playing—Harry More, Clashmore. Pianoforte playing—Bobbie McCulloch, Dornoch. Chanter playing—Innes Macdonald. The theory of pipe music (under 14 years)—Ian Mackenzie, Gruids. Writing of pipe music (14 to 20 years)—W. Murray, Rogart.

ARDNAMURCHAN

THE Ardnamurchan Provincial Mod was held at Strontian on 28th June. The number of competitors exceeded last year's and the standard of competition was very high.

At the evening concert, presided over by the Hon. Mrs. Maclean of Ardgour, Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary of An Comunn, spoke in Gaelic and English and referred to his impending visit to the Gaels of Nova Scotia.

(Continued on next page)

Mod Reports (from page 114)

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Rev. M. A. MacCorquodale, Kinlochleven, Rev. A. D. Maclean, Ardgour, and Mr. Neil Shaw; for Music, Mr. Willis Calder and Mrs. Tomison.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

Reading at sight—Sheila Henderson, Newton. Reciting—Alasdair Connell, Lochaline. Reciting (learners)—Alistair Fletcher, Claggan.

Solo singing: Girls—Isobel Gillies, Lochaline. Boys—Dugald MacDonald, Claggan. Learners—Ann Connell, Lochaline. Duet—Neillean Munro and Morag Brown, Strontian.

Choral singing — Lochaline School. Special Prize, presented by Mr. Alasdair Cameron, Bunnateachain, for junior choir having highest number of marks in Gaelic—Lochaline School Choir.

SENIOR SECTION

Reading at sight—Donald Cameron, Ardtornish Bay. Reciting—Mrs. Sinclair, Lochaline.

Solo singing: own choice (ladies)—Mrs. H. M. Livingstone, Glenborodale. Men—James Scoular. Singing a song of the district—Marjorie Gillies, Lochaline. Singing a Morven song (Glasgow Morven Association prizes)—Sheila F. Dewar, Acharacle. Solo singing (learners)—Mrs. Burr, Lochaline. Puirt-a-beul—Iain Cameron, Lochaline.

Ardnamurchan Silver Pendants: Ladies, Mrs. H. M. Livingstone; Men, Alasdair Lister.

Celtic Art (Handicraft)—Donald Cameron, Ardtornish Bay.

Special Prize, presented by Mr. Willis Calder, for senior competitor with highest total of marks for both Gaelic and Music—Alasdair Lister and Mrs. H. M. Livingstone. (These two being equal, the prize was by ballot awarded to Mr. Lister).

SKYE

“MOD AN EILEIN” was held at Portree on 28th and 29th June, and attracted 680 competitors from all parts of the Island, including some from several districts not previously represented at the Mod. While most districts shared in the prize-list, the extreme north and extreme south (Kilmuir and Sleat) did particularly well.

The weather was all that could be desired (indeed, was rather more than desirable, especially at the evening concerts which were held in sweltering heat), and large

(Continued in next column)

(From previous column)

audiences attended the mod sessions and packed out the junior concert on Tuesday, presided over by Mr. A. M. Shields, H.M.I.S., and both houses of the grand concert on Wednesday, at which the Chairmen were the Rev. T. M. Murchison and Mr. Dugald MacDonald, Stonehaven.

Well over three hundred competitors took part in the junior section, including eight junior choirs. The standard of Gaelic was very high throughout, and that of music was also very good. One of the highlights of the mod was the recitation of Dr. Neil Ross's “Tir nan Og” by Mary Campbell, Struan.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Messrs. Alex. Finlayson,

Alex. Fraser, Angus MacMillan, John N. MacLeod, Dugald MacDonald, John MacArthur, Hugh MacKenzie, Donald MacPhail, Miss C. MacMillan, and Rev. T. M. Murchison. For Music, Messrs. J. Gilmour Barr, J. A. Mallinson, Dr. A. Macdonald, and Colonel J. Macdonald.

First-prize Winners

JUNIOR SECTION

1st year post-qualifying class: Essay—Farquhar MacLennan, Portree. Translation—Neil MacInnes, Portree. 2nd and 3rd year post-qualifying classes: Essay—Catherine Macdonald, Portree. Translation—Catherine Macdonald.

Reading poetry (under 14)—

(Continued on next page)

NATIONAL MOD: INVERNESS

AS will be seen from the following table, entries for the Inverness Mod are well up to pre-war level and, indeed, there is a large increase in the Junior Oral Section from last year in Glasgow. The Mod Time-Table has been carefully prepared, but it is only with the complete co-operation of competitors, chairmen, and adjudicators alike that it will be possible to keep to the time-table and effect smooth running of the Mod.

The programme is similar to that of previous years. The Junior Competitions will be held on the Tuesday. Wednesday is confined to Senior Solo Singing, Thursday to Oral Competitions and Solo Singing, including the Gold Medal Finals, and Clarsach Competitions. The Rural Choirs will compete on Thursday afternoon. Friday will see the Duet, Quartette, and Senior Choral Competitions, and also the Instrumental Section (Piano and Violin).

The Daily Sessions will commence each day at 9 a.m., and concerts have been arranged as follows:—

Junior Concert—Tuesday, 4th October, in Empire Theatre, at 7.30 p.m.

Presiding: J. A. MacLean, Esq., M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., Director of Education, Inverness.

Tickets, 3/- (Reserved), and 2/-.

Rural Choirs Concert—Thursday, 6th October, in Empire Theatre:

1st House, 6.30 p.m. Presiding: D. J. MacLeod, Esq., O.B.E., D.Litt.

2nd House, 9 p.m. Presiding: The Very Rev. Alexander Macdonald, D.D.

Tickets, 3/6 (Reserved), and 2/6.

Grand Concert—Friday, 7th October—Empire Theatre, 7.30 p.m. Presiding: Provost J. M. Grigor, Inverness.

Grand Concert—Friday, 7th October—Playhouse, 8 p.m. Presiding: Provost D. Cameron, J.P., Fort William.

Tickets, 5/- (Reserved), 3/6 and 2/6.

IMPORTANT

All applications for tickets should be accompanied by the appropriate remittance and sent to THE MANAGER, THE EMPIRE THEATRE, ACADEMY STREET, INVERNESS, who is the only booking agent. Booking opens on 1st September. No applications for tickets can be entertained at An Comunn Office.

One important change this year from former years affects the OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MOD. This will take place in the Town Hall, Inverness, on Monday, 3rd October, at 8 p.m.

MOD ENTRIES

JUNIOR SECTION

Literary	41
Oral	219
Solo and Duet	224
Choral	40
	— 524

SENIOR SECTION

Literary	42
Oral	91
Solo and Duet	647
Choral	77
Instrumental	43
Celtic Art	17
	— 917

Total, 1441

(Continued from page 115)

Donalda Macdonald, Struan.
Reading at sight (elementary schools)—Chrissie G. Campbell, Struan. Reading at sight (post-qualifying pupils)—Catherine Macdonald, Portree. Reciting poem—Mary Campbell, Struan. Sgeulachd—Christine Mackinnon, Portree. Original Gaelic talk on any subject (confined to Comunn na h-Oigridh)—Ewen Mackenzie, Portree. Gaelic play—Feachd Ard-sgoil Phort-rìghheadh.

Silver Pendants for highest aggregate in oral competitions—Anna J. Campbell, Portree, and Alex. M. Macdonald, Portree.

Solo singing: own choice (girls under 12)—Kennethina Campbell, Vatten. Boys (under 12)—Peter Macdonald, Ferrindonald. Prescribed songs: girls, 12-16 (Silver Pendant presented by Mr. D. S. MacMillan, Portree)—Catriona Macdonald, Portree. Boys, 12-16 (Silver Pendant presented by Mr. I. Macintyre, Portree)—Ewen Stewart, Portree. Duet—Marion Campbell and Mairi MacIannan, Portree.

Chanter playing (for beginners)—Ronald Macdonald, Portree.

Choral singing: two-part harmony—Portree Secondary School Junior Choir. Unison—Sleat Junior Gaelic Choir. Unison (choirs trained by a local teacher) (Prize by Miss Macdonald, Viewfield)—Sleat Junior Gaelic Choir.

Winners of Trophy Targe, presented by the late Mrs. MacLeod of Skeabost to choir with highest aggregate marks in harmony and unison singing—Portree Secondary School Junior Choir.

SENIOR SECTION

Original poem—Mrs. Katherine Douglas, Kilmuir. Essay on local incident—Kenneth MacPherson, Kilmuir. Collection of unpublished Skye songs—Mrs. Katherine Douglas. Essay (confined to people who have left school)—Kenneth MacPherson. Collection of Skye place names, with traditional or historical notes—Kenneth MacPherson. Essay—Neil Campbell, Portree.

Reading at sight—Donald N. MacLeod, Portree. Reciting poem—Joan Macdonald, Kyleakin. Telling unpublished local story—Christina A. MacLeod, Portree. Acted dialogue—Roderick and Allan Macdonald, Portree.

Pendants, presented by Mrs. Ross, Ose House, Struan, for highest aggregate marks in oral competitions—Christina A. MacLeod, Portree, and Roderick Mackinnon, Portree.

Solo singing: own choice (ladies)—Ina Macphie, Ferrindonald. Men—Calum A. MacRae, Kyleakin. Prescribed songs: ladies (Gold Pendant)—Ina Macphie. Men (Gold Pendant)—Jonathau Macdonald, Kilmuir. Solo singing: own choice: (Girls under 18)—Mairi MacRaid, Portree. Traditional singing of a song (Prize presented by Miss Macdonald, Viewfield)—Rhoda Macdonald, Portree. Singing of an unpublished Skye song—Katie A. Macleod, Dunan. Duet—Mrs. Mary Campbell and Ann Campbell, Roag. Quartette—Portree Secondary School (A). Pianoforte (March, Strathspey and Reel) (learners)—Christine MacRae, Portree.

Choral singing: unison—Portree Secondary School Senior Choir. Four-part harmony (Targe presented by Miss Macdonald, Viewfield)—Kyleakin Gaelic Choir. Female voices—Portree Ladies' Gaelic Choir.

Moladh Uibhist

LE DOMHNALL IAIN MACDHOMHNAILL

- 'S tìm dhomh 'n sgleò thoirt dhe m' shùilean
'S mo chomas clàistinn a dhùblaid;
Gur fhad bho'n lìon cupan piunt' dhatht' mo dhòlais;
Tha smal na meirg air mo ghùilàn,
'S gun ann tha searbh dhomh ri chunntais
Gun rinn mi dearmad air ionnsachadh m'òige;
Ach fhad 's tha sìth anns gach tràth dhomh
Is foclair m'inntinn gun bheàrnadh,
Gun cuir mi riomhadh na Gàidhlig an clò dhuibh;
Tha mhaiss' tha 'n cois obair Nàdur
Dhomh fhìn 'na bhròsgul ro làidir
Gus fuireach tosdach an sàmhchair neo-bheòthant'.
- Cha bheartas saoghalta cealg-loisgt',
Ceann aobhar daors' na tha sealg air,
Bu mhath leam fhaotainn 'nam shealbh fad 's bu
bhèò mi;
Ach slàint' is blàth-ghaol neo-mhairbhteach
A bhith gu bràth riom neo-dhealachte
Cho fad 's a dh'fhàgar air searbh-thìr nam beò mi,
Cothrom ceum feadh nam garbhlich
Cho fad 's nach tréig mo chuid anathaidh,
'S cead faighinn éisdeachd ri torman nan còp-eas;
'S chan 'eil air uachdar an talamhna
Nì cho luachmhor ri ainmeachadh
Na bhith suaint' ann an ana-ghliocas òg-phaisd'.
- Gur iomadh neach feadh an t-saoghail,
'S gu bheil mi fhìn air a h-aon dhiubbh,
A bheireadh deich bliadhna saoghail 'na
thabhartas,
Ach comas ais-thilleadh fhaotainn
Gu làithean tais-mhiadh na faoinéis

- 'S an deach mo bhaisteadh bho dhaors' gath na feòla;
Mo chaitheamh-beatha gu strìochdainn
'S gun cuirinn bìdh anns na briathran
A rinn mo mhàthair le a beul aithris òg rium:
Ged rinn i m'altrum gu tèaraint',
Bho chruid a' cheartais gun shiab mi,
'S gur e dh'fhàg ghas-dhaitht' mo chiabhag bhith meomhair air.
- Nuair bha mi 'm phàisde ro-mhùirneach
A' streap ri àirde na glùineadh
Mun shoillsich deàrrsadh reul-iùil dhomh na ròidean,
Gur e gach cleachdadh a b'èire
Bha tighinn fo dhearcadh mo shùilean
'S mo chridhe falaicht' ann an ionndas mo dhòchais;
Gu fanainn mìltean san uair sin
Bho ghàrradh-criche na stuamachd
'S cha chuireadh stillgaoth na truail bhò'n a' chòrs' mi;
Ach tha mo choinneas gun smuaineàn,
Cha chòm ioidhche bho m' shuain mi
Bho'n chòm mi cuimhn' air an duais a th'aig an Oigh dhuinn.
- 'S e dh'fhàg blas searbh air gach nì dhomh
'S a dh'fhàg cho dearmadach m'inntinn
Mì bhith sa 'Ghearmailt sa' phrìosan ann beò-bhas,
'S a làmh a thairgeadh gach nì dhomh
'S i fad air falbh thugam sìnte
'S bharr astar fairg' tha guth dhìlsean 'gam fheòrach;

(An còrr air t.d. 117)

- Ach nam biodh math 'te dhomh sgiathan
Le comas reachdannan diadhaidh,
Gur mi gu sracadh an iarmaid gu deònach,
'S gu faighinn saors' agus sìochain
Air bheagan daors' agus diachain
An eilean braon-dhealtach ciar-dhàithe m'òige.
6. Gu faighinn slàint' agus coibhneas,
Gu faighinn blàths agus aobhneas,
An Ùibhist àrd-chorrach, oighreachd Chlann
Dòmhnail,
An fhine bhuidhach neo-fhoill-chridheach
D'am bu dual a bhith saidhbreachail
'S d'am bu shuaicheantas grinn-fhraoch na
mòintich;
Buidheann gnùamha nan bratach
A bheireadh buaidh anns na batail
'S gum bu truaigh fear an ceacall an tòrachd;
Guineach, eirbheirteach, bràs-cheumach,
Ullmach, dalma, neo-thais-chridheach,
Mar a dhearbh iad aig faich' Inbhir Lòchaidh.
7. Ach eilean uaine nan àrd-bheann
'S e Ùibhist chruachach a' chàise;
Gur ann chaidh smuais bainne-màthar 'nam
phòraibh;
Far 'm bi cuimhn' air a' Ghàidhlig
'S gun téid a cluinntinn gu bràth ann
Cho fad 's bhios tuinn a' mhuir-làin feadh na
cròice;
Gu bheil de loinn ann ri àireamh
'S nach gabh e seinn ann an dàn dhomh,
Ged gheibhinn saidhbhreas ro-àrd air son m'òrain;
Eadar sgùrrannan àrda
Far 'm biodh na fulmairean sàsaicht'
Gu àite tuinichidh a' chrà-gheoidh 's na h-òban.
8. An t-eilean breac-loinneil greannmhor
'S am bheil a' phàilte gun ghanntar,
'S e torrach, beartach le anlan ag còpadh,
Gu lusach, dearcagach, plannnach,
Gu duilleach, meacannach, feanntagach,
Corrach, bailc-shliosach, cam-bhusach, frògach;
Tha sruthain thormanach, dhrandnach
Ruith le foirm feadh nan gleanntan;
Tha mullaich shorachanach bheanntan fo chèd ann,
'S tha gàir aig eas-chas nan alltan
Air feadh nan creag-ghlas a' danna
'S aig meud an cleas ag cur steall feadh na còinnich.
9. Eilean braonach nan dùnan
'S an robh na daoine nan cùl-chaineadh,
'S fhad bho'n dhearbh iad an cliù anns gach dòigh
ann;
Bha iad earbsach gun dùmbadh,
'S gun tug iad teamann do'n Phrionns' ann,
An uair bha armait a' Chrìin ag cur tòir air;
Bha iad ainmeil le 'n geur-lannan,
Cha robh cealgaireachd fhéin annta,
Mar a dhearbhas an t-euchd a rinn Flòraidh;
'S cho fad 's bhios seanachas 'ga leughadh,
'S cho fad 's bhios Alba ri chéile,
Gu faigh a h-ainm-sa gach leirsinn bu chòir dha.
10. Chì thu ròsan ro-bhuadhach ann
'S iad ag còmhach nan bruchan ann;
Chì thu 'n t-sòbhrach 's an cluaran 's an neòinean;
Chì thu seamragan snuadhmhor ann;
Chì thu sealbhag air cruadhach ann,
Chì thu geala-ghucag shuairce nan lòn ann;
Chì thu fraoch agus luachair ann,
Lus nan laogh agus buadhghallan,
- Chì thu caorannan uaine ann 's a' shorpunn,
Chì thu coirce ri bhuaig ann,
'S gu faigh thu crotal gu tuar ann,
'S tha mhil an copain bheag ruadh feadh an fhèoir
ann.
11. Gheibh thu uachdar gu anlan ann
'S gheibh thu 'n cuach bainne gheimhraidh ann,
Toradh luachmhor neo-ghann a' chruidh òig ann;
Chì thu buailtean fo ghannh' ann,
'S iad loireach, luath-chasach, fann-gheumach,
'S chì thu buachaill' san t-samhradh 'gan cròdhadh
'S chì thu cluainteach fuaidh ann,
Chì thu ruadh-chuiseag fhaidhach ann,
Chì thu fuarain de 'n fhìor-uisg' ion-reòt' ann,—
Deoch as uaisle na am fìon e
'S e tighinn an uachdar bho'n t-siorr' achd ann,
'S gheibh thu fuasgladh bho phian le bhith 'g òl
as.
12. Chì thu aibhnichean beucach
A' tighinn 'nan deann-ruith le Géideabhal,
Greannach, drandnach, dréineasach, tóiceach;
Cobhar bàn air gach leum dhùibh,
Gu boinneach, gàir-uisgeach, breun-ghuthach,
Linneach, àthanach, féitheanach, rògach;
Buille is bùirean is fuaim aca
'S tuil a' brùchdadh mu'm bruchaibh ann,
Sruthach, lùnn-ruigteach, cuartagach, grògach;
'S iad ag giùlan le nuallan
Gu mear a dh'ionnsaigh nan cuantan
Gach boirean dhrùidheas air guaillean nan ceò-
bheann.
13. Chì thu tràigh shleamhainn mheanbh-shligeach
'S chì thu deàrrsadh mar aigeaid i,
'S chì thu blàth-bhilean fairge 'ga pògadh;
Chì thu saothair nan garbh-thonnan
Ann an aodann nan sgarbhadhan
Far na ghaoir iad bho'n aimsir aig Nòah;
Chì thu faochagan dealrach ann,
Chì thu laomannan carraigan ann,
Chì thu raontainnean arbhair is feòir ann;
Chì thu sgaothannan sgarbh ann
Gu am bradan maol-cheannach tarra-gheal,
'S e ruith is sraon air bho fhainge gu mòintich.
14. Chì thu faoileagan ciar-cheannach
'S iad ag glòdhaich 'nan cìadan ann;
Chì thu naoisg, lachainn riabhach, is geòidh ann;
Chì thu 'n crà-ghìadh san t-sialta,
'S an lacha-bhlàr anns na feur-lochain
'S eala bhàn ann 's i 'g iasgach le a sgòrnan;
Chì thu riarachadh pailt
Do na h-uile eun anns an ealtainn ann,
Gheibh iad dìon agus fàsaghd do'm pòr ann;
Chan 'eil pian 's chan 'eil airc ann
'S chan fhaicir Crìosdaidh an t-acras ann,
Fad 's bhios lìonmhorachd bhreac air Loch Ròag.
15. Tha monadh luachrach fo choarach,
'S tha gnòpach cruaidhe fo fhaoch ann,
'S tha machair uaine fo chraobhagan eòrna;
'S chan 'eil teirce ri fhaotainn ann,
'S chan 'eil leisg air na daoine th'ann,
Ach gu freasgairteach, saothrachail, seòlta;
'S am baile beag Pheighinn-nan-aoirean
A chaidh mo chhead a thoirt saor dhomh
'Nam leanabh breab-bhuilleach, caoin-shuileach,
deòghalach;
Is chan 'eil bad feadh an t-saoghail
A thogadh m'aigne cho aotrom
Is ann an caidlinn cho saor bho gach doltrum.

Ionmhas a' Chomuinn

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National Mod, Inverness, 1949

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— 118 —

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MOLADH UIBHIST (bho t.d. 117)

16. Ach ged a leanainn air innse
 Gach mais' th' air oighreachd mo shìnsreadh,
 Cha bhiodh gu deas latha dìlinn a chòir ann;
 Chan 'eil beul ann a mhinicheas
 'S chan 'eil peann ann a sgrìobhas dhomh
 'S chan 'eil càinnt ann a bhriodhas mu bhòidhch-
 ead;
 Ach bheir mi 'n dàn seo gu dùnadh
 Gus an cinnich tàlanan ur unnam
 Sheinneas àilleachd is clùir th air eòrna;
 'S gum bi mi 'g iarraidh 's ag ùrnuigh
 Gu faigh mi chriochnachadh m'ùin' ann
 'S gum bi mi tìodhlaicht' an ùir mo luchd eòlais.

[See a' bhàrdachd leis an do choisinn Mgr. MacDhòmhnaill Crùn a' Bhàird aig Mòd Nàiseanta 1948 an Glaschu. B'ann ri linn e bhith an campa-prìosan sa' Ghearmailt anns a' Chogadh mu dheireadh a ghleusadh gu 'n bhàrdachd seo e.—F.-D.]

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No. 9



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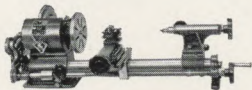
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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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AN DAMHAR, 1949

Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

The Castle, Inverness

PLEASE MENTION OUR NAME WHEN
WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

"Inverness, 1949"

IT is always a pleasure for many of us to return to Inverness, and especially does one look forward to attending the national Mod as, for the seventh time, it returns to the Highland Capital. Given good weather, this Mod should be one of the best yet. The local committee and officials have put in an extraordinary amount of hard work for many months past, and we feel sure that it will all be found to have been supremely worth while.

In this Number of the Magazine we have tried to provide for our readers a good deal more than they usually get for their 6d (not that we think our ordinary numbers are not worth 6d!). We are greatly indebted to the writers who have so readily and kindly acceded to our request for special articles. Dr. Evan M. Barron has a place all his own as a historian. Dr. Neil M. Gunn is in the top rank of contemporary writers. Dr. Angus MacVicar, a prolific and gifted writer with a large public for his books, is one of ourselves, a son of the Rcv. Angus MacVicar, Southend, than whom we know no one better versed in Gaelic lore. Dr. John Macpherson has proved himself both as a Gaelic scholar and as a churchman. Mr Alastair Grant, editor of *The Highland Herald*, has long used a practised and pungent pen on behalf of the Highland people. Mr. Albert D. Mackie, poet and essayist, and editor of the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*, has added an excellent command of Gaelic to his other accomplishments. To them all we are most grateful.

Illnesses

IT is cause of much regret that some of the leading officials of An Comunn have been ill during

these last busy weeks prior to the Mod. Dr. John Cameron has been suffering from strain and overwork; Mr. Neil Shaw became unwell on his way back from Canada; Mr. Donald MacPhail has also been indisposed; and earlier in the summer Mr. Alastair Matheson was on the sick-list. We are glad to hear that all of them have made, or are making, a good recovery. We record our thanks to all those who so willingly helped in the immense task of preparing for the Mod, both at Inverness and in Glasgow.

Dr. Cameron's New Book

THE Stair Society has just published a well-produced volume, *The Justiciary Records of Argyll and the Isles, 1664-1705*, transcribed and edited, with an introduction, by Dr. John Cameron, LL.B., President of An Comunn Gaidhealach. We congratulate Dr. Cameron on this fine piece of work, which must have taken much time and labour. We hope to give a longer notice of the book in a future issue.

Scottish Industries Exhibition

AT this great exhibition of the products of Scottish industry and craftsmanship, held in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, from 1st to 17th September, the North of Scotland and the West Highlands and Islands were remarkably well represented. Three firms or associations from Shetland, two from Stornoway, one from Inverness and one from Bute — with tweeds and/or knitted goods — attracted much notice. Two of the firms advertising in this magazine had stands—Celtic Art Industries and Barrmor Tool Works, Easdale.

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Is fearr lagh a' ghràidh na gràdh an lagha

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Bi rèidh ri t' eascaraid gu luath, am feadh a bhios tu maille ris san t-slighe.—Mata v.25.

The Inverness Courier

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INVERNESS

A Glorious Page from Highland History

By EVAN M. BARRON

FEW towns in Scotland have had as long and stirring a history as Inverness. For Inverness has been for countless centuries at once the centre of and the key to a great Highland region which has set its seal more firmly on the land and the people of Scotland, and contributed more glorious and more lasting pages to Scotland's story, than any other part of all that ancient kingdom.

It was, of course, to Inverness, then the Capital of the Kingdom of the Picts, that Columba came 1400 years ago to bid King Brude embrace Christianity. But even then the region which King Brude ruled from Inverness had more than 1400 years of history behind it, as is testified by the many ancient remains which abound throughout it, of which the remarkable series of stone circles in the neighbourhood of Inverness, constituting in one particular locality a veritable "valley of the kings," is the most striking and the most significant.

But, alas, these pages of our great Highland past, whether recorded on the stone of prehistoric ages or writ on the parchment and paper of later times, are still largely unread, and even the tale revealed by such of them as have been read is still told but little in our schools and is still largely ignored by our historians. Yet what a tale that is, and how cherished and how honoured it should be by all in whose veins the blood of the Highlands flows.

Here is one page from it, a page which tells how that great Highland region, of which Inverness was then and still is the Capital, and which King Brude once ruled, saved the Kingdom of Scotland from destruction as a free and independent nation six hundred years ago.

In 1296 Edward I invaded and, as he thought, subjugated Scotland; but he had hardly recrossed the Border in the autumn of that year when outbreaks against his dominion occurred in Argyll and the western parts of Inverness-shire and Ross. By May 1297 the whole of the great Celtic Province of Moray, of which Inverness was the Capital,—that is to say, the whole vast area from near the western seaboard of Inverness-shire to the Spey, including the entire central and eastern parts of the modern county of Inverness, a large part of the modern county of Ross and Cromarty, and all the modern counties of Nairn and Elgin—was

in open and successful revolt; the hill country of Aberdeen, Kincardine, and Banff was up in arms; the Earldom of Fife was out under Macduff of Fife; Wallace and Douglas were expelling the English from the county of Perth; young Bruce and the Bishop of Glasgow were at the head of an army in Ayr and the West, and Galloway was likewise taking an active hand in the good work. But by the end of the first week in July, in the Celtic Province of Moray alone was the revolt being maintained. In all the other districts it had collapsed, the leaders (with the exception of Wallace) had capitulated, and Wallace was lying "with a large army of common folk" in the recesses of the Forest of Selkirk.

Stirling Bridge

AT the head of the rising in Moray was a near neighbour of Inverness, Andrew de Moray, scion of a great Celtic house, whose father owned the lands of Petty, Croy, Avoch, Boharm, and others, and who had as his chief lieutenant a burgess of Inverness, Alexander Pilche. Throughout May and June 1297 Andrew de Moray, aided by the burgesses of Inverness, waged such successful war in the counties of Inverness, Ross, Nairn, and Moray that early in July a strong force was, by Edward's express orders, sent against him from Aberdeen. It accomplished nothing, but Aberdeen and the surrounding districts seized the opportunity presented by the absence of England's supporters to rise in rebellion and seize the Castle of Aberdeen. Caught thus between two fires the English faction collapsed, and Andrew de Moray, marching rapidly East and South, captured the castles held for England and freed from English rule almost all the country north of Forth.

Aberdeen Castle fell in the last week of July, at which time Wallace was still lying in Selkirk Forest. But on receiving news of the doings in Moray and Aberdeen, Wallace marched northwards and joined forces with the victorious army of Andrew de Moray which was marching rapidly south. With that victorious army, and under the leadership of Andrew de Moray, the battle of Stirling Bridge was fought and won on 11th September 1297. Andrew de Moray fell mortally wounded in the moment of victory, and to William Wallace was it left to reap the fruits of the triumph and to be hailed by later

generations as the victor of Stirling Bridge.

From the Battle of Stirling Bridge till Edward's invasion in 1303 Scotland north of the Forth remained almost entirely free of the English. But during these years she supplied a large proportion of the fighting men who, under the banners of the two great northern magnates, John Comyn of Badenoch and his kinsman, the Earl of Buchan, maintained the war against England. On Edward's invasion in 1303, moreover, and the subsequent surrender of the Comyns in February 1304, the resistance of the north, and particularly of the Province of Moray, did not by any means cease. Under the leadership of the heroic young Andrew de Moray's uncle, David de Moray, Bishop of Moray and founder of the famous Scots College in Paris, resistance was maintained in the Province of Moray until at least the beginning of 1305 and possibly for some months longer.

Bruce in the North

IN August 1305 Wallace was executed, and five months later, on 10th February 1306, Bruce slew the Red Comyn at Dumfries. After that desperate deed he hurried to Glasgow to his friend and ally, the Bishop, and thence to Scone, where, in the Ancient Capital of the Kingdom of the Scots, he was crowned by virtue of his Celtic descent King of the Scots. From Scone he proceeded further north, and from those same districts whence Andrew de Moray had derived the bulk of his support men of all classes flocked to his standard. In the country beyond Forth Bruce remained from the Coronation till Methven, and with an army recruited for the most part from that same country the Battle of Methven was fought. Thereafter Bruce wandered a fugitive in the Highlands, until, by the aid of two of his northern supporters, the Earl of Lennox and Angus of the Isles, he escaped to Orkney.

Early in 1307 Bruce returned, with a Highland following, to Carrick and the south-west, and, at precisely the same moment, the Bishop of Moray and the northern patriots returned to the Province of Moray where, to Edward's great wrath, the Bishop preached a holy war against him. Bruce himself remained in the south-west until the middle of September 1307, but, though he gained one or two small

(Continued on next page)



Loch Ness, from Knockie Forest

(Continued from page 123)

victories, the autumn found him little more than a successful outlaw-chief with neither castle, town, village, nor acre of land which he could call his own, while from all the south not a single recruit of importance had come to his standard.

In the north it was otherwise. As in 1297 and in 1306, the ancient Celtic Province of Moray had rushed to arms, and by the end of April Edward's writ had ceased to run throughout its length and breadth. The English officers on the spot were unable to cope with the situation, and as far south as Forfar the effects of the patriots' successes in the Province of Moray were making themselves felt as early as the beginning of May. By the end of August the position in the region of Inverness was so favourable that Bruce himself determined to proceed thither, and that though the Province was threatened from the north by the Earl of Ross, who had captured Bruce's Queen for Edward a year before, and from the south and east by his mortal foes, the Comyns and their kin.

It was about the middle of September 1307 when Bruce left Galloway, and the beginning of October found him in Inverness which was then, as it had been for centuries before and was for centuries afterwards, the key to the Highlands. By the close of the autumn of 1307 at latest, however,

and probably many months earlier, the Castle of Inverness was in the hands of the patriots, as were also the other Moray castles of Nairn, Forres, and Elgin. With Inverness as his base and with a force of from two to three thousand men drawn from the Province of Moray, Bruce advanced in October from Inverness against the Earl of Ross, and having compelled him to agree to a truce till the first of the following June, he immediately turned south and east and advanced through Moray against the Comyns. Then he defeated near Inverurie on Christmas Eve 1307, and in the succeeding months laid waste their territory, captured their castles, and drove them headlong from Aberdeenshire.

The royal castles of Aberdeen, Fyvie, Kintore, and Aboyne soon fell before him, and by the end of July 1308 the whole of the North from the borders of Ross to the borders of Forfar was in his hands. He then advanced on Argyll, in order to square accounts with another branch of the Comyn kin, defeated John of Lorn at the Pass of Brandir towards the end of August, and captured Dunstaffnage Castle. Then he turned north again, and at Auldearn, in the Province of Moray, on the 31st of October 1308, received the Earl of Ross's surrender.

The North Freed

IN the latter half of 1308 or early in 1309 the castles of Forfar, Brechin, Cupar, and

Rutherglen fell into the hands of the patriots, while by the end of February 1309 Edward Bruce, at the head of a force drawn from the Western Highlands and Islands, had subjugated Galloway, though the most important of the castles still remained in English hands. By the middle of 1309 in all Scotland north of the Tay only the castles of Dundee and Banff were held for England, while in the rest of the old Celtic Kingdom of the Scots only Stirling, Perth, and Kirkintilloch remained to her. That is to say, the whole of Scotland north of the Forth and Clyde was by the middle of 1309 free of English domination, save for five isolated strongholds which remained in precarious allegiance to England. And, as in 1297, for that great achievement the great Celtic region of which Inverness was the centre was responsible.

So far, it will be observed, no successes have been chronicled in Lothian, that is, in the whole of the district comprised by the modern counties of Edinburgh, Haddington, and Berwick, the eastern half of Roxburgh, the eastern confines of Peebles, and the southern and eastern portion of Linlithgow.

At the close of 1309, out of twenty-seven castles which were then held for England no fewer than thirteen were in Lothian or its borders, six were in Dumfries and Galloway, three (Ayr, Bothwell, and

(Continued on page 143)

Naidheachd A Inbhir-Asdal

Le IAIN AN FHEILIDH

[Air a leantainn bho'n

GHAIDHEAL OG, t.d. 20]

IX ALASDAIR MHRUCHAIDH UISEIN

Is e Dia féin as buachail dhomh,
cha bhi mi ann an dith.
Bheir e faineag gu laighinn sios
air cluanibh glas' le sìth:
Is fós ri taobh nan aibhnichean
théid seachad sios gu mall,
A ta e ga mo thréarachadh,
gu min réidh anns gach ball.

THA Alasdair Mhurchaidh Uisein ceithir fichead bliadhna agus a deich. Aois mhór. Duine maith. Gàidheal uasal. Chan 'eil duine air bith an sgrì Gheàrrloch nas uaisle na an t-Alasdair seo. Tha meas aig an t-sluagh gu léir air. Chi sibh an taigh aige ri taobh na h-aibhne an uair tha s'bh a' dlùthachadh ri Poll-Iùbh—taigh geal am measg chluaintean feòrach, torrach. Agus ma is ann anns ar fhoghar a théid sibh air chéillidh air Alasdair, is maith dh'fhaoidte gum faic sibh e fhéin ag obair air an arbhar—ag cruinneachadh a nis na chuir e anns an earrach:

San talamh cuirear dòrlach sil
air bhàrr nan sliabh 's nam
[beann];
Is bidh a thoradh trì air chrith
mar Lebanon nan crann.

Is e duine maith a tha an Alasdair—agus le maith tha mi ag ciallachadh maith. Is e duine còir, grinn, diadhaidh, tlachdmhor a tha ann—is e a tha ann da-rìreabh—ach os cionn a h-uile ni, tha e MAITH. Nach eiseampclair mhór dhuinn uile sibhse, a Alasdair mo ghràidh? Cha leig sinn di-chuimhne oirbh gu bràth—cha leig. Chi sinn sibhse aig an arbhar, grian chibhin an fheasgair a' dealradh oirbh féin, air an abhainn ri bhur taobh, air na cnuic bhith-bhuan air bhur cùl. Chi! Chi, am feasd.

Togaibh, O gheatacha, bhur cinn,
is éiribh suas gu h-àrd,
O dhorsa siorruidh; Rìgh na glòir'
gun tigeadh e g'a àit.

X.—COINNEACH CAMSHRON

MA tha Clann Chamshron a' dol bhuaithe an àite sam bith—agus chan 'eil sinn ag ràdh gu bheil—chan e teaghlach Choinnich chòir' nach maireann a tha a' dol bhuaithe, cò-dhiùbh.

Rugadh an Coinneach seo air an Lon Dubh, faisg air Poll-Iùbh, bho chionn chòig fichead bliadhna agus a h-ochd-deug. Bha e 'na dhuine tapaidh, treun, agus chuir

e a làithean seachad gu saothrachail agus le deagh ghean am measg a chuid daoine air taobh an iar Siorramachd Rois. Bha agaidh ghrinn air—bathais àrd, sròn dheach, falt dubh, agus feusag fhada Ghàidhealach. Phòs Coinneach nighean laghad a Meallan Thearlaich — Seònaid Aonghais Bhàin-àg, ged nach robh sinn eòlach air Coinneach fhéin, tha fìr chumhne againn air a bhantraich. Bu thrìc a bha sin air chéillidh orre an uair bha Bàrd Thùrnaig beò.

Bha am Bàrd agus na Camshron-aich seo 'nan dlùth choimhears-naich. B'ann air an aon seachdain a chaochail am Bàrd agus bantrach Choinnich—chaochail esan air a' chòigeamh latha de'n Dùbhlachd, 1933, agus ise air an aonamh latha dheug. Bha Coinneach Og, a mac as òige, ag innseadh dhuinn an latha roimhe nach d'fhuair a mhàthair thairis air bàs a' Bhàird—thuit bròn mòr orre an uair chuala i gun d'fhalbh a seann choimhearsnach foghainnteach, uasal.

Rugadh deichnear duine cloinne do Choinneach ud còmhla ri Seònaid. B'e Frank am fear bu shine dhiubh. Bha esan an Sasainn aig am a' cheud chogaidh mhóir, agus ghabh e anns an rèisimeid sin ris an abrar *East Kent (Buff)*. B'e saighdear maith a bha ann. Chaochail e an déidh dha a bhith air a leònadh, Di-mairt, an ceud latha de'n Chéitein, 1917.

Bha Aonghas, an darma mac, aig a' chogadh ud còmhla ri Gàidheil MhicCoinnich (*Ross-shire Buffs*). B'e gille àrd, eireachdail a bha annsan—falt a chinn cho dubh ri fiteach. Tha cumhne againn fìor mhaith air Aonghas. Cha robh duine air bith anns an arm Bhreatainn aig an robh sùilean bu ghéire—le a ghunna bhuaileadh e meadhan o' chearcail fichead uair as an fhichead. Tha Aonghas car liath a nis, ach tha e cho dìreach, eireachdail agus a bha e riamh. Phòs e ban-Leòdhasach, Màiri Nic a' Mhòraig a Tolsta-fo-thuath. Tha teaghlach dòigheil aca, agus cò bréag, glic air a bheil "Spot."

Eadar Frank agus Aonghas, bha trì nigheanan ann: Seònaid, a tha a nis ag gabhail còmhuidh air a' Bhàrd Dhùbh; Uilleimina, bean Dhòmhnail Mhic an Tòisich, de mhuintir Bràigh Phort-rìghedh anns an Eilean Sgitheanach; agus an darma Seònaid, bean Dhonnchaidh MhicCoinnich an Ailiginn.

AN sin bha càraid ann—Iain agus Ealasaid. Bha Iain an rèisimeid na Siorramachd còmhla ri a bhàrthair Aonghas, agus b'e deagh saighdear a bha annsan mar an ceudna. Phòs e Anabella Nic Ghill-Fhinnein, boireannach gasda a rugadh anns an sgrìre seo fhéin, agus is ann air an Lon Dubh a tha an taigh-còmhuidh aca. Chaochail Ealasaid an uair nach robh i ach 'na maighdinn òig, agus chaidh a h-adhlacadh an cladh Pholl-Iùbh ri taobh a h-athar.

An déidh sin, bha càraid eile ann—Alasdair agus Iseabal. Is e ploibaire agus tuathanach maith a tha anns an Alasdair seo, agus glé thrìc, an diugh, tha e a' togail nan salm anns an eaglais. Phòs Alasdair nighean an Sgith-eanaich chòir a b'abhaist a bhith an Tùrnaig, Màiri Nic a' Mhathainn, bean òg, mhin-shùileach, agus tha dithist ghillean agus dithist nigheanan laghad aca.

Phòs Iseabal (leith dhuine Alasdair) Coinneach MacCoinnich—Gàidheal gaisgeil, foghainnteach. Is e Coinneach an Gàirnealar a their muinntir Pholl-Iùbh ris-an. Is ann faisg air Eaglais Snaor Pholl-Iùbh a tha an dachaidh aig Coinneach agus Iseabal. Tha iuchraichean agus cùram na h-eaglaise aig Coinneach. Rè na seachdain tha e ag obair air fearann Inbhir-Iùbh—duine tréibh-dhìreach, diceallach, glic, as am faod sinn uile ar n-carbsa a chur. Agus tha Iseabal, bean Choinnich, a chert cho grinn agus cho saothrachail agus a tha e fhéin. Tha seachdnar acasan anns an teaghlach.

Tha Coinneach Og, am mac as òige do Choinneach Camshron nach maireann, a' fuireach leis fhéin an taigh ùr, bréag, a thog e fhéin air làrach an taighe anns an d'fhuiric a phàrantan. Coltach ri bràthair a athar, Frank, cha do phòs Coinneach. Is e duine tuigs-each, gasd, easgaidh a tha annsan cuideachd. Tha e sòraichte air an spéal.

Sin agaibh an teaghlach—sin agaibh siol Choinnich. Aidichidh sibh leinn gur e deagh shìol a tha ann. Deagh shìol agus deagh phàrantan.

XI.—DOMHNALL OG

B'ANN an Tairbeart na Hearadh a chunnaic sinn air tùs e—latha gailleanach, fuar anns a' gheamhradh—uisge agus gaoth

(An còrr air t.d. 126)

(bho t.d. 125)

mhór ann. Bha sinn ag gabhail sios sráid mhór na Tairbeairt an aghaidh na gaoithe, an uair thug sinn finear gu robh coigreach ri ar taobh, a' bruidhinn ruinn:

"Nach sibhse cáirdéan Chaluim?" arsa esan gu h-ìosal.

Mu am b'urrainn duinn freagairt a thoirt dha, thuir e a rithist:

"Is ann as an Scarpa a tha mise cuideachd. Is e mac dhomhsa Calum."

A nis, dh'aithnich sinn co é—athair Chaluim Dhómhnaill Oig—Dòmhnall Og fhéin—Hearach laghach, cáirdeil. Bha feusag ghoirid, dhubh air, agus bha a shùilean donn agus dealrach, làn toinise agus coibhneis. An uair bhruidheadh e ribh, chuireadh e a ghuala faisg air bhur gualain fhéin, shealladh e oirbh an clàr an aodainn, agus gach ni a theireadh e ribh, bhitheadh ciall agus gliocas ann.

Is mór am beud nach 'eil Dòmhnall Og beò an diugh; gu dearbh, is mór, mór am beud.

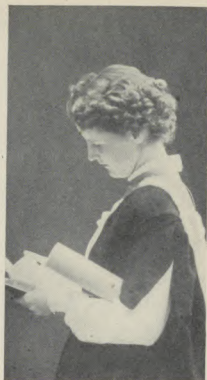
C O dhiùbh, tha a' chuid as motha de na Gàidheil eòlach a nis air Calum fhéin—air Calum Dhómhnaill Oig—air an Urramach Calum MacGilleathain, M.A., oifeagach foghainnteach leis

na Camshronaich anns a' cheud chogadh mhór, agus oifeagach diadhaidh na h-eaglaise anns a' chogadh mu dheireadh; foghlum-aiche sònraichte an Oil-thaigh Dhun-éideann, ministear na Comraiche, agus a nis ministear Drochaid Chonain, rathad Inbhir-Pheofharain. Is mór an meas a tha aig a shluagh fhéin agus aig a luchd-eòlais air fad air Calum. Choisinn e deagh dhùrachd nan Gàidheil gu léir dha fhéin—is Calum a choisinn. Tha e a' dèanamh mòran—bho mhadaidn Di-luan gu Latha na Sàbaid—an dà chuid air sgàth a eaglaise agus a r sgàth a chàinain, agus chan 'eil a bhean laghach, thapaiddh, fhialaidh a bheag 'na dhéidh.

Chan longnadh leinn idir, ma tà, gun do choisinn nighean Chaluim—ogha Dhómhnaill Oig—an duais as àirde agus an t-urrainn as motha am meas na lighichean òga an Oil-thaigh Dhun-éideann òga an latha roimhe. Seo an dealbh aice—agus nach abair sibh gu bheil i bòidheach, gu bheil i maiseach? Nach 'eil àilleachd air a h-aghaidh, cho maith ri gliocas 'na ceann?

Nach 'eil sibh a' tuigsinn car son a thuirt sinn gu mór, mór am beud nach 'eil Dòmhnall Og fhéin beò

(An còrr air t.d. 136)



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(See September Number, page 108)

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The One Who Will Come

By NEIL M. GUNN

WHEN the Mod was last held in Inverness a few folk gathered in our house for the ceilidh which, like certain rare plants, blooms only after the heat of the day. At that hour, small but measureless, even an adjudicator can sit on the floor and bloom in silence; can drink everything in and expand in the bliss that knows no responsibility and apprehends at last the beautiful folly of adding one mark to another.

Among the company were two Irishmen, quiet pleasant-voiced fellows, who had come over for the Mod and now politely assured me in a corner (which may have been the middle of the floor, for corners occur like a tide-eddy rather than are made) that they were enjoying it all very much. But the Irish—well, we know that the Irish have always had their "troubles," and every now and then a realist way of dealing with them. At least they went beyond just singing the old songs. Perhaps—one hesitates to be forthright at such an hour—they found our Mod a trifle overrooted in the past? It was hardly a question, but they smiled. I had been in the habit of visiting Ireland for some years and knew that smile, for I had played cards with it in the small hour when stories sometime are told.

"Tell me," I asked directly at last, "were any new songs, new poetry, produced?" "Yes," one of them answered, "the boys were always making a song or a ballad." I pressed them but they modestly said they couldn't sing. As for the ballads, well—one of them went, for example, like this. And the dark Irishman quietly recited some stanzas about the boys who were "out" (as we say of the Forty-Five). The ballad told a story as our own Highland ballads do; the same kind of structure, the same importance given to facts of action. It could be sung to an old air, the kind that haunts by its very monotony and does something to the farthest reach of time. But the facts were new. One fact, one similitude, came into that room with the shock which realism now and then administers to sentiment. Of his comrades and himself the balladist sang, "We kept our rifle barrels bright as our sweet-hearts' eyes."

Perhaps poetry, like Gaelic, has to have its shock if it is going to live. Housman's test of true poetry was the very practical one: does it make the hairs of the chin

bristle if one repeats it silently while shaving? I would advise an ardent Scottish Gael not to have his razor too sharp should he decide to apply the test even to that one Irish line. But anyhow, as the Irish say, he can blame me if he does.

Not that I am now in our allegedly devious or indirect Highland way having a shot at the concern for sentiment and the past—or sentiment for, in, or from the past—which it is also alleged dominates our Mods. Not that one need notice anyhow; for I sometimes wonder if we do appreciate that past with the bright particularity of the Irish balladist.

I am not even suggesting that an Comunn Gaidhealach should open yet a new subscription list in the columns of *An Gaidheal* for firearms. We can't have too many chins disfigured at once. But, as we are held to be good at the boasting, particularly over the past, let me quote another very distinguished English poet whose book, *"The White Goddess,"* I have just been reading. In a remarkable excursion into the Celtic past, Mr. Charles Graves, writing of ancient Wales, says: "The Welsh bards, or master-poets, like the Irish, had a professional tradition embodied in a corpus of poems which, literally memorized and carefully weighed, they passed on to the pupils who came to study under them. The English poets of today, whose language began as a despised late-mediaeval vernacular when Welsh poetry was already a hoary institution, may envy them in retrospect . . ." Again, "The Anglo-Saxons had no sacrosanct master-poets, but only gleemen; and English poetic lore is borrowed at third hand, by way of the Norman French romances, from ancient British, Gaelic and Irish sources. This explains why there is not the same instinctive reverence for the name of poet in the English countryside as there is in the remotest parts of Wales, Ireland, and the Highlands."

But our own scholars know all about that. There are, however, as we say in committee, two points arising out of the Englishman's remarks. The first one, which he himself does not make, is that the "despised later mediaeval vernacular" went on to produce one of the great literatures of the world, while the craft of the Celtic master-poets "already hoary" tended to remain

so, if with a shift in the meaning of the word "hoary." One wonders Why?

I hesitate to suggest an experiment, but would it be possible for one among, shall we say with deference, the druidical directorate of An Comunn to pause for a few moments in the middle of shaving (if committees permit) and whisper, not a verse of indubitable poetry like the English poet, but that haunted Why? As he looks at the face in the mirror, while the still blade hovers like a merlin over the stubble, who knows what inspiration from what ultimate truth may not fly in upon him; and how grateful we should be then to receive his tidings.

THE second point may be summarised by saying that in druidic times the whole directorate would have carried out the experiment, and not for one morning only but over such a number of years as might be necessary to achieve the understanding and mastery out of which the higher inspiration comes. This is no smiling matter: it is the sober truth. Master-poets, scholarship, the search for the living truth, for spiritual penetration—these are but some of the many elements which, cohering, formed that aristocratic Celtic tradition of which we are—or should be—the heirs. This is not something to boast about but rather to keep us silent until, searching and creating ourselves, we graduate to that level which may permit us to acknowledge our descent.

I am speaking now to youth, for those of us who have reached an age suitable to directorates tend to harden, to grow rigid over points of order in the rules, to set up that ritual which cribs and confines the living creative spirit and finally smother it. The young are the gleemen who have to break through. But they can hold their heads up because they come of a great tradition. When there is a feeling of hesitation, of uncertainty, even of inferiority, the fault may be taken to lie not in their druidic stars but in themselves.

Preaching is one of our many weaknesses. Let me illustrate, then, what I am trying to get at by taking a header into music, which more closely concerns our Mods. World musicians agree that our folk music by any standard is a very distinguished folk music. For us it is the best because it moves us more profoundly than any other.

Let me recall now the first time I heard a symphony by Sibelius;

(Continued on page 141)

Sgeul Coin Mholaich

Le AILBEART DAIBHIDH MACAOIDH

THA seòrsa sgeòil aig na h-Ameriganaich ris an abrar "shaggy dog," no "sgeul coin mholaich," a chionn 's gu robh a' cheud sgeul de'n t-seòrsa sin mu dheidhinn coin mholaich a bha air chall. Is e sin sgeul anns an tachair rud-eigin nach urrainn dhùinn a chreidsinn gun do thachair e idir—math dh'fhodhte, tha each anns a sgeul do'n urrainn labhairt no ch do'n urrainn paipear-naidh-each a leughadh!

Bha na seann-Ghaidheil glé eòlach air "sgeul coin mholaich," ged nach b'aithean dhaibh an t-ainm sin, oir is iomadh sgeul de'n t-seòrsa sin a chluinneas tu fhathast bhò na bodaich Ghaidhealach. Fhuair mi am palitèas dhuibh bhò mo charaid nach maireann, Uisdean MacAoidh, aig an robh an taigh-òsda "Aros MhicAoidh" air Sràid nam Prionnsa an Dun-éideann. Is e fìor-Ghaidheal a bha an Uisdean, agus e gu tric anns an fhéile-bheag, agus e daonnach le facal Gàidhlig aige is gu leòir dhith 'na cheann. Seo gaibh, ma tà, sgeul a fhuair mi bhuairt.

UAIR a bha mi ag coiseachd anns a' Ghaidhealtachd ràinig mi sruth agus e nas farsainge na b'abhaist dha, agus mise gun aiseag agus gun sealladh air bàta sam bith. Chual mi guth air mo chùil, agus thionndaidh mi mun cuairt, agus cò bha sin ach bodach agus e a' faighneachd dhìom, "Dé tha bhuairt, a dhuine?"

"Dol thairis," fhreagair mi; "nam biodh bàta agam."

"Tha bàta ann," ars am bodach, agus rinn e fead agus ghluais rud-eigin troimh an fheur air taobh eile an t-srutha, agus dé bha an sin ach bàta gun fhear sam bith innte, agus i a' sleamhnachadh anns an uisge agus a' tighinn glé luath gu ruige a' bhruaich air an robh mi 'nam sheasamh.

"Leum a steach!" ars am bodach.

Leum mi, agus ghùilain am bàta mi thairis, agus leum mi a mach air an taobh eile, agus chaidh mi air aghaidh air mo thurus gun sùil air ais, oir bha eagal mòr orm an deidh na thachair.

Is e feasgar Di-sathùirn a bha ann agus, nuair a thàinig mi do'n bhàile, dh'innis mi na thachair do charaid a bha agam anns a' bhàile sin, ach cha do chreid e. Chòrd e rium, co-dhùibh, gun tigeadh e leam an ath latha a' fhàicinn a' bhodaich.

Chaidh sinn anns a' mhadaoin agus sheas sinn ri taobh an t-srutha. Bha am bodach an sin, gu cinnteach, air a' bhruach eile, ach bha e ann an éideadh Di-Dòmha-naich, agus chan fhaas sinn bàta. Dh'iar mi air a' bhodach an car sin a dheanamh a rithist, ach thubhairt e, "Dé an seòrsa duine a bhiodh annam nan deannainn a leithid sin air an t-Sàbaid?"

Dh'innis Uisdean an sgeul na b'fheàrr na is urrainn dhòmhsa innseadh, agus cha do ghleidh mi an sgrìobhadh na dearbh fhaicail a chleachd e, ach sin an sgeul mar a tha cumhne agamsa air.

A GUS seo gaibh dà sgeul eile de'n t-seòrsa sin, ged nach d'fhuair mi iad anns a' Ghaidhealtachd no bho Ghaidheal sam bith. 'Nam bharail-sa tha spiorad Gàidhealach ann an "sgeul coin mholaich."

Bha duine ag coiseachd uair air rathad dìttchail far an robh bó ann an achadh agus ise 'na seasamh agus ag cràmh a cìr, agus anns an ath-phàirc bha seann each le a cheann fada thairis air a' bhalla. Air ball labhairt an t-each agus thubhairt e: "Fàilte is furan, dhuibh, a charaid!"

Le iongnadh mòr dh'fhaighnich an duine, "An tusa a labhair?"

"Is mi, gu dearbh," ars an t-each.

"Ach cha robh fios agam gum b'urrainn do each labhairt."

"Is urrainn, gu cinnteach, ach cha leig sinn fios air sin do na daoine, oir bheireadh iad oirnn an gual eigeach air an t-sràid a thuilleadh air a tharraing."

"Cò an duine d'am buin thu?" dh'fhaighnich an co'siche.

"Buinidh mi do'n tuathanach anns an taigh ud," fhreagair an t-each.

Ruith an duine suas do'n taigh agus bhuail e air an doras agus thàinig an tuathanach a mach.

"Tha mi air tighinn a cheannach bhur n-eich, a dhuine," ars an co'siche, ach rinn an tuathanach gàire 'na aodann.

"An seann each ud! Bhithinn air mo ghainntiricheadh, agus gu cothromach, nan reicinn an seann sgruit ud. Chan 'eir feum ann do neach sam bith."

"Ach is urrainn da labhairt! Each labhrach, nach tuig sibh—bhìodh airgead gu leòir ann!"

"Each labhrach, an eadh!" agus thòisich an tuathanach air gàire a dheanamh a rithist.

"Thug iad an car asaihb, gu cinnteach," ars esan, "oir chan urrainn an t-each ud labhairt;

is i a' bhò anns an ath, phàirc a tha 'na brù-chainntear."

"Bhù-chainntear! Dé tha sin?"

"Nach robh sibh riann aig taigh-cluiche far an robh duine do'm b'urrainn a ghuth a thilgeadh a null 's a nall? Is e sin brù-chainntear, agus sin mar a tha a' bhò ud."

"Bò 'na brù-chainntear! Ceann-aidhich mi bhur bó, ma tà."

"Car son?"

"Bhìodh airgead gu leòir ann am bó a tha 'na brù-chainntear."

"Na bi gorach! Chan 'eil a' bhò ud 'na brù-chainntear ro mthath, oir chl thu a bilean ag gluasad!"

S E O an treas sgeul. Thàinig Sàsannach annoch gu New York agus dh'fheumadh e dol air carbad-iarainn gun an àirde deas de na Stàitean Aonaichte air an ath mhadaoin, ach cha d'fhuair e taigh-òsda sam bith far am faigheadh e leabaidh air son na h-oidheche.

Chaidh e gu constabail air an t-sràid agus dh'fheobraich e dheth càite am faigheadh e ionad--cadail?

"Chan 'eil leabaidh sam bith an seo," fhreagair an constabail; "ach rachaibh gu Harlem agus gheibh sibh leabaidh an sin."

"Harlem!" thubhairt an Sasannach; "ach nach e ceàrn nan daoine dubha tha sin?"

"S e gu dearbh," ars an constabail, "ach b'urrainn dhuibh bhur gnùis a dheanamh dubb le stuth-liomhaidh-bròige, agus ghabhadh iad a steach sibh."

Chaidh an Sasannach agus rinn e an oidhirp. Dhorchaich e a ghnùis agus choisich e a steach do thaigh-òsda ann an Harlem agus fhuair e leabaidh.

Dh'fhalbh an carbad-iarainn moch sa' mhadaoin, ach dhùisg esan annoch agus b'fheudar dha e fhéin a sgeadachadh gu clis agus ruith gun stad gu fasadh an rathaid-iarainn. Anns an àite sin dh'òrdaich e dioicaid de'n prìomh sheòrsa a dhòl gun an àirde deas. Thubhairt an duine anns an oifig-dioicaid ris, "Eisd, a bhràthair, 's e duine dubb tha tha annad, agus tha fios agad nach urrainn dhomh prìomh-dhioicaid a thoirt do dhuine-dubb a tha dol gun an àirde deas."

"Gabbaibh mo leisgeul," ars am fear-turus, "ach chan e duine dubb a tha 'annam idir. Is Sasannach mi."

Agus rinn e oidhirp le neapaicinpòcaid air a ghnùis a ghlanadh. Ach cha deachaidh aige air an dubb a thoirt gu h-iomlan dhe aodann. Fa-dheòidh chrath e a cheann agus thubhairt e ann an guth duine-dhuibh, "Mo thruaighe, chaidh iad agus dhuisg iad an duine ceàrr!"

Ann's a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

INBHIR-NIS

IS e seo an seachdamh mòd nàiseanta a chumadh an Inbhir-Nis, agus is iomadh atharrachadh a thàinig air a' bhaile agus air a' mhòd bho'n chumadh an mòd ann an toiseach còir is leth-cheud bliadhna air ais. Tha Inbhir-Nis air fàs nas motha na bha e, agus tha am mòd air dol am meud gu h-anabarrach, ach tha mi creidsinn gu bheil flòr-fhàilte a' feitheamh air a' Chomunn Ghaidhealach ann an ceana-bhaile na Gaidhealtachd mar anns na bliadhnan a dh'aom.

Tha eachdraidh Inbhir-Nis a' triall air ais gu duibhre nam prìomh-lintean, agus 's e a' cheud sealladh a tha againn air daoine air an gabh ainmean a chur Calum-Cille naomh aig geata an dùin rìoghail aig Brùd, rìgh nan Cruithneach mu Thuath. Is iomadh gaisgeach is naomh a thuinich an Inbhir-Nis bho'n uair fad-as ud. Is iomadh ionnsaigh a rinn-eadh air caisteal a' bhaile; is iomadh cas a chaidh a null 's a nall air drochaidean na h-àibhne; is iomadh féill is margadh, le reic is ceannach, a chumadh; agus an diugh tha Inbhir-Nis nas trainge agus nas saidhbhire na bha e riamh.

Chan 'eil a' Ghaidhealtachd idir gann de bhailetean breagha, ach ar leam gu bheil àite-toisich aig Inbhir-Nis 'nam measg uile, agus is math gur fìor sin, oir is e am baile seo an geata troimh a bheil mòran choigreach gach bliadhna a' taomadh a steach do'n Ghaidhealtachd. Tha Inbhir-Nis ann fhéin a' toirt roimh-bhlas dhaibh air maise na dùthcha mu thuath.

Is fhada bho bha na h-Inbhir-Nisich clùiteach mar luchd-labhairt na Beurla, ach is tlachd-mhoire leinn nach 'eil iad idir tearc anns a' bhaile seo aig a bheil an dà chuid eòlas air a' Ghàidhlig agus dìlseachd dhi. Ged nach biodh ann ach an t-saothair luachmhor a rinn Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir-Nis—comunn a tha nise a' teannadh air ceithir-fichead bliadhna a dh'aois an dà bhliadhna eile—agus a' bhuidheann dhaoine còire foghlumite aig an ròbh ceangal ris a' Chomunn sin, agus aig a bheil fhathast, bheirheadh sin clù do'n bhaile seach bhailetean eile mar chùl-taic na Gàidhlig.

Cha ruig sinn a leas an seo ainmean nan sgoilearan 's nan ùghdaran a chur sìos a choisinn do Inbhir-Nis clù agus meas agus a chuir ri litreachas agus foghlum nan

Gaidheal. An uair nach robh meas air a' Ghàidhlig mar a tha oirre an diugh am measg sgoilearan agus luchd-inbhe, bha daoine an Inbhir-Nis a' shaothraich a chum luach na Gàidhlig a dhearbhadh agus iomphas a litreachais, a chùil, agus a seanchais a chur an taigse an t-saoghail.

THA e iomchuidh gum biodh Mòd Mòr a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach a nis a' faotainn aoiigeachd am prìomh-bhaile na Gaidhealtachd aon uair eile, agus 's e ar dòchas gum bi am Mòd seo 'na mheadhon air tuilleadh adhartais a dheanamh, anns na h-oidhirpean sin anns a bheil sinn, mar Chomunn, an sàs.

Ach, cha air bith àite anns am bi am Mòd, 's ann ris na co-fharpaisich agus na còisirean, bho thuath is bho dheas, bho'n iar agus bho'n ear, a dh'fheumar a bhith ag amharc air son bratach na Gàidhlig a chumail ri crann. Math 's gu bheil am Mòd, chan 'eil ann

ach meadhon brosnachaidh is misneachaidh a chum 's gum denar an tuilleadh dìchill anns na sgreian air tìr-mòr agus anns na h-eileanan, agus feumaidh an dìcheall sin a chòta a chur dheth agus a mhuilichinn a thrusadh gach latha de'n bhliadhna. Chan ann idir nas fhàsa a tha e, agus chan ann nas fhàsa a bhithas e, ar a-intinnean a chur ri cùisean ar cànan, oir tha a lethid de ghnòthaichean eile nas motha agus nas motha a' tarraing aire dhaoine anns an t-saoghal a th'ann. Ach chan airidh sinn tuilleadh air an ainm a tha oirnn, no air an dileab a fhuair sinn, ma tha sinn dol a thilgeil air an t-sìteig, còmhla ri cas-chrom is corran ar seanairgan, cànan aodsa nan Gaidhealach agus gach nì uasal a tha 'na cois.

Gum biodh Mòd Inbhir-Nis 'na fhìor bheòthachadh dhunn uile, a chum 's nach fannais sinn anns na dh'earbadh dhunn air sgàth na feadhna a thig 'nar déidh!

BROADCAST GAELIC LESSONS

BEGINNING on 17th October, 1949, 6.45-7 p.m., the Scottish Home Service of the B.B.C. are to broadcast weekly until the end of the year a series of lesson-programmes designed to interest and instruct those who, not knowing Gaelic, wish to learn.

The programmes are a departure from the usual type of Gaelic language-lesson, and a new technique has been used which, it is hoped, will help the listener to make speedy progress.

In connection with the course of lessons the B.B.C. has published a pamphlet, giving the Gaelic words and phrases used in each radio lesson, with an English-Gaelic vocabulary at the end. The pamphlet, which is illustrated with line drawings appropriate to the text and with photographs of Highland scenery, may be obtained (price, 6d.) from the Publications Department, B.B.C., Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow, W.2.

Having seen the scripts of these lessons and heard some of the earlier programmes, I cordially recommend this series to the attention of all who are interested

in Gaelic. Branches of An Comunn and other bodies might well form listening-groups for the purpose of listening to these radio lessons and following them up.—Ed.

MOD WEEK BROADCASTS

Tuesday, 4th October:—8.10-8.40 p.m. Mod Junior Concert.

Wednesday, 5th October:—10.15-10.45 p.m. Ceilidh.

Thursday, 6th October:—12-12.30 p.m. Gold Medal Final Competition. 8-8.30 p.m. Rural Choirs' Concert.

Friday, 7th October:—3-3.30 p.m. Senior Choirs' Competition (Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy). 10-10.35 p.m. Mod Grand Concert (recordings).

Sunday, 9th October:—3-3.45 p.m. Gaelic Service from St. Mary's Gaelic Church, Inverness. Preacher: Rev. A. Boyd, M.A., Minister of the Church.

There will also be a Feature on the Mod in the Welsh Regional service, and it is probable that recordings from the Mod will be included in the Third Programme.

The Highland Capital

Notes about Inverness

By THE EDITOR

"INVERNESS is a royal burgh of great antiquity," says the Old Statistical Account. Chambered cairns, stone circles, and hill forts provide evidence that from very early times the Ness valley, and especially the vicinity of Inverness, attracted many settlers, but for our earliest recorded information we must go to Adamnan, who tells how in 565 A.D. St. Columba journeyed from Iona through the Great Glen (encountering "Uilebheid Loch-Nis" on the way) to visit and evangelise Brude, king of the Northern Picts, whose royal residence was "at the mouth of the Ness"—was it on Craig Phadraig, or at Torvean, or on the Crown?

Situated at the head of the Moray Firth, at a point where the east-west and north-south routes cross the Ness, Inverness steadily grew in size and importance, not only as a military and political centre, the headquarters of the Mormaers of Moray, but also as a commercial centre. In the 12th century it received charters as a royal burgh both from David I and from his grandson, William the Lion.

King James VI granted to the town its Great Charter, and from that time until the Union of the Parliaments (1707) Inverness flourished, the people being enterprising and industrious and carrying on an extensive trade, not only with the North of Scotland and the rest of the country, but also with the Continent of Europe. After the Union, however, a decline in trade seems to have set in, but in the latter half of the 18th century Inverness entered upon a new period of prosperity and development which, with a few set-backs, has continued to this present time.

For a long time the town consisted principally of the four streets: South (or Castle) Street, East (or High or Petty) Street, West (or Bridge) Street, and North (or Kirk or Church) Street. By the early 19th century, however, New Street (or Academy Street) had been added, with several lanes and vennels, and building proceeded apace on the west side of the river, Telford Street being made to house the engineers employed in the making of the Caledonian Canal (1803-22). The Northern Infirmary was opened in 1804, the Roman Catholic Church in Huntly Street

in 1836, and the West Kirk in 1840.

The Castle

THE most striking landmark in Inverness is "The Castle," which, however, is a castle in name only. The present buildings on the Castle Hill date back only about a century and from the beginning have been in use as administrative offices and law-courts. Inverness has two castle-hills, the one now bearing the name, and "Old Castle Hill" or "The Crown," further to the east. It is believed that from an early date there stood on the Crown (or Old Castle Hill), a dun or rath, which was the chief residence of the Mormaers of Moray, the most famous of whom was Macbeth. In the 11th century Malcolm Ceann-mor destroyed Macbeth's castle on the Crown and erected a new castle on the present Castle Hill. It was David I who first built stone castles in Scotland, and in his time, it is believed, a stone castle was erected on Castle Hill. In 1160 the first of the name of Macintosh, Shaw MacDuff, son of an Earl of Fife, became hereditary constable of the castle, but a century later the Mackintoshes lost the constabship to the powerful Comyns of Badenoch and did not regain it until 1427.

During the Scottish War of Independence Inverness Castle was taken and retaken by both sides more than once. At different times it was captured by Edward I, Robert Bruce, Edward III, and the Lords of the Isles. Donald of the Isles assaulted both town and castle on his way to Harlaw in 1411. In 1427 King James I invited the great Highland chiefs to Inverness, hanged some, and imprisoned others. About 1540 the castle was rebuilt or extensively repaired by the Earl of Huntly who became hereditary constable.

In 1562 Mary Queen of Scots came to Inverness to quell Huntly's insurrection, was refused admission to the castle, but soon gained possession of it and had the Deputy Governor, Alexander Gordon, hanged. In 1649 the castle was severely damaged by a strong force of Highlanders led by Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty. In 1693 it was described as consisting of a square tower and four storeys with turrets. By 1715 it was in a ruinous state, but three years later it was repaired and had new barracks

added, and was called "Fort George."

In 1745 Sir John Cope and the Earl of Loudon occupied the town and castle for the Government, but in February 1746, Loudon having withdrawn, Prince Charles Edward entered the town and captured the castle and had it blown up, a French sapper (who was killed outright) and his dog (which survived) being blown across the Ness in the process. In 1747 the now severely damaged castle was abandoned and a new fort, also called "Fort George," was built at Ardersier. The materials of the castle were used by the townsfolk for building purposes, and the Duke of Gordon's factor, a Mr. Godsman, is said to have used much of the material for building dykes and for making "Godsman's Walk," which still bears his name. Parts of the castle remained, however, until the present "Castle" was built in 1834-36.

Clach na Cudainn

IN the High Street, in the Exchange or Market Square, where weekly markets of country produce used to be held on Tuesday and Friday mornings, is "the Stone of the Tubs," *Clach nan Cudainn*—an oval bluish boulder. It is said to have been brought originally from the Western Isles, where, according to a doubtful tradition, some of the earlier Lords of the Isles stood upon it when they were "crowned." Long ago it used to lie in the middle of High Street in front of the Exchange near an old apple-tree on which after Culloden Cumberland's men hanged a Highlander, after which the tree withered away! In the old days the townswomen, on their way to and from the river, rested their washing-tubs on the boulder—hence its name. In 1796, when the principal streets were levelled and paved, the Tub-Stone was set under the Cross in front of the old Town House (the Town Cross is now in a railed-off space at the west end of the Town House), and there it lay for many years. It is now embedded in the Forbes Fountain (gifted by Dr. George Fiddes Forbes of Milburn in 1880).

The present Town-House, in the Exchange, was opened in 1882 by the then Duke of Edinburgh. It occupies the site of an older Town-House built in 1708-9 on the site of Lord Lovat's town residence. This older one was called "the Town-House at the Cross" to distinguish it from "the Town House at the Brig End" (known also as the Chapel at the Brig End), where the Town Council in olden times held some of its meetings.



Loch Oich and the Glengarry Forest

At the junction of Bridge Street and Church Street is the Town Steeple, built in 1889-91. The old Tolbooth, court-house and gaol, adjoined it but no longer exist. A still older Tolbooth in one form or another occupied the same site for centuries. The steeple bells, because of their cracked, tinny sound, have acquired the name of "the Skellets."

The last building in Bridge Street—on the north side, next to the bridge—is, or was, called "Queen Mary's House," although its more usual name seems to have been "the old wine shop." Here Mary Queen of Scots lodged when she was refused admission to the Castle in 1562. The building, which used to have peaked gables, antique windows, and two turnpike stairs, has been modernised, and the royal arms of Scotland on the end have been much defaced.

Church Street has many interesting features. The dwelling-houses at the east side of the street, opposite the High Church churchyard, occupy the site of a building bequeathed to the community as a hospital by Provost Alexander Dunbar who died in 1668. It was used as the burgh grammar school until the Royal Academy was founded in 1792 and hence was known as "the old academy." Thereafter it served various other purposes—parish library, ladies' school, hospital, poor-house, beer-

shop, and Good Templars' meeting-place.

At No. 43 Church Street, fourth door from the Caledonian Hotel and directly opposite the Bank of Scotland at the corner of Church Street and Union Street, stood the house of Lady Duff of Drummuir. Here Prince Charles Edward slept the night before Culloden and the Duke of Cumberland slept in it on the following night. It was at that time occupied by the Dowager Lady Mackintosh who used to say: "I've had two kings' bairns living with me in my time, and to tell you the truth I wish I may never have another." The house was demolished in 1843.

In "Abertarf's Close," the court at No. 71 Church Street (north of the Commercial Bank), is the only remaining example of an ancient turnpike stair. There used to be another in Castle Wynd, with an arched window bearing the inscription, "Our dwelling is not here; but we hope for a better in Christ."

In Church Street stand the High Church and St. Mary's Gaelic Church. The former occupies a site on which, not improbably, Christian worship has continued from St. Columba's time or soon thereafter. The present church is about 180 years ago, but the square tower belongs to a much older church on the same site. One of the bells is said to have been brought by Oliver Cromwell from

the old Cathedral of Fortrose when he demolished it to build his citadel. In the churchyard round the High Church a number of Prince Charlie's followers were shot on the day after Culloden, the tombstones on which their executors rested their muskets being still pointed out.

An Old Pulpit

ST. MARY'S GAELIC CHURCH was built in 1792-4 on the site of an older one dating from 1649, which after Culloden was used as a prison and hospital for some of Prince Charlie's men. In St. Mary's is an old oak pulpit elegantly carved. It used to be said that it was made by a herdsman from Culloden, using only a penknife, but the true story is that this ancient pulpit (or "Little Desk"), bearing the date 1642, came from Holland, where it was originally an auctioneer's rostrum, and was gifted to St. Mary's in 1676 by William Robertson of Inshes.

Inverness is a town of many churches, and has been so for many centuries. Chapel Yard, Glebe Street, Friars' Street, Greyfriars Lane, and Chapel Street, as well as Church Street itself, bear witness to former ecclesiastical establishments, of which there is now little or no trace. Of the monastery founded in 1233 by Alexander II

(Continued on next page)

(From previous page)

nothing remains but a single red granite column. Oliver Cromwell gets the credit for teaching the Invernessians to speak correct English (which is difficult to believe), and the discredit for destroying the old ecclesiastical buildings. He occupied Inverness in 1652 and by 1657 had built a citadel and fort, accommodating 1,000 men, at the north side of the town near the mouth of the river. For the building of it he used the stones of all the old ecclesiastical buildings in Inverness, as well as the Priory of Beaulieu, the Abbey of Kinloss, and the Cathedral of Fortrose. After the Restoration "Oliver's Fort" as Boswell called it, was demolished and the material used for building many of the houses in the town and the stone bridge.

For many centuries Inverness has been an important educational centre, beginning with the monastic schools associated with the Monastery. In the 16th century the grammar school of Inverness was established. It stood at the top of Friar's Lane. In 1792 the Inverness Academy was established and incorporated by royal charter and the grammar school and other schools were merged in it, but the bell of the old school is still used in the present Academy. The original Academy stood in Academy Street (formerly called "New Street") until 1895, when the present Academy buildings were erected on the Crown, the old buildings in Academy Street being converted into shops and offices and the playground being occupied by Messrs. Macrae & Dick's premises.

Ewen MacLachlan

FROM THE BEGINNING of its history the Inverness Royal Academy made provision for Gaelic studies, the Highland Society of London at first paying part of the salary of a Gaelic Master. One of those who taught Gaelic in the Academy was Alexander Campbell, classical master from 1803 to 1819. In the latter year he became minister of Dores (and later of Croy), and Ewen MacLachlan, the Gaelic bard, who was not only "the best Celtic scholar of his day" but also a first-rate classical scholar, was a candidate for the vacant post. He was sponsored by Macdonell of Glengarry but was unsuccessful, after a bitter contest between the "Glengarryites" and the "anti-Glengarryites."

Another famous school in Inverness, where many who later rose to eminence received their earlier

education, was Raining's School, founded in 1747 under the will of John Raining, a Scottish merchant in Norwich. Dr. Alexander Macbain was headmaster there for some years.

One famous feature of "old Inverness" was the seven-arched stone bridge built in 1685 by public subscription. Earlier there had been a wooden bridge. The stone bridge—"the handsomest old bridge in Great Britain," according to Telford—was completely destroyed in a great flood in 1849. Burt (1725) says that to cross the bridge one had to pay toll of a "bodlie" (one-sixth of a penny), but in his time many of the people were too poor to afford even a bodlie and crossed the Ness on stepping-stones. At last the toll was abolished because the parishioners on the west side of the river made it an excuse for not attending church (on the east side), preferring to play "cammack" (shinty) on the bleaching green on a Sabbath morning.

On the west side of the river the buildings of greatest interest are St. Andrew's Cathedral (built in 1866), the Royal Northern Infirmary, the Roman Catholic Church, and the West Church.

On the west of the town lies Tomnahurich, now beautifully laid out as a cemetery, but in earlier times a mod-hill or "gathering-hill" and the scene of horse-races run round its base and patronised by the magistrates. Tomnahurich's chief interest, however, lies in the fact that it was regarded as a *sìdhean* or "fairy knoll," and many tales are told of it in this connection, even Thomas the Rhymer being associated with it—

"An uair a dhùisgeadh fìr na h-Iùbhrach,
Cò thigheadh air tìs ach Tòmas?"
(John MacCodrum).

Not only as the chief commercial centre in the Highland region, as the principal town, politically and militarily, for many centuries, and as a town beautiful in itself and in its surroundings, with many interesting historical associations extending back to remote times, does Inverness claim attention. It has also played a notable part in the annals of Gaelic literature and history and in the efforts to preserve and promote our language, literature, and music.

The Inverness newspapers—*Inverness Courier* (from 1817), *Northern Chronicle* (from 1881), *Highland News* (from 1883), and *Highland Herald*—have always given strong support to the Gaelic cause; while in Inverness were published at various times *The Highlander* (edited by John

Murdoch, Lachlan Macbean, and John Whyte), *The Celtic Magazine* (edited by Alexander Mackenzie, Rev. Alexander Macgregor, and Alexander Macbain), *The Scottish Highlander* (edited by Alexander Mackenzie), and *The Highland Monthly* (edited by D. Campbell and Alexander Macbain).

The Gaelic Society

OF very great value has been the work of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, founded in 1871, whose published "Transactions," now extending to thirty-eight volumes, comprise a rich mine of material on Gaelic and Highland history, literature, and folklore. For several successive generations there has been in Inverness a small group of persons, united in a common devotion to Gaelic culture, many of whom have gained fame for themselves and shed lustre on their people and town by their researches and writings.

In 1655, according to Thomas Tucker, half of the people of Inverness spoke Gaelic and the other half English, so that the one half did not understand the other half. A generation later Thomas Kirk reported that "all in the town of Inverness do generally use that language (Gaelic), except some few of the better sort that can speak Scottish." The New Statistical Account (1845) reported: "In the remoter parts of the parish (of Inverness) and by some of the poorer classes in town the Gaelic language is exclusively spoken, but it is fast wearing out, and by the rising generation English is almost universally preferred, especially in the town of Inverness where many of them are wholly ignorant of Gaelic."

There is reason to believe that the ancient language still has a strong hold in the town and neighbourhood, and it is hoped that this National Mod will provide a new impetus.

LONDON GAELIC CLASSES

EVENING classes in Scottish Gaelic are being held at the City Literary Institute, Stukeley Street, Drury Lane, W.C.2, during this session which opened on 26th September.

Classes in Gaelic Conversation (advanced) are held on Tuesdays (6-7 p.m.), for beginners on Fridays (7-8 p.m.), and for intermediate and advanced students on Fridays (6-7 p.m.). The instructor is Mr. Hamish Graham, instructor to the London Gaelic Choir.

It is hoped that as many as possible in the London area will avail themselves of these facilities.

The Bridge

A Short Story

By ANGUS MACVICAR

HE sat himself at a small table, nursing a glass and watching the people who constantly passed in and out by the main door. Slim and dark—about thirty-five, I reckoned—he had the pale, uneasy look of the Islesman who has lived long in a city.

The foyer of the hotel was full of animated Gaelic. By the reception-desk a tenor from Stornoway discussed adjudications with a tall soprano from Aberdeen. Ladies' choirs from Campbelltown and Govan surged together near the door, in a froth of laughter and white blouses. From a distant lounge came the melody of *Eilean Mo Chrìdh*, sung lustily by a male-voice choir which could not bear to spend in silence even this short interval between the competitions and the final concert.

But the solitary stranger seemed to be living in a world apart—a silent, watchful entity amid the eddying noise; and as I took the vacant chair at his table my story-teller's instinct fluttered like a twig in the hands of a water-diviner.

"Waiting for someone?" I asked, in the casual, friendly way of the Mod.

He turned his deep-sunk brown eyes in my direction, and I noticed that the whisky in his glass rippled and shook.

"Yes," he said, his accent betraying a Hebridean timbre. "I am waiting for a—for a friend."

His brow was furrowed like ribbed sand at low tide. Thick veins stood out on his sinewy, black-haired hands. Here is a "dark" Islesman, I thought—a descendant of the brooding Picts, who lacks the stabilising gaiety of the blond Norsemen.

SUDDENLY he spoke again. "You're a reporter, aren't you?" I nodded.

"What does the Mod mean to you?" he asked; but—like Pilate—he did not wait for an answer. "To some folk," he went on, with a sidelong tilt of his mouth, "it means a pageant of ersatz Highland life, staged once a year for the benefit of morons—morons who can never be happy except in a noisy crowd. It means tartans and crowded hotels, torrents of bad Gaelic and phoney friendships inspired by over-indulgence in whisky. It means murder—the murder of beautiful songs at raucous, interminable ceilidhs. It

means, my friend, the very negation of the Highland spirit."

I was startled. An elderly contralto with protruding teeth and a vast area of tartan skirt pounded me on the back as she passed towards the door. Absent-mindedly, I waved to her.

"Shall I tell you what the Mod means to me?" said the stranger; and then—quite suddenly—I knew that the story I coveted was about to be told.

"Just before the Mod last year," he began, "my wife left me. I don't blame her. She was English—a nursing-sister, I had met in India during the War. A gay person, practical, fond of company. She soon tired of my black, nostalgic moods, and when she left me for a . . . well, as I say, I don't blame her.

I FELT bitter at the time. Despair settled on my spirit, like a clammy mist floating in from the sea. Then someone gave me a ticket for the Mod Concert in St Andrew's Halls—and for want of anything better to do, I went alone.

"I expect you were there, too. Do you remember *Taladh*, sung by the Gold Medalist? It was like a benison, and as the hush of the lullaby filled the hall, bitterness began to leave me.

"Presently I realised that a girl beside me was crying softly to herself. I hadn't noticed her before, but now I saw that she was young and very lovely—and dressed in black. I think the song had affected her, too—though for what reason I could only guess. My hand touched hers, and a spark—a mysterious spark of sympathy and affinity—passed between us. She dried her eyes; and after a minute or two she looked up and smiled. Finally, without a word, we rose and left the hall together.

"It was a quiet, warm night—you remember? Hand in hand we walked down to Argyle Street and the Broomielaw and on to the Bridge. We said nothing—words seemed to be unnecessary. The touch of her hand soothed me, and something must have happened to relieve whatever sorrow rankled in her own heart.

"It wasn't particularly late, and the streets were still busy. Trams and buses whined past as we stopped in the centre of the Bridge and leaned on the parapet, looking

down on the shadowy steamers and the gaunt cranes, on the murky river which led far out to the islands of the West. But we seemed to be alone—alone in a world that was strange and sweet—and timeless.

"How can I explain what happened? Will you believe that for nearly an hour we stood there, without uttering a word to each other? But as the minutes passed, and happiness ousted sorrow inside us, the grip of our fingers grew warmer and more intimate.

AS I say, we were silent, and she told me nothing about herself; but I knew instinctively that she was an islander—that out of the smoke and bustle and grime of the darkened city she was creating a picture of an island shore—a peaceful picture, far removed from the cares and stresses of life, with the moon low above the water and a scent of thyme eddying in the salty breeze. That was the picture in my own mind, and we were so close to each other that our thoughts—like our fingers—were intertwined.

"All at once she moved and sighed. I discovered that the city had grown still. Far below the parapet of the Bridge I could hear water lapping against the piles. The sky above the dark warehouses on the waterfront had been cleansed of smoke, and stars were shining. A distant clock-tower struck midnight.

"As we stood looking at each other, there on the centre of the Bridge, a little, tender smile curved on her red lips, and her eyes were as warm and blue as the seas around my island. Before I could help myself she was in my arms, trembling as I kissed her and caressed her golden hair. A wild longing surged in my heart

"Suddenly a belated taxi ground across the Bridge, and we stood apart. She touched my hand—once—and then she was gone, leaving me alone. It didn't even occur to me to follow her."

The dark stranger drained his glass. The light in his eyes was strangely remote from the garish turmoil of the hotel. I had got my story, but question after question remained unanswered.

"I never saw her again," he said. "But I know she is here in Inverness. I have been waiting for her. She is what the Mod means to me—something sad and precious—and very lovely. I am going to the Concert now. We shall meet there, I think, as we did last year—but this time I will not let her go."

Previous Inverness Mods

THE National Mod has been held at Inverness on six previous occasions—1897, 1903, 1912, 1923, 1928, and 1936.

1897

THE 1897 Mod was a one-day affair, and was held in the Town Hall. It was, however, "the most successful Mod yet held." The President that year was Dr. Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, and the General Secretary was Mr. John Mackintosh, Solicitor, Inverness. Notable Gaels present included John Mackay (Hereford), Alexander Mackenzie, Henry Whyte ("Fionn"), Malcolm Macfarlane, William Mackay, Alexander Macbain, and Roderick Macleod. Delegates from the Irish Feis-Ceoil and the Welsh Eisteddfod attended and presented addresses. During the day Dr. Fraser-Mackintosh entertained three hundred guests at his beautiful home, "Lochardill." The evening concert was presided over by Lord Lovat.

1903

THE 1903 Mod also was carried through in one day, and was held in the Music Hall. The President was the Marquis of Tullibardine (the late Duke of Atholl), and Mr. John Mackintosh was still Secretary. Owing to the large number of events and entrants three halls had to be used for the competitions. On the evening before the Mod the Provost and Magistrates of Inverness entertained the members of An Comunn and the competitors to a Reception in the Town Hall. At the Mod Grand Concert, presided over by the Marquis of Tullibardine. "Messrs. Roderick and John MacLeod, natives of Sutherland, particularly distinguished themselves by the magnificent rendering of the songs entrusted to them. The former," stated a contemporary report, "is undoubtedly our foremost Gaelic vocalist."

After the concert the Mod competitors were entertained to an "At Home" in the Music Hall by the members of the Inverness Gaelic Choir, of which Mr. Roderick MacLeod was then Conductor; and next day, on the invitation of Mr. William Mackay, Solicitor, Inverness, Vice-President of An Comunn (and father of Captain William Mackay, this year's Mod Local Convener), they visited the Jacobite Exhibition, in which a valuable collection of relics of the "Forty-Five" was displayed.

Among the prize-winners in the literary competitions were the Rev. D. MacEachern, Coll (poem), Rev. D. MacCallum, Lochs (poem), Malcolm MacFarlane (song), John MacFadyen, John MacCormick, and Mrs. K. W. Grant. Mr. John Cameron, Paisley, won first place for a collection of unpublished Gaelic songs. The Gold Medallists that year were Mr. J. L. B. Mowatt, Inverness, and Miss Annetta C. Whyte, Glasgow (daughter of "Fionn" and now Mrs. J. E. Scott, Stronachullin, Argyll). The junior first-prize winners for singing were Margaret M. Duncan, Glasgow (who became Gold Medallist in 1909 and was until her recent death one of our foremost singers), and Kenneth J. MacRae, Inverness. The Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy (offered for the first time that year) was won by the Dundee Gaelic Musical Association Choir.

1912

IN 1912 the National Mod "came of age." In that year the 21st Annual Mod was held in Inverness, and three days were devoted to it. Mr. (later Dr.) William Mackay, Inverness, was President and Mr. John Maclean was General Secretary of An Comunn. The first day, Wednesday, was "Children's Day," and nearly 700 children were brought together. The President stated that this was "the sixth consecutive children's mod in Inverness." On the Wednesday, because of the record number of entries, four halls were required for the competitions. Thursday and Friday were taken up with senior competitions. Altogether, between juniors and seniors, there were 1169 competitors at this Mod.

The Chairmen at the evening concerts were: Wednesday, Grant of Rothiemurchus; Thursday, Lord Lovat; and Friday, The Mackintosh of Mackintosh. Stornoway Gaelic Choir and the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Choir tied for the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy, the latter being first in music but Stornoway "excelling in Gaelic," and it was agreed that each choir should have custody of the Trophy for six months. The Gold Medallists were Miss Margaret MacLeod, Inverness, and Mr. Hugh MacKay, Dornoch. Mr. Hector MacDougall, Glasgow (still busy writing Gaelic, we are glad to say), won the Gold Pendant for the highest aggregate marks in the literary competitions, and Mr. Neil Shaw (now and for many

years An Comunn's General Secretary) was that year's best bard. Other literary prize-winners were John MacFadyen, John MacCormick, and Alexander Cameron (Poolwe).

1923

BY 1923 the Mod had spread out to four days. Mr. Angus Robertson was President, and John MacFadyen and John MacCormick appeared among the literary prize-winners, as did also Alexander Stewart (Glenlyon). At this Mod the ceremony of crowning the bard took place for the first time, the bard being Mr. James Thomson, Bayble, Lewis. The Gold Medallists were Mr. Charles MacColl, Ballachulish, and Miss Jenny M. B. Currie, Ford (now Mrs. Neil Maclean). The Oban Gaelic Choir, conducted by Mr. John MacDonald, won the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy.

1928

THE 1928 National Mod in Inverness attracted very large audiences. The President that year was Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, and Provost MacEwen of Inverness (later to become Sir Alexander MacEwen) gave a civic welcome. Among those attending this Mod were Lord Ashbourne, the delegate from Ireland, Mons. J. H. Louwyck, representing the Celts of France, and Miss Roberts, representing Wales. The Very Rev. Dr. Montgomery Campbell conveyed greetings on behalf of the Moderators of the General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland and United Free Church, then on the eve of the great union of 1929.

It is interesting to note among the junior prize-winners some names which since then have become very well known—as, e.g., Sam Maclean (one of our best modern bards) and Calum Iain N. MacLeod (now at the Gaelic College, Cape Breton). The Silver Medallists were Margaret MacGill, Greenock, and Henry McGuinness, Tayvallich. The Greenock Gaelic Parish Church Junior Choir won the Miller Trophy the *Oban Times* Trophy, and the Unison Competition.

The Crowned Bard that year was Mr. Peter Campbell, Bragar, Lewis, while John MacFadyen, Glasgow, and Duncan MacDonald, Sandwickhill, Stornoway, also appeared in the prize-lists of the literary competitions. The Gold Medallists were Mr. J. C. M. Campbell, London, and Miss Morag MacDonald, Inverness. Edinburgh Gaelic Choir won the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy, with the London Gaelic Choir second and

(Continued on page 148)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AN DAMHAR, 1949

Aireamh 9

Ceo

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“**A**N robh carghas an tombaca riamh ort?”
Arsa Bus-dubh ris an tarbh.

“Is iomadh rud neònach a bha ormsa riamh, ach sin aon rud neònach nach robh idir idir orm,” arsa Blàran. “Ach gu dé fo'n ghréin ùr-ghil a chuir sin 'na do cheann sgalach?”

“Ceann sgalach, an eadh? Is beag a bheireadh ormsa do dhìol trod a thoirt duit air son a leithid de thàmailt. Bu chòir duit nàire a bhith ort agus do cheann clabach fhéin cho peallach ri seann lothaig ceàird!”

“Leig bhuat e, a bhróinein. Ach dé a chuir ceist an tombaca ort?”

“Dé a chuir ach cuthach a bha air Dòmhnall Glas sa' mhadainn an diugh. Thug e buille de a chois dhòmhsa eadar an leabaidh is an teine, agus is i feairt glé amh a thug e air Fearchair an uair a thuir e ris gu robh latha maith an diugh a rithist ann. ‘Cò,’ arsan ris, ‘a dh'innis sin duit?’ Agus an uair a chuireadh a lite air a bheulaibh cha deanadh e ach a bhith sior chàineadh 's a' sior shianadh agus e talach air a' ghréim a dh'itheadh e. A bheil fhios agadsa nach robh de mhòd no de stoladh air na ghabh e an t-atachadh?”

“Chunnaic mi a sheòrsa uair no dhà,” arsa Blàran, “agus nam biodh slacan aca cha shòradh iad a thoirt dhomh mu na h-asnaichean ach cinnt a bhith aca gu robh iad far nach ruigeadh m'adhaircean orra. Dearg-ghràisg!”

“A! gun tà, chan ann mar sin is àbhaist do Dhòmhnall Glas a bhith idir; chan 'eil ann ach bodach laghach——”

“Bhuil,” arsa an tarbh, “mas e sin a bhith laghach seachnam-sa a bhith searbh! Dé idir a thàinig air?”

“An uair a dh'éirich iad o'n bhiadh thuirt Fearchair ri Mór, ‘Na can guth’, arsan e an sanais, ‘chan 'eil air ach carghas an tombaca.’ Agus an uair a thug Dòmhnall am blàr a muigh air chualas Mór as a guth-thàmh ag ràdh, ‘Carghas ann no as, cha ruigeadh e leas a bhith 'na bhrùid. Dheanadh an tarbh fhéin na b'fhearr na siud!’”

“Is searbh a' ghlòir nach fheumar éisdeachd,” arsa Blàran, “agus falbh thusa dhachaidh.”

Dh'fhalbh Bus-dubh bochd an taobh as an tàinig e agus e làn de amharus gu robh carghas an tombaca air tòiseachadh air an tarbh e fhéin!

“Dh'fhaodadh Sealbh,” arsa bróinean ris fhéin, “nach 'eil e gabhaltach!”

Calanas

NACH iomadh laimhseachadh a tha air a' chlàmh bho dh'fhàgas i druim na caorach agus an ruig i druim an duine! Bha latha ann agus cha robh seo gun fhios do mhuintir na Gaidhealtachd. An uair nach robh dad 'ga dheanamh air a' chroit no air an iasgach bha iad an grèim anns a' chalanas. Cha robh ach gann taigh anns nach fhaighte cuibheall-shnìomh is càrd is fearsaidean, agus mar bu trice b'ann ris a' chaillich a bha an obair seo an earbsa. Cha b'e nach rachadh aig an òigridh air car a dheanamh air a' chalanas, ach bha sgil is alt aice-se nach d'fhuair nighean no ogha—fhathast co-dhiubb!

Ge d'achaidh snìomh is càrdadh is fighe as gu mór air a' Ghaidhealtachd cha deach e gu buileach as anns na h-Eileanan, gu h-àraidh anns na Hearadh. Chluinneadh tu crònan aig cuibhill is brag aig beairt anns an eilean sin an uair nach cluinnadh tu e an eileanan eile. Agus an diugh leis an iarraidh a tha air clò is snàth tha barrachd 'ga dheanamh air a' chalanas na bha bho chionn iomadh bliadhna. Chan obair gun saothair an clò ach, air a shon sin, is math as fhìach an obair a bhith rithe is a' phrìs cho math.

An uair a thig a' chlàmh bho dhruim na caorach is e an ceud nì a tha ri dheanamh rithe a glanadh agus a sgaoleadh air lic no gàrradh air son a tiormachadh. Is e an ath cheum a dath, agus cha deanar seo gun sgil no gun eòlas.

BHA uair ann is cha robh dath anns a' Bchothlamadh bu bhreàgha chitheadh tu na dath a thugadh à lusana na talmhainn. Ach an diugh chan 'eil a' chùis uile gu léir mar sin; faodar a' chlàmh a dhath gu saor is gu heicalamh le dathan Gallda ach, air a shon sin, saòileam nach 'eil iad cho buan no cho breàgh ris na seann dathan Gaidhealach. Cha deachaidh an t-eòlas no an cleachdadh as, agus an diugh fhathast chithear té a' falbh le cuinneig a chruinneachadh crotail bharr nan creag no luibhean is freumhaichean air na raointean.

Is e an crotal an dath as cumanta agus cha mhór cothlamadh anns nach faicear a bheag no mhór de'n dath ruadh seo. Nithear dath dubh le cairt locha (duilleag bhàithe) is le cairt na talmhainn, dath liath le sealbhaig is guirmean,

(An còrr air t.d. 34)

Mac an t-Sronaich

Tuilleadh n'a Thimcheall

Le AONGHAS MACDHONNCHAIDH

Rinn Murchadh Mac-an-Tuairneir eachdaidh mhath air Mac an t-Sronaich agus air an oile a rinn e an ceann a staigh na Hearadh.

Seo, ma tà, mar a bha an eachdraidh againne an ceann eile na Hearadh, far an robh sinn na b'fhaisge air na beannaibh mòra anns an robh e 'ga fhalach fhéin fad sheachd bliadhna.

Dh'fhàg Mac an t-Sronaich a dhachaidh am bràighe Inbhir-Nis an déidh dha a phiuthar a mharbhadh an riochd bana-Sgitheanaich a chuir seachad oidhche san taigh. Is e Mór Nigh'n Mhànus a b'ainm dhi, agus is e a thèarainn i gun do chuir i na griogagan a bha oirre air piuthar Mhic an t-Sronaich mun do chaidil i, agus bha dùil aige-san gur h-i a' bhana-choigreach a bha fo a làmhnan san dorchadas. Theich i le a bheatha ach cho luath 's a thàinig an latha dh'fhalbh Mac an t-Sronaich air a tòir. Gu fortanach, rug ise air cairt làn feòir agus thug i air a' chairtear a falach fo'n fheur gus an tàinig an oidhche.

B'i seanmhair Mhànus na h-Airde-Bige a bha am Mór Nigh'n Mhànus, agus, o'n bha Mánus a' tagairt càirdeis air a fhear-cinnidh, an t-Ollamh Mánus MacGilleathain a bha fada an Glaschu, chan 'eil teagamh agam nach robh i glé chàirdheach dhàsan mar an ceudna.

Is ann an Uamh Ulladail, an Sròn Ulladail, a bhitheadh Mac an t-Sronaich a' fuireach mar bu trice. Chan 'eil ach sniomh caol chun na h-uamha seo, agus, ged tha an uamh mór, farsaing, tha an doras cho cumhang 's nach fhaigheadh dìthis a steach innte còmhla. Bha tobar am broinn na h-uamha, agus fhuaradh luath innte an déidh do Mhac an t-Sronaich falbh aise. Seo an uamh air an do rinn Màrtainn a' Bhealaich, no *Martin Martin*, iomradh anns an leabhar a sgrìobh e o chionn dà cheud gu leth bliadhna, agus e 'ga h-ainmeachadh air a' bheinn, is e sin, Ullabhal.

Bha Mac an t-Sronaich 'na dhuine treun. Mun do chrochadh e an Inbhir-Nis dh'aidich e gun do mhòrt e seachdnar, a h-aon diubh an ceann tuath na Hearadh. B'e seo Eachann MacAsgaill—no Eachann Mac Chaluim 'Ic Iain 'Ic Choinnich—a thachair ris agus e a' tilleadh a' Steòrnabhagh le deoch-an-rèitich aige fhéin. Dh'aidich Mac an t-Sronaich gur e seo comh-stri bu chruaidhe a bha aige agus mort Eachainn MhicAsgaill an gnìomh a b'aitriche leis de na rinn e. Dh'aidich e cuideachd gun do leag Eachann e dà uair, agus gun do leig e an àird e an dà uair. Cha d'fhuair e ach leth-chrun am pòcaid Eachainn.

Cha robh arm no armachd aig a' bhéisd ach biodag bheag. Is ann leis a' bhiodaig a chur an t-suil-liath Eachainn (no 'na bhois) a fhuair e làmh-an-uachdair air mu dheireadh. Bha e san t-seanchas oillteil seo gu robh bloighean de'n phighe ir ma faicinn aig Abhainn Scàlladail air son iomadh bliadhna. Bha an abhainn seo faisg air Airde a' Mhùlaidh (Ardvourlie), agus mu dhà mìle, tha mi an dùil, a deas air Mol na Hearadh.

Bha naidheachd, cuideachd, air mar thachair Mac an t-Sronaich ri Dòmhnall Bàn Mac Aonghais, bràthair Iain Duinn. Bha Dòmhnall Bàn a' fuireach an caochladh àite, agus e uair no uair-eigin an Ceann Dibig, an Caolas Scalpaidd, am Brannarsaig, agus anns an Scarpa. Rinn e seachd imrichean 'na latha! Bha e san t-seanchas gun do lean Mac an t-Sronaich e, agus Dòmhnall Bàn a' dol a Steòrnabhagh, ach nach do ghabh e air a dhòl an sàs ann. Tha e coltach gu robh Dòmhnall Bàn, cho cinnteach ri a bhràthair, 'na dhuine calma. Thug e aon uair dhachaidh air a mhuin a' Steòrnabhagh bolla mine, na dheanadh eathar de dh'iarainn, paidhir bhròg anns an robh ceithir puinnnd deug, agus spaid!

Thachair Mac an t-Sronaich uair eile ri fear aig an robh sgonn de bhata—bata coille—'na làmh.

"Is fiadhaich am bata a tha agad!" arsa Mac an t-Sronaich.

"Tha mi fhéin 's mo bhata fiadhaich," arsa am fear eile, "ma chuireas duine dragh oirn!"

Cha tàinig Mac an t-Sronaich na b'fhaisge!

Bhitheadh an duine truagh ag goid bidh troimh an oidhche. Tha cunntas gun do ghoid e buntàta as na taighean air an Luachair, aig Ceann Loch Reasort, agus gun do dh'fhalbh e leò ann an guailleachan le Mór Nigh'n Dhòmhnail.

Chuir e greis seachad an Ceann Chùisle—òb a tha air taobh tuath Loch Thannabhaigh—agus bhitheadh daoine a' faicinn a theine, agus e a' bruich a' bhuntàta, ma b'fhior, aig sàil an Rìgire, eadar Loch Reasort agus Loch Bhoismid.

Calanas (bho t.d. 33)

dath glas le buaghallan, dath buidhe le bun an fhraoich is le suith. Ma tha dath uaine a' dhìth ort faodaidh tu sin fhaighinn leis a' chlàimh a dhath buidhe is an sin a bogadh an sùgh na sealbhaig. An uair a gheibh thu a' chlàimh dathte tioram is e an ath rud a creadh agus tha i deas agad air son a càrdadh is a sniomh. Ged tha a' mhòr-chuid an diugh 'ga cur do'n mhuilinn air son a creadh is a càrdadh gu "cur" is "dlùth" a dheanamh dhith, tha

(An còrr air t.d. 36)

Litir Eachainn

AN litir a' mhios a dh'fhalbh thubhairt mi gu robh mi air paipearan-ceasnachaidh Comunn na h-Oigrindh fhaotainn bho Niall, is gu robh mi am beachd gu robh beagan tuille ann am bliadhna na bha againn an uraidh, ach an seo bha mi am mearachd.

Is e an àireamh a tha air aghaidh am bliadhna 91 Làn agus 61 Sàr-Ghaidheal, uile gu léir 152. B'e àireamh na bliadhna an uraidh 105 Làn agus 69 Sàr, uile gu léir 174. Is ann a tha sinn, mar sin, 22 nas lugha am bliadhna.

Fhuair sinn iad bho dheich sgoiltean an uraidh agus bho'n àireamh cheudna am bliadhna a rithist, ach gu robh atharrachadh beag anns na sgoiltean. Bha Bràgar (Leódhas) agus Staon-a-brig (Uibhist) air chall am bliadhna, ach 'nan àite bha Bréibhig am Barraidh agus Leòdamas an Ile.

Chan 'eil sgoil idir againn am bliadhna as an Eilean Sgitheanach, no eadhon bho chionn dà bhliadhna. B' àbhaist pasgan laghach phaip-earan a bhith a' tighinn oirnn bho sgoil Chòrnaige Móire an Tiriodh agus á Muile, á Tobar-Mhoire gu sònraichte. Ciod idir an gaiseadh a tha air tighinn orra-san? Agus a bheil sgoil idir air tìr-mór a thig chugainn le annas an làimhe?

SEO agaibh clàr a leigeil ris, a reir na h-àibidil, na deich sgoiltean seo bho'n d'fhuair sinn paipearan am bliadhna:—

Sgoil	Làn	Sàr	Uile
Bàgh a' Chaisteil (Barraidh)	15	11	26
Bodha-mór (Ile)	1	7	8
Bréibhig (Barraidh)	9	—	9
Dalabrog (Uibhist)	9	18	27
Drinnsaid (Na Hearadh) ..	4	3	7
Dun-éideann	1	—	1
Leòdamas (Ile)	10	—	10
Plana-sgeir (Leódhas) ..	6	—	6
Tairbeart na Hearadh ..	22	18	40
Tòrlum (Beinn nam Faodhla)	14	4	18
An t-iomlan	91	61	152

De'n cheud gu leth 's a dhà seo bha a dhà-dheug do'n tugadh 90 no an còrr de chomh-arraidhean, mar a chì sibh anns a' chlàr seo eile:—

LAN-GHAIDHEIL

Peigi NicFhionghuin, Bàgh a' Chaisteil	96
Ruairidh Iain Caimbeul, Dalabrog	92
Pàdraig Caimbeul, Dalabrog	91
Cairistiona Nic a' Phì, Dalabrog	90
'D.M.P.', Bréibhig	90
Ealasaid Màiri NicLeòid, An Tairbeart	90

SAR-GHAIDHEIL

Màiri P. NicGhill-Fhinnein, An Tairbeart	96½
Màiri Chaimbeul, Bàgh a' Chaisteil	96
Cairistiona Màiri NicLeòid, An Tairbeart	94
Catriona Anna NicIomhair, An Tairbeart	93
Seònaid NicGhilleathain, An Tairbeart	91
Màiri Bell NicDhòmhnaill, An Tairbeart	90

THA mi a nis a' dol a bhuntainn ris na paip-earan a thaobh mhearachdan sònraichte anns an robh sibh a' tuiteam. Tòisichidh mi aigpaip-earan-ceasnachaidh nan Làn-Ghaidheal, agus, a chum 's gun lean sibh na tha agam r'a ràdh le ceartas, cuiridh mi sìos dhuibh an seo am paip-ear slàn mar a chaidh a thoirt dhuibh, agus seo e sìos:—

DEUCHAINN LAN GHAIÐHEAL, 1949.

- (a) Eadartheangaich an earrainn Ghàidhlig so gu Beurla. An ùine cheadaichte— aon uair.
1. Is iomadh sgeul a dh'fhaodainn innseadh.
 2. Cha b'e aon chunnart anns an robh mi.
 3. Bu chòir dhomhsa eòlas a bhith agam orra.
 4. Chunnac mi e, is e 'n a shuidhe air leth o chach.
 5. Cha deachaidh a' bhliadhna so leam.
 6. Ged tha mi air an leth-shuil, is maith a chì mi leis an t-sùil a tha agam.
 7. Tha searrach aig an làir dhuinn.
 8. Thug mi aghaidh air air son sin a dheanamh.
 9. Cha robh call mor gun bheagan buidhne.
 10. Innsidh mi dhuit fàth mo thuruis an uair a chì mi thu.
- (b) Eadartheangaich na sreathan Beurla so gu Gàidhlig. An ùine cheadaichte— aon uair.
1. He was afraid that he would have to walk home.
 2. Those children are looking out of the little window.
 3. The gentleman made us sit at the same table as himself.
 4. This is the young man whose finger was broken.
 5. We saw a boat which had lost her nets.
 6. If a man will not work, neither shall he eat.
 7. It is time for me to live in a different place.
 8. I shall never ask you to go from here.
 9. I saw the ship coming into sight.
 10. Whoever comes, I am staying.
- A nis, bho nach 'eil an rùm agam gu bun-tainn ris a' phaip-ear seo uile an dràs, bu mhaith leam sibh 'ga ghléidheadh aig 'ur làimh gus an tig an ath àireamh a mach, a chum
- (An còrr air an ath dhuilleig)

Calanas (bho t.d. 34)

feadhainn ann fhathast a tha 'ga sniomh aig an taigh.

An uair a tha a' chlàimh air a sniomh agad feumaidh tu a nis a' bheairt-dhealbh a chur an uidheam agus an clò a dheilbh. Thèid an clò a dheilbh a réir an fhighe a bhios a' dol air. Is iad na figheachan as bitheanta "ball-is-corran," "sùil-còin," "dà snàthlan mu seach," agus "ceithir snàthlanan mu seach." Thèid an clò a dheilbh le bhith ag gabhail ochd snàthlanan còmhla agus 'gan cur air na fuaintean, ag oibreachadh sìos is suas gus an téid còrr is sia ceud snàthlan a chur orra. Cuirear a nis an clò mu chrann na beairte. Is e fìor obair ruighinn a tha anns a' bheairteachadh agus feumaidh an breabadair deagh aire thoirt gu bheil gach snàthlan 'na àite fhéin. Mur 'eil

THA an clò a nis deas air son fhighe agus, an uair a thèid iteachan-cur a lionadh, thèid dalladh air cho cruaidh is a th'aig a' bhreabadair. Bidh eadar fichead slat is còig slatan fichead Gaidhealach anns gach clò agus togaiddh sin suas ri trì fichead de shlatan beaga. Le fighe dhion thèid an clò a leagail an trì no ceithir de làithean ach, mas ann leis a' bheairt-iarainn a tha thu ag obair, leagaidh tu e an dà latha.

Chan 'eil a dhith air a' chlà a nis ach a luathadh is a nighe agus tha e deas air son a' mhargaidh. Feumar a luathadh air son a ghlanadh is an leud aige a chur a steach gu mu thuiream ochd òirlich fhichead. An uair

a gheibh thu a nighe gu math is a thiormachadh tha t-obair seachad. Faodaidh tu a nis a bhith an dùil ri còrr is deich tasdain an t-slat air agus —anns na h-amannan seo—a dhà gu leth de na rudan beaga leibideach ud a tha moran nas luachmhoire na deich tasdain!

(Bho An Cabairneach, 1945, le cead).

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 35)

gum faic sibh le ceartas gach ceann ris an bia' buntainn.

Tha trì de na ràidhteanais seo anns an do rinn mòran mearachd, ach chan fhadar a bhith trom orra, oir tha eadhon inbhidh ann a chì sinn glé thrì a' dol trìollainn 'gan taobh—3 is 7 fo cheann Gàidhlig gu Beurla agus 4 anns a' Bheurla gu Gàidhlig. Seallaibh, ma tà, air an àireamh 3 agus am facal "orra" agus an t-eadar-dhealachadh a tha eadar am facal sin agus am facal "oirre." Bha mòran a riochdaich an ràdh seo mar "on her" an àite "on them." Ann an àireamh 7 dh'fhaoidte dà chiall a thoirt as an ràdh, ach 's e "The brown mare has a foal" a tha ann, is chan e "The mare has a foal for us." An còrr air an ath-mhios.

Dh'fhaodainn innseadh dhuibh gun d'fhuair mì ainm Gàidhlig air an fhùr a dh'ainmich mì bho chionn ghoird, am flùr ris an abrar "grass of parnassus" anns a' Bheurla. Is e "fionnsgoth" an t-ainm a bha aig an fhear a thug dhomh e, fear a mhuinntir an Eilein Sgithean-aich. Bhur Caraid Dìleas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.



BALAICH A' CHAMPA

Seo na balaich a bha aig Campa Comunn na h-Oigridh an Inbhir-Ailleart air a' bhliadhna seo.

Còmhla ruitha tha Mgr. F. S. Camshron-Head, uachdaran Inbhir-Ailleart.

Visit to Nova Scotia

Cape Breton Mod

By NEIL SHAW

THE members of An Comunn regretted the sad circumstances which compelled our esteemed President, Dr. John Cameron, to cancel his visit to the Cape Breton Mod; and, when the Executive Council decided that I should deputise for him, I felt the responsibility very keenly, while conscious of the great honour conferred on me and appreciative of the confidence placed in me for such an important mission. They also kindly decided that my wife should accompany me, and I was very thankful for her company and care on the last stages of the return journey.

We sailed from Liverpool on the S.S. "Newfoundland" on the night of 13th July in a severe electric storm, with flashes of lightning, loud peals of thunder, and torrential rain. When we were called in the morning we were abreast of Rathlin and by lunch-time the Bens of Jura, the last bit of Scotland to be seen sailing westward, were receding on the eastern horizon.

The Atlantic Ocean was on its best behaviour and we reached St. John's, Newfoundland, on the afternoon of the fifth day and remained in that port for fully 48 hours. Had I anticipated such a long stay I would have communicated with the secretary of the St. Andrew's Society to notify him of my impending visit and perchance a meeting might have been arranged.

A Warm Welcome

AFTER two more nights at sea we arrived at Halifax on the morning of 22nd July and were welcomed by Judge John Doull and Mr. John A. Walker, K.C. They immediately took us in charge and in a very short time we were comfortably settled in the Lord Nelson Hotel. These gentlemen and their hospitable wives made us feel very much at home. For the next two days we were motored to practically all the interesting parts of the city, which was at that time celebrating its bicentenary with a fine display of bunting. On Sunday we went to church and had the pleasure of hearing and speaking to the Rev. D. M. Sinclair, grandson of the well-known Gaelic scholar, Rev. A. Maclean Sinclair. Mr. Sinclair had called on me at the Office in Glasgow during the war. On the same evening we took train to Sydney, N.S., and, al-

though the distance is only a little over two hundred miles, it took us fourteen hours to complete the journey, and a most uncomfortable one it was.

We were met at Sydney by Judge George Morrison, K.C., Mr. Murdo MacAulay, and Major Calum Iain N. MacLeod. Pipe-Major R. D. Nicholson, in full Highland dress, provided bagpipe music. After breakfast in the Isles Royal Hotel we proceeded to Baddeck a distance of fifty-six miles. On the other side of Ross Ferry we were met by another party of Foundation members and were welcomed to the northern part of the Island. The journey was continued to Baddeck and we lunched together in the Telegraph Hotel. Rev. A. W. R. Mackenzie, Director of the Gaelic College, had been unable to meet us on the way owing to extreme pressure of work preparing for the opening of the Mod. He called on us later in the evening and made arrangements for a visit to the College the following day.

The Gaelic College

ON Tuesday forenoon (26th July) we were taken to the summer residence of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. J. A. D. MacCurdy, and Mrs. MacCurdy, who gave us a very warm welcome. In the afternoon we were motored to St. Ann, a distance of twelve miles. We were glad to meet Mrs. Calum Iain N. MacLeod there, and also Mrs. Mackenzie who is in charge of the Crafts section. This is a most important section, and Mrs. Mackenzie has achieved wonderful success in a comparatively short time. Girls are trained to weave on the premises and four of them were operating on looms while we were there. Some are also trained to weave in their own homes. They produce lengths of tartan and other tweeds, and also knee-rugs, scarves, and ties. Orders are taken for any clan tartan.

The College is fairly well equipped, and the gift of An Comunn publications (which our Executive at its last meeting agreed to present) will be a welcome and important addition to the library. This gesture by An Comunn is very much appreciated by the Directors and Members of the Foundation.

The Mod opened on Wednesday, 27th July, at 1.30 p.m. The

platform party assembled in a marquee and, after introductions, were marched to the platform preceded by pipers and competitors in Highland dress. The Rev. Dr. A. D. Mackinnon, Dean of Gaelic, acted as Chairman and delivered a Gaelic address. Lieutenant-Governor J. A. D. MacCurdy unfurled a flag presented by Australians in appreciation of the good work done by colonists who emigrated from St. Ann with the Rev. Norman MacLeod in 1851. Some of these were the original pioneers from the Scottish Highlands. The Lieutenant-Governor then introduced me, and, speaking first in Gaelic, I conveyed cordial greetings from An Comunn, the Branches and Provincial Mods. I thanked them for their efforts on behalf of Gaelic and wished the Gaelic College and the Crafts Centre every success.

Gaelic songs were sung by a junior choir conducted by Mrs. Calum Iain N. MacLeod. Then we had piping and dancing. Votes of thanks were proposed in Gaelic by the Rev. Father Duncan J. Rankin, Iona, and in English by Lieutenant-Colonel Donald C. Sinclair, New Glasgow.

Thursday was "Clan Campbell Day," and, in the absence of Alderman Charles E. Campbell, I was asked to preside. The principal speaker was Chief Justice Thane Campbell, Prince Edward Island, and he delivered a most eloquent address on "Sìol Dhìarmaid," enumerating the achievements of clansmen in commerce and the various professions. He was fittingly thanked by Captain John M. Campbell, Baddeck. The Rev. Father Stanley MacDonald also spoke. Thereafter we had Gaelic solos, piping, and dancing. A very popular item was a demonstration of "Luadhadh" or "Milling Frolic," as they call it in English. This was done by a party of men who sang rhythmically and in good tune.

Pioneers' Day

FRIDAY was "Pioneers' Day," and I had the honour of giving the annual Gaelic oration. Mr. Justice Keiller MacKay, Toronto, speaking in English, paid eloquent tribute to the indomitable spirit of the pioneers. An address in English on General Sir Hector MacDonald was given by Dr. Kenneth MacLeod, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth MacLeod, Fortrose Academy, who was recently appointed medical officer to an institution in Prince Edward Island. Greetings were conveyed by representatives of various High-

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 135)

land societies in the Province. Competitions similar to those held on previous days were carried through.

Saturday brought the Mod competitions to a close and during an interval in the afternoon I had an opportunity of finally thanking the members of the Foundation for their cordial reception and boundless hospitality. Mrs. Shaw presented prizes to the winners, and Mr. Alex. Mackinnon, M.L.A., Inverness, moved a comprehensive vote of thanks at the close.

Mrs. Shaw and I were present at all the sessions, and I assisted in adjudicating the Gaelic and piping items.

The number of competitors who came forward in the Gaelic section was much smaller than we had anticipated, and I was disappointed that no one sang a song composed in Cape Breton. There was a special competition for this but no one entered for it. Major MacLeod is collecting songs composed in Nova Scotia, and I hope to be favoured with two of these for the Gaelic College Medal competition at the National Mod.

Mod Impressions and Suggestions

ATTENDANCE during the sessions was not up to our expectations, although the weather for outdoor entertainment was all that could be desired. Already the competitions are attracting visitors from distant parts of Canada and the U.S.A., and, when the Foundation is able to offer Gaelic choral and solo items of a fairly high standard, they can be assured of much larger audiences. Gaelic recitations of not more than 32 lines would be an added attraction and would convey, perhaps better than the singing, the real purpose of the Mod. Oral adjudication at the close of these competitions would greatly help teachers and competitors and would arouse in the audience a keener and more concentrated interest in the proceedings.

The Mod is still in its infancy and gives promise of great possibilities. I made several suggestions to the Director and other members of the Foundation, which, if carried out, should in a few years' time bring the Gaelic section of the Cape Breton Mod up to something approaching in number and standard what we have at the larger of our own provincial mods.

My main suggestions were: (1) the issuing of a syllabus immediately after the Mod; (2) a definite closing date for receiving entries,

say, a month before the Mod; and (3) the appointment of an itinerant teacher of music. Written and oral work will be well looked after at the Gaelic College under the expert tuition of Major MacLeod who, has already created a very favourable impression, as has also Mrs. MacLeod who will be most helpful on the musical side. The formation of "County Groups" is already under consideration, and I should not be surprised to learn that Local or County Mods are being organised. There is a very definite and genuine desire among all classes in the Province for a more intensified Gaelic propaganda, and an application for the teaching of Gaelic in the schools is likely to be made to the authorities.

On Sunday, 31st July, a Gaelic religious service was held at St. Ann. Major Calum Iain N. MacLeod conducted the service; the praise was led by three precentors, each taking a turn at "reading the line;" and I read the lesson. The Rev. James Fraser was unable to attend and the address was given by Mr. Murdoch Morrison. Prayer was offered by Mr. M. D. MacAskill, Vice-President. A service in English followed and the Rev. Dr. Gordon A. MacLennan, Pennsylvania, a native of Cape Breton, preached a powerful and moving sermon, taking Psalm 137 as his text. These services, which were held in the open, were a fitting termination to the Cape Breton Mod of 1949.

"Mod Folks"

IN the Telegraph Hotel, Baddeck, where we stayed during the Mod period, were a number of what we term at home "Mod folks." There was Mr. M. D. MacAskill, Vice-President, a gentleman well over eighty years of age, popularly and respectfully known as "The Bishop" because of his piety and gentlemanly bearing, and withal brimful of humour. He is of Harris stock, and a man whom one was proud to meet.

Captain John M. Campbell, a director of the Foundation, is the proud possessor of a cup presented by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to his great-grand-uncle, Malcolm Campbell, Island of Coll, as a mark of their Lordships' sense of Mr. Campbell's meritorious zeal in that, on 29th November, 1789, when no other person would venture to quit the shore, he went to the assistance of H. M. Ship "Caesar," of 84 guns, commanded by Captain Roddan Home, which had been driven near the island by stormy weather, and by his local knowledge safely conducted her to Tobermory Bay

during the storm. Captain Campbell also possesses a letter written on behalf of the Duke of Argyll, commending Malcolm Campbell for reflecting credit to his country by his honourable and spirited conduct. This letter is dated 25th December 1789.

Others we met were Mr. Alex. Mackinnon, M.L.A., Inverness, a director of the Foundation, and very keen on County Groups and local efforts to increase Mod entries; Mr. Charles M. K. MacCurdy, Secretary and Treasurer; and Lieutenant-Colonel Donald C. Sinclair, New Glasgow, of whom more later.

Another director who was most attentive to us was Mr. Murdoch MacAulay, Sydney, who is to represent the Gaelic College Foundation at the National Mod in Inverness.

Mr. Justice Keiller MacKay, Toronto, invited us to be the guests of Mrs. MacKay and himself on a trip round the Cabot Trail, a circuit of 183 miles, beginning at Baddeck. We gladly availed ourselves of this, but as I should like to refer to this wonderful trip in more detail I hope to return to it in a later issue.

There was a small gathering of friends, organised by the indefatigable Mr. MacKenzie, in the hotel on the eve of our departure. Expressions of thanks and compliments were exchanged and an occasion made to present Major Calum Iain N. MacLeod, winner of the bardic prize, with a silver cup.

We took our departure from Baddeck on 3rd August, carrying with us happy memories of our visit, and with "The Bishop's" touching farewell in our ears—"Coinnichidh sinn ann a dùthaich as fhéar."

We travelled in Mr. MacKenzie's car, accompanied by Major MacLeod, to Sydney. We called at St. Ann on the way and bade farewell to Mrs. MacKenzie, Mrs. MacLeod, and the staff at the Crafts Centre.

In the evening a meeting with local representatives was held in the Isles Royal Hotel, Sydney. I was glad to meet these people and talk to them about our own efforts at home.

(To be continued)

Inbhir-Asdal (bho i.d. 126)

an duigh? Nach tuig sibh a nis an bhidh mhór a bhithheadh aig Dòmhnall Og anns an Una seo—'na ogha àlainn fhéin? Nach mór am bàigh a bhithheadh aige rithe? Nach e Dòmhnall Og a chithheadh an sùilean donna na h-Una seo a shùilean donna fhéin?



Loch Lochy

Mod Mor Inbhir-Nis

Le IAIN MAC-A'-PHEARSAIN

MAR a tha fhios aig a' chuid mhór a leughas na duilleagan seo, bidh Mòd Mór a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach air a chumail ann bliadhna ann am baile Inbhir-Nis eadar an ceathramh agus an seachdamh là de'n Dàmhar. Tha mi an dùil gum bi gach Gaidheal as fhaic an t-ainm an làthair, ma cheadaicheas ùine agus airgead dha a bhith ann.

Bidh cuid ann a tha glé eòlach a cheana anns gach cùil is cial agus cha bhi feum aca sin air seòladh bho neach air bith aig àm a' Mhòid, ach bidh mòran ann air son a' cheud uair agus cha mhise idasan sanas fhaotainn air an àite agus air na seallaidhean a chithear ann agus mun cuairt air.

Clach na Cùdainn

AIG talla mór a' bhaile chì thu Clach na Cùdainn, far am biodh na mnathao bho shean a' leigeil an analach nuair bhiodh iad a' tarraing uisge le ballain as an abhainn, agus bhiodh iad ag còmhradh an Gàidhlig. Chuir an saoghal car dheth. Cha ruig mnathan an là diugh a leas a dhòl a mach air an doras a dh'irraidh uisge, agus is tearc a chluinneas tu còmhradh an Gàidhlig

air na sràidean. Ach aig àm a' Mhòid cluinnear a' Ghàidhlig a ris aig Clach na Cùdainn, agus bidh Gaidheal ag cur fàilte air a chéile le "cia mar tha thu?"

Tha mi cinnteach gun cual thu mu'n uile-bheist a tha an Loch Nis. Chan ann an diugh no an dé a thàinig i ann, oir chunnaic Calum-Cille agus a' ghillean i. Tha iomadh là is bliadhna bho'n uair sin. Ma théid thusa a dh'ionnsaigh an loch faodaidh gun éirich i a nìs á grunn an loch a chur fàilte ort. Mar is trice chan fhaicear i ach an àm an t-samhraidh, ach, bho'n tha i cho sean agus cho eòlach, faodaidh gun tig i am bàrr aig àm a' Mhòid, oir chan ann a h-uile là bhios mòd aig Clann an Tòisich.

Gu h-àrd os cionn a' bhaile, air an taobh mu thuath, chì thu creag ris an abair iad "Creag Phàdraig." Ma bhios anail gu leòr 'nad chliabh is còir dhuit dìreadh suas am mullach na creige seo agus chì thu sealladh chugad is bhuat cho àlainn 's a chunnaic thu riamh. Chì thu air aon làimh an t-eilean nach eilean idir, agus ma bhios an dà-shealladh agad no dà ghloinne, chì thu Pàdraig fhéin sa' chreig, fiamh a' ghàire air aodann 's e ag cur fàilte ort gu Tir a' Mhòid le "Slàinte Mhór."

Ann am meadhon a' bhaile chì thu Cladh a' Chaibeil far am biodh muinntir a' bhaile a' tiodhlacadh nam marbh bho shean. Tha e a nìs làn. Aig an àm sin bha an t-uisge-beatha an dà chuid math agus saor agus cha b'fhaich tiodhlacadh no banais mur biodh gu leòr dheth ann.

Torradh

AON là bha torradh a' tighinn á Peitigh mu sheachd mìle an ear air a' bhaile. An comhair gach ama leigeadh a' chuideachd sìos an giùlan ri taobh an rathaid agus dh'òladh na fir air a chéile. Mu dheireadh nuair ràinig iad an cladh thug am maor-eaglais an aire gu robh iad gu math aig an taigh aca, agus iad a' dol mu seach, agus thug e cuideachd an aire nach robh an giùlan aca. "Gu dearbh," ars esan, "tha an tiodhlacadh math, ach càite an d'fhàg sibh Sìne?"

Ma cheadaicheas ùine, is còir dhuit sgrìob a ghabhail chun an raoin far an do chuireadh Blàr Chùil-fhodair. Ma bha fodar ann aig an àm sin, tha fraoch gu leòr ann an diugh. An sin thuit iomadh Gaidheal fèarail treun, agus tha na h-uaignean aca an siud fhathast agus iad air an còmhcadh le fraoch.

(An còrr air t. d. 138)

(bho t.d. 137)

Bidh cuimhne gu bráth a' r an cliú 's air an gaise.

Chail Prionnsa Teàrlach an là ud agus b'fhèdar dha slihe cham a ghabha' l chun nan Eilean. Ged bha deich mìle fichead pundo Sasannach de airgead-cinn air, cha d'fhuaras duine ann an Tìr nam Beann a bhrathadh e. Mar Ghaidheil is còir dhuinn uail a dheanamh as a sin, oir ged bha a' mhòr-chuid de'n t-sluagh bochd 'nan crannchur agus gu math feumach air airgead cha d'fhuaras Iudas 'nam measg a ghabhadh eannach le òr no le airgead.

Air raon Chùil-fhodair chì thu carn-cuimhne nan laoch ud, aig am bi Gaidheil as gach ceàrn ag cruinneachadh gach bliadhna air co-ainn an là ud agus le ùrnuigh 's le òraid agus le ceòl-pioba ag cumail cuimhne air an gaise agus a' deanamh luaidh air an cliú. Ma chì thu na seallaidhean sin uile bidh naidheachd is naidheachdan agad a' dol dhachaidh bho'n Mhòd.

Chluinn thu ann

A NIS bu mhianm leam iomradh a thoirt air cuid de na chluinn thu aig a' Mhòd. An là a dh'fhosglar am Mòd cluinnidh tu bhith seinn laoidh brosnachaidh nan Gaidheal, 'Suas leis a'

Ghàidhlig.' 'Cò an t-stiùl nach bi fhuich agus an cridhe nach fàs tais nuair smuaineachas tu air na daoine treuna a sheinn i aig iomadh mòd ach a tha a nis 'ga seinn ann an Tìr nan Og far nach 'eil tinneas, aois, no eug. Bu chòir dhuinn uile an laoidh ud a sheinn chan ann uair sa' bhliadhna ach gach là a dh'èireas sinn. Ach tha eagal orm nach ann mar sin a tha. Mar Ghaidheil chan 'eil sinn idir dileas do ar cànan aomhor is liath. Tha sinn a' deanamh tàire oirre nuair nach cleachd sinn i, agus na lotan bu mhò a fhuair i riàn 's ann bho shluagh na Gaidhealtachd.

Air feadh ar tìr an diugh tha i a' dol bàs a chionn nach 'eil iarraidh oirre. Anns na cùbaidean air tìr-mòr tha i a' dol as gu luath, agus tha a' Bheurla chruaidh air a searmonachadh moch is anmoch far an do chleachd daoine a bhith a' deanamh aoraidh ann an Gaidhlig. Eadhon ann an cuid de na h-Eileanan an Iar fheìn gheibh thu ministearan gallda an diugh far an do chleachd a' Ghàidhlig a bhith fallan siùbhlach air bilean an t-sluagh. Tha sin a' leigeil fhaicinn duinn nach 'eil luach na còrach aig na Gaidheil air an cànan fheìn.

Tha Seirbhis Ghàidhlig air a cumail gach bliadhna air Dì-dòmhaich an déidh a' Mhòd, agus glé thrìc air an là sin bidh

sluagh mòr san èisdeachd, ach tha eagal orm nach 'eil ann am mòran dhiubh sin ach 'bladhnaich' nach téid gu seirbhis Ghàidhlig a ris eigin an bi iad cruinn aig an ath mhòd. Sin agad na daoine a tha seinn fad na bliadhna 'Sios leis a' Ghàidhlig.' 'Cha seinn iad 'Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig' ach aon uair sa' bhliadhna aig àm a' Mhòid.

Dearbhadh na Gaidhlig

CLUINNIDH sinn glé thrìc daoine ag ràdh nach bu chòir am bonn òir a bhith air a thoirt do neach sam bith, ged bhith eadh e math air seinn, mur 'eil e fileanta sa' Ghàidhlig. Tha mi a' smuaineachadh gu bheil sin ceart agus gum bu chòir dearbhadh math a chur air gach neach a dh'fheuchas ri bhuidhinn. Chuala mi mu dheidhinn nighinn a bha dol a sheinn aon bhliadhna aig Mòd mòr agus chuir fear dearbhadh na Gaidhlig a' cheist seo oirre, "A bheil gobhar agad aig an taigh?— am beathach air a bheil an fheusag?" "Chan 'eil," ars ise, "ach mo sheanair!" Tha mise an dòchas nach bi fear no té aig Mòd Inbhir-Nis an bliadhna a chanas gobhar ri'n seanair, ged bhios fheusag fada agus a chasan caol cruaidh.

(An còrr air t.d. 141)

Gach Feasgar Di-Ciadaoin...

Gheibh sibh bho "Gillian" anns an "Evening Times" gach feasgar Di-Ciadaoin sgòul air cuspairean eachdraidheil is dùthchasail, maille ri iomradh gnìomhachas is fearas-chuideachd nan Gaidheal.

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Crotag An Doire-Sheilich

Seann Sgeul

LE DONNCHADH MAC-AN-T-SAOIR

B'E an doirean brònach, bochd Cròtag—'na chulaidh-thruais do'n tèb-chridheach is 'na chulaidh-ghàire do'n tàrlagach.

Nuair rugadh Cròtag bha e coltach nach biodh e gu bràth 'na ailean eireachdail. Bha a ghluinntean lubte is air a chùlaobh bha tulach domhail iongantach. Dheanadh a' chlann bheaga magadh agus na daoine làidir fanoid air. Mar a bha e ag cinn-tinn suas is ann a dh'fhàs a mhì-chumadh. Gu fiata, coimheach bha e a ghnàth, is b'e a shòlas a bhith a là 's a dh'oidhche anns an Doire Sheilich. Cho mór is a bha a spéis do'n àite seo is nach fhàgadh e idir, e is ann mar seo a fhuair e a frith-ainm.

Is iomadh là a bha cridhe Cròtag bochd cràidhteach, goirt, ag éisdeachd ris na burraidhean a bha an dùil gum bu chùis-nàire a mhì-chumachdas, gus mu dheireadh nach b' àill leis neach no nì ach a bhith a ghnàth anns an doire ghràdhach aige fhéin.

Ach thàinig latha is dh'fhàg Cròtag eadhon an Doire Sheilich is fad là is bliadhna cha d'fhuaras fios no sanas air. Air ceann an là is bliadhna thàinig gille óg a nìos an Doire Sheilich, ròd leis am bu nòs le Cròtag dol gu a dhachaidh.

Is gann gu faithicheadh a mhàthair féin Cròtag, ach is e a bh'ann leis na h-uile dearbhadh; is gu dearbh bu mhór an othail ris. Bha e riannh gun mhóran feum gu fearas-taighe, ach a nis bha aige làmh air gach ealain, is bha e cho uallach, ullamh, eangarra is nach laigheadh cùram, dìomb, no smalan air.

Am measg na h-òigridh ghòrach a b' àbhaist a bhith còmhla ris is a ghnàth a bhiodh a' fanoid air bha giullan fiar, neo-bhàidheil ris an canadh càch Sàigean. Bha Sàigean 'na chreutair crìon, grandna, cho neo-ghràdhach is a ghabhadh fhaicinn. Bu choltach a chasan is a làmhan ri spàgan cràicean-gàraidh, agus eadar a dhà shliinnean bha paicet mhì-nàdurra ag àrdachd mullaich air.

NUAIR a chunnaic Sàigean gun do thill Cròtag bho a thurus uaigneach cho dìreach ri luachairean is cho uallach ri buachaill laogh, ghrad rinn e suas ann an càldeas luath ris, an dùil gu fuasgladh e dubh-cheist is buaidh a leighis dha, gun smaoin aon uair aige gur esan a h-aon a bu truime air Cròtag ann an làithean àraich, am beachd gum b'fheaird e féin fear eile a bhith cho mìosa ris.

Rò tìne cha labhradh Cròtag facal mar a thachair dha, ach mu dheireadh air do Shàigean a shior-shàrachadh ghéill e gu leudachadh mar a thachair dha, ach spàrr e air nach abradh e ri neach beo mu'n rud a bh'ann, oir bha esan e féin fo éigneachadh geur, teann.

Aon fheasgar, air dha taigh athar fhàgail mar a b' àbhaist dha agus an uair a chur seachd anns an Doire Sheilich mar bu lauidh leis, thachair air an aon leanaban a bu bhàidheche a chunnaic e a riannh. Is gann gum b'urrainn dha innse ciod a bu choltas dha no ciamar a bha e air a sgeadachadh nas fhaide na gu robh tonnag àillidh uaine air, ceangailte mu'n mheadhon le crìos òir, agus air a cheann boineid uaine anns an robh dos de iteagan airgid a' danna.

"Càite a bheil thu a' dol 's car son a tha thu ag caoidh?" ars an leanaban le fiamh-ghàire.

"Tha mi a' dol do'n Doire Sheilich a chur seachd an fheasgar," fhreagair mise.

"Nach 'eil companach idir agad, agus c'ainm a th'ort?" ars am fear beag.

"'S e Cròtag a their iad rium, ach chan e sin m'ainm, 's cha dean a' chlann cleasach leam bho nach 'eil mi coltach ri càch," thubhairt mise.

"An tusa Cròtag? 'S fhada bho'n a bha mi 'm fughair riut. Is mise Mìre Gath-Gréine." 'S e m'aoibhneas a bhith a deanamh an t-saoghail aighearach. Tiugainn leamsa. Cuir seachd an oidhche cuide ruinne. Tha fughair aig mo chuideachd riut. Earb iadsan, agus anns a' mhadainn cha bh' éis no earras ort."

Dh'fhalbh mi leis gu togarrach, oir cha do bhruidhinn neach a riannh roimhe ach mo mhàthair cho bàidheil rium. Gu caraideach, faràideach, coibhneil, threòrach e mi gu chùlaobh an t-sithein mhóir is sheas e ri taobh bruaicheag dhliuth rainich.

"Dùin do shùilean 's thoir dhòmhsa do dheas-làmh," ars esan.

RINN mi siud, agus ann an tiota bha mi anns an fhàrdach a b'anabarra àilleach a chunnaic mi a riannh. Thug mi bòid nach innisinn na chunnaic mi, 's tha eagal orm gun do dh'innis mi tuilleadh 's a' chòrr a cheana.

"Cha d'innis! cha d'innis!" ghlaoidh Sàigean; "faodaidh tu innse co-dhiubh ciamar a thug iad dhìot a' chroit."

"Cha deach impidh sam bith a chur orm a thaobh sin, 's faodar

innse dhuit-sa. Shlaod Mìre Gath-Gréine mi-fhèin suas troimh an chuideachd gu h-òutrom, sèimh—

Gu ràidh, gu léir
Gath-Gréine air tilleadh,
Cròtag 's i féin
Le chéil' air tighiunn."

"Sonas is àgh air Mìre Gath-Gréine," labhair maighdean cheutach a bu shnasmhoire éideach na h-aon eile agus air an robh mar cheann-òdaich crùn òir làn de usgraichean neònach. "Cìod is àille leatha sinn a dheanamh ri Cròtag bochd?"

"Sonas thoir dha
An àite cràidh,
Ealain là rath,
Toil dhuinne mhaith.

's bidh Mìre Gath-Gréine éibhinn aighearach."

Agus le sin air falbh dhanns Mìre gun sùil tuilleadh a thoir ormsa.

"Cuin a tha Mìre Gath-Gréine air atharrachadh?" thuir a' bhan-rìgh, is i toirt sùil 'na déidh.
"A réir a h-iarraitais bitheadh e!"

Ghlac mòran leam mi fhéin agus an uair a shaoil leam gu robh mi air mo shlaodadh as a chéile leig iad as domh is bha mi cho lùth-mhor, ùrar 's a tha thu 'gam fhainc an diugh. Thòisich an ceòl bu bhòidheche a chuala mi riannh—na bu mhàise na b'urrainn do neach a smaointeachadh: Lion sòlas mór mo chom, agus air mothachadh lùths nam ball dhomh thòisich mi air danna còmhla ris na daoine beaga gus an do thuit mi as mo sheamsail le slor chlaoidh. Thàinig còc caidil orm; mhothaich mi iad 'ga mo ghluil air falbh mar gum b'ann air sgeith, is còc cùin tiamhaidh, a' fàs fad as, as mo dhéidh. Chaidh mo leigeil sìos, agus nuair a dhùisg mi 's ann anns an Doire Sheilich 'nam laighe a bha mi; agus cinnte is dearbhadh bheist mo choltas 's mo lùths nach brudair a bh'anns na chunnaic mi no sgeul tuilleais anns na dh'athris mi.

"Saoil thuasa an toireadh iad a' phaic dhìomsa nam faighinn do'n àite sin?" arsa Sàigean.

"Ma tà, chan 'eil fhios agamsa," fhreagair am fear eile, "ach nam bithinn-sa 'nad àite dh'fheuchainn e."

AN déidh seo chan fhàgadh Sàigean an Doire Sheilich idir, ach mir de na sìdhean cha glabhadh faicinn. Fa-dheireadh, is e an làn dùil nach tachradh a h-aon de 'na daoine beaga air-san am fèsdà, faicear fear diubh air còitein 'na shuidhe aig bun preas cùilinn ag còimhead air le aodann fanaideach, gairèach.

(An còrr air t.d. 142)

Cape Breton News and Views

CAPE BRETON MOD

THE 11th Annual Gaelic Mod held in St. Ann's in July easily outshone all previous Mods from the point of view of competitive participation and high standard of performance. Over five hundred competitors took part in a varied four-day programme of Piping, Dancing, Violin-playing, Gaelic singing, and Athletics. As far as attendance was concerned it bettered that of the MacLeod year in 1947 by about \$500.00. Paid admissions this year amounted to \$2666.00.

On the opening day of the Mod, the Gaelic Foundation Directorate extended a warm welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Neil Shaw, their visiting guests from Scotland, and at the same time they expressed great regret that Dr. Cameron, President of An Comunn Gàidhealach, was not able to be present, when also tribute was paid to the great contribution made by Mr. Shaw, as Secretary of An Comunn, in the promotion and preservation of Gaelic in Scotland.

Excellence in Scottish Gaelic oratory was a frequent characteristic during the proceedings of this year's Mod, and in this department Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary of An Comunn Gàidhealach, Scotland, excelled himself. His clear enunciation, well chosen idiom, and accurate inflection, was greatly appreciated and admired by all Gaelic-speaking Gaels, especially those who were present on Pioneers' Day, when he delivered his best Gaelic oration of all, honouring the Cape Breton Pioneers, who originally emigrated from Scotland in the early 19th century.

Mr. Shaw also officiated as Chairman on Clan Campbell Day, and assisted in the judging of the Piping Competitions. He declared in this connection that the pibroch playing of Pipe-Major G. Dey, Halifax (a former pupil of MacDougall-Gillies) was one of the highlights of the Mod.

Other highlights of the Mod were the greetings telegrams received from the Duke of Argyll and Chief Flora MacLeod of MacLeod.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were made recipients of handwoven tartan gifts produced at St. Ann's, and Mr. Shaw was presented with the Medals donated by the Directorate for the Cape Breton Competitions at the National Mod for awards in singing Gaelic songs composed in Nova Scotia.

Mrs. Shaw kindly presented the Cups and Medals to all successful competitors on Clan Campbell Day and the following days of the Mod.

On Sunday, 31st July, Mr. Shaw read the Gaelic Lesson from the 8th Chapter of Romans at the Annual Outdoor Gaelic Service held on the Gaelic College grounds at St. Ann's.

Before embarking for Scotland, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were tendered expressions of appreciation and God-speed for their return journey, both at Baddeck and Sydney. At each meeting Mr. Shaw spoke of the work and aims of the Gaelic organisation in Scotland and praised the efforts put forward at St. Ann's.

The visit of Mr. and Mrs. Shaw should help tremendously to develop the bonds of fellowship and cultural liaison between the Gaels of Old and New Scotland. At the present time both countries need to make a firm and resolute stand to maintain the Gaelic Language and its inherent Culture. Let us hope that this visit marks the beginning of a vigorous, united, trans-Atlantic effort, with Gaelic as the keystone of the combined foundations.

RUGG MACKENZIE.

NAIDHEACHD A GEAP BREATAINN

Tha Mòd Cheap Breatann na nis seachad, agus faodaidh sinn a ràdh le firinn gun d'fhuair a' Ghàidhlig mar chànan a h-àite dlìgheach féin aig toiseach agus deireadh gach iomairt a bha air chois. Ged a bha luchd-labhairt na Beurla déanadach, gleusda 'nan cainnt, cha tìgeadh gin diubh an uisge na stiùireach do na suinn chròdha a labhair an cànan bhlasda nam beann.

Bha Mgr. Niall Mac Gille-Sheathanaich, Rùnaire a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach an Albainn 'na rìgh orra uile; chan ann a mhàin mar fhear-labhairt ach cuideach a thaobh a dhùinealach agus an aobhealachd a nochd e ris a h-uile mac-màthar a chuir eòlas air. Gu dearbh 's e mo bharaill fhéin gun téid iomadh ceann an currac mus fhaic sinn a leithid a' tighinn air turas Ceap Breatann a rithist. Dh'ardaich e cliù nan Gàidheal o'n tàinig e, agus thug e brosnachadh do na Gàidheil anns a' cheàrnaidh seo de'n t-saoghal a tha a' strì ri bratach na Gàidhlig a chumail ri crann. Tha sinn fada 'na chomainn

gu dearbh, agus tha sinn an dòchas gum bi an turas a thug e fhéin is a bhean chòir do'n eilean seo 'na aobhar-ghàirdeachais dhaibh le chèile fad làithean am beatha.

Am measg nam fear-labhairt eile chuala sinn an rogha Gàidhlig o Mhàisear Calum Iain MacLeòid, Fear-Leughaidh na Colaiste, a bha 'na fhear-cathrach Di-haoine agus Di-sathuirne; an Dotair A. D. MacFhionnain, as na Coiltean Bheaga; an t-Athair Urramach D. MacFhraing I; an t-Athair Urramach S. MacDhòmhnaill, as a' Pholl Mhòr; am Fear-Comhairleach Coinneach MacLeòid, a Abhainn a Tuath; agus an t-Urr. M. D. MacAsgaill, a Badaig.

Bha Seirbhis Ghàidhlig air a cumail Di-Dòmhnaich air a' bhàr a muigh, dìreach mar a chleachd ciad luchd-àiteachaidh na dùthcha a bhith 'ga freasdaidh anns na linn-tean a dh' aom. Bha am fonn air a thogail mar bu nòs le Mgr. Iain Caimeubal a Sidni, agus Mgr. Ailean Mac Gille Mhoire à Drochaid Móraig. Bha a' ghrian aig àird a neirt; bha sàmhchair air mur 's air tìr, agus fada thall 's an Aird a Tuath bha beanntan Cheap Breatann a' sìor mhàirnealach air a' Chuan. 'S e tàcharan gun trèig, gun anam, nach fhaigeadh togail spioradaidh o'n choimhneadh seo a bha cruinn fo dhubhar nan crabbh, 's air a chuartaichd le àilleachd Nàidur.

Tha sinn an dràsda a' strì ri Gàidhlig a bhith air a teagasg mar chuspair an sgoilean Cheap Breatann. Tha sinn air litrichean-tagraidh a chur suas do luchd-riaghlaidh na h-Albann Nuaidhe. 'S e dìth luchd-teagaisg na Gàidhlig an cnap-starraidh as motha a tha romhainn ach tha sinn an dòchas gun gabh am Fear-Riaghlaidh fhéin, am Prìomhair Urramach Aonghus MacDhòmhnaill, ris an iomairt. Tha làn a chinn de Ghàidhlig aige fhéin, agus ar leam gum bi e deònach cùl-taice a thoirt seachad air a sèth. Mur a tig cobhair o'n Luchd-Riaghlaidh chan 'eil mi a' faicinn dòigh sam bith eile air a' Ghàidhlig a chraobh-sgoileadh an Albainn Nuaidh.

Am faigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs?—
Ma gheibh, 's e neo-shuim nan
Gaidheal a chuireas as dìth.

Togar càrn mòr de chlachan
beaga.

Togaidh an obair an fhianuis.

Festival of Gaelic Music

THE Festival of Gaelic Music, promoted by the Edinburgh Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach, was held in the Central Hall, Tollcross, on Friday, 26th August, and was an outstanding success. The programme submitted was worthy of the large attendance and the keen interest shown in the event.

Mr. Joseph MacLeod, who presided and whose voice is known to thousands of radio listeners, was introduced by the President of the Branch, Mr. John MacKay. In addition to an eloquent address on Gaelicdom's contribution to the arts, Mr. MacLeod gave a most interesting outline of the individual items performed by each artist.

The concert was attended by Lord Provost Sir Andrew Murray and many foreign visitors to the International Festival of Music and Drama. The numerous enquiries made after the concert regarding the language and music of the Gael surely prove that there is a place for such a concert within the framework of the Festival proper.

The programme was opened by the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (J. N. MacConochie, Conductor) with a splendid rendering of the Ossianic piece, "Ailthe," followed by "An t-èid thu lean a' righinn òg," which provided a fine contrast and was rendered with excellent rhythm. Neil MacLean

was in grand voice in "An t-Eilean Muileach" and "Mo Chaillin Dileas Donn," and the Bagpipe was ably represented by Pipe-Major John A. MacLellan. Miss Mary C. MacNiven gave a rousing rendering of "Eilean a' Cheò" and an equally fine rendering of a different type of song in "An Gille Dubh Ciar Dubh." Alasdair Matheson sang with appeal in the lilting "Eilean an Èhraich" and "Tìriodh an Fòrna," while Jean Campbell was deservedly applauded for her singing, to her own clarsach accompaniment, of "Caistea a' Ghlinne" and "Crònan Cuallaich." Angus Whyte sang with feeling "Oran Mór MhicLeòid" and "Sine Bhàn," and Evelyn Campbell was really artistic in her renderings of "Soraidh slàn le Fionn-Airidh" and "Crodh Chailein." Alasdair Matheson and Angus Whyte revealed an excellent command of language and rhythm in their Puirt-a-beul Strathspeys, Reels and Jigs.

George Short was a most efficient accompanist. His choice of material for his organ recital was equalled only by his excellent execution.

We take this opportunity of congratulating the Edinburgh Branch on the great success attending their efforts, and a special word of praise is due to the artistes and choir who provided such a rich and varied programme of Gaelic music for a delighted and appreciative audience.

MOD MOR INBHIR-NIS

(bho t.d. 138)

Bidh Gàidheil cruinn an Inbhir-Nis aig an àm ud á iomadh àite agus ceàrn, agus bidh a dhòigh-labhairt fhéin aig gach neach dhiubh a réir a' cheàrn as am bi e. 'S e foghlam a bhios ann do dhùine éisdeachd ri uag beachd a ghabhail air an dòigh-labhairt 's an gnàthasan-cainnt.

Tha mi de'n bheachd gur iad na h-òrain Ghàidhlig a tha a' tlàdh 's a' tarraing a' mhòr-chuid de'n t-sluagh a dh'ìnnsaigh a mhòid. Nach tric a' chi thu talla bheul-aithris cha mhòr falamh agus talla nan òran lom-làn. A chionn agus gu bheil sin mar sin, is còrr gun bi na duaisean air son leughadh, sgrìobhadh is beul-aithris air am meudachadh feuch an gabh daoine barrachd bith anna sin. Tha na h-òrain gun teagamh an dà chuid math agus measail; ach cha chòm òrain le fhéin beò ar cainnt, gu sònraichte nuair nach 'eil ann am mòran dhiubh ach glòir nam pioghaid.

La is Oidhche aig a' Mhòd

RE an là ann iomadh talla air feadh a bhaile, fad a' Mhòid, bidh na co-fharpaisich trang agus gach fear is té a' dol gu uchd an dichill feuch an coisinn iad an duais air a bheil iad an geall. An fheadhainn dhiubh nach faigh sin bidh iad beò an dòchas gun bi a' chbhis nas fhearr an ath bhliadhna. Sin an spiorad ceart, ach cuimhnic gur i' anail a' Ghaidheil am mullach.

Nuair bhios obair an là crìoch-naichte thèid daoine an sin gu céilidhean thall 's a bhos air feadh a' bhaile. An sin cuimhnic thu sgeulachdan is òrain, ceòl ploba, fìdhle, piano, is clàrsaich. Thèid an oidhche seachd gu crìdheil sunndach agus 's e glasadh là is gairm choileach a chuireas a' chuideachd m'a sgaoil.

Cha d'innis mi dhuit, a leughaidh, ach beagan de na chlàr 's a chluinneas neach aig a' Mhòd. Faodaidh gu bheil thus mar bha banrigh Sheba bho shean, nuair chual- i mu ghliocas agus u chlàr Sholaimh. Cha do chreid i na chual i gus an tàinig i agus am fac i air a son féin. An sin thuir i: "Feuch, cha d'inniseadh an darna leth dhomh!"

thing we can hang on to with certainty: it is the spirit that quickeneth. We need not expect to find him at the Inverness Mod—though he may be there. Happily it remains a blessed thought that we shall certainly find again plenty of that time-haunted music which he will one day use and transmute.

THE ONE WHO WILL COME (continued from page 127)

it came over the air, and let me say, quite simply, that had I been shaving then I certainly would not have risked the razor on my chin. It was a new experience in music, for here was the Northland, the land of great sea-lochs or fiords, of mountains and pine forests, and here the invisible spirits that haunt their men and women. We have our sea-lochs and mountains, and, when wandering among the mountains or navigating a dangerous tidal rip in a sea-loch, we have our invisible spirits, too. There was a kinship. We may miss some final thrill that a Scandinavian will get, but we get a lot.

Afterwards I was possessed by the thought: what if a Sibeliuss should come out of the Highlands, out of this wealth of Gaelic folk song, this rich thematic material, this land of light and colour and gloom and "my curse on gloom," this inheritance which had in the beginning its master-poets? Why not its master-musician? And I realised then that he would come.

Inevitably he will come, and when he comes all those who have worked so hard and patiently (and who would not fly off the handle occasionally?) to keep our Mods going will be finally justified of their works and no one will grudge them credit in that hour. He may, of course, have already appeared as a boy at a provincial mod and lost a lot of marks. Think of the marks he might lose in Gaelic if he came, say, out of Caithness, and appeared before an adjudicator who hailed from Uist or Argyll? (I was going to add Skye when I thought in time of Lewis, island empires whose respect for each other's Gaelic, *inter alia*, is at times neither as broad as a church door nor as deep as a well; even if it is not the privilege of certain other regions to smile at them).

Another dreadful thought—the educational system and parents who wanted him to "get on" may have kept the Gaelic from him altogether! But amid even the Highland flux there is always one

Cladh Tom na h-Iùbhraich

Dirich Tom na h-Iùbhraich
Agus cluinidh tu a' chabais,
Cagarsaich nan giuthasan
Mar ghuthan luchd tha marbh
ann.

Ged tha pailteas mharbharann
Agus chlach le sgeul nan deur air,
Sior-uaine an t-àrdan
Gun bhàs a' tighinn le meur air.

Coimeasgaidh gu taitneach
Na marbh 's na bèò san fheur seo,
Beatha anns gach duilleig
Agus buille sgiath na h-eunlaith.

Dòmhnallaich is Siosalaich
Is Friselaich gu leòir ann,
Bha iad bèò is, ar leam,
Is fad am bàs fa-dhèidh bhuaip'.

SEO na rannan a thàinig 'nam
cheann nuair a choisich mi ann
an cladh Tom na h-Iùbhraich
an Inbhir-Nis. Mur an robh sibh
riamh anns a' chladh sin, bheir
àm Mòd a' Chomuinn Ghaidheal-
aich anns a' bhaile sin cothrom
dhuibh dol 'ga fhaicinn.

Tha e cinnteach gun tàinig ainm
an àite sin bho "iùbhrach" ('s e
sin, bàta mòr), oir tha coltas bàta
mhòir air a beul-foidhe air,
nuair a chithear e bho'n tuath. Is
e àite bhòidheach a tha ann, le
giuthas is iùbhar is craobh-bròin
gu leòir, agus uaighean nan Gaidheal
gu ruige bàrr an tuim.

Chaidh mi an sin an dòchas ann
paiteas sgrìobhadh fhaotainn anns
a' Ghàidhlig air na leacan-lighe
no na clachan-uaighe, ach cha d'
fhuair mi mòran ann. Fhuair mi trì—
'Thairis air an aiseag dheir-
eannach'; 'Thig, croch air an
t-saoghal ach maridh gaol agus
ceòl'; agus aon taobh cloiche a
bha gu leir an Gàidhlig. Tha
taobh eile na cloiche sin anns a'
Bheurla mu dheidhinn nighean
an fhir a tha air ainmeachadh anns
an sgrìobhadh Ghàidhlig. Is e
crois Cheilteach a tha anns a'
chloich sin, agus tha 'na seasamh
ann meadhan ceàrn Caitligeach a'
chladha. Chan 'eil an sgrìobhadh
furasda ri leughadh, oir tha crotal
na h-aoise air gach litir dheth,
ach thug mi nìread agus a leanas
an seo:

'A mo Dhia, dean sìth ri
CAILEAN SIOSAL a tha air amh-
lacheadh "'adhlacadh," am
bharail-sa) ag bonntaobh na cloiche
seo. Rugadh Cailean ann an
Lìathdoire Ghlinne-Canaich air a'
XVmh na deug de'n Omghios
MDCCCVI agus chaochail e ann
an Inbhirnis air a' IXmh na fichead
de chiad mhios a' gheamhraidh
MDCCXCIV. Guidheam sìth nan
naomh a' san aingeal dha anam.
R.I.P.'

Chan 'eil mòran Gàidhlig ri
cluinninn an Inbhir-Nis—chun
'eil uiread 's a bhithheadh tu an
dòchas fhaotainn an àrd-bhaile na
Gaidhealtachd—ged tha Dòmhnall
MacPhàil daonnan an sin le facal
fàilte aobhneach Gàidhlig air son
gach neach againn, agus ged a
dh'èisd mi fad uair gu leth aig
seirbhis Ghàidhlig bhòidheach anns
an Eaglais Shaor air bruch na
h-aibhne ann meadhan a' bhaile,
le fuinn fhada nan Salm Gaidheal-
ealach ann cuideachd.

Ach an Tom na h-Iùbhraich tha
trìuir, air a' chuid as lugha, a tha
dileas do n' Ghàidhlig—agus
Cailean Siosal Ghlinne-Canaich aig
an ceann—ged tha mi an dòchas
nach e sin a' mhàin a tha san dèan
do ar seann-chànain air a bhèò
gaol againn uile.

Gaelic is to me a deep green pool
Where many a shrewd fish lies

CROTAG (bho t.d. 139)

"An tusa Mire Gath-Gréine?"
arsa Sàigean, 's e ruith 'ga
ionnsaigh.

"Cha mhi," ars am fear beag.
"Cìod e do ghnothach-sa ri Mire
Gath-Gréine?"

"O," arsa Sàigean, "tha dhith
orm gun toir i a' phaic thar mo
dhrum-sa mar a thug i a' chroit
thar m'fhear-dùthcha. C'aime a
th'orta, 's an urrainn thu mo
thoirt do'n àite ud?"

"Is mise Coma-Co-Dhiubh," ars
am fear beag, "agus is urrainn mi
do thoir an siud, ach gheibh thu
cead tighinn as mar is àill leat."

"Tha mi coma ciomar a gheibh
mi as, ma gheibh mi ann, 's gun
toir iad dhìom a' phaic," fhear-
gair Sàigean.

"Bho'n a tha sinn le chéile
coma," thubhairt am fear beag, is
e ag èirigh, "chan fhada gun am bi
sinn an sin, 's chan 'eil teagamh
nach dean iad tuille riut na tha
fughair agad."

"Nach mise a bhios toilichte,"
fhear-gair Sàigean.

Rinn Coma-Co-Dhiubh glag gàire
is cha deach an còrr a ràdh.

RAINEIG iad taobh an t-sidhein
mhòir, agus mar a fhuair
Cròtag a staigh, thugar
Sàigean a staigh mar an ceudna.

"Cò seo a tha teachd do chuirn ar
fheadhais, gun chuireadh gun
iarraidh?" labhair ban-rìgh nan
sidhichean, is i ag amharc gu
cruaidh air Sàigean.

"Tha cràicean, 's ar leam gun
b'fhearr dha gu robh e tachdte
mun deach e air sgrìob ain-fhortain
an dùil gun toirte dheth a' phaic,"
fhear-gair Coma-Co-Dhiubh."

Chuckling at the fisher.
Even if they gave me the slip for
ever

I would get good fishing here—
Rest and contemplantion and escape
and wisdom,

The peace of the grace of God
And the laughter of Adam in the
Garden;

I would find in its green depths
Love and music and the beauty of
eternity,

And reflected in its sheen
Dealbh mo sheanair, the picture
of my ancestor

That happens to be my own face..
Gaelic is to me

Hopes and dreams refreshed and
old gentle living,
Love of country and the heart-
catching welcome home—

'S e do bheatha bhaile as the Irish
say.

And as the old rich tongue will
say to me forever.

ALBEART DAIBHIDH MACAOIDH.

"An do bhris Cròtag a bhòid 's a
ghealladh dhuinne, is na dh'innis e
duit-sa le thoil fhéin mar a dh'
èirich dha an seo?" ars a' bhan-
rìgh, 's i tionndadh ri Sàigean le
corruich 'na guth.

"Cha do bhris, is cha do labhair
e facal mu'n chùis, agus an do
ghuidh 's an do ghrios mi fhéin air
innsaidh dhomh," fhear-gair
Sàigean.

"A réir do mhl-mhodhailleis
bitheadh e," ars a' bhan-rìgh.
"Cìod a n' sinn ris, mo dhilean
caidreach?"

"Spàrr a' chroit air muin na
paict 's bheir an aon sac dachaidh
iad!" ghlaodh Coma-Co-Dhiubh.

"A' chroit air a' phaic! A'
chroit air a' phaic!" sgrìach na
sidhichean uile, is iad ag greim-
eachadh ann an Sàigean.

SPARR iad a' chroit air druim na
paict; suas is a nuas, null is a
nall, air ais 's air adhart, air
lamhan 's air chasan, shlad iad
Sàigean bochd gus nach d'fhàg iad
mir faireachdainn idir ann.

Nuair thàinig e 'ga ionnsaigh
fhéin s ann anns an Doire Sheilich
a bha e 'na laighe, a phaic air at
gu dà uair a meudachd, is gach
cnamh 'na cholaninn brùte gun
lùths.

Air éiginn shnàig e dhachaidh,
ach gu là a bhàs cha do labhair e
facal tàireil tuilleadh. Cha mhotha
dh'innis e cìod a dh'èirich dha san
t-sidhein mhòr. Ach do Chròtag
fhéin dh'aithris e an naidheachd
aon uair, agus mar sin fhuair sinne i.



Castle Urquhart, Inverness-shire

Glorious Page from Highland History (from page 124)

Lanark) were in the rest of the south, and the other five, already mentioned, were in the North. By the end of the second week of January 1313 only Stirling and Kirkintilloch were held for England in the whole of the old Celtic Kingdom, while beyond the Forth not a single castle or an inch of land remained in her possession.

Between August 1312 and the end of March 1313, Dumfries, Buittle, Dalswinton, and probably Caerlaverock were captured, and by June 1313 only thirteen castles in all Scotland can be said with certainty to have been still in the hands of the English. Of these thirteen only two (Stirling and Bothwell) were outside Lothian. The Celtic South-West had thus followed the Celtic North, and it now remained only for the Saxon South-East to throw off the yoke of

England. Between June 1313 and the early summer of 1314 most of the Lothian castles were captured by the patriots, but, while the tale of the taking of these is told in many Scottish histories, in none of them is the fact mentioned that the gallant exploit by which Edinburgh Castle fell was performed by the men of Moray under Bruce's nephew Randolph, whom Bruce two years before had given them as their leader.

Highlanders Won Bannockburn

THE Battle of Bannockburn was, of course, the climax of the events of the previous seven years, and the composition of the Scottish army on that day of glory was naturally a reflex of these events. That is to say, the Scottish army was composed of the

tried and proven warriors who had recovered Scotland by war from the hands of the English. It was not composed of men from the districts which had remained during these years in allegiance to England. Now, the number of Scots who formed the ordered array of the army at Bannockburn was at the very outside 7,000 men; 6,000 is probably nearer the mark. They were divided into four divisions of infantry and one of cavalry.

The first division, which numbered five hundred men and was under the command of Randolph, was composed of the men of Moray. It was thus, of course, a Highland Division. To them was assigned, as was their due, the place of honour in the van, and they were the men who defeated de Cliford so signally on the eve of the battle. Edward Bruce commanded the

(Continued on page 146)

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THE SCOTTISH BURGHs, by William MacKay Mackenzie (Oliver & Boyd, 18/-).

Dr. Mackenzie has by his books and articles added considerably to Scottish historical knowledge, and in this book he reinterprets old material and adds new, and sheds new light on the somewhat complicated subject of the history and organisation of Scottish burghs. This is a book of great interest and value, whether one reads it straight through or turns first to those burghs with which one is specially concerned.

The Stuarts

THE JACOBITE MOVEMENT. The First Phase, 1688-1716. By Sir Charles Petrie (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 15/-).

This book, which is a rewriting and supplementing of a work published in 1932, covers the period from the Revolution to the "Fifteen" and follows out the activities of the exiled Stuarts. Too often the Stuarts are either condemned outright or "canonised"; but they were neither gross sinners nor great saints, and Sir Charles Petrie's account, clearly arranged and well documented, makes fascinating and instructive reading. There are very fine illustrations.

Kintyre

IT HAPPENED IN KINTYRE, by D. P. Thomson (Church of Scotland Offices, 1/-).

This booklet gives an interesting account of the history of the Kintyre peninsula, with special reference to the history of the Church there. The topics selected are well chosen and the material is well arranged, but too many paragraphs begin with the words "It was." This is the kind of local history which, in any district, cannot help stirring an interest in the past and in the generations from whom we have inherited so much. One chapter is devoted to the Rev. Dr. John Smith of Campbelltown and his successor, Dr. Norman Macleod ("Caraid nan Gaidheal"). After referring to Smith's metrical version of the Gaelic Psalms, Mr. Thomson writes: "of his share in the Revised Gaelic Bible a leading authority has said, 'We do not know any Gaelic work, long or short, which can at all be compared with it.' Smith had no share in any 'Revised Gaelic Bible.' He it was who translated the Prophets

(Isaiah-Malachi) in the first edition of the Gaelic Bible (1786), but, for reasons into which we need not enter here, his translation did not find favour and all subsequent editions of the Gaelic Scriptures contain the Prophets as drastically revised, and even retranslated, by Dr. Alexander Stewart of Moulin and Dingwall. Smith's translation was excellent as Gaelic but unsatisfactory as a translation. He was thought to have departed too much from the "Received Text."

"Eilean Fhianain"

ST. FINAN'S ISLE: Eilean Fhianain, Its Story. By Alastair Cameron.

Mr. Alastair Cameron ("North Argyll") has long been well known as an authority on local history and many other aspects of Highland life. He now tells in brief compass, but with a wealth of detail, the story of "Eilean Fhianain," the islet in Loch Shiell in Moirdart, bringing in the history of the countryside around and the more important persons associated therewith. The story is brought down to the celebration of the bicentenary of the "Forty-Five" Rising at Glenfinnan on 18th August, 1945.

Copies of this booklet may be obtained from the author at Bunaltachan, Strontian, Argyll. The price is 1/9 post free.

"Tir nam Beann 's nan Gleann 's nan Eilean"

One sometimes wonders why Scottish people go abroad to enjoy the scenery of other lands when they have not fully explored the

scenic beauties and grandeur of their own country. The next best thing to being among our Highland bens and glens and islands in person is to enjoy their breath-taking magnificence at second-hand through the medium of photographs.

Mr. William S. Thomson, 3 Cameron Square, Fort William, is not only an expert with the camera but also has what amounts almost to genius in catching and conveying the mood and atmosphere of the scenes and places which he photographs.

To enhance the interest and value of his photographs he has added brief but sufficient descriptions specially written by persons who know and love the places of which they tell.

There lie before us at the moment the following entrancing publications by Mr. Thomson, the story in each case being by the person named: "LET'S SEE THE ORKNEY ISLANDS" (George M. Brown, 4/-), "LET'S SEE THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS" (J. H. B. Bell, 3/6); "LET'S SEE THE WEST HIGHLANDS" (Edith Macgregor, 3/6), "LET'S SEE THE ISLE OF SKYE" (Lord Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton, 3/6), and "LET'S SEE GLEN COE AND LOCH LEVEN" (Andrew Paton, 2/-).

Mr. Thomson also publishes a series of beautiful Calendars, one of which has already come to hand, "THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS CALENDAR, 1950," containing 27 photographs, both in colour and in black-and-white.

These publications may be obtained from Mr. Thomson or through a newsagent or bookseller.

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Hon. Secretary:

Mr. Kenneth MacDonald, 35 Balerno Drive, Glasgow, S.W.2.

Glorious Page from Highland

second division, one half at least of which, and probably a good deal more, was drawn from the North, from Aberdeen and the neighbouring counties particularly.

Douglas and Walter Stewart led the third division, which likewise contained a number of northern men, while in Bruce's own division, the fourth and largest, fully four-fifths were from the North, mainly from Argyll and the Isles. Of the 500 horse a large proportion was likewise from the North. In addition, by far the greater part of the misunderstood "ghillies"—who were not camp-followers but genuine fighting-men—were Highlanders, the light-armed rank and file of the clans who, in accordance with Bruce's plan, completed the rout which the more heavily armed infantry of the four divisions had begun.

Accordingly, we arrive at these conclusions:—(1) The Scottish army at Bannockburn was drawn almost entirely from the Celtic parts of the Kingdom. (2) Of these Celtic parts the North contributed by far the greater proportion, the men from the North, in both the ordered array and in "small folk," that is, light-armed foot-soldiers (the

History (from page 143)

"ghillies"), outnumbering very considerably all the rest of the Scottish army put together. (3) These things, as we have just seen, were the natural and inevitable result of the whole course of the war from its very beginning in the winter of 1296-97. (4) The War of Independence, therefore, was made possible by, was sustained by, and was won by the North, which throughout all these long and weary years of varying war, bore the burden and heat of the struggle, and had by far the greatest share in the crowning mercy and the crowning glory of Bannockburn itself. And of all the North it was to the Ancient Celtic Province of Moray, heart of the still more ancient Celtic Kingdom of King Bruce, that the initiation, the maintaining, and the winning of that long struggle for the freedom of Scotland was chiefly due.

Nor does this page from our Highland past with its tale of the debt which Scotland owes to our heroic forebears end there. For when, some twenty years after Bannockburn, England under Edward III again sought to conquer Scotland, it was the same Celtic North, and in particular the same

Celtic Province of Moray, who again brought her schemes to naught. And the man who led Scotland to victory in this renewal of her struggle for freedom was another Andrew de Moray, son and successor of the hero of the rising of 1297, of the victorious leader who fell in the moment of his triumph at the Battle of Stirling Bridge. His bones lie no man knows where, but so great was the veneration in which his son and successor was held by his fellow-countrymen that, although, worn out by his exertions, he died at his castle of Avoch in Ross-shire at the early age of forty and was buried at Rosemarkie, his body was subsequently transferred to Dunfermline Abbey, there to rest, as the saviour of his country in the Second War of Independence, beside the body of Bruce. Happy, it has been said, is the country which has no history, but happier far is the country which has a history containing pages so glorious and so revealing as that of the Celtic Province and the Celtic House of Moray in Scotland's great struggle for freedom, and which accords to that history the remembrance and the reverence which are their due.

Let An Comunn see to it that Scotland is such a country.

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How The Mod Began

By ALASTAIR GRANT

Early Struggles and Difficulties

WHEN the first National Mod was staged at Oban more than half-a-century ago the proceedings occupied only a few hours, and the movement, begun largely through the efforts of four enthusiasts who met in a room in Oban to plan what then looked like an almost impossible task, has struggled through various vicissitudes until today, when the entries number well over 1500 and the Festival lasts almost a week.

Before An Comunn Gaidhealach was in existence useful work was done by the Lorn Ossianic Society in the promotion of Gaelic singing and recitation, but when, for various reasons, this organisation ceased to function, a number of the stalwarts of the Gaelic movement in that area sought for another means of carrying on the good work. It was not, however, until 1890 that a small group met in the house of John MacMaster Campbell, an Oban solicitor who afterwards became Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, and a committee of four was formed.

This was an interesting parallel to the meeting of four men in a room in Prague when the Czech language movement was planned, at a time when its enemies had managed practically to abolish it.

Raising Support

THE new Gaelic committee of four immediately set about the task of arousing interest in the movement and raising financial and other support. Oddly enough, Inverness Gaelic Society, from which the strongest support had been expected, declined to participate. This may have been as a result of a misunderstanding on the part of the Inverness Society as to the aims of the Oban Committee. The Inverness Society may have imagined that the new organisation was in competition with themselves, but in any case when the real object of the Oban movement became apparent in later years the Inverness Society came in and gave valuable support to An Comunn Gaidhealach.

What the originators of An Comunn planned was something on the lines of the Welsh Eisteddfod, and the assistance and advice of the organisers of that Festival was sought. The Welsh, gratified by this manifestation of Celtic enthusiasm in the Highlands, were glad to do what they

could to help the new movement. Messages of encouragement began to flow in from various parts of Scotland and even from Gaelic and Highland societies in England. The response from London was particularly good, although a minority of the members of the London Gaelic Society disapproved of the project.

No Published Music!

ONE of the difficulties in staging this first Mod was the absence of any published Gaelic choral music, but fortunately this was overcome when Mr. Ferguson of the St. Columba Gaelic Choir set out in book form the harmonies used by his own choir. This book, "A' Choisir-Chiuil," appeared in time to be available to a Gaelic choir in Oban and other Gaelic choirs who entered for competitions at the Mod. These included choirs from Glencoe and Ballachulish.

But in the case of the individual entries the situation was not encouraging and, as the last date for individual entries to be sent in approached, it was found that the number did not exceed half-a-dozen. So the Committeemen and their helpers had to get busy and make an intensive effort to "drum up" more competitors.

Dramatic Change!

WHEN the great day arrived there were still apprehensions and the performance of the first few competitors did little to raise the drooping spirits of the Committee. There was a dramatic change when a youth wearing the Ross tartan stepped on to the platform and roused the audience to a great pitch of enthusiasm with a stirring rendering of the Gaelic poem, "Chan fhaigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs." The young competitor who thus saved the day was the late Dr. Neil Ross, Laggan, who afterwards became President of An Comunn Gaidhealach and whose rousing recitations of Gaelic poems were afterwards a feature of many a Mod ceilidh.

Bigger Audience Now

UNTIL a few years ago the National Mod, although it attracted thousands of Highland people, did not mean a great deal to non-Highlanders and non-Gaelic speakers. Nowadays the Festival is attracting a good deal

of attention in the general columns of the daily as well as the weekly Press. Another significant circumstance is that the performance of the prize-winning singers, especially the Gold Medalists, is heard on the radio by listeners all over this country and abroad. That fact should be an incentive to keep the standard high.

Finally, it is gratifying that in this year, when probably more attention will be directed on the Mod than ever before, the leader of the movement should be so cultured and personable a Gaelic-speaking Highlander as Dr. John Cameron, President of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Latha na Trod

FAR am faca am bàrd 'na gruagaichean,' is e a chunnaic mise air mo chuart tobtach-ean loma nan àirigh. Cha robh geum bà no lachan banarach ri chluinntinn. Chuir an saoghal car dieth. B'e an cleachdadh do'n sprèidh an samhradh a chur seachad air ionaltradh na mòintich. Thigeadh iad gu baile agus gu innis na machrath air an Di-haoine mu dheireadh de'n Iuchar. B'e sin "Latha na Trod."

Trath air an latha bha seanairean a' bhaile ag cruinneachadh aig geata Sràid-na-machrath air son suidheachadh a' chosgoraidh. Bha gach creitair ag cur staic air a' mhachair a reir a mhàil—trì mairt is bliadhnach, dà mhart, is mar sin air adhart. Am fear aig an robh tuilleadh agus a' chòir de stoc, bha aige ri pàidheadh; am fear a bha gann de stoc bha e a' faotainn pàidhidh d'a réir. Bha an rèiteachadh a' tighinn gu argumaid; bha an argumaid a' tighinn gu trod; agus air là àraidh thàinig an trod gu bualadh. Bhuail agus leag Coinneach Donn Alasdair Gorm. B'e Tormod Mór aon de na fanuisean a bha aig a' chùirt a lean.

"Buidheadh am breitheamh a mach," arsa Tormod; "tha mise bodhar."

"Am faca tusa," ars an siorram, "Coinneach a' bualadh agus a' leagail Alasdair?"

"Chan fhaca, ach chunnaic mi ag éirigh e."

"Seadh; cionnus nach fhac thu a tuiteam e, ma chunnaic thu ag éirigh e?"

"Bha mo chulaobh ris 's mi ag garg-throd ri fear eile!"

A. M.

IN recent weeks a number of friends in the Gaelic movement have passed away, and we would here pay tribute to them and express our deep sympathy with their relatives.

Sir Norman Lamont

SIR NORMAN LAMONT, Bart., of Knockdow, Argyll, died in Trinidad, where he had extensive estates, in his 80th year. In early life he was prominent in politics, being M.P. for Bute (1905-10) and Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister, and Mr. Winston Churchill, President of the Board of Trade. He was an expert on agricultural matters, and had a special interest in Highland history. He served on the Executive Council of An Comunn and up to his death was one of the Trustees of An Comunn's Feill Trust.

Dr Donald Ross

DR. DONALD ROSS, M.B.E., T.D., who died at Inverary, was for some forty years the medical superintendent of the Argyll and Bute Mental Hospital, Lochgilphead. He served in three wars, the Boer War and World Wars I and II. A noted athlete and sportsman, he was also an excellent linguist and added Gaelic to the languages he acquired. He was a strong supporter of An Comunn and served on the Executive Council.

Mr Charles J. Stuart

MR. STUART, who was in business in Paisley, was for many years Hon. Secretary of the Paisley Highlanders, and was a prominent figure at Highland gatherings in Glasgow. He also was a member of the Executive Council.

Miss Rona MacVicar

MANY throughout the country will have learned with very deep regret of the death of Miss MacVicar, only daughter of the Rev. Angus MacVicar, Southend, Kintyre, at the early age of thirty-one. Miss MacVicar was the worthy winner of the Ladies' Gold Medal at the National Mod of 1948 in Glasgow, and it seemed that before her lay a fine career. Already she had won popularity as a first-rate singer of Gaelic songs.

The Highland Folk-Museum

IN a pleasant Georgian house near the railway station at Kingussie—and with the very appropriate name of "Am Fasgadh" ("The Shelter")—Miss I. F. Grant, LL.D., has assembled and arranged a unique and valuable collection of all kinds of articles and exhibits illustrating and representative of life in the Highlands and Islands in bygone days.

Dr. Grant, knowing of the Scandinavian folk museums, determined in 1934 to establish a Highland folk museum on similar lines. On many journeys throughout the Highland area she retrieved and collected many articles, now gone out of use, and housed them for the first three years in a small disused church in Iona. The complete collection was then moved to Laggan, but only temporarily, and on 1st June, 1944, the new "Am Fasgadh" was opened at Kingussie.

What does the visitor see at "Am Fasgadh"? Something, to quote a small girl visitor, which is "realler than history." Arranged and displayed in the various rooms are articles and implements—some of them very old—once in daily use in humble Highland dwellings and in lairds' mansions.

There are utensils for cooking, lighting, and heating. There are samples of textiles, colours made from native dyes, home-spun blankets and bed-covers, and Highland linen. There are tartans and "druggie" petticoats and mitches. There are complete sets of imple-

ments for preparing yarn and for weaving. There are examples of basket-work and rude pottery and horn articles. There are also books and musical instruments, as well as implements for sport and for poaching, and a wide range of weapons. There are home-made wooden vessels of various kinds, and all sorts of household plenishings, tools and furniture. There are old charms and toddy ladles and agricultural implements and dairy implements.

Beside "Am Fasgadh" are three examples of old Highland dwellings of different types, which Dr. Grant has had built by native craftsmen. There is also a reconstruction of one of the ancient water-mills.

Here is something unique and invaluable. Hitherto Miss Grant has from her own financial resources built up and maintained the museum, but now a "Friends of Am Fasgadh Association" is in being, and its aim is to arouse interest in the museum and secure the necessary financial resources to enable it to continue and develop under Dr. Grant's direction. The hon. secretary and treasurer is Mr. Christopher Petty, town clerk of Kingussie, who will gladly acknowledge donations large and small for this worthy object.

Gaels at home and abroad should regard "Am Fasgadh" as having a claim upon their interest and support. In establishing it Dr. Grant has rendered inestimable service, which will be more and more appreciated as time goes on.

Mr Coll MacDougall

AS we go to press, we learn with much regret of the death of Mr. Coll MacDougall, Govan, a stalwart in Highland circles in Glasgow. He was a President of the Oban and Lorn Association and of the Govan Highlanders, and a strong supporter of the Govan Gaelic Choir and other Highland societies, and also of An Comunn. His zeal and energy will be much missed, as also will be his cheerfulness and friendliness.

Inverness Mods (from page 134)
Greenock Gaelic Choir third. Edinburgh also won the ladies' choral trophy. Killin Gaelic Choir won the Lorn shield.

1936

AT the 1936 Mod Mr. John R. Bannerman was President. The Gold Medallists were Mr.

Duncan Mackenzie, Inverness, and Miss Kitty MacLeod, Lewis. The Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Choir won the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy, while Mr. Hector MacDougall was the Crowned Bard. He also won the Cassillis Silver Cup in the literary competitions, and Mr. Edward Pursell, Campbeltown, won the Miller Weir Gold Medal as the most distinguished prize-winner in the literary competitions. Jean Cameron Greer, Glasgow, was winner of the Girls' Silver Medal, and Mr. Iain R. Douglas (last year's Gold Medallist) appeared in the junior prize-lists.

Cuin a cheannaich thu leabhar Gàidhlig mu dheireadh?

Iomhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod, Inverness, 1949

Received at Inverness—

Previously acknowledged	£1,439	10	10
Lee Fraser, Esq., Inverness	5	5	—
Balmacara Branch, per Mrs. MacDonald	5	—	—
Mr. Lauder, Inverness	1	1	—
Messrs. Melvin Bros., Inverness	1	1	—
Messrs. Robert Carruthers & Sons (Inverness Courier)	5	—	—
Miss Cameron, Buttercup Dairy Co., Inverness	1	—	—
Messrs. Charles Keith & Co., Inverness	4	4	—
Mrs. G. MacIntosh, Balvraid	2	—	—
Miss Mary Isabel MacIntosh, Balvraid	2	—	—
Messrs. A. J. Stewart & Co., Inverness	1	1	—
Messrs. Mackintosh & MacLeod, Ltd., Inverness	5	5	—
Messrs. James Walker (Inverness), Ltd.	2	2	—
Messrs. Cooper & Co., Ltd., Inverness	3	3	—
Messrs. Fraser & Ross, Solicitors, Inverness	2	2	—
Clarsach Class Ceilidh, per Miss Rhoda MacPherson	20	—	—
Duncan Cameron, Esq., Inverness	2	10	—
Thos. Skinner, Esq., Inverness	2	2	—
Addition to Flag Day at Inverness	1	—	—
Special effort by Mrs. L. Mackintosh, Beauly	5	—	—
A. MacDonald, Esq., Inverness	1	—	—
Elgin Branch and Friends, per D. C. Cowan, Esq.	10	—	—
Sir Hugh MacKenzie, C.B.E., J.P., Inverness	2	2	—
Highland Transport Co., Inverness	5	5	—
The Highland News, Ltd., Inverness	2	2	—
Inverness-shire Farmers' Society	7	9	8
Messrs. Chapmans of Inverness, Ltd.	3	3	—
Anonymous	5	—	—
Mr. & Mrs. C. MacColl, Lochboisdale	5	5	—
Charles MacKinnon, Esq., Inverness	5	—	—
T. J. Taylor, Esq., Inverness	1	1	—
Individual effort, per Mrs. C. Menzies and Mrs. C. MacLeod, Inverness	18	12	6
Mrs. Winton, Inverness	1	—	—
Miss Jean B. Stewart, Fernbank, Advie	—	10	—
The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Inverness	2	2	—

Kyleakin Gaelic Choir	10	—	—
G. J. F. Bergamini, Esq., Inverness	1	1	—
George A. Smith, Esq., Inverness	1	1	—
			£1,592 1 —

Received at Headquarters—

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D. Shaw MacKinnon, Esq., M.B.E., Edinburgh	1	1	—
Major Andrew Gow, D.S.O., Glasgow	2	2	—
H. W. Johnston, Esq., Inverness	1	1	—
Mrs. MacLeod, Tobermory	1	—	—
T. M. Moffat-Pender, Esq., Poolewe	5	—	—
Mrs. Kerr, Greenock	—	10	—
Miss D. M. Campbell, Exeter	2	—	—
Dr. E. Forbes Sempill, Alford	1	3	—
			£187 2 6
			£1,779 3 6

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The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to 'An Comunn Gaidhealach.'

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Manchester Branch	3	3	—
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Rev. J. MacInnes, M.A., Ph.D., Caithness	—	5	—
			£37 13 —

(Continued on next page)

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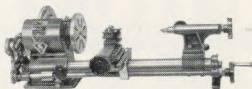


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- The study and cultivation of Gaelic
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- The native industries of the Highlands
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NOTES AND COMMENTS

AN GAIDHEAL THE GAEL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

Mod Stalwarts from Edinburgh

(By courtesy of "Weekly Scotsman")

PLEASE MENTION OUR NAME WHEN
WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

The Mod

THE Inverness Mod has demonstrated once again that the National Mod is one of the most popular events in the Scottish Calendar. We can think of no other gathering or festival or conference which can attract and hold together for a week so great a crowd from so far afield. It is significant that most of An Comunn's difficulties in regard to the Mod arise from its success and size. At the first Mod, it is said, they had to stand at a hall-door and persuade people to come in and compete, and the whole thing was over in a couple of hours. Now, we cannot easily handle the huge numbers of competitors, and there are few places in Scotland which can provide adequate accommodation.

Dr Cameron

WE all regretted that, through illness, Dr John Cameron was unable to attend the Mod and fulfil his duties as President and so bring to completion his term of office. Fortunately, however, he was able to prepare the two orations, which were read at the Official Opening by Mr Bannerman and which are printed in this issue. Dr Cameron's orations at all three Mods during his term of office have been marked by a sense of history, a deep awareness of current problems, and a grace and dignity of language.

Gaelic at the Mod

ONCE again we heard the complaint that there is too much English spoken at the Mod, both on the platform and when friends meet. We notice that the complaint is generally made by people who know little or no Gaelic and who, were English to be banished from the Mod, would have little comprehension of what was being said.

Granted that Gaelic should be used as much as possible, nevertheless let us not forget that the Mod attracts many people who do not know Gaelic well enough to understand it easily or speak it fluently. The Gael, for all his many faults, is curiously loathe to express himself in a language which some of his hearers may not understand; he thinks, rightly or wrongly, that it is rude and discourteous to do so. Even our Gaelic children in Highland school playgrounds are ready, perhaps over-ready, to turn to English as soon as one non-Gaelic child happens to be present.

Edinburgh Branch

THE Edinburgh Branch of An Comunn—as in previous sessions—holds a monthly ceilidh on the second Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Douglas Haig Memorial Hall, Coates Crescent, Edinburgh. The Gaelic Circle Conversation Class meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. in Darroch School, Gilmour Place, Edinburgh.

London Gaelic Classes

IN response to requests, the following classes in Scottish Gaelic are being held at the City Literary Institute, Stukeley Street, Drury Lane, W.C.2.—Tuesdays, 6 to 7 p.m., Gaelic Conversation (Advanced); Friday, 6 to 7 p.m., Gaelic (Intermediate and Advanced); Fridays, 7 to 8 p.m., Gaelic (Beginners). The instructor is Mr Hamish Graham. The fees are: for one class 7/6, for two classes 12/-.

Held Over

We regret that, because of pressure on space, we must hold over the remainder of Mr. Shaw's account of his visit to Nova Scotia, Cape Breton News, and other items.

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Buinidh urram do'n aois.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Is coron glòire an ceann liath a gheibhear ann an slighe an ionracais.—*Gnàth-shacail* xvi.31.

An Comunn Badges

WE may not all have a figure for the kilt nor the money to buy an outfit—extraordinarily expensive at present, we understand—and in any case the wearing of the kilt is no longer a distinctive mark of the Highlander or Gael. The official badge of An Comunn is, however, distinctive and unmistakable, and members are informed that supplies are now available and may be had from the Treasurer, Mr J. T. Graham, C.A., 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1., price, 3/6 (or, by post, 3/9).

President's Address (from p. 158)

of a movement which will strengthen the ties and bind the scattered children of the Gael more closely together.

We would record our sincere thanks and mention, as showing the interest in our cause, the additional trophies presented to An Comunn:—(1) The Trophy presented by Mrs Hobbs of Inverloch Castle to be awarded to the choir gaining highest marks in Gaelic in the *Oban Times* Shield Competition, and (2) The Cup presented by Miss Una McKay, Edinburgh, in memory of her brother, the late Dr George McKay, President of An Comunn from 1919 to 1922, to be awarded in the Junior Oralt Competitions.

THIS is my last address to you as President of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and I have spoken to you frankly and seriously, for your great kindness to me demands that I should do so. No President could have received greater loyalty, kindness, and help from office-bearers, council, and members than I have received during my term of office. If I have during these years made any contribution in furtherance of the Gaelic cause, which has always been very near to my heart, I shall, indeed, be happy and content.

Another language and culture is moving west and stretching towards the Isles. It is a rich language, but it is not ours.

It is, perhaps, extravagant to hope that our language will, after all the repressions it has suffered, be able to keep pace with the vast and complicated demands of life as it is now, while still retaining its character and a reasonable purity, but if we are to preserve our identity as a race, it must survive, for through it alone can we express ourselves faithfully and fully. For us it is the language of the priceless and eternal things that dwell in the home, on the hill, or on the shifting glens of the sea.

Rona NicBhioicair



Fhuair sinn an Ceann-tìre buille ar cràidh an uair a chaidh an naidheachd fa gaoil gun do chaochail Rona NicBhioicair, agus tha mi an dùil gu bheil a' Ghaidhealtachd air fad 'ga caoidh còmhla ruinn.

Chan 'eil e furasda a chreidsinn gu bheil a shùilean dhùinte gu sìorruidh suain, agus nach cluinn sinn binneas a guth nas motha. Ach 'nar bròn is 'nar léireadh tha sinn an àrd-dòchas, seadh, agus dearbh-chinnteachd, gun tig leigheas air ar leòn le ùine; agus, ma thig, cha tig smal no sgleò air a' chuimhne-chùbhraidh a dh'fhàg Rona 'na déidh, cuimhne a mhaireas r'ar beò.

Sibhs a chuala Rona a' seinn—ag craobh-sgaoileadh no an talla nan cuirm-chitil—bha sibh fortanach gu leòir; ach sinne a bha ag obair còmhla rihte rè na bliadhna—is ann leinn a bha a' bhuidh. Bha i bairidh, ceanalta 'na dòigh agus àlainn na dreach is 'na nàdur. A bharrachd air sin bha i sundach agus làn àbhachdais. Air leach nach do choisich riamh air thalamh a' bu mhodhaire is a bu neo-bhòsdaile, agus bhiodh e fìor a ràdh uimpe "nach b'e àilleachd a dealbha—ged a dh'fhalbh i thar smaointean—ach àilleachd a h-anama'" a bu smior-chridhe dhi.

Cha do chuir i iongantais air aon sam bith eadar an Tairbeart is Dùn Abhartach an uair a choisinn i am Bonn Oir—a' cheud uair a dh'fheuch i—ag Mòd Mòr Ghlaschu an uraidh. Bha i 'na ball de

The New President

Mr. John M. Bannerman

NO man in An Comunn Gaidhealach has a better claim to be chosen as President than Mr J. M. Bannerman, M.A., B.Sc. Not only by his experience and service over a long period, and notably as Convener of the Mod and Music Committee, but also because of his own fine qualities as a man and a Gael, Mr Bannerman has richly merited the honour, and we are confident that his term of office will be a notable one.

Many of us will ever cherish happy memories of his father, the late Mr. J. R. Bannerman, who also was President of An Comunn and who was a master of Gaelic speech.

Mr Bannerman is a prominent figure in the public life of Scotland—as a leader in the Liberal Party, as a member of Stirlingshire County Council, as a member of the Forestry Commission, the Scottish National Parks Committee, and other public bodies. For many years he has also been a member of Council of the Highland Development League.

Mr Bannerman's prowess on the playing-field has become almost legendary. No man has received so many "caps," representing Scotland in international Rigger. He is a Mod Gold Medallist. His wife has done great work for An Comunn, especially in connection with the War Comforts Fund during the recent war, and since then as Convener of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund. Their children are Gaelic-speaking and some of them have competed at Mods.

We congratulate Mr Bannerman on his appointment to the Chair, and we congratulate ourselves on having him as President.

Chòisir-chitil Cheannloch o chionn beagan bhliadhnanach, agus chan 'eil e duilich a thuigsinn gu robh a' Chòisir ud uallach asidhe.

Bu dual di bhith cèimhor. Air taobh a h-athar, an t-Urramach Aonghas Iain MacBhioicair, bha i 'na Ban-Uibhisteach. Air taobh a màthar bha i 'na Ban-Lathurnach. Agus rugadh is thogadh i ann an taigh a tha falaidh, farsaing, agus fìor-Ghaidhealach.

Tha sinn ag guidhe gum fàidh a pàrantan agus a bràithrean cobhair is comhfhurtachd anns an ìm seo; tha ar comh-fhaireachdainnean leò a dh'oidhche is a latha. E. M.

Mod Diary

By THE EDITOR

THE Capital of the Highlands certainly lived up to its reputation for hospitality, and not only extended to An Comunn and the Mod crowds a truly Highland welcome but also provided a most appropriate setting and the traditional Mod atmosphere for our forty-sixth Mod. Larger towns and cities have given the Mod accommodation, just like any large-scale conference: but Inverness made the Mod the event of the week.

For me Mod week began on the 10.10 a.m. train on Monday from Glasgow (Buchanan Street). It might have been called the "Mod Special," but, British Railways apparently being unaware of the significance of this very special week, the northward-bound Southern Gaels had to stand quite a long time in a queue for their share of "British Railways Sausage." Some got none. "We didn't expect such a crowd! What is this Mod anyway?"

This year—an innovation—the Mod began, not on Tuesday morning but on Monday evening, and what a grand beginning it was!

Official Opening

THE Official Opening took place in the Town Hall. After a Gaelic prayer by the Rev. Alexander Boyd, minister of St Mary's (Gaelic) Church, Inverness, Mr J. M. Bannerman, Senior Vice-President, acting in place of the President of An Comunn, Dr John Cameron, who to everyone's great regret was unable through illness to be present at the Mod this year, presided and opened the proceedings by reading Dr. Cameron's English Address (printed elsewhere in this Number). Provost J. M. Grigor of Inverness, who was accompanied by his wife and by the magistrates of the burgh and the Town Clerk, extended to the Mod an official welcome on behalf of the Town Council and citizens, a welcome which was no mere formality.

Mr Bannerman then read Dr. Cameron's Gaelic Address, and thereafter welcomed Mr Murdoch MacAulay, representing the Gaelic College at St. Ann's, Cape Breton, who was accompanied by his wife. Mr MacAulay expressed his pleasure at being present and conveyed greetings from the Cape Breton Gaelic Foundation. "The love of this land of Scotland," he said, "still lingers in the memories of the children three and four generations removed from the original

emigrants from Scotland. Mothers toiled by day and at night they sang lullabies and taught prayers in the old tongue to their children. We don't realise what we owe to the mothers for keeping the language alive." "Nova Scotia," said Mr MacAulay, "is very like the Scottish Highlands in many ways. In many places conversation in the home is still in Gaelic." "We need your help," he concluded "and we may be able to help you." Mr MacAulay then handed over to Mr Bannerman the gold and silver medals gifted by the Cape Breton Gaelic Foundation for competition at the National Mod, and Mr

Bannerman made suitable acknowledgement and said that these gifts would help to strengthen the ties between old Scotland and "New Scotland."

That fine Gael from Ireland, "An Seabhac," has frequently been a prominent and popular personality at the National Mod. This year to everyone's great regret he was unable to attend, but his place as delegate from the Oireachtas was ably filled by Mr Sean Beaumont, accompanied by his wife. Mr. Beaumont, on being welcomed by the Chairman, conveyed fraternal greetings from Ireland.

Captain William MacKay, Convener of the Mod Local Committee, moved a vote of thanks to Dr

(Continued on next page)



The Crowning of the Bard

(By courtesy of "Weekly Scotsman")

Cameron for his two masterly Presidential orations and to Mr Bannerman for so ably deputising for the President. Tea was then served and a ceilidh was held, those taking part being Piper Norman MacRae (Lochiel's Piper), Mrs Petrine Stewart, Mr John MacInnes (South Uist), Nurse MacLeod, and Mr Iain A. MacSween, while the Inverness branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society gave a display of country dancing. Mr Farquhar MacRae moved a vote of thanks to those who organised and took part in the ceilidh.

Latha na h-Oigridh

TUESDAY was, as is customary, "Latha na h-Oigridh," and over 450 competitors and some 15 choirs in 27 competitions spread themselves over seven halls, large and small. In the oral delivery prize-lists Fort William, Lochinver, and Glasgow got the lion's share, but Lewis, Skye, Kintyre, and Islay were also represented. "The Rev. George W. MacKay, D.D., Memorial Cup"—offered for competition for the first time—was won by Catherine Campbell, Fort William, for the highest aggregate marks in oral competitions. She had a first, a second, a second (equal), and a fourth. Others who did well were Christina C. Dick, Glasgow, with two firsts, a second, and a second (equal); Anna M. Cameron, Southend; May Newlands, Campbeltown; Mary M. Campbell, Islay; and W. T. Ross, Lochinver, all of whom, I think, have also been prize-winners at previous National Mods.

This year Lewis made doubly sure of the Boys' Silver Medal by providing both the winner (Iain M. MacLeod, Laxdale), and the runner-up (Donald Murray, Laxdale), Thomas MacKenna, Kinlochell, coming third. These three boys have had successes at previous Mods. The Girl Silver Medalist was also from the Outer Hebrides—Anne Campbell, Grimsay, North Uist (at present a pupil at Portree Secondary School)—and she gained prizes in the oral competitions also. Among prize-winners at previous mods who did well this year again were Anne M. Gillies Glasgow, and her brother, Alastair B. Gillies, Donald MacCalman, Islay, Sheila Ann MacMacDougall, Glasgow; Cathie Brownie, Campbeltown; James R. Gillies, Lochgilphead; and Ena Mackenzie, Glasgow.

There were very close contests in the choral competitions. Govan Junior Choir gained the *Oban Times* Trophy with 347 marks, Portree being second with 346, and

Stornoway third with 343. The Campbell Blair Trophy went to Portree Choir, with 349 marks, followed by Govan with 345, Campbeltown with 344, and Stornoway with 341. The Miller Trophy was won by Campbeltown Junior Choir for the third time in succession, another Kintyre choir, Dailan-Tobar, coming second.

At the Junior Concert in the Empire Theatre on Tuesday evening Dr. J. A. MacLean, Director of Education for Inverness-shire, presided, and the Trophies and Medals were presented by Mrs J. M. Grigor, wife of the Provost of Inverness.

The list of prize-winners in the literary competitions—junior and senior—is always read out at the Tuesday evening concert. From twenty-one entries Mr Donald Macdonald, M.A., headmaster in the Island of Eriskay, gained the high distinction of being this year's Bard. Mr Macdonald is already well and widely known as a Gaelic scholar, a first-rate bard, and a keen folklorist. His many friends rejoice in this new distinction. Miss Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay, North Uist, deserves the highest commendation for having won both the Cassillis Silver Cup and the Millar Weir Gold Medal for distinction in the senior literary competitions. She was second in the bardic ode competition. We may soon see the crowning of another Mod Bardess.

Solo Singing

WEDNESDAY was taken up entirely with a number of solo singing competitions in all of which there was a large entry. Apparently, however, quite a number failed to pass the Gaelic Test and this reduced considerably the numbers who sang. In some of the competitions the standard of singing did not seem to be as high as at previous Mods, although there were not a few individual singers who were a delight to hear.

Thursday saw the completion of the solo singing competitions, culminating in the "finals" for the Gold Medals and the adding up of aggregates to discover the supreme singers of this year's Mod. We congratulate Mr Iain A. MacSween and Miss Ann MacLean on winning the Gold Medals. The former, a native of Scalpay, Harris, had as runner-up a fellow-Scalpay, Angus MacLeod. Miss MacLean (Mrs Draper) belongs to Mull but lives in Aberdeen. Jean Cameron Greer and Carol Galbraith, Annabel MacLeod, Flora M. Campbell, John MacInnes, Finlay MacKeachan, and Alex. J. MacDonald also acquitted themselves well,

figuring in the prize-list in more than one competition.

Of special interest on Wednesday was the competition for the Cape Breton Gaelic College Gold and Silver Medals. The winners were respectively Katie A. MacLellan and Finlay MacKeachan, both of Glasgow.

On Wednesday evening the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Inverness gave a Reception and Concert in the Northern Meeting Rooms, the Programme being sustained by the Cameron Highlanders' Pipe Band, Miss J. M. B. Currie, Mrs Petrine Stewart, Miss MacPhail, Miss Morag Macdonald (Edinburgh), Mr Donald MacVicar, Mr Iain Douglas, Mr Lachlan MacKinnon, and Mr Donald MacAllister. Provost Grigor presided, and the thanks of the guests was expressed by Mr. J. M. Bannerman.

On Wednesday night also a largely attended Ceilidh was held in the Empire Theatre and part of the programme was broadcast by the B.B.C.

In the senior oral competitions on Thursday morning Miss Mary F. Hunter, Duror, gained the Glasgow Skye Association Gold Medal for the highest aggregate marks. Miss Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay—who won this Medal last year—also did well, as did also Miss Kate S. MacInnes, Fort William.

The Choirs

ON Thursday afternoon the Empire Theatre was packed for the Rural Choirs competitions. The Lorn Shield was won by the Port Charlotte Choir (who were fourth for it last year), Lochgilphead (the holders) being second. For the MacMaster Campbell Cuach the contest was a close one, the placings being: 1st, Lochgilphead (349 marks), 2nd, Newtonmore (the holders) (348), and 3rd, Port Charlotte (347).

On Thursday evening the Rural Choirs Concert was held in duplicate, the first house at 6.30 p.m., with Dr D. J. MacLeod, O.B.E., presiding, and the second at 9 p.m., with the Very Rev. Dr. Alexander Macdonald in the Chair. The Trophies were presented by Lady MacLeod.

Friday is the climax of Mod week. Most of us have a special interest in individual competitors, but the choirs call forth a combination of intense local patriotism and something of the enthusiasm one associates with "football fans." The adjudicators, who earlier in the week had shown unmistakably that they were not very satisfied with the standard of singing in

(Continued on page 161)

An Outsider Looks at the Mod

By PATRICK SHULDAM-SHAW

(A talk on the Mod broadcast in Arts Review on 19th October, 1949, and reproduced here by kind permission of the author and of the B.B.C.).

ONCE again the Mod has gone, with all the colour and fine spirit that has by now become traditional to it. Men and women, boys and girls, came together from all parts of Scotland to take part in this annual festival of the Gaelic-tongue, this year held at the Highland Capital of Inverness. Indeed, such is the enthusiasm that some came all the way from Khartoum, Barbados in the West Indies, and Cape Breton Island.

To me, as an outsider, Inverness seems an ideal place to hold a Mod. Last year in Glasgow it was held in the St. Andrew's Halls, while the turmoil of city life went on as usual outside; but this year the whole of Inverness seemed to be drawn into it. In the streets nothing seemed to matter except who was going to win the Gold Medal or how did such-and-such a choir get on. Everywhere there was colour—the colour of the kilts and tartan skirts; so much so that anyone in an ordinary suit looked not only drab but out of place. To encourage the wearing of Highland dress is, of course, one of the objects of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

I wonder how many of the Mod enthusiasts are wearing their kilts as they read this. Among the general public it is still looked on too much as a form of fancy dress just to be brought out for special Highland occasions. It is up to the members of An Comunn to correct this impression by their own example—by wearing the kilt as their everyday dress and only going into trousers for special occasions.

These remarks about the wearing of the kilt might easily apply to the speaking of Gaelic. A Welsh visitor to the Mod told me he was disgusted with the amount of English spoken from the platform. What worried me far more was to see fluent Gaelic speakers meet, exchange half-a-dozen sentences in Gaelic and then lapse into English. Unless fluent speakers are prepared to make it the language of the home, the language of normal intercourse with their friends, and, wherever possible, the language in which their work or business is conducted, Gaelic will soon be a memory of the past. Speaking a

few words once a year at the Mod—lip-service of this kind—will do nothing towards keeping it alive.

Instrumental Music

I feel it is a pity that at the Mod the instrumental section is pushed so much into the background. Most people seem to be uninterested in anything but the singing, with the result that competitors in the instrumental section get discouraged. This year, not only was there a very small entry for the solo violin competition but the standard was disappointing in the extreme—the

playing generally lacked that quality that sets our feet going. I have it on good authority that the reel and strathspey are more traditional to the violin than to the pipes, and the Highlands have a wonderful tradition of fiddle playing. It would be a pity if this tradition were lost by being pushed into the background. Let the fiddlers take their rightful place beside the singers; let them do their part at a Ceilidh, so that the whole Gaelic musical tradition may be preserved, and not just a part.

As regards the piano competitions at the Mod, I should like to endorse here the remarks made at the time by the adjudicator. Pipe settings of Highland music are most un pianistic. The shakes that can be performed by one simple

(Continued on next page)



Mrs. Jean D. Baines, Clarsach Player

(By courtesy of "Weekly Scotsman")

(From previous page)

movement on the pipes are complicated and technically difficult on the piano, so that they tend to break the rhythm of the tune rather than help it along. What happens traditionally when a tune usually associated with one instrument is played on another? It is adapted, where necessary, to meet the limitations and requirements of the new instrument. This practice is well nigh invariable and, although I should hesitate to call the piano a traditional instrument, I see no reason why the same principle should not apply. For the senior piano competition I would suggest that the tunes be prescribed, but that the choice of setting be left to the individual, and that the suitability of the setting to the instrument be taken into account in the adjudication. There are very few good piano settings published, but the fact should encourage competitors to experiment and make their own arrangements. Eventually, in this way, the standard of piano settings might be raised. It would also help to encourage playing by ear, which is an essential of all traditional dance music, because for some unknown reason most players lose all the dance quality in their playing when using the copy.

In the children's piano competition I was very much attracted by the arrangement of the march. Apart from the fact that the pipe version of the tune was used, making the melody a little awkward for the piano, I enjoyed the harmonisation immensely. It was modern in style, somewhat reminiscent of Béla Bartók, the Hungarian composer, who had such a genius for making simple piano arrangements of the folk tunes he himself knew and loved so well. This sort of thing is, to my mind, far more suitable to the type of tune than most published arrangements. I wish I could be as complimentary about the choral arrangements.

Choral Singing

WHEN you take a folk-song and harmonise it for choir, it ceases to be a real folk-song and enters the sphere of choral composition, and as such it is and should be judged. So many of the true folk-song characteristics are gone out of it—the little individual touches, ornaments and nuances have inevitably to be ironed out under choral discipline. Certainly the arrangement must grow out of the tune, but the tune may be treated quite freely. Too many choral arrangements of Gaelic songs are mere harmonisations of the

melody, often with soupy chromatic harmonies more suited to Victorian ballads than the clean melodic line of Gaelic song. This year there were some exceptions, notably the setting for female voices of "*Reubadh na Mava*," which was done with imagination and feeling; also the choral puirt-a-beul settings, which were models of simplicity without for a moment being dull. Of the two set pieces for the big choral competition the lament, "*Tuirvadh Iain Ruaidh*," with its effective key changes, was the more interesting, though the harmonic style gave me more the feeling of nostalgic longing than a lament; a starker harmonisation would perhaps have been more in keeping with the mood of the poem.

I think arrangers of Gaelic songs might learn a lot from the study of choral folk-song arrangements by composers of other nations. I don't mean that they should imitate these slavishly, but they should absorb something of the methods and apply them to the requirements of Gaelic song. In this connection I would mention the folk-song settings of Vaughan Williams—his setting of "*Ca' the Yowes*" is a gem⁽¹⁾. Gustav Holst too has done some arrangements of Welsh folk-songs⁽²⁾ for choir, which combine simplicity and a true feeling for Celtic melody with technical mastery and the expression of his own personality. Perhaps the finest choral folk-song settings that have ever been done are a set of Hungarian folk-songs arranged by Zoltan Kodály called "*Matra Pictures*"⁽³⁾. The tunes are treated here freely and elaborately, but underlying everything there is an essential simplicity and the modern harmonies used grow naturally from the tunes. They require good singing and are not easy; but I feel that the standard of the choirs this year is not only far higher than a year ago but is so good as to warrant something of greater difficulty. After all, it is only by tackling difficulties that one makes progress. I should like to hear a Gaelic choir tackle a suite of well-contrasted, freely arranged Gaelic songs—something that would give a picture of Highland life in the same way as the "*Matra Pictures*" give an impression of life in a Hungarian village. I think the result would be magnificent, and I am convinced the choirs themselves would enjoy working at such a composition and, with the will to conquer any technical difficulties that come along, would raise the standard of their singing to even greater heights.

(1) Curwen edition.

(2) Oxford University Press.

(3) Universal Edition, obtained through Boosey & Hawkes.

The Soloists

NOW, what about the soloists? I must admit to disappointment as compared to last year at Glasgow, particularly among the ladies. In each competition I heard there were a few excellent performances, but the general standard was uninspiring. I still feel some form of elimination is necessary if this standard is to be raised. I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Gold Medallists and all others who were successful in winning or nearly winning the various competitions. It was most refreshing when they came along and really brought the songs to life, and but for their performances it would have been a dull week. But winning a competition or even a Gold Medal is not the end of everything. It is really only after that stage is past that you can really start singing as you yourself feel the songs ought to be sung, because you have no adjudicators to bother about and no competition nerves to worry you. You can then be true to yourself and to the songs you sing.

During the week we heard much about accuracy and adhering to the printed text. In the case of a composed song I feel the composer has a right to expect accuracy both of words and tune, always remembering that musical notation is inadequate to express everything in the composer's mind. To a greater or less extent he has to rely on the common sense and sincerity of the artist to interpret what he really means, and the written notes are the best guide he can provide to this end. But what about the case of a song that is truly traditional—whose origins are lost in antiquity? I feel it is important to remember that what appears in print as a folk-song represents only how that song was sung by one particular singer on one particular occasion, and we are very lucky if that is anything like accurate! What happens when a singer who has learnt his song traditionally is told that he is singing it wrong? He just shrugs his shoulders and says, "Well, that's my way of it anyway." The printed copy is only somebody else's way, and why should that way be more correct than what he learned as a child in his own family? It may or may not be more beautiful, but it cannot be more correct.

But what about the singer who loves his folk-songs but has not acquired them traditionally? If he learns a song from a printed source, must he always stick

(Continued on page 161)

President's Address

LADIES and Gentlemen, since An Comunn Gaidhealach was founded fifty-seven years ago this is the thirteenth occasion on which the National Mod has been held in the beautiful town of Inverness, and it is a great pleasure to us all to return once again.

We thank the Provost, Mr. J. M. Grigor, whom we are delighted to have with us here this evening, and the Magistrates and Councillors of the town for the welcome and hospitality which they are extending to us. We also thank the energetic Local Committee, and especially Captain William MacKay, Convener; and Mr. Donald Graham and Mr. Nicol Campbell, Vice-Conveners; Mr. George Smith, Treasurer; Mr. Donald MacPhail, Secretary, and Miss Ena MacInnes, Assistant Secretary; also the Conveners of Mod Local Sub-Committees and Stewards, and all who have given their time and assistance to make this Mod an outstanding success.

It would be idle to pretend that we did not meet in this, the Capital of the Highlands, thirteen years ago in happier circumstances. World-shaking events have led to political, economic, social, and cultural readjustments which have affected us all, for, more and more, our daily lives are affected by what is happening far beyond the bens of our native land.

Here, in the Highlands, we have problems enough of our own, and we in An Comunn, though concerned only with the language and culture of our own people, are bound to mark the trend of events—economic, political, and social—so far as they affect those things which are near to our heart.

Depopulation

GLANCING back over the past one hundred and fifty years, we find that Scotland has increased in population from one and a half million to over five million, but this has been accompanied by a steady flow from the Highlands and the Borders to the Industrial Belt. This has not only denuded our own Highland areas to a marked degree, but has caused an alarming increase in the number of people in the higher age-groups. In other words, the young people are departing to such cities as would seem to promise a brighter and fuller life.

In the crofting counties the towns only have tended to grow in population, and in Sutherland, Ross-shire, and Argyll there has been a remarkable retreat from the

peninsular areas in the last eighty years. From such areas as Applecross, Gairloch, Lochbroom, Assynt, and Morven about half the population has gone; of the Islands a similar, and perhaps more depressing, tale could be told, with the exception of the Island of Lewis where the decline of population has slowed down for three reasons—the absence of any mass clearances, the thriving weaving industry, and the prosperity of the fishing.

Is it not easy to see how our language was bound to decline in view of the desire of the younger people to engage in industry or in the distributive trades and to enjoy a larger measure of social amenities? A good command of English is thought to be of supreme importance (but for this Gaelic is not a hindrance but an aid), and it has left us with the same problem as confronts so many of the smaller races of the world—how we may preserve our native tongue.

Those who have read the statistics of Gaelic-speaking children so ably set down in a recent issue of *An Gaidheal* need have no illusions about the state of our language. It is, indeed, retreating with alarm-

ing rapidity behind the bastions of the Outer Isles.

I am not convinced that a return of Industry to the Highlands, the grouping of new buildings in communities with adequate social amenities, and a much needed improvement in roads and transport will alone do more than slow down the decline of our language. Has an increase in the population of Inverness, of Oban, or of Fort William increased the percentage of Gaelic speakers? You all know the answer. It seems that we must turn our eyes in another direction if we are to save our language from becoming a thing lovely but lost.

Indifference

WE ought not to minimise the influences that are hostile to our cause, in effect though not in intention. The greatest influence of all in this respect is the widespread indifference among our own people.

Yet within the grasp of our own hands lies a weapon, bright and keen, namely, the will of the people of the Highlands, if iron resolve took the place of mild complacency. It therefore seems to me to be the duty of An Comunn, and of all

(Continued on next page)

Oraid a' Chinn-Suidhe

(Seo an òraid Ghàidhlig leis a' Cheann-suidhe, an t-Ollamh Iain Camshron, a liubhair Mgr. Iain MacChille-na-brataich 'na ainm, aig fosgladh a' Mhòid Mhòir an Inbhir-Nis air an treas là de'n Dàmhar, 1949.)

SE mo cheud dhleasnas taing a thoirt do'n Phròbhaist, Mgr. Griogair, agus do na fìr-riaghlaidh is na comhairlichean air son na h-aigheachd a chuir iad romhainn. Tha sinn a' toirt taing cuideachd do'n Chomunn Ionadail agus do na Fir-ghairme, an Caispean Uilleam MacAoidh, Dòmhnall Greum, agus Neacail Caimbeul; do'n Taisgear, Seòras Mac a' Ghobhann, agus do'n Rùnaire, Dòmhnall MacPhàil. Tha sinn ag cumail 'nar cuimhne nan deagh chàirdean eile a chuir clach ris a' chàrn.

Am measg bailtean mòra na Gàidhealtachd tha a' àite fhéin ag Inbhir-Nis. Chan e cho soirbheach 's a tha e; chan e cho coibhneil, fiailaidh 's a tha a shluagh, no cho blada a' chainnt a tha ri cluintinn anns na sràidean—ach na beanntan mòra, na monaidhean farsainn, na coiltean uaine, agus na h-achaidhean torrach a tha mun cuairt da air gach làimh.

Chan ann 'nar latha fhéin a mhàin a tha Inbhir-Nis ainmeil. Bha aige àite soirichte ann an eachdraidh ar dùthcha, agus còrr is seachd ceud bliadhna air ais cha robh baile eile sa' Ghàidhealtachd a bha cho sealbhadh, saidhbhir. B' àbhaist do na fìr-chòmhnuidh a leithid seo de mhaoin a chur do threan céine—olann, seicheannan-mhart, iasg sàillte, eich, agus crodh. Chan 'eil guth air uisge-beatha aig an àm sin! B'e deagh fhion na Frainge a bha Ruairidh Mór ag òl ann an Dun-bheagan, agus astar beag sìos aig a' bhòrd b'e leann caol a bha ann an fhasan—fasan mi-nàdurra a tha tighinn air ais 'nar latha fhéin!

B'ANN an Inbhir-Nis a chum Seumas a h-Aon a' Phàrlamaid mhi-chluiteach ud a chuir cuireadh a dh'ionnsaigh leth-cheud ceann-cinnidh cumhachdach; ach cha b'i fàilte chridheil, mar a fhuair sinne an duigh, a fhuair iadsan nuair a thàinig iad as an àird an iar, ach sloc is croich! Is ann as an àird an iar a tha a' chuid as mò againn air tighinn an duigh, ach cha bhi sinn cho sgriosail ri Alasdair, Triath nan Eilean,

(An còrr air t.d. 158)

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those who love our own native land, to put clearly before them all that is involved in the decline of their language and how best it may be revived.

In my opinion, it is only youth that can now save our language, and the place for the formal instruction of youth is the school. Many things must be done before a new educational policy can be adopted for the Highland areas. Perhaps we cannot now expect Gaelic to be taught in every Highland school, but we do emphasise the need for a survey both of our schools and our resources in teachers and in means of instruction. It should be made possible for any child in the Highland area to begin the study of Gaelic at such age as expediency and the circumstances of the area demand.

It will not be lost on the many able Gaelic scholars who do such valuable work for our language in schools and colleges that, if Gaelic is to make up lost ground, our approach and methods must be designed to meet the needs of pupils who are not Gaelic speakers, and they will realise that much remains to be done in this sphere. We are entitled to methods of instruction and text-books not inferior to the best that exists in English, and from recent publications I am convinced that Highland brains are equal to the task.

Many Friends

THE Gaelic cause has indeed many friends on whose help we rely and on whose co-operation we must depend.

We are grateful to the press for the wide publicity they give to the Mod and also for their interest in the work of An Comunn throughout the year. Indeed, some of the prized trophies at the competitions this week bear witness to the sympathy of some of our most influential journals in what we aspire to achieve.

We are also indebted to the British Broadcasting Corporation for the manner in which Gaelic life and culture is reflected in the programmes. No longer does the waste of seas divide the scattered sons of the Gael. Through the medium of broadcasting the events and excitements of the Mod are carried to our people the world over. We all rejoice in hearing the News-letters from our kinsfolk abroad telling us of their activities and bringing us messages of good cheer and goodwill in our language from the far lands of Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. But we would particularly thank the B.B.C. for the lessons in Gaelic conversation that will shortly be

broadcast. There are many who are interested in our language. We have many friends anxious to become familiar with our speech, but who have not the time to devote to its study. These lessons are primarily designed to enable such learners to participate in conversation on subjects of ordinary everyday life. I would commend them to those of our singers who have to submit to the Gaelic test of the Mod, and I would ask all our branches and all who associate themselves with us to assist in making these broadcasts a success. Mr. Gordon Gildard, Head of Scottish Programmes, hopes to be with us before the end of the week. In the meantime it becomes us to welcome Mr. Aidan Thomson, the Assistant Head of Scottish Programmes. We are delighted to have him here this evening. It is fitting also that we should thank Mr. Hugh Macphee and the Gaelic staff publicly for all they do and for this important extra work on behalf of Gaelic, undertaken by them in conjunction with a learner who has had much success in the literary competitions.

We are thankful for those stout and valued friends who strive by precept and example to keep the flame of Celtic Culture clear and bright, and also for the financial aid which year after year pours into our coffers and which is a constant stimulus. We cannot betray friends so staunch, nor generosity so abundant.

Cape Breton

IT was a great encouragement to our movement that recently a representative from An Comunn was invited to visit the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, Cape Breton. Mr. Neil Shaw, than whom no more highly esteemed Highlander could have been chosen to represent us, received along with Mrs. Shaw a most cordial welcome in Canada.

We are delighted to have with us this evening Mr. McAulay of the Gaelic College, Cape Breton, and, in the name of An Comunn Gàidhealach, I extend to him a most cordial welcome. We shall be delighted to have his message to us from Canada.

You will have heard of the inspiring and generous gesture made by the Committee of the Gaelic College, Cape Breton, in providing the "Gaelic College, Cape Breton, Gold and Silver Medals" to be competed for each year at our National Mod for the best rendering of Gaelic songs composed in Nova Scotia. I hope we may do something on similar lines. This may be the beginning

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(bho i.d. 157)

Caillean nam Bò, agus an còrr! Tha am feileadh-beag a' luasgadh agus na sgeanan dubha a' deàrrsadh, ach tha sinn sìtheil is slobhalta. Gu dearbh, 's e ar dleasnas ar taingeachladh a nochdadh do mhuintir Inbhir-Nis a tha air toirt misnich dhùinn ar n-oidhirp a' mheudachadh agus rùn a' Chomuinn a ghiùlan air aghaidh. Mar is aithne dhuibh, tha ar n-obair a' fàs nas mò agus nas mò bliadhna an deidh bliadhna, agus tha feum againn air cridheachan a tha fàilaidh agus air misneach nach fàilnich. Mòr 's mar a tha na Mòdan a tha sinn ag cumail gach bliadhna, chan 'eil sinn ach aig an toiseach.

Tha ar muintir fhéin airidh air onair agus cliù, ach is mòr am beud nach 'eil cor na Gàidhliche cho fallain 's a bu chòir da bhith. Cha chluinnear i idir cho tric ann an Inbhir-Nis no ann an iomadh baile-mòr eile air feadh na Gàidhealachd is bu toigh leinn. Chan e nach 'eil gaoil ag na Gàidheil do an cànan fhéin ach, mar is aithne dhuibh uile, fad cheudan de bhliadhnaichean bha ar luchd-ùghdais a' deanamh dheth nach robh anns a' Ghàidhlig ach cànan bhorb, gun fheum, gun àilleachd; agus an latha an diugh tha eagal orm gu bheil luchd-ùghdais 'nar measg a tha creidsinn nach 'eil brìgh sam bith do'n chloinn 'na h-ionnsachadh. 'S e ar dleasnas an diugh ar luchd-dùthcha a theagas gu bheil idir meallta 'nam beachdan.

A NNS na làithean a dh'fhalbh dh'fhàg iomadh saoidh gaisgeil is òigh eirachdail an dùthaich fhéin, agus tha na nònaidhean sàmhach agus na gleanntan fàisail. Ach chan e uisge a tha ruith 'nar cuislean, agus tha sinn ag iarraidh teachd an tìr do Chloinn nan Gàidheal agus Cotrom na Féinne do ar cànan. Is binn monmhar thonn do'n ròn, agus chan 'eil cànan sam bith eile a tha cho binn 'nar cluasan.

Tha trì bliadhna air dol seachad bho'n thàinig mi 'nur measg mar Cheann-suidhe. Fad na h-uine sin chaidh a nochdadh dhomh a leithid de choibhneas 's gum faodainn siubhal fad làithean mo bheatha gun a mhac-samhuilt fhaicinn. Tha mi a' fàgail beannaichd gaibh uile, agus ag guidhe oirbh sonas is sìth is soirbheas.

Gu ma fada a mhairreas an Comunn Gàidhealach 'na oide-altruim do litreachas, do sheanachas, agus do chànan is ceòl nan Gàidheal! Buaidh leis a' chànan air a bheil dreach is àilleachd na h-aoise agus aig a bheil aigne na h-òige!



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AN T-SAMHUIN, 1949

Aireamh 10

An Dobharan Donn

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“D E a tha ceàrr ort?” arsa Blàran ris a’ chuilean, agus e tighinn chuige agus anail ‘na uhd agus a shùilean cho fogsailte aige agus gu robh iad gu leum as a cheann.

“Am faca tu cat riamh a’ snàmh?”

“Cat a’ snàmh! Chunnaic, ‘s mi a chunnaic.”

“Am biodh e dol fo’n uisge an uair a bhiodh e snàmh?”

“Chan ‘eil mi an dùil gum bitheadh. Tha mi an dùil gur h-i an dearg éiginn a chuireadh air uachdar an uisge idir e, gun tighinn air e dhofodha.”

“B’e sin mo bheachd,” arsa Bus-dubh. “Chuir mise an cat glas aig Ceit Neill Oig a mach air an Linne Bhig agus chaidh e thairis oirre dha aindheoin, ach cha do chuir e a cheann fodha; ach thug mi an diugh ruag air beathach a chunnaic mi ‘ga bhlianadh fhéin air an Lìc Ruaidh aig bun na h-Aibhne Duibhe, agus leum e a mach gu sgiobalta agus chaidh e fodha gu grad, agus bha dùil agam gur e cat fiadhaich a bha ann.”

“Cha b’e no cat riabhach; cha robh ann ach an dòbharan.”

“An dòbharan?”

“Is eadh, dìreach, an dòbharan. Agus a bheil fhios agad dé a tha ann an *dobhar*?”

“Chan ‘eil.”

“Sin agadsa duit an t-uisge no am bùrn, agus is e *dobhar* a bha aca aon uair air abhainn, agus tha *-an* ag ciallachadh *beag*; agus sin agad a rithist am fear beag a bhios anns an uisge, agus bhaisteadh ceart e mar dhòbharan.”

“Abair e!” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Abair fhéin!” arsa Blàran. “An uair a bhiodh an seanchaidh a’ luaidh air, is e ‘dòbharan donn an t-sruth’ a bhiodh aige air, agus is maith a dh’aithnicheadh Caomhan e.”

“A bheil ainm eile air ach sin?”

“Canaidh iad an *dobhar-chù* ris an fhear fhireann aca, agus chunnaic mise fear aca sin agus e cho mòr agus cho ruadh agus gu robh dùil agam, air tùs, gur e sionnach a bha ann.”

“A GUS a bheil ainm eile air?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Chuala mi Eireannach aig an robh *Cùdar* air, agus dé a bha sin aige ach *Cù-dobhar*! A

bheil fhios agad gu bheil cleas aig luchd na Gàidhliche air facal fada a dheanamh goirid le cuid deth a’ leigeil mu làr?”

“A bheil?”

“Gu dearbh fhéin tha!”

“A bheil ainm eile air?”

“Chan aithne dhomh mur ‘eil an t-ainm a bha air Dòmhnall na Gealaich air, ‘Nàmhaid a’ Bhric.”

“Nàmhaid a’ Bhric! Car son a bha sin air, a bhodaich?”

“Bha e air Dòmhnall air son e bhith ‘na iasgair na h-aibhne, agus is e fìor iasgaire-aibhne a tha san dòbharan donn!”

“Nam biodh greim agamsa air, bheirinn-sa air gun sgùireadh e de chealas.”

“Na can guth fhad agus nach bi greim aige ort,” arsa an tarbh. “Far an cuir e na fiaclan, nì e toll; agus, ma tha ciall ‘na do chom, fan air t’ais!”

“Chan ‘eil fios nach e sin as fheàrr dhomh,” arsa an cuilean.

“Gun teagamh,” arsa Blàran, “seachainn thusa an ceithir-chasach nach iarr ach an t-uisge. Seachainn e, agus seachainn buileach e!”

“Seachnaidh,” arsa Bus-dubh.

Ruith Bus-dubh dhachaidh, agus có bha ‘na laighe roimhe air an starsaich ach Oscar!

“A phapaiddh,” arsa Bus-dubh, “dé a tha ann an dòbharan?”

“Tha,” arsa Oscar, agus e ‘na leth-dhùisg, “a’ bhiasd dubh!”

“Puth!” arsa Bus-dubh, agus e tilleadh air a shàil; “Puth!”

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B’Aidhe Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOD

6. Alasdair M. MacNeacail

FHUAIR mise eòlas maith air Alasdair M. MacNeacail an uair a bha mi cruinneachadh bàrdachd Leódhais, agus bidh cuimhne air ar caraid fhad is a bhios muinntir Leódhais a’ seinn “laoidh na rioghachd” aca fhéin, “An téid thu leam, a ribhinn mhaiseach,” òran cho taitneach agus a rinn e ‘na latha.

Rugadh e an Lìonal, an Nis, anns a’ bhliadhna 1870. An uair a bha e ochd bliadhna deug sheòl e gu America a shireadh a fhortain, agus

(An còrr air t.d. 40)

Talamh Toll

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“FHUAIR mi nead an tàrmachain
An talamh toll san àrd-dorus,
An dreathann donn 's dà ràmh aige
Cur bàt' an aghaidh gaoithe.”

SIN an rann a bha aig Bus-dubh agus e
deanamh air an tarbh, agus, air stad da,
ars esan, “Dé tha an *talamh toll*?”

“Nam biodh tu cho eòlach riumsa air cùl
sléibhe agus ceann garbh mòintich, bhiodh
fhios agad! Sin agad toll fo'n talamh. Cuiridh
tu do chas air lom agus leigidh tu do chudhthrom
oirre agus, am bo-bòthaidh, siud thu sìos gu
do smig an toll fàs fo'n dearbh thalamh.”

“An e an coineineach a bhios a' deanamh an
tuill?”

“Chan e idir ach an t-uisge. Theid uisge
trom a' gheamhraidh is an earraich troimh
chaochain is fheadain agus troimh chuirn is
chòsan fo'n talamh agus ni e tuill dha fhéin,
agus an uair a thiormaicheas sin san t-samhradh
chan 'eil ann ach fàsagan de thalamh toll.”

“Agus ciamar a bhiodh talamh toll san àrd-
dorus?”

“Is ann aig a' bhàrd as fheàrr a tha fios;
ach innsidh mise seo dhuit, ged a bhiodh mìle
taigh agad, agus mòinteach is riasg, garbhlach
is glaisean air àrd-dorus gach aoin aca, theid
mise an urras duit nach tig an latha a gheibh-
eadh tu nead an tàrmachain 'nam measg.”

“Nach fhaigheadh?”

“Chan fhaigheadh no càil coltach rithe.”

“Agus car son a réisd a tha e san òran?”

“Chan 'eil anns an òran sin ach òran nam
breug; chan 'eil facal firinn an leth-rann
dheth. Smaoinich thusa air dreathann-donn
's dà ràmh aige cur bàt' an aghaidh gaoithe!
Dh'fhoghnadh do Aonghas Greum sin a
dheanamh.”

“Ma tha, a bheil fhios agad gur ann á
leabhar a leugh Fearchar dhòmhsa e agus e 'ga
sheinn air Cnoc an Ràthain, agus ciamar a
bhiodh e an leabhar gun e bhith firinneach?”

“AD, cha bhitheadh, a bhròinein!
'Chunnaic mi an leabhar e'; 'leugh mi am
paipear-naidheachd e', agus foghnaidh
sin! Is iomadh duine gòrach de do sheòrsa
tha ann. 'De am maith dhuit a bhith bruidh-
eann; nach do leugh mi fhéin anns a' phaipear-
naidheachd', mar a chanadh bodach Ròthaig
agus e còmhach na h-argamaid. Agus gun
fhios có a chuir do'n paipear e! Ma chreideas
tusa, a Bhus-duibh, gach nì a chù thu an
leabhar faodaidh tu a' cheud amadan a chanas
riut gur e càis mòr buidhe a tha sa' ghealaich a

chreidsinn, agus tha mise eòlach air bainne is
bliogh agus chan e gorgansola a tha san dòrnaig
sin.”

“Agus càite, a nis, a bheil an
tàrmachain? Tha mi, air fear, air son a
lorg.”

“Tha i san fhìreach am measg nam beann
àrd, os cionn na leacainn agus an taice ri
mullach na beinne.”

“Theid sinn air a tòir, an teid?”

“Cadail thusa gu maith an nochd agus
gabh do bhìadh gu maith aig do thrath-maidne
am màireach agus theid mi fhéin is tu fhéin
do'n bheinn.”

“Seadh?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Feuch gum bi seagh agad,” ars an tarbh,
agus e tòiseachadh air an fheur itheadh.

Chaidh Bus-dubh dachaidh agus cha luaithe
a ràinig e a mhàthair na thuir e, “Chan 'eil an
òran Fhearchair ach a' bhreug.”

“Cha chanainn-sa sin idir,” arsa Speireag,
“ach chanainn gur e àbhachd is ceòl-gàire a tha
ann air fad. Feuch nach bi thusa grad gu
bhith ag ràdh breug ri dad, agus gu seachd
àraid ri rud nach tuig thu fhéin. Is iomadh
duine bochd a thuir, 'Tha e breugach,' an uair
a bhiodh e na bu choltaiche dha a ràdh, 'Nach
mi a tha aineolach!' ”

“An cuala sibh,” arsa Oscar, “mu'n duine
eile a chaidh do ghàradh nam fiadh-bheathaich-
ean, no an *zoo*, agus a chunnaic an *giraffe*? 'A'
bhreug,” arsa e fhéin; 'chan 'eil a leithid de
bheathach idir ann' ”.

“Agus an robh e ann?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Bha e ann is adhaircean air,” arsa Oscar.

An Naomh Mo Chua agus A Chompanaich

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

BHA an Naomh Mo Chua beò aig àm Chalum-
chille, agus an uair a bha e a' tuineachadh
an dìtreabh an fhàsaich cha robh de
spréidh shaoghalta aige ach coileach agus
luchag agus cuileag.

Is e am feum a bha an coileach a' deanamh
dha a bhith coimheadh “ iairmheirghe ” (*matins*)
a' mheadhon-oidhche. Cha leigeadh an luchag
dha ach còig uairean de chadal anns an latha,
agus an uair a bhiodh e déidheil air surram-
suain na b'fhaide fhaighinn, thòiseachadh an
luchag ri sliobadh a chluaise gus an dùisgeadh
i e.

Bhiodh a' chuireag a' siubhal air gach
sreath de'n t-Saltair a bhiodh e a' leughadh,
agus an uair a bhiodh e sgìth ag cantainn nan
Salm chòmhnucheadh a' chuireag air an

(An còrr air t.à. 40)

Litir Eachainn

THUG mi dhuibh paipear-ceasnachaidh nan Làn-Ghaidheal ioma-shlànn air a' mhìos a dh'fhalbh, agus bheir sinn a nis sùil air na ràidhteanaid a bha ann agus cuid de na tuislidhean beaga a bha a' chlànn a' deanamh.

Nach annasach leibh gu robh mòran nach robh fios aca, a réir coltais, cìod an seòrsa ainmhidh a bha ann an "searrach." Rinn cuid "filly" dheth, "leveret," "pony," is iomadh creutair neònach eile; agus bha ann té a chuir sìos, "The laird has sparrows for us." (Aireamh 7).

Aireamh 2. Chan e "trouble" a tha "cunnart" ag ciallachadh, ged nach 'eil ach leud na boise eadar an dà fhacal, agus gu seachd sònraichte chan e "country" a tha e ag ciallachadh. Is dòcha gur e "danger" am facal as fearr.

Aireamh 4. Bha mòran a shaoil gur ann 'na shuidhe air cloich no air lic no air "half" rud-eigin a bha esan a bha 'na shuidhe "air leth" bho chàch. Tha "leth" a' tighinn a steach a rithist an aireamh 6—"leth-shuil"—agus ciall uile gu léir eadar-dhealaichte air an dà "leth." Chan e "half an eye" a tha ann idir. Is e gnàths-cainnte, no *idiom*, a tha anns an "leth" seo; agus thàinig mi chon a' cho-dhùnaidh gu bheil clann ag call an eòlais air a' cheangal-fhacal seo. Bha mise eòlach gu léir air na facail, "leth-shuil," "leth-laimh," is "leth-chois"; agus is e "leth-duine" a theireamaid ri aon de chàraid, no *twins*. Is e "leth-duine" a bha 'nam athair-sa, agus bu "leth-duine" mo mhàthair, agus cha do thachair mi air duine eile riamh, taobh a mach de ar teaghlach féin, a b'urrainn a ràdh gum bu "leth-daoine" a dhà phàrant; agus, ma rinn sin cron dhòmhsa, chan fhiosrach mi air, oir tha mi còrr is sè troighean a dh'àirde!

Seo agaibh mar a chuir aon bhalach an ràdh seo: "Though I have only one eye, I can see well enough with the other eye."

Aireamh 5. Bha aon a shaoil gur e "leap year" a bha an seo—seadh, a shaoil gur e "leum" a bha ann an "leam."

Aireamh 8. An uair a bheir thu "aghaidh" air neach, is e car de *reprimand* a tha thu a' toirt dha; chan e *attempt* air nì sam bith. Bha mòran a rinn "càl" (*cabbage*) de "chall," agus cha robh cuid ro chinnteach á ciall "buidhne" na bu mhò. Bha iad ann a rinn *necessity*, *company*, is facail eile dheth.

BHA "fàth mo thuruis" an aireamh 10 'na chnap-starra do chuid. Chan e *adventure*, *end*, no *fate* a tha ann, agus cha mhò is e *sorrow*. Is cinnteach gur e cho coltach 's a

tha "turus" is "tursa" r'a chèile a b'aobhar air a' mhearachd seo a bhith air a deanamh. Is e ni-eigin coltach ri "purpose of my journey" a bu chòir a chur sìos.

Ann an tionndadh Beurla gu Gàidhlig bha aon ràdh—àireamh 4: "This is the young man whose finger was broken"—a dhearbha a bhith ro dhuilich do'n mhòr chuid. Seo cruth no ceangal-fhacal nach 'eil turasda a thionndadh gu Gàidhlig co-dhiubh, agus is e am facal "whose" a tha 'ga dheanamh cho duilich. Ciamar a chuirinn fein e, ma tà? Chan fheuchainn ri eadar-theangachadh litireil a dheanamh air idir, agus gabhinn ciall an ràdh car mar seo: "Seo an duine òg (no, an t-òganach) a fhuair a mheur air a briseadh," no, "a fhuair a mheur a bhriseadh." Dh'fhaoidteadh a chuimseachadh ann am fichead dòigh is e a bhith fhathast a réir gnàthas na Gàidhlig.

Tha an ath aon a rithist, àireamh 5, car de'n aon seòrsa, le "which" a bhith a' tighinn a steach ann. Agus anns an ràdh seo chuir e annas orm gu robh mòran nach do thuig an t-eadar-dhealachadh a tha eadar "boat" an seo is "ship" ann an àireamh 9. Bha cuid a rinn "long" de'n bhàta, is cuid a rinn "cathar" no "sgoth" de'n luing.

Tha mearachdan beaga a thogas ceann le litreachadh dochair a dheanamh air facail, ged a tha e r'a fhaicinn gu soilleir gu bheil a' chlànn a' tuigsinn brìgh an ràdh no nam facal. Dh'fhiosraich mi sin ann an dòigh a bha glé éibhinn an àireamh 6. "If a man will not work, neither shall he eat." Seo agaibh mar a chuir aon bhalach e: "Mur oibrich duine, chan each e," ars esan, an àite "chan ith e." Thubhairt aon eile: "Mur coisinn duine, cha mhòr (an àite *cha mhò*, tha mi cinnteach) a dh'itheas e." Is docha gu robh deagh fhirinn aige an seo cuideachd, ged nach b'ann 'ga thaobh sin a riochdaich se e mar seo.

SIN agaibh na tha rùm agam dha an ceartair. Agus a nis bheir mi dhuibh paipear nan Sàr-Ghaidheal ioma-shlànn air a' cheart dòigh gu buntainn ris anns an ath àireamh, agus gléidhidh sibh am fear seo mar an ceudna agus am buin mi ris air an ath mhìos.

DEUCHAINN SAR GHÀIDHEAL, 1949.

(a) Eadartheangaich an earrainn Ghàidhlig seo gu Beurla. An *ùine cheadaichte*—aon uair.

Aig gach àm de'n bhliadhna tha obair a' chlobair a' dol air a h-aghaidh. Tha i mar an cuan mór—gun stad, gun fhois.

(An còrr air an ath àrduilleig)

RANNAN BHO'N BHEURLA

Heil! ditheall, ditheall!
 An cat is an fhidheall!
 Leum a' bhó thar na gealaich gu h-àrd;
 Rinn an cuilean beag gàir'
 Ris an spòrs a bha làthair,
 'S ruith an truinnsear an déidh na spàinn.

Chaidh Sil agus Seoc
 An àird do'n chnoc,
 A tharraing cuinneag uisge.
 Le bhith ro dhàh
 'S ann thuit iad bhàn,
 'S fhuair Seocan claiigeann briste!

(Rinneadh na rannan seo an Clas Gàidhlig an Dun-éideann, New Zealand, an 1907, agus chaidh an clò-bhualadh air tús anns an 'DEO-GREINE').

An Naomh Mo Chua (*bho t.d. 38*)

t-sreath mu dheireadh a chanadh e gus an tòisich ead e a rithis ri aithris nan Salm.

Thàinig bàs aithghearr air na trì companaich a bha sin aig an aon àm, agus sgrìobh Mo Chua litir gu Calum-cille an Idhe a' deanamh casaide a chionn gun d'eug na seòid.

Sgrìobh Calum-cille chuige anns na briathraibh seo :

"A bhràthair, chan fheum e iongantas a chur ort gun do bhàsaich an spréidh a bha deanamh cobhrach ort, oir chan 'eil anns an tubaist sin ach nì a dh'fhaodas tachairt do spréidh aig àm sam bith."

Bha Calum-cille air son a theagasg do'n Nacmh Mo Chua nach robh suim aig na fìor naomh do an sealbhaibh saoghalta mar a bhiodh aig sluagh coitcheann an t-saoghail aig an àm ud.

Baird Ghaidhealach (*bho t.d. 37*)

thìlg e a champ am measg Sasannaich nan Stàidean Aonaichte. Shoirbhich leis gu maith, agus an ùine nach robh fada bha e 'na fhear-cèirde sgileil agus achuinneach, ach a dh'aindeoin gach fortain a bha sin mhòthaich e nach robh an dùthaich anns an robh e a' tighinn ri a shlàinte, agus mar sin rinn e imrich air ais gu Nis aosda nan tonn.

Rinn e a dhachaidh ann an Scigersta an Nis, agus chuir e suas bùth mharsantachd an sin, agus bha e aig an aon àm a' leantainn a chèird mar shaor, agus sin uile le mór shoirbheachadh. Cha m'ètha bha e air a mhealladh a thaobh a shlàinte oir, coltach ri Donnchadh Bàn roimhe, rinn an t-uisge glan is am fàileadh slàinte agus a llaineachd dhàsan cuideachd.

Rinn e mórán òran, ach is e "An téid thu leam, a ribhinn mhaiseach" as fhaide a bhios beò dhiubh uile. Tha am fonn air a bheil an t-òran iongantach taitneach, agus tha mi de'n bheachd gu bheil e mórán nas aosda na an t-òran fhéin. Is e òrain-gaoil a tha anns a' chuid as motha de a bhàrdachd, agus tha iad air fuinn a tha glé chumanta am measg nan Gaidheal. Tha mi buidheach gu bheil iad uile air mhaireann an "Bàrdachd Leódhais," ged a tha an leabhar sin a' fàs car annamh a nis.

Chan 'eil ar caraaid beò, ach bidh cuimhne air a thaobh a bhàrdachd a dh'fhàg e againn mar dhileab.

Litir Eachainn (*bho t.d. 39*)

Anns a' gheamhradh feumaidh an ciobair a bhith am muigh ri fuachd is ri gailinn, agus a bhith gu furachail an tòir air an spréidh. Aig an àm ud de 'n bhliadhna is àbhaist sneachd-annan móra a bhith ag còmhach gach bealaich. Bithidh na caoraich mar sin ann an cunnart mór a bhith air an slugadh anns na cuitheachan sneachda, agus is iomadh latha fuar, reòta a dh'fheumas an ciobair bochd a bhith am muigh air an lorg.

Ach an uair a dh'fhalbhas an geamhradh agus a thig an t-carrach le frasan ciùine, agus an Màrt le a ghaothan sgaiteach togaidd iad an sneachda bhàrr nan sliabh, agus cuiridh iad na sruthain bheaga 'n an deann-ruith gu tràigh.

(b) Eadartheangaich na sreathan so gu Gàidhlig.
 An ùine cheadaichte— $\frac{3}{4}$ na h-uair.

1. It was easy enough for them to promise that at the time.
2. He had now, willy nilly, to meet them.
3. The fleet-footed animal was galloping past the door of a small mill.
4. The miller's wife, who was fetching a pail of water from the burn, happened to raise her head suddenly, and she took to her heels.
5. The horse had come close to her before he noticed her.
6. He fainted from the effects of the heavy blow he had received.
7. When he recovered his speech he told them who he was.
8. The woman went out in search of a doctor.
9. She told the object of her journey to a stranger whom she met coming hurrying towards the door.
10. Light the fire: there is more heat in coal than in peat.

Slàn leibh an ceartair. Bhur Caraaid Dìleas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Annual General Meeting

THE Annual General Meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Town Hall, Inverness, on Saturday, 8th October, 1949. In the absence of Dr. John Cameron, President, Mr J. M. Bannerman, Senior Vice-President, occupied the Chair, and there was a large attendance of members.

At the outset Mr Bannerman paid tribute to the following members of An Comunn who had died recently: the Duke of Argyll; Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., of Knockdow; Mr Coll MacDougall, Glasgow; Mr John MacMillan, London; and Miss Rona MacVicar, last year's Lady Gold Medallist.

The Secretary reported the result of the election of Office-bearers as follows:—

For office of President—Mr John M. Bannerman, M.A., B.Sc., returned unopposed.

For office of Vice-President—Mr Farquhar MacRae, M.A., B.Sc., Glasgow; and Mr Lachlan MacKinnon, M.A., Fort William.

For office as elected members of the Executive Council (including vacancy arising from the death of Col. Alasdair Ross)—Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A., Conon; Mr Hugh MacPhee, Bearsden; Dr J. A. MacLean, LL.B., Inverness; Mr John N. MacLeod, Beaulieu; Mr Finlay J. MacDonald, Glasgow; Mr Robert Bain, Glasgow; Mr Murdo MacLeod, M.A., Haddington; Mr Donald MacLean, Glasgow; Mrs M. L. Cameron, Glasgow; Rev. Somerled MacMillan, Glasgow; and Mr Hugh Cameron, Glasgow.

Mr Bannerman, having thanked the members for electing him President, paid high tribute to the work done by Dr John Cameron during his Presidency. He also cordially thanked the people of Inverness, and especially the Provost and Town Council, for their help and hospitality during the Mod, and expressed An Comunn's appreciation of the excellent work done by the officials and members of the Mod Local Committee. He also paid tribute to the service rendered by the headquarters staff of An Comunn.

The Annual Accounts and Reports of the Standing Committees were submitted for consideration and were approved.

A letter was read from the Edinburgh branch of An Comunn asking that the 1951 National Mod be held in Edinburgh. Mr John MacKay, President of the Edinburgh branch, spoke in support of the invitation and moved that it be accepted. The meeting

unanimously agreed to accept the invitation, and the Edinburgh branch was cordially thanked.

Mod Special Committee

THE report of the Mod Special Committee (appointed at the previous annual general meeting) was submitted by Mr Farquhar MacRae, Convener. The Report, which was an interim one, stated that certain proposals had already been given effect to during the Mod now ended, as, for example, the transferring of the Official Opening from noon on Wednesday to Monday evening; an earlier hour for Gaelic Tests; and the balloting of the names of candidates entered for competitions which were held simultaneously. Other suggestions made and still under consideration were: (1) where the number of competitors exceeds forty in any competition, the competition to be divided into two sections, the best in each section competing in a 'final'; (2) making use of provincial mods so that only those who have qualified at a provincial mod should be allowed to compete at the national mod; (3) holding the junior section of the Mod on the Thursday and Friday of one week and the senior sections on Tuesday to Friday of the following week; (4) a pruning and rearranging of the Mod Syllabus which apparently had grown up in haphazard fashion over almost sixty years. It was agreed to remit these suggestions to the Executive Committee for further consideration and to invite further suggestions from members of An Comunn, branches, and affiliated societies.

Mr Angus MacIver submitted the motion of which he had given notice, the effect of which would be to insert in the Constitution of An Comunn the regulations concerning the constitution and procedure of the Mod Local Committee at present included in the Bye-laws. After discussion the motion was negatived.

Economics and Culture

MR Finlay J. MacDonald, with the permission of the meeting, withdrew all the amendments to the Constitution, of which he had given notice, except one, namely, an amendment to add to the objects of An Comunn certain further objects including: "To encourage and promote industries in the Highlands where such industries shall in any way tend to arrest the depopulation of the Highland areas and the

subsequent decline of the Gaelic language."

Mr MacDonald maintained that the Gaelic language could live only in one place, the Highlands of Scotland. There was no hope now of spreading it further. That area would retain its language as long as it retained its people. It would retain its people as long as it had work to offer them. Hitherto An Comunn had directed all its attention towards the culture of the Highland people. Culture was important, and the culture would follow if they had the people. If they lost the people, then the culture itself would go. He therefore urged An Comunn to pay attention to the very important problem of Highland depopulation and to use every means in its power to encourage industry in the Highlands.

Dr John Cameron, Broomhill, in seconding, said he had always felt there was a grave weakness in the constitution of An Comunn. If the people were not in the Highland area to speak the mother tongue, then naturally they were heading for death and decay.

Mr Donald Thomson, Oban, moving the rejection of the amendment, said he did so reluctantly as there were many good points in it with which he was in sympathy. It was, however, a fallacy to say that, where there were people, there they would have the language. They had brought industries into the Highlands in the past but they had not kept the Gaelic language where these industries had been brought.

REV. T. M. Murchison, opposing the amendment, said that he, like Mr MacDonald, believed cultural recovery and progress could not be divorced from economic recovery. He used to hold the view that An Comunn should actively and directly concern itself with the economic sphere. He was now convinced, however, that, in the interests of the Gaelic people in the long run, the wisest course was for An Comunn to adhere to its present objects. An Comunn was the only body concerned with Gaelic in a big way, and if An Comunn did not do this particular work then there was no other body to do it and it would not be done. The political and economic affairs of the Highlands, however, were being looked after by other bodies—perhaps not as well as they could wish, but he could not see how An Comunn, entering into the political and economic field, could do that work any better. On many occasions An Comunn had expressed

(Continued on page 161)

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FROM

WM. S. THOMSON
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Annual Meeting (from p. 159)

its mind on economic affairs and had made representations to public bodies. There was nothing to prevent zealous members of An Comunn giving full support also to other bodies which were primarily concerned with the economic development of the Highlands. An Comunn already had all the scope it needed. Its resources, financial and otherwise, were already stretched to the limit doing the job they were there to do and not doing it as well as they would like it to be done. If they were going to add on the much more difficult task of economic and political activity, they were going to run the risk of doing less well what they were already doing and of doing badly this new thing.

Mr MacDonald's amendment was negated.

Vacancies having occurred among the Trustees of the Feill Trust by the deaths of Sir Norman Lamont, Mr Duncan MacLeod, and Mr Angus Robertson, the following were appointed as Trustees: Mr J. M. Bannerman, Rev. T. M. Murchison, and Dr Colin Sinclair.

Messrs Gillespie and Anderson were re-elected Auditors for the ensuing year.

A letter was read inviting An Comunn to send a representative to the Oireachtas in Ireland. It was remitted to the Executive Council to appoint a delegate.

After a number of miscellaneous matters were raised, a very lengthy meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks to the President.

Outsider Looks at Mod

(from p. 156)

rigidly to the printed copy? I would say yes, while he is learning it. When he has thoroughly absorbed it, he should feel free to sing it as he feels. This does not mean that he should deliberately alter notes to make his own version. It simply means that, if slight differences creep in unconsciously, as they probably will (judging from my own experience), he should not be put off by anyone telling him he is singing it wrong.

This whole question of traditional songs and the traditional style of singing is one of great importance, and here I feel An Comunn must consider carefully just what they are aiming at. Do they wish as far as possible to preserve the traditional style? Do they want to encourage concert singing of Gaelic songs? Or do they want both? Too much insistence on strict adherence to the printed copy will bring about the disappearance of

many of the most characteristic things of folk-singing, such as variants, use of the folk-scale, personal ornamentation of the tune, and so on, and will lead to one standardised and accepted version of each song. I feel this would be a very great pity, because it is the fact that each traditional singer has his own way of a particular tune that makes folk-music so rich and varied and a never-ending source of interest.

Traditional Singing

THE peculiarities of the traditional singer—the freedom of his rhythm, his particular intonation (strange at first to an ear accustomed to the accepted intonation of classical music), his methods of decorating the melody and slurring his notes—these things which make his performance the beautiful and individual thing it is, should not be allowed to count against him in competitions. On the other hand, nothing is worse than the conscious copying of these things by singers not brought up in the tradition, because it then becomes imitation (sometimes even parody) and not a sincere performance. Sincerity is perhaps the key-note of all folk-singing, together with a natural way of "telling" the song without any affectation of diction. There is nothing to stop a trained singer giving a performance of a folk-song that is just as good in its own way as the traditional singer's—it will be different, but it should

sound just as unaffected and sincere.

In the Gaelteacht in Ireland they say "Abair, amhrán"—literally, "tell a song" or "say a song." I don't know whether the same idiom is used in Scotland, but the principle applies. A folk-song must be told—narrative or lyrical, it is the words that count. The job of the singer is not to show his audience what a beautiful voice he has, but to show them what a wonderful song it is and let them hear the whole story for themselves. Let the words carry the song along.

I feel very strongly that concert-platform methods and mannerisms are foreign not only to Gaelic folk-song but to all folk-song. Many singers who have good natural voices seem to be filled with inhibitions. They stand rigidly in one position, bottling their voices up, apparently afraid to open their mouths, and trying to do all sorts of things to the song instead of just singing it. Yet these same people at a Ceilidh will sing, forgetting everything teacher has taught them and giving everyone a great deal of pleasure. This ought to be the aim in competition as well as in Ceilidh.

This brings us to the subject of Ceilidhes, or should I say Ceilidhthe(*). They are held every evening during the Mod, continuing

(4) No: Scottish Gaelic say "Céilidh" and "Céilidhean."—Ed.

(Continued on next page)

MOD DIARY (continued from page 154)

some competitions, were loud in their praise of the choirs, and theirs was the unenviable task of discriminating where most listeners found all alike magnificent.

The premier choral award, the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy, went to the "G.G." (with 362 marks), with Greenock (354) second, Govan (351) third, and London (349) fourth. Campbelltown, who were the winners of the Trophy in the two previous years, were one point behind London. In the puirt-a-beul competition (Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup) the marks were remarkably close, "G.G." being first with 180, Glasgow Islay second with 178½, and London third with 178. Campbelltown had 177½, and Govan, Greenock, and Stornoway had 177 each.

On Friday evening two Grand Concerts were held, one in the Empire Theatre (with Provost J. M. Grigor in the Chair), and

the other in the Playhouse (with Provost D. Cameron of Fort William presiding). The Trophies and prizes were presented by Lady MacDonald, wife of Sir Murdoch MacDonald, M.P., and the ceremony of crowning the bard was performed by Mr J. M. Bannerman.

It is a great pity that the people who crowd the halls to hear the solo singing and choral competitions do not look in at the oral and instrumental competitions and visit the arts and crafts section. These three sections of the National Mod are as important as any, and there is grave danger that fewer and fewer people will enter for them simply because they do not seem to be appreciated.

Next year it's Dunoon, and, as we passed on from the final Concert on Friday evening, we were handed a booklet listing the accommodation available in Dunoon and neighbourhood for the 1950 Mod.

Mod Prize List

LITERARY COMPETITIONS

Junior Section

Adjudicators: Rev. John Mackay, M.A.; Murdo MacLeod, M.A.; Donald MacNair, M.A.; Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A.

Group "A"—Pupils in First Year Post-Qualifying Courses: (a) Translation of an easy passage of Gaelic Prose into English, and (b) Translation of simple sentences from English to Gaelic—1, Elizabeth MacLeod, 2, Catherine Black; 3 and 4 (equal), John Mackinnon and Donald J. MacLennan; 5, Donnie Morrison; 6 and 7 (equal), Mary Michie and Angus Alex. Cunningham; 8, Morag MacKillop; 9 and 10 (equal), Mary A. MacLeod and Donald Campbell. (All from Sir Edward Scott School, Harris).

Group "B"—Pupils in Second Year Post-Qualifying Courses: (a) Reproduction in Gaelic of a short English story read twice by the teacher, and (b) Translation of English sentences into Gaelic—1, Christy Mary MacLeod; 2, Mary MacDonald; 3, Mary Effie MacLeod; 4, Christy J. MacLennan; 5, Annabella MacSween; 6 and 7 (equal), Mary P. MacLennan and Catherine MacIver; 8, Murdo MacLeod; 9, Roderick MacPhee; 10, Margaret F. Morrison. (All from Sir Edward Scott School, Harris).

Group "C"—Pupils in Third Year Post-Qualifying Courses: (a) Translation of an English prose passage into Gaelic, and (b) Translation of a Gaelic passage (prose or verse) into English—1, John N. Duncan; 2, Donald W. MacLeod; 3, Donald MacLeod; 4, Lachlan MacAulay; 5, Katie A. MacLeod; 6, Dolina MacLennan; 7, Christy M. Campbell; 8, Christina Morrison; 9, Joey A. Campbell; 10, Mary M. MacLeod.

Group "E"—University or Training College Students: Translation from Gaelic to English—1,

Patricia Campbell, Dunvegan, Skye; 2, Elizabeth MacNeil, Barra; 3, Annabella MacKay, Kingsburgh, Skye; 4, Ann MacNeil, Barra; 5, Catherine MacKinnon, Daliburgh, South Uist. (From Jordanhill and Notre Dame Colleges).

Group "F"—Special Competition: Essay in Gaelic on the life of Joshua (Prizes presented by the late Mrs Stewart, Simla):—Boys: 1, John N. Duncan; 2 (equal), Lachlan MacAulay and Donald MacLeod. Girls: 1, Christy MacLeod; 2 (equal), Joey Campbell and Katie Mary MacLeod. (All from Sir Edward Scott School, Harris).

Group "G"—Special prizes for efficiency in Gaelic in Secondary School Examinations (beyond Third Year). Dingwall Academy—Class IV, Anne Grant; Class V, Eoghann M. Laing; Class VI (equal), Catherine MacLennan and Mairi C. Laing. Fort William Secondary School—Class IV, Morag MacNeil; Class V, Katie Ann Hagarty; Class VI (equal), William Innes and Catherine M. Morrison. Inverness Royal Academy—Class IV, Alice MacLeod; Class V, Katie A. MacDonald; Class VI, Janet Morrison. Nicolson Institute, Stornoway—Class IV, Alexina MacLean; Class V, Margaret MacIver; Class VI, Anne M. MacIver. Oban High School—Class IV, Hugh MacLean; Class V, Anne Cameron; Class VI, Anne MacFarlane. Portree Secondary School—Class IV, Rhoda MacDonald; Class V, Marion Morrison; Class VI, Neil Campbell.

Senior Section

Adjudicators—J. M. Bannerman, M.A., B.Sc.; Angus L. MacDonald, M.A.; Lachlan Mackinnon, M.A.; Angus MacLeod, M.A., B.Sc.; Murdo MacLeod, M.A.; Edward Pursell, M.A.; Alex. Urquhart, M.A.

(Continued on next page)

OUTSIDER LOOKS AT MOD *(continued from previous page)*

far into the night, and are by no means the least important part of the Mod. Here is a chance for old friends to meet. Here is a chance for everyone to enjoy singing whether he has a voice or not. Here is an occasion when many of the finest and oldest Gaelic songs might be preserved, but unfortunately one usually hears newer songs of less merit.

I wonder if you realise how easy it is to compose a typically Gaelic melody. Let your fingers wander about on the black keys of the piano in a more or less Highland rhythm and there is your Gaelic tune, but how hard it is to compose a melody in the Gaelic idiom that has real beauty and originality. We have too few of these, and I feel composers should experiment and try to develop the Gaelic style along more modern lines, instead of being content with producing pale imitations of things that have been written and rewritten before.

Ceilidhean

THE sort of Ceilidh I enjoy most is a comparatively small gathering where everyone gives of his or her best, even when

only singing a chorus. Sometimes, particularly at a larger gathering, a somewhat formal atmosphere prevails which seems completely at variance with the true Ceilidh spirit. The fanatical devotion to Gaelic song is here most apparent. I agree that it should predominate throughout the whole week but the refusal to allow anything to be sung in any other language (except possibly Irish), however *à propos* it may be in other ways, is liable to lead to misunderstanding.

The realm of folk-song is like a jig-saw puzzle, in which Gaelic folk-song is one of the pieces, just as important as any other, since without it the picture would be incomplete. This interlocks with many others, and the study of these helps one to understand the truth about one's own piece. Gaelic song has points of contact not only with songs of the other Celtic nations but also Norse, Anglo-Saxon, and many others. The same tunes in slightly differing forms may be heard. The same stories occur almost universally, and love songs, songs of nature, working songs, and so on are remarkably similar the world over.

The more one studies folk-song, the more one is struck by the resemblances rather than the differences.

In giving these various criticisms of the Mod I may have given the impression that I did not enjoy it. Far from it! I enjoyed every minute of it, and I am only criticising as an outsider who earnestly desires that the work of An Comunn shall not only continue but increase in its scope until the Gaelic tongue and traditions are so well re-established and An Comunn itself will be superfluous. If I have appeared super-critical, I am sorry. What I have said I have said in the belief that some furtherance of the aims and objects may come of it. Everywhere I went during the week I was treated with the courtesy and hospitality for which the Highlands are famous—a tradition in no danger of being lost. I made many valuable friendships during the week, and you may be well assured that at least one Sasannach has been well and truly won over to the Gaelic Cause. To all those responsible I would say, "*Gu robh maith agaibh agus suas leis a' Ghaidhlig!*"

Silver Cup presented by the Earl and Countess of Cassillis, awarded to the competitor having the highest number of marks in Senior Literary Competitions in which he or she has been a prize-winner—Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay, North Uist.

Gold Medal presented by Miss Millar Weir, Alexandria; given to the most distinguished prize-winner in the Literary Competitions (former winners debarred)—Mary M. MacLean.

Poem on any subject (Prize of £5, along with the Bardic Crown and Bardic Scroll and retention for one year of the Ailsa Trophy)—1, Donald Macdonald, Eriskay; 2, Mary M. MacLean.

Short story (not exceeding 600 words) (Hugh MacCorquodale (Fingal) Memorial Prize of £3)—1, Angus MacLachlan, Torridon; 2, Mary M. MacLean.

Story, extending to 2,000 words or more (Prize of £5 presented by Gaelic Society of Glasgow)—1, Mrs Mary I. Millar, Kingussie; 2, Mary M. MacLean.

One-Act Play, to take not more than 40 minutes in delivery (Archibald MacCulloch Memorial Prize of £5, presented by Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, Glasgow)—Phyllis Helen Saunders, Helensburgh.

Action Songs for children, not less than three with music (Prize of £5 presented by Mr Robert MacMillan, Glasgow)—Mrs Violet Mathieson, Nethybridge.

Essay on any subject (Prize of £5)—Mrs Mary A. Millar.

ART AND INDUSTRY COMPETITIONS

Adjudicators: Miss Morag Macdonald, Edinburgh; Miss Morag Macdonald, Inverness; Dr. Colin Sinclair.

Section "B"—Design: original Celtic design for hearth rug (Prize of £3 presented by Glasgow Celtic Society)—1, Elspeth Anderson, Glasgow; 2, R. K. Aspin, Dulfain Bridge.

Section "C"—Handicraft: parchment lampshade decorated with Celtic design—Elspeth Anderson, Glasgow. Door finger-plate in Celtic design (any material)—1, Elspeth Anderson, Glasgow; 2, Mrs. M. Alexander, Glasgow; 3, Donald MacArthur, Glasgow.

Section "D"—Needlework: set of four table mats and centre embroidered in Celtic design—1, Mrs Mary Crowther, Daviot; 2, Winnie Murchie, Ayr; 3, Alice M. M. Lunan, Glasgow.

TUESDAY

Junior Section

ORAL DELIVERY

"The Rev. George W. MacKay, D.D., Memorial Cup" (awarded to competitor with highest aggregate marks for reading, reciting, and conversation)—Catherine Campbell, Fort William.

MARGARET STREET DRILL HALL (Main Hall): Adjudicator—Murdo MacLeod, M.A.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (native or fluent Gaelic speakers, aged 12-16)—1, Christina C. Dick, Glasgow; 2, Mary MacCuish, Inverness; 3, Anne Campbell, Portree; 4, Catherine Campbell, Fort William; 5 (equal), Joan Buchanan, Fort William, and Margaret M. Campbell, Port Ellen.

Reciting from memory "Tir nan Og"—1, Christina C. Dick, Glasgow; 2, Catherine Campbell, Fort William; 3, Anne MacLeod, Glasgow.

EAST CHURCH HALL (Main Hall): Adjudicator—John M. Mathieson, M.A.

Reading at sight an unfamiliar prose piece chosen by the adjudicator—1, Anne Campbell, Portree; 2 and 3 (equal), Margaret A. MacAskill, Stornoway, and Catherine Campbell, Fort William; 4, Mary Morrison, Stornoway; 5 (equal), Barbara MacLeod, Stornoway, and Christina MacLellan, Fort William.

Verse-speaking by groups of from 6 to 10 speakers (prescribed piece: "An Sruthan")—1, Portree Secondary School Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Dail-an-Tobair Junior Choir; 3 (equal), Fort William Secondary School Junior Choir and Lochinver Group.

Narrative based on some local incident, tradition, or legend, followed by conversation on the subject of the narrative between the competitor and adjudicator—1, Margaret A. MacAskill, Stornoway; 2, Christina C. Dick, Glasgow; 3 (equal), Margaret M. Campbell, Port Ellen, and Jean A. MacLeod, Glasgow.

EAST CHURCH HALL (Upper Hall): Adjudicator—

Rev. John MacDougall, M.A.

Excellence in Gaelic Conversation—1, Catherine Campbell, Fort William; 2 (equal), Christina C. Dick, Glasgow, and Jean Lindsay, Fort William.

Co-fharpais air son Comunn na h-Oigridh: Comhradh ris a' Bhreitheamh air cuspair a thaghas an Co-fharpaiseach—1, Màiri NicFhearghais, An Gearasdan; 2, Catriona Chaimbeul, An Gearasdan; 3, Ceit NicDhòmhnaill, An Gearasdan, agus Seonag Canonach, An Gearasdan.

MARGARET STREET DRILL HALL (Recreation

Room): Adjudicator—Norman J. MacLeod, M.A.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (learners, aged 12-16)—1, May G. Newlands, Campbelltown; 2 and 3 (equal), Anna M. Cameron, Southend, and William T. Ross, Lochinver; 4, Catherine Mackenzie, Lochinver.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (learners, aged under 12)—1, Mairi Mackay, Lochinver; 2, Ishma Mackenzie, Lochinver.

Excellence in Gaelic conversation (learners)—1, Anna M. Cameron, Southend; 2, Mairi Mackay, Lochinver.

Repeating from memory St. Mark's Gospel, x.13-16, (children under 12) (Prizes presented by the late Mrs. Stewart, Simla)—Boys: 1, Donald Murray, Laxdale; 2, Alasdair B. Gillies, Glasgow; 3, Adrian S. Mackintosh, Corpach. Girls: 1, Mairi Mackay, Lochinver; 2, Ishma Mackenzie, Lochinver.

Co-fharpais air son Comunn na h-Oigridh: Dealbh-cluich ("Tea a Nasgaidh" no "A' Chlann fo Gheas-aibh")—Feachd Ard-sgoil Phort-righeadh.

VOCAL MUSIC

EMPIRE THEATRE: Adjudicators—Gaelic: James Thomson, M.A.; Music: Dr. Herbert Wiseman.

Solo singing (Silver Medal Competition—Girls) (Songs prescribed: "Oran na Maighdinn Mhara" and "Cailleach Beinn a' Bhric")—1, Anne Campbell, Portree; 2, Christine MacNaughton, Greenock; 3, Frances Mackay, Stornoway.

Solo singing (Silver Medal Competition—Boys) (Songs prescribed: "Smeòrach sa' Mhadainn Chiuin" and "Iomair Thusa")—1, Iain M. MacLeod, Laxdale; 2, Donald Murray, Laxdale; 3, Thomas MacKenna, Kinlochell.

Traditional singing of an unpublished song—1, Donald Murray, Laxdale; 2, Ena Mackenzie, Glasgow; 3, Iain M. MacLeod, Laxdale.

Duet singing (Song—"Creag Ghuanach")—1, Mona and Iona Macdonald, Glasgow; 2, Rhoda MacRaid and Catriona Macdonald, Portree.

Union singing by junior choirs (Mrs Campbell Blair Trophy) (Songs prescribed: "Am Falbh Thu Leam" and "Puir-t-a-beul")—1, Portree Secondary School Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Govan Junior Gaelic Choir.

(Continued on next page)

LA SCALA CINEMA: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Ronald MacLeod, M.A., H.M.I.S.; Music, Maurice Jacobson, Mus.Bac.

Solo singing—Girls (Songs prescribed: "Chi mi'n Toman" and "Ho, Mo Luran") (1st Prize presented by Mrs Gordon Baines)—1 and 2 (equal), Catriona Shillinglaw, Glasgow, and Iris J. Mathieson, Lochinver; 3, Isabel MacSporran, Tarbert.

Solo singing—Boys (Songs prescribed: "Muile nan Craobh" and "'S fheudair dhomh bhith togail orm") (1st Prize presented by Mrs Gordon Baines)—1, Adrian S. Mackintosh, Copach; 2, James C. Burnett, Ardrishaig; 3, Ila MacTaggart, Glasgow.

Duet singing (Song—"Cuir a' Chinn Dilis")—1, Margaret Mackinnon and Jean Gray, Greenock; 2, Ena M. Carmichael and Joan M. Carmichael, Banavie.

Choral singing in two-part harmony (Mrs Miller's Trophy) (Songs prescribed: "Cagaran Gaolach" and "'Thainig an gille dubh")—1, Campbelltown Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Dail-an-Tobair Junior Choir.

OLD HIGH CHURCH HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A.; Music, J. Gilmour Barr, L.R.A.M.

Solo singing (boys and girls—own choice)—1, Mary L. Graham, Campbelltown; 2, Iris J. Mathieson, Lochinver; 3, James C. Burnett, Ardrishaig.

Solo singing (boys and girls—former first-prize-winners only)—1, Donald MacCalman, Islay; 2 and 3 (equal), Alasdair B. Gillies, Glasgow, and James R. Gillies, Lochgilphead.

Solo singing (girls aged 16-18—own choice)—1, Anne M. Gillies, Glasgow; 2, Jean A. Matheson, Kyle; 3 (equal), Sheila Ann MacDougall, Glasgow, and Cathie Brownie, Campbelltown.

Action song (Shiant Shield, presented by Mr Compton Mackenzie)—Coisir Og Ard-geoil Steornabhaigh.

EMPIRE THEATRE: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Ronald MacLeod, M.A., H.M.I.S., and James Thomson, M.A.; Music: Dr. Herbert Wiseman and Maurice Jacobson.

Choral singing in two-part harmony (at least 50 per cent. of each choir to be able to converse in Gaelic) (Songs prescribed—"Tir nam beann ard" and "'Thogainn fonn air lorg an fheidh") (*Oban Times Challenge Trophy*)—1, Govan Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Portree Secondary School Junior Gaelic Choir. "Mrs Hobbs of Inverlochay Trophy" for highest marks in Gaelic in this competition—Coisir Og Ard-geoil Steornabhaigh.

WEDNESDAY

Senior Section

VOCAL MUSIC

EMPIRE THEATRE: Adjudicators—Gaelic, James Thomson, M.A.; Music, Dr Herbert Wiseman.

Solo singing of the Oran-mor, "Cumha Iain Ghaibhrh" (female voices) (The Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prize)—Annabell MacLeod, Lewis.

Solo singing of a song composed in Nova Scotia (Gaelic College Gold and Silver Medals presented by the Cape Breton Island Gaelic Foundation)—1 (Gold Medal), Katie A. MacLellan, Glasgow; 2 (Silver Medal), Finlay MacKeachan, Glasgow.

Oban and Lorn Association 1939-45 Commemoration Medal for best rendering of following songs by Lorn bards, "Cruchan Beann" and "Mo Ghille Dubh" (female voices)—1, Jean Cameron Greer, Glasgow; 2, Flora M. Campbell, Campbelltown.

OLD HIGH CHURCH HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Ronald MacLeod, M.A., H.M.I.S.; Music, J. Gilmour Barr, L.R.A.M.

Solo singing of the Barra song, "Eilean na h-Oige" (Celtic Brooch or Sgian Dubh and other prizes presented by Uist and Barra Association)—1, Carol Galbraith, Campbelltown; 2 (equal), Finlay MacKeachan, Glasgow, and John MacInnes, Lochboisdale.

Best rendering of a song from Mrs Kennedy-Fraser's "Songs of the Hebrides" (male and female voices) (Songs prescribed: "The Leaping Galley," "Uncanny Mannikin," "To the Isle of Skye") (Prizes in memory of the late Mrs Kennedy-Fraser)—1, Iain A. MacSween, Stornoway; 2, Flora M. Campbell, Campbelltown.

Oban and Lorn Association 1914-1918 Commemoration Medal for best rendering of following songs by Lorn bards, "Coire Cheathaich" and "Mairi Bhan Og" (male voices)—1, Iain A. MacSween, Stornoway; 2, Alex. J. Macdonald, Glasgow.

TOWN HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A.; Music, Maurice Jacobson, Mus.Bac.

Solo singing of the Oran-mor, "Moladh Beinn Dobhrain" (male voices) (The Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prize)—Iain A. MacSween, Stornoway.

Solo singing of an unpublished Mull or Iona song (Glasgow Mull and Iona Association Prizes)—1, Margaret C. MacCallum, Glasgow; 2 (equal), Catriona J. B. MacLean, Dunoon, and Isobel Farquharson, Lochgilphead.

Solo singing (male voices—confined to members of An Comunn Gaidhealach or of its Branches or Affiliated Societies—former gold medalists and first-prize winners excluded) (The L/Cpl. Lachlan MacLean Watt Memorial Prizes)—1, Tom Crawford, Dunoon; 2, Neil MacCalman, Bowmore.

THURSDAY

ORAL DELIVERY

EAST CHURCH HALL: Adjudicator—Murdo MacLeod, M.A.

Gold Medal (presented by Glasgow Skye Association) for highest aggregate marks in specified oral delivery competitions (reciting prescribed poem and prose and reading unprescribed prose)—Mary F. Hunter, Duror.

Recitation of the poem, "Oran an t-Samhraidh"—1, Mary F. Hunter, Duror; 2, Margaret MacMillan, Glasgow.

Recitation of a piece of original poetry specially composed by the competitor (Calum MacPharlain Memorial Prizes, presented by Paisley Highlanders' Association)—1, Nan C. MacLeod, Glasgow; 2, Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay.

Best acted dialogue (Queen Elizabeth Coronation Trophy—prizes presented by Col. and Mrs. M. B. H. Ritchie of Craigdu, Laggan)—1, Kate S. MacInnes and William Innes, Fort William; 2, Catherine L. Rankine and Neil MacLeod, Oban; 3, Mrs Helen MacGregor, Oban, and Colin Palmer, Glasgow.

Best prepared original speech on any subject—1, Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay; 2, Mrs Margaret Black, Oban.

MARGARET ST. DRILL HALL: Adjudicator—Alex. Urquhart, M.A., Stornoway.

Recitation of the prose piece, "Duathaireachd na Mara"—1, Mary F. Hunter, Duror; 2, Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay.

Recitation (by beginners) of "Is togarrach a dh'fhalbhainn"—1, Elizabeth C. MacDiarmid, Lawers; 2, Christine MacGregor, Kyle.

Reading of an unfamiliar piece of prose—1, Mary F. Hunter, Duror; 2, Kate S. MacInnes, Fort William. Ancient folk-tale narrated in traditional style—1, Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay; 2, Kate S. MacInnes, Fort William.

VOCAL MUSIC

EMPIRE THEATRE: Adjudicators—Gaelic, James Thomson, M.A.; Music, Dr. Herbert Wiseman.

Solo singing of a song connected with the County of Inverness (James Grant Memorial Prizes) (male voices)—1, Iain A. MacSween, Stornoway; 2, Angus MacLeod, Scalpay.

OLD HIGH CHURCH HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A.; Music, Maurice Jacobson, Mus.Bac.

Solo singing of a song connected with the County of Inverness (James Grant Memorial Prizes) (female voices)—1, Mrs. E. Cameron Robertson, Khartoum; 2, Mrs. Jessie MacKerrall, Nethy Bridge.

Solo singing (competitors to be natives of Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart, or Stratherrick districts or, failing such, natives of County of Inverness, excluding burghs with population of 2,000 or more) (Mrs Quintin MacLennan Prizes)—1, Mrs Margaret MacGillivray, Fort William; 2, Richard L. MacGuire, Kinlochleven.

OLD-HIGH CHURCH HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Rev. John MacPherson, Ph.D.; Music, J. Gilmour Barr, L.R.A.M.

Best rendering of two unpublished folk-songs (The Scotia Trophy)—1, Alex. J. MacDonald, Glasgow; 2, Carol Galbraith, Campbeltown; 3, Flora F. MacNeil, Edinburgh.

TOWN HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Rev. John MacPherson, Ph.D.; Music, J. Gilmour Barr, L.R.A.M.

Solo singing (female voices—confined to members of an Commun Gaidhealach or of its Branches or Affiliated Societies) (Bessie Campbell Memorial Prizes)—1, Flora M. Campbell, Campbeltown; 2, Morag Ramsay, Greenock.

GOLD MEDAL COMPETITIONS

EMPIRE THEATRE: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A., and James Thomson, M.A.; Music, Dr Herbert Wiseman and Maurice Jacobson, Mus.Bac.

Solo singing of the songs "Fhir a dhreas am bealach" (female voices) and "A righ, gur mi tha aighreach" (male voices), along with a song chosen by competitor—Female voices: 1, Ann MacLean, Aberdeen; 2, Carol Galbraith, Campbeltown; Male voices: 1, Iain A. MacSween, Stornoway; 2, Angus MacLeod, Scalpay.

Gold Medalists (aggregate of marks in specified competitions)—Ladies: 1 (and Gold Medal), Ann MacLean, Aberdeen; 2, Annabell MacLeod, Stornoway; 3, Carol Galbraith, Campbeltown. Men: 1 (and Gold Medal), Iain A. MacSween, Stornoway; 2, Angus MacLeod, Scalpay 3, Finlay MacKeachan, Glasgow.

RURAL CHOIR COMPETITIONS

EMPIRE THEATRE: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A., and James Thomson, M.A.; Music, Dr. Herbert Wiseman and Maurice Jacobson, Mus.Bac.

Choral singing of the songs, "Och nan och 's mi fo leireadh" and "Taobh Abhainn Aora" (confined to choirs from rural districts, excluding towns of more than 2,000 population) (Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Cuach)—1, Lochgilhead Gaelic Choir; 2, Newtonmore Gaelic Choir; 3, Port Charlotte Gaelic Choir; 4, Tarbert (Argyll) Gaelic Choir; 5, Kyleakin Gaelic Choir.

Choral singing of the songs, "Oran Mor MhicLeoid" and "Na Gaidheil an guailibh a

cheill" (Confined to choirs from rural districts, excluding towns of more than 2,000 population) (at least 50 per cent. of each choir to be Gaelic speakers) (Lorn Shield, presented by Col. and Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds))—1, Port Charlotte Gaelic Choir; 2, Lochgilhead Gaelic Choir; 3, Newtonmore Gaelic Choir; 4, Kyleakin Gaelic Choir; 5, Lochalsh Gaelic Choir.

Dalriada Cup (presented by Mr and Mrs S. Smith, Lochgilhead) awarded to choir in "Lorn Shield" competition with highest marks in Gaelic—Harris Gaelic Choir.

Clarsach Competitions

TOWN HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Murdo MacLeod, M.A.; Music, Mrs. F. V. Wilson, A.R.A.M.

Playing of two Gaelic airs on the clarsach (Prizes presented by Mrs Gordon Baines)—1, Edith L. O. Taylor, Rahoy; 2, Rhoda M. MacPherson, Inverness.

Special clarsach competition for beginners (open to those who have played for not more than two years) (solo playing of two airs) (Prizes presented by the late Mrs Duncan MacLeod of Skeabost)—1, Mrs Mary Hamilton, Inverness; 2, James MacCook, Inverness.

Solo singing with the clarsach (two songs of competitor's choice) (confined to former holders of the "Hilda Mary Campbell Clarsach Trophy") (Prizes presented by Mrs A. E. Matheson)—1, Mrs Jean D. Baines, Sunbury-on-Thames; 2, Jean C. Campbell, Edinburgh.

FRIDAY

VOCAL MUSIC

PLAYHOUSE CINEMA: Adjudicators—Gaelic, Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A.; Music, Maurice Jacobson, Mus.Bac.

Quartette singing of the song, "Gu ma slan do na fearaibh" (male voices)—1, Inverness Male Voice Quartette; 2, Tir nam Beann Quartette, Greenock.

Choral singing (male voices) of two songs in three or four-part harmony, "Mo ghradh geal 's mo run'" and "Cailin Dubh Raineach" (Mull and Iona Shield, presented by Mr and Mrs Neil Cameron)—1, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir; 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

Choral singing of the "Puir-t-a-beul," "An Oidhech Bha Na Gobhair Againn" and "Cailleadh a' Ghobhann" (Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup)—1, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association; 2, Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir; 3, London Gaelic Choir.

PLAYHOUSE CINEMA: Adjudicators—Gaelic, James Thomson, M.A., and Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A., Music, Dr Herbert Wiseman and Maurice Jacobson, Mus.Bac.

Choral singing of two songs in four-part harmony "Teann a nall 's thoir dhomh do lamh" and "Tuireadh Iain Ruaidh" (at least 50 per cent. of each choir to be Gaelic speakers) (Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy)—1, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association; 2, Greenock Gaelic Choir; 3, Govan Gaelic Choir; 4, London Gaelic Choir.

"Weekly Scotsman Cuach," awarded to choir with highest marks in Gaelic in Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy competition—Glasgow Islay Choir.

EMPIRE THEATRE: Adjudicators—Gaelic, James Thomson, M.A.; Music, Dr Herbert Wiseman.

Choral singing (female voices) of the songs, "Reubadh na mara" and "Am Balachan Ban" (Esme Smyth Trophy)—1, Kinloch Gaelic Choir; 2, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir; 3, Carradale Ladies' Choir.

Duet singing of a song—1, Mr and Mrs J. C. M. Campbell, Middlemas; 2, Chrissie Mackenzie, Kiltarity, and Alistair Fraser, Conon Bridge.

(Continued on next page)

Ionmhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod, Inverness, 1949

Received at Inverness—

Previously acknowledged	£1,592	1	—
Miss Zena Beaton and Miss Mairi MacRae, Inverness	3	—	—
Moy W. R. I., per Mrs. H. MacDonald .. .	9	—	—
Comunn Gaidhealach Leodhais	20	—	—
Golspie Branch	5	5	—
Arisaig Branch	1	1	—
Hugh D. Welsh, Esq., Aberdeen	2	2	—
Proceeds of Whist Drive at Foyers, per Dr. Lamont	8	1	—
Lochniver Branch .. .	5	—	—
Mod Feill	602	4	8
Miss MacLean, Lossiemouth	4	10	—
Kingussie Branch .. .	20	—	—
Fort William Branch ..	20	—	—
Portree Branch	10	—	—
John R. MacKenzie, Esq., Inverness	1	1	—
Additional to Feill per "Place Names" Competition further donation Miss J. E. MacKenzie	4	11	10
			£2,307 17 6

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	£187	2	6
Archd. MacLean, Esq., M.A., Tiree .. .	1	—	—
Miss Marion Falconer, Argyll	—	10	—
H. S. Shield, Esq., Edinburgh	2	2	—
D. Thomson, Esq., Glasgow	1	—	—
Alex. MacLaren & Sons, Glasgow	2	2	—
Mrs. Gordon Baines, Middlesex	3	15	—
James Macdonald, Esq., Pitlochry	2	2	—
Miss Katie A. MacDonald, Sutherland	5	—	—
Bute Branch	5	5	—
			£209 18 6

£2,517 16 —

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£37	13	—
Archd. MacLean, Esq., M.A., Tiree .. .	—	5	—
Donald Macdonald, M.A., F.E.I.S., Dumoon	—	10	—
"J.M."	—	5	—
Mrs May Bell, Dunkeld	—	2	6
Archd. MacDonald, Esq., South Africa	—	2	6
H. S. Shield, Esq., Edinburgh	1	—	—
John MacLeod, Esq., South Uist .. .	—	2	—
Miss Marion Falconer, Argyll	—	10	—
Neil M. Brown, Esq., Glasgow	—	5	—

Mr. and Mrs. Finlay J. Macdonald, Glasgow	—	10	—
"Grianaig"	—	7	6
Mr. and Mrs. Iain MacKay, Inverness ..	—	10	—
Mrs. M. B. Carmichael, Argyll	—	10	—
Miss S. Carmichael, Argyll	—	10	—
Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael, Fort William	—	7	6
Miss Elizabeth A. Templeton, Greenock	—	10	—
Donald Buie, Esq., Innellan	—	7	—
		£44	8

An Comunn Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged	£39	16	4
Lochtayside Branch	3	—	—
Golspie Branch	1	1	—
Balmacara Branch	10	—	—
		£53	17 4

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged	£734	16	8
Proceeds of Highland Ball 11/2/49, Additional	6	10	—
Collecting Box at the West Highland Museum, Fort William	—	14	7
Balmacara Branch	5	—	—
		£747	1 3

Mod Prize List (from previous page)

Instrumental Music

TOWN HALL: Adjudicators—Piano, J. A. Mallinson, A.R.C.O.; Violin, T. Davies.

Playing of a Highland March, Strathspey, and Reel on the pianoforte (seniors—amateurs) (The Aberdeenshire Targe, presented by the Aberdeen and District Pipers' Society)—1, Isa S. Graham, Campbelltown; 2, Ishbel Finlayson, Kyle; 3, Mrs J. Smith, Aviemore.

Playing of a slow Gaelic air (own choice) and march (prescribed) on the pianoforte (juniors)—1, Moyra MacDonald, Inverness; 2, James Grant, Inverness; 3, Elizabeth MacLeod, Inverness.

Playing of a Highland March, Strathspey, and Reel on the violin (amateurs)—1, Archibald P. Lamont, Greenock; 2, Somerled MacMillan, Glasgow; 3, Alexander Grant, Carr Bridge.

Playing of Strathspey and Reel on the violin (competitors to be natives of Glenmoriston, Glen-uquhart or Stratherrick districts or, failing such, natives of County of Inverness, excluding burghs with population of 2,000 or more) (Mrs Quintin MacLennan Prizes)—1, Arthur J. M. MacKenzie, Invergordon; 2, Alexander Grant, Carr Bridge.

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Vol. XLIV

DECEMBER, 1949

No. 11



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AN DUBLACHD 1949.

Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

"Highland Work-Party"

(By courtesy of "The Bulletin")

PLEASE MENTION OUR NAME WHEN
WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

"John Splendid"

A generation ago no Gael was better known, and no Scottish writer was more read, than Neil Munro. Today, we fear, his books are being overlooked. Thanks to the B.B.C., therefore, for the serialising of John Keir Cross's excellent radio version of *John Splendid*, which, with *The New Road* a close second, is, I think, the best of Munro's novels. In the radio play the character of "John Splendid" is being played by Mr. J. M. Bannerman, and his suitability for, and remarkable success in, this role is being widely acclaimed.

Peat Research Plans

THE Secretary of State for Scotland has appointed a Committee to advise him on a survey of Scottish peat bogs, methods of winning and handling peat, the burning of peat in gas turbines to produce electricity, and the commercial exploitation of Scottish peat deposits.

The Committee includes Sir Edward Appleton, Principal of Edinburgh University (Chairman); Dr. D. N. McArthur, Director of the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, and Sir Edward MacColl, Deputy Chairman of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board. The Secretary is Mr. T. F. S. Hetherington, Scottish Home Department.

Fios A Africa

MORAN taing do ar caraid, Mgr. Donnachadh MacDhùnléibhe, am Pretoria, air son a litreach. Chuir sinn am fios a fhair sinn bhuaith gu Graham Croll, agus tha sinn an dòchas gun coinnich iad ri chèile am feadh 's a tha Mgr. Croll thall an Africa a Deas.

Dr. W. A. Gillies

WE extend to the Rev. Dr. William A. Gillies our best wishes for a long and happy period of retirement, now that he has resigned his charge at Kenmore, where he has served since 1912. Previous to that he was minister at Tiree (1906-9) and Duncansburgh (Fort William) (1906-12). He is a native of Sleat, Skye. A beloved parish minister and also a sound scholar, his book, "In Famed Breadalbane," has been widely read and appreciated.

Hebridean Printers

SOME time ago we asked what Sprinting-presses, if any, operated in the Isles other than that operated by the Rev. John Swanson of Eigg. Messrs Macaskill & Mackenzie, Printers, Stornoway, kindly give us the following interesting information on this subject, for which we are very grateful.

As long ago as 1842 a Mr Alexander Macpherson, chemist and druggist, stationer and printer, established the well-known business of Macpherson & Co. in Stornoway, and "there is no doubt he possessed the demy hand-printing press still in use," along with more modern plant, in Messrs Macaskill & Mackenzie's establishment.

On 1st January, 1889 the first issue of "The Lewisman" was published, and copies can be seen in Stornoway Public Library. Early in the Nineties Mr Thomas Nicolson set up as printer and stationer, thus giving Stornoway two printing plants. In 1904 Mr Nicolson acquired Macpherson's printing plant and carried on a successful business until 1921 when the combined plant was bought by the present owners, Messrs Macaskill and Mackenzie.

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Far am bi dàil, bidh dearmad.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Feuch, a nis an t-àm taitneach.

—2 Corint. vi. 2.

The Five-Year Plan

A year ago hints were given that the Highland Advisory Panel's five-year plan for Highland rehabilitation would soon be published. Now it appears that the plan is likely to be considerably modified because of the present economic position of the nation. While the schemes for harbour, pier and road improvements, and other agricultural schemes may not be curtailed, nevertheless the growing shortage of materials and labour may cause delay, and the five-year plan may be stretched to seven years or even longer.

San Francisco

A NEW session of Gaelic classes began in the University of San Francisco on 2nd October, and these continue weekly at 2 p.m. on Sundays. There are no fees. The instructor is Seumas Mac-Gairaidh.

FOLKLORE INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND

Business Meeting

The first general meeting of the Folklore Institute of Scotland was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 22nd October, 1949, Mr John Lorne Campbell, President, in the Chair.

The work done since the founding of the Institute two years ago was reviewed, and the Treasurer, Mr Jas. T. Graham, C.A., submitted what was considered to be a satisfactory financial report. It was made clear, however, that considerably greater support, both in regard to membership and donations, must be forthcoming if the Institute is to do its work on anything like the scale which is necessary. There was a useful discussion of future activities.

Office-bearers were appointed as follows:—President, Mr John Lorne Campbell of Canna; Vice-Presidents, Mr J. M. Paterson, M.A., Glasgow, and Mr Angus MacLeod, M.A., B.Sc., Oban; Chairman of Council, Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A., Glasgow; Hon. Secretary, Mr Ian M. Campbell, M.A., 23 Cranworth Street, Glasgow, W.2.; Hon. Treasurer, Mr James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1.; Members of Council—Miss Annie Johnston, Isle of Barra; Mr Hector MacDougall, Glasgow; Mr John MacLean, M.A., Glasgow; Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A., Conon Bridge; Mr John N. MacLeod, Beauty; Mr Angus Matheson, M.A., Glasgow University; and Mr Alexander Nicolson, M.A., Glasgow.

Bas Chairdean

Mr. Donald MacKay

The death took place on 2nd November of Mr Donald MacKay, B.L., Solicitor, who, since its inception in 1936, had been for almost fourteen years the clerk and Treasurer of the Highland Development League, and in that capacity had done much good work for the Highland people. A native of Rogart, Sutherland, he spent his life in Glasgow, where he was highly respected in his profession. He was senior partner in the legal firm of Downie, Aiton & Co. He was a past president of the Sutherlandshire Association and a member of the West of Scotland Regional Advisory Committee of the Forestry Commission.

Mr Robert Bain

Mr Robert Bain died on 12th November. Born in Glasgow, his heart was always in the Highlands, his forbears hailing from Ross-shire, while he himself spent his holidays in the North-West. Entering the service of the Glasgow Corporation Public Libraries at the age of fourteen he rose to be City Librarian from 1937 to 1945, when he retired after fifty-one years' service.

Mr Bain held many offices. He was President of the Scottish Library Association in 1936, a member of council of the Scottish Ancestry Research Council, treasurer of the Glasgow Bibliographical Society from 1912 to 1944, a founder member of the Glasgow branch of the St Andrew Society, and a founder member and for a period president of the Highlanders' Institute, a past president of the Glasgow High School Ceilidh, a member of the Gaelic Society of Glasgow, a member of council of the Highland Development League since its inception, and for many years a member of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach and, since the death of Mr. J. A. Nicolson, Convener of the Finance Committee.

In 1935 he published a very useful, attractive, and informative little book, *Clans and Tartans of Scotland*.

Both Mr MacKay and Mr Bain rendered great service, and we, who had the privilege of working with them for many years past in a common endeavour on behalf of the Highland people and their language and economic well-being, will miss them greatly. We extend our deep sympathy to the bereaved families.

CELTIC CONGRESS

THE Celtic Congress was held at Bangor, North Wales, in August. Four representatives from Scotland attended—Miss Mary C. MacColl, Glasgow; Mrs C. B. Dunlop, Glasgow; Miss Annie MacKenzie, Lewis; and Mr. Sorley MacLean, Edinburgh.

The Congress opened with a reception given by the High Sheriff of Carnarvonshire who entertained the delegates to dinner. This was followed by a reception at the University, where the members were welcomed by Sir Ifor Williams, the Mayor of Bangor, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

The succeeding days were busy with lectures, discussions, concerts, and excursions. Each country supplied a lecture on the position of the language of that particular country in the national culture and education. The lecturers were: Dr. Gwenan Jones, Wales; Mr. MacGiolla-Phadraig, Ireland; Mr Per Mokaer, Brittany, Mr Gell, Isle of Man; and Mr Edwin Chirgwin, Cornwall. As, through a hitch, there was no lecturer for Scotland, the four Scottish delegates, at very short notice, collaborated in a symposium covering the subject. Miss MacColl gave the historical background to the present position of Gaelic in Scotland, and outlined what is being done for Gaelic in the schools, colleges, and universities. Mrs Dunlop described the work of An Comunn Gaidhealach, Comunn na h-Oigridh, and the Gaelic societies and associations. Miss Mackenzie gave an account of Gaelic teaching in her experience as a school-girl in her native Lewis and as she finds it now, teaching in Lewis. Mr MacLean gave an account of what is being written in Gaelic today, in prose and in poetry.

Mr MacLean also joined with Mr Donn S. Piatt in initiating a discussion in Irish and Gaelic on "The problems of our writers."

At the International Concert delightful singing was heard from Mrs Amy Parry Williams and Miss Mary Jones (Wales), Miss Roisin O'Shea and Mr Sean O'Trama (Ireland), and Mame Galburn (Brittany), and the national dances of Ireland, Brittany, and the Isle of Man, danced by experts, were very much enjoyed. For Scotland, Mrs Dunlop gave a very sympathetic rendering of "Ailein Duinn," and Miss MacColl sang her setting of "Luinneag Mhic-Leoid" to her own accompaniment.

The Congress ended with a Sacred Song Festival conducted by Dr. D. E. Parry Williams.

Geodha An Drungain

LE NIALL MAC-AN-TUAIRNEIR

THA mi ag creidsinn nach 'eil mórán de luchd-leughaidh A' Ghaidheil as urrainn innse dhomh cáite bheil "Geodha an Drungain," agus tha cò-dhiubh a' chuid as motha diubh nach cuala guth riama air an àite.

Còmhla ri iomadh ainm blasda taitneach anns a bheil fuaim gasda do'n chluais is ann an eilean bòidheach Bhèarnaraidh na Hearadh a gheibhear a' gheodha ud—geodha a bha aig aon àm ainmeil gu leòir san eilean ud air son a meud, ach a tha an diugh gu beag air tòrradh 's air dùnadh suas le sìoban is gainneamh a tha air dinnèadh mu a beul le slachdraich throm nan tonna fiadhaich a tha bàrcadh mun cuairt d'a doras aig àirde muir-làn.

Tha carraichean mòra dubh-thomh aig beul a muigh na geodha, agus chì thu fathast surragan iasgaich a bhiodh aig sluagh nach 'eil an diugh beò. Chì thu an siud an lochan beag anns am biodh am bodach ri cur an èisg mar a bheireadh e thar an dubhain e, agus ri taobh an lochain toll cruinn mu shìa òirlich air doimhead 's mu chòig air leud air a chladhach as a' charrag air snas-mhor grinn far am biodh am biadhaidh aige. Is tric a ghabh mi beachd air na creagan iasgaich timcheall an eilein 's cha robh aon gun an lochan-èisg agus toll an fhriais ri taobh a chèile. An iad daoine gun tìr gun tuigse a bha anns na seann laoch ud? 'S fhada bhuaipa a ghabh e!

Cò-dhiubh, air son tighinn air ais gu mo sgeul, bha Geodha an Drungain ainmeil air son nì eile.

Bha uair bha siud dithis bhan ri buan arbhair air leathad an Ròadh, dìreach os cionn na geodha. Bha an latha soilleir, grianach, is blàth, agus thug na mnathan leatha an dithis leanaban a bha aca air a bhroilleach. Rinn iad leabaidh chlàthmhor daibh de sguaban arbhair aig ceann an iomaire, agus an déidh daibh cìoch a thoirt do na pàisdean chuir iad 'nan cadal gu sèimh sàmhaich iad. Leig se còthrom do na mnathan a dhòl air adhart leis an obair.

An ceann greis thug iad an aire do'n chloinn ri rànaich agus chaidh gach tè a dh'ionnsaigh a leimibh féin air son deoch thoirt da, ged a chuir e mór-ionghnadh orra a' chlànn a dhùsgadh cho aithgearr. Cò-dhiubh, air dhàibh deoch a thoirt seachd, chaidh an cur 'nan cadal mar air tìs.

Am beul an amnoch thog na boireannaich orra dachaidh an déidh dail mhath arbhair a chur mu

làr. Air an rathad thug gach tè fainear cho ceadalanaich 's a bha na pàisdean, agus ged a stad iad a thoirt deoch daibh cha do chuidich sin a' chùis.

LATHA an déidh latha mhothaich na màthraichean nach robh mór-thairbhe no piseach a' tighinn air na gillean, bha aon diubh gun teagamh a' teannadh ri dol air choisceadh, agus nach motha a bha tlachd no caidreachas cloinne nàdurra anna. Bha seo ri bhith cur iomagain nach bu bheag air gach màthair, agus 's ann a smaoinich iad a dhòl far an robh seann duine glic a bha a chòmhnuidh an ceann eile an eilein, an Siabaidh. Bha an neach seo 'na fhear deagh-chomhairle, agus cha robh fada gus an robh fios aige air sgeul nam ban. Dh'innis iad mar a bha agus cho beag fàs no tlachd 's a bha sa' chloinne. Dh'innis iad cuideachd nach tàinig tonn no dìreadh orra bho'n latha ud san fhoghar 's an t'ug iad leatha iad thun an iomaire bhuaana.

"Tha mi creidsinn," ars an seann duine còir, "'s cha mhotha a thig gus am faigh sibh cuidhteas nan tacharan bochda a tha agaibh, oir chan 'eil agaibh ach dà sheann sìdhiche."

"Mo chreach 's mo léireadh'" dh'eubh na mnathan à beul a chèile, "ciamar is urrainn cinnte a bhith againn air no ciamar a théid againn air faotainn cuidhteas iad?"

"Théid sibh dachaidh," thubhairt am bodach, "agus deanaibh an nì a dh'farras mise, agus thig sibh a rithist le brath thugam gu dé ghabh àite. Nuair a ruigeas sibh théid an té aig a bheil an leanabh sa' chreathall gus an toll a tha am bun an t'ughaidh an iochdar an taighe, agus éisd ris a' chloinne 's gabh beachd air na chì thu."

"Cuir thusa," 's e tionndadh ris an té aig an robh an leanabh ag coiseachd, "cuir thusa e a dh'iarraidh a' chriathair air do bhan-nàbaidh."

Seo mar a bha, agus an uair a ràinig na màthraichean dachaidh rinnadh mar a dh'iarraidh orra.

Cha b'fhada gus am faca an té a bha aig an toll nì a chuir uamhas oirre. Nuair a thàinig am halach a bha air choisceadh a steach 's e ag eubhach a thuruis, fhreagar am fear beag a bha sa' chreathall, aig nach cualas na bu mhotha na corradhuil is ràinich, 's e aig an aon àm ri éirigh air a bhonnaibh, "Iarr gu math e, iarr gu math e, 's gun a stagh ach mise!"

Thòisich an uair sin còmhraidh a bha neònach eadar an dithis ud, am fear a thàinig air tòir a' chriathair ach cleachdadh cainnt ùir 's e ri eubhach gu sgoineil na facail seo:

"Chuir mo mhùime-mhiongan Mi dh'iarraidh an dubh-lungan Canan ciara caola feadag Iseagan an dubh-lungan le."

Agus bha am fear eile a' streap ris a' bhalla gu ruigheachd air a' chriathair 's e cumail air eubhach, "Iarr gu math e, 's iarr gu math e, 's gun a stagh ach mise!"

Cò-dhiubh fhuair an t-iarraidh na bha dhith air is chaidh e dachaidh leis a' chriathair.

A NNS a' mhadainn mhoich chaidh aon de na boireannaich thun a' bhodaich 's dh'innis i dha facal air an fhacal mar a chunnaic 's a chual i.

"Ro mhath," ars esan. "Bha mi cinnteach gur iad seann rògair-ean de shìdhichean a bha agaibh an àite bhur cloinne fhéin. Falbh a nis dachaidh agus théid sibh le chèile leotha mar gum biodh air turus. Thoirbh leibh air 'ur druim iad ann an guailleanach, ach thoirbh an ceart aire nach innis sibh dad do neach a dh'fhaodas tachairt ribh oir tuigidh na tachairain gach smid. Cumaibh sìos iochdar an Ròadh 's gu Geodha an Drungain, agus an uair a ruigeas sibh a bruaich tionndadh gach té a cùlthaobh agus leigibh air falbh an darna sgearb de'n ghuailleachan air son gun tuit na rògair-ean mosach gu grunn na geodha. Ma nì sibh mar a tha mise ag iarraidh bithidh bhur clann fhéin a stagh air 'ur coinneamh."

Chaidh a' bhean dachaidh agus dh'fhalbh iad le chèile mar a chomhairlich an seann duine daibh. Ràinig iad bruaich Geodha an Drungain 's thionndaidh gach té a cùlthaobh 's aig an aon àm leigeadh air falbh na guailleanachain 's na bha 'nam broinn. Anns an fhallb daibh dh'eubh aon diubh, "'S math an aire nuair nach deachd sinn thugaibh nuair bha sinn agaibh."

Chan 'eil fios againn an robh còthrom aig na seòid ud air iad fhéin a shàbhaladh, no an do thachair daibh faotainn à inean a' chuain mhóir, ach aon nì tha air aithris—an uair a ràinig na màthraichean dachaidh gu robh an clann féin 'nan gillean mòra eireachdail air an coinneamh gun bheud gun dochair.

Sin an sgeul fhuaireas am measg cuid de na seann daoine còire a bha aon uair a chòmhnuidh air eilean Bhèarnaraidh na Hearadh. Is iomadh sgeul ghàsda a thug iad leotha 's air nach 'eil sgeul an diugh, 's nach mòr am beud e!

The Land of Donnachadh Ban

ALL the lands mentioned in Donnachadh Ban's hunting songs appear to have been under deer as far back as we have any record of them.

The first record we have is a tack of certain lands given to an Archibald Campbell for nineteen years. This charter is dated 1567. This Campbell was to have the "keeping of the forest of Ben Doran and other lands with their pertinents." He was to provide a good and sufficient deputy for keeping the "said forest" and "shall hold and nourish as many deer as it may reasonably contain, no fault being found in the forestership." There were strict regulations laid down for his and the neighbours' guidance. Neighbours' domestic animals strayed into the forest and became a nuisance. A pound was ordered to be built and all animals found within the marches of the forest were to be impounded. The fines for such breaches were laid down as: "Ilk kow" to be fined 40/-; "ilk hors and meir to pay five merks." Regulations were made forbidding any one to give meat or drink, house room or any kind of "bield" to any person that shoots at deer, roe, blackcock, or any other game, or attempts to catch salmon. Any breaking these regulations was liable to a fine of £20 for a first offence. Further, all tenants living near the marches of the forest were bound to destroy all rooks, hoodie crows, and magpies; they were not to allow them to "big or clek in their rooms or possessions at any time."

The forest of Mamlorn stretched from the head of Glenlyon to Glenetive. It included a large portion of the present Black moun't, including Corrie Bà. According to the MacFarlane Collections it crossed Lochetive. "First is Bra-glen-crevirne." Bra-Glen-Crevirne is the mountains to the east of Lochcrenan. "Maim-Laerne is the King's Forest very riche in deer," says MacFarlane. The whole of Mamlorn was wildly alpine in character, lofty mountains reared their heads into the clouds, on their summits snow fell early in autumn and lay long into the spring. Mists frequently hid them from view. Their steep slopes were torn by torrents flinging themselves headlong to the vales below. Here and there appeared a small loch, dark and forbidding from the mossy nature of its surroundings. Occasionally a deep sheltered grassy glen would

intervene between the sterile heights. Such was the character of the Forest of Mamlorn. It is much the same today except that it is now all easily accessible by good roads.

IN addition to the forester and his deputy there were assistant foresters placed at certain points all round the marches of the forest; these assistants were called "Watchers". Their duty was to enforce the regulations and to report any one infringing them. These watchers, and even the deputy keeper, were strictly restrained from grazing their domestic animals within the marches of the forest; only on the borders thereof were they allowed to graze their cows and sheep.

In 1687 a commission was granted to John MacIntyre in Clashgour to be forester on the south side of Corrie Bà. "He being bound not to have any shealings nor to pasture any goods within the old limits thereof, and to stop all passengers travelling through it with guns, to free himself and his family, and any who lodge with him of eating venison, except the umbles and entrails of such as should be killed for the Earl's use; to kill in seasonable time, from Midsummer to Hallowe'en the number of sixteen deer . . . the said John being bound to seal himself upon the borders and extremities of the forest, where his predecessors did, in order to keep of broken men and destroyers of deer."

To restrain the forester from eating venison was a strange condition to attach to his commission, and it is not uncharitable to suppose that the Eve of John's household, like another of old, would find ways and means, not only of eating the forbidden fruit, but also of inducing John, like Adam, to do likewise. It will be observed that the number of deer to be annually supplied amounted to only sixteen, and in the charter there is a doubt expressed if that number could always be obtained. The number is trifling compared with the deer killed on the Blackmoun't in modern times, when a hundred stags and a like number of hinds were easily killed in a season. At those old times deer were preserved more for the purposes of the larder than for sport in the modern sense.

AT an early age we find the bard appointed as a watcher on Ben Doran beat. The head forester at this time was Patrick Campbell, who resided at what is now called

Auch. The bard received the usual payment for his services—a free dwelling-house and a croft. To the croft at Ais-an-t-sithein at the foot of Ben Doran the bard brought his bride and there set up their first home. Mairi Bhàn's dowry stocked the little croft. There they lived an idyllic existence for a time. The work was not arduous and the bard had ample leisure to cultivate the muse. We can easily picture him wandering over his beat turning his verses over and over in his mind until he had them to his satisfaction. Later he removed to other beats. There are the remains of a house on the banks of Allt Gartain which for a time was his home. Stronacreis and other local places find honourable mention in his songs. Indeed all the places mentioned in Donnachadh Ban's hunting songs are to be found in the Forest of Mamlorn.

But times were changing, and the old order had to yield to the new. More was lost at Culloiden than a cause. The whole social and agrarian customs of the Highlands underwent a complete revolution. Sheep began to replace men and deer. The ancient forest of Mamlorn did not escape the change. Large tracks of it were given over to graziers, and down to the present day sheep still wander over what in the bard's day and long before was strictly preserved as sanctuary for deer and other game. A remnant of the forest existed down to late years with its head forester, his deputy, and a number of watchers. Their conditions of service continuing much the same as they did down through all the centuries.

All these changes put an end to the idyllic existence of the bard and his wife. His occupation was gone and he had like many others to move to new places among new minds and new peoples.

It ought to be pointed out that, though the Forest of Mamlorn occupied such a large track of country and was strictly preserved, there was a large population in the glens bordering on it. Glenlochy, Glenorchy, Glenlyon, and Glenetive all had a large number of persons dwelling in them. The larachs of their old homes are still to be seen amidst brackens, briars, and brambles and other wildlings of the waste. Each of these glens could, when the occasion demanded, muster a surprisingly large number of able-bodied men fit to bear arms. Where are they today? J. E. S.

Visit to Nova Scotia

By NEIL SHAW

[Continued from OCTOBER NUMBER, p. 136]

Antigonish

It had been arranged with Dr. Nicholson, Rector of St. Francis Xavier's College, Antigonish, that I should visit the district and meet some of the Gaelic folk there. Dr. Nicholson kindly arranged that Father MacDonnell and a fellow clergyman should motor us from Sydney to Antigonish on 4th August, a distance of 126 miles. While waiting for the steamer to take us across Canso Strait I had the pleasure of meeting a number of Gaelic speakers who were on duty there. At St. Francis Xavier College we were warmly greeted by Dr. Nicholson who had arranged supper with a number of other

guests. Following this, we had an informal ceilidh and I spoke in both Gaelic and English about An Comunn's work in Scotland. In the company was a lady well known in Gaelic circles at home, Miss Flora MacInnes (Kinloch Rannoch), a former member of the London Gaelic Choir. She is now Mrs. MacIsaac, and we adjourned to her house after the meeting in the College had closed—an t-seann fhasan!

In the morning we called at St. Bernard's College to meet Sister St. Veronica, a great friend of the late Margaret MacInnes and a magazine-subscriber. She entertained us to a number of Gaelic

songs on the gramophone recorded by her own pupils. This lady is a sister of the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Right Hon. Angus L. MacDonald.

Dr. Nicholson had kindly arranged with the broadcasting people that I should record a farewell message, and this was duly done in the afternoon. This was broadcast on 8th August.

We met a number of Gaelic speakers in St. Francis Xavier College, and I should like to name in particular Dr. Hugh MacPherson, a noted linguist and a beautiful speaker of Gaelic. To Dr. Nicholson we owe a debt of gratitude for his hospitality, kindness, and courtesy. Gaelic is in safe hands in Antigonish, and, as the old folks would say, "tha a bhlàth 's a bhuill!"

(Continued on next page)



Mr. and Mrs. Neil Shaw at Halifax, Nova Scotia

(From previous page)

Glenbard

COLONEL D. C. SINCLAIR motored from New Glasgow to meet us, and after taking afternoon tea at the College we departed for New Glasgow. On the way we stopped at the wayside cemetery of Glenbard where lie the remains of the bard John MacLean of "Coille Ghrumach" fame. The stone is plain but of enduring quality. The Rev. A. MacLean Sinclair is buried here also. The bard's cottage is quite near the cemetery and resembles our own type of cottage rather than the Nova Scotian type.

We were the guests of Colonel and Mrs. Sinclair at New Glasgow until Sunday afternoon. On Saturday we were motored to Greenhill lookoff and had a panoramic view of valleys reclaimed by the original pioneers. In the museum are a number of interesting relics of the pioneer days.

Chief Justice Thane Campbell, Prince Edward Island, when at the Mod, invited us to the island to attend a Highland Gathering there on 10th August. All arrangements had been made for us, including free passage and meals on the ferry-boat. Colonel and Mrs. Sinclair motored us to Caribou, passing Lochbrood and Pictou on the way. These place-names recall the arrival of the "Hector" from Lochbrood, Ross-shire. Descendants of the old settlers removed to other parts, and there is very little Gaelic in Pictou County now.

Whenever we went on board the ferry-steamers we were greeted in Gaelic by the Second Engineer, a native of Pictou Island. A deck-hand came forward and he also spoke to us in Gaelic. He was born in Prince Edward Island and was of Skye stock. We were met on the Island side of the ferry by Major and Mrs. Otto Campbell, who motored us to Charlottetown, a distance of 47 miles.

Prince Edward Island

ON MONDAY, 8th AUGUST, I addressed the members of the Charlottetown Rotary Club at their lunch in the hotel we were staying at. I was surprised to learn of the number of Shaws who were on the Island, and I had the pleasure of meeting a number of them before the end of my visit.

In the afternoon we were motored out to Belfast, originally a French name but now anglicised. Here were landed the settlers brought by Lord Selkirk in three ships in 1803. A monument has been erected to commemorate this arrival and from it I copied the

Gaelic inscription. A church has been built and the first service held in it was in Gaelic. The church has been extended since, but the old part remains. The church is situated in a beautiful cemetery with imposing stones inscribed with almost every Highland clan-name.

On the 9th Dr. Herbert Shaw, former Minister of Education, and his nephew, Dr. Harold Shaw, of the Ministry of Health, motored us to Summerside where I again addressed a local Rotary Club. At each of the Rotary meetings I was asked to give a short address in Gaelic as all were anxious to hear the old language spoken. We were joined here by our host, Chief Justice Campbell, who introduced me at the day's luncheon. Chief Justice Campbell had been Premier of Prince Edward Island before being appointed to his present high position.

The remainder of the afternoon and evening was spent at our host's summer house and then we returned by the shore which is lapped by the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. We made a brief stop at Dr. Harold Shaw's home and we finally reached the hotel at a late hour.

The 10th was the great day on the Island—the Gathering of the Clans, "Comunn nan Gaidheal." Chief Justice Campbell called for us in his car and took us to the sports field at Uigg, about 36 miles distant. The first person we met on the field was Captain MacDonald, Balloch, President of our own Branch in the Vale of Leven! He and his wife are visiting a married daughter there. We mounted a platform on the field and I was again introduced by the Chief Justice. It was by far the biggest audience I had to face since arriving in Nova Scotia. I spoke in Gaelic first and then in English and was given a very attentive hearing. When we came off the platform Mrs. Shaw and I were literally surrounded by people who were pushing one another to catch us by the hand. It was the most touching incident of the whole tour. A Life Member of An Comunn, Mr. Messervey, introduced himself, and we were glad to meet him. The usual sports programme was gone through, and after partaking of a meal we were motored back to our hotel.

Halifax

THE Chief Justice and Mr. MacKinnon, President of Comunn nan Gaidheal, arranged for our transport to Halifax the following day. Dr. Lloyd Shaw, present Minister of

Education, motored us to the ferry. We were met at Caribou by our friend, Colonel Sinclair, who motored us direct to Truro. There we were met by Miss Doull, Judge Doull's daughter, and we arrived in Halifax about 5 o'clock. I was due to meet members of the North British Society at dinner in the hotel at 6 o'clock. The members of this society had brought forward their regular meeting to suit my convenience so that they might hear a message from home. The society was formed in 1789 and is the oldest Highland Society in Canada. There were fully eighty members present and on this occasion I was introduced by Judge Doull. As at Prince Edward Island I was asked to speak in Gaelic and also sing a Gaelic song. We were the guests of this society for the remainder of our stay in the Lord Nelson Hotel.

Our last night in Halifax, Friday, was very pleasantly spent in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walker. They had arranged a ceilidh and had invited Ex-Premier MacMillan and Mrs. MacMillan, Judge Doull and Mrs. Doull to make up the farewell party. The ceilidh was carried through in the traditional manner—story-telling and singing Gaelic songs.

On Saturday we did some shopping and took farewell of our good friends in the evening. Mr. Walker and his daughter motored us to the "Aquitania" and saw us through the Customs.

The closing part of our journey is too well known to be repeated. The trip was interesting and stimulating, and I would not mind returning in a few years' time to note the progress made. Too old? Not a bit! Gill-odhar MacCraine, a native of Jura, celebrated 180 Christmases in his own house, and Mairi Ribeach lived to be 128 years of age!

Sgeul Beag

Bha am "Mainnean" a bha ann a' Bhalasaidh an Eilean Bhearnaidh ag iasgach na langain fad seachdainne muigh faisg air na h-Eileana Flannach, agus chan fhaca iad sealladh air a' ghréin fad na h-ùine. An uair a bha iad a' seòladh a steach air cùl Bhalasaidh air an rathad dhachaidh Disathairne, dhealraich a' ghrian orra gu bòidheach.

Thuirtear fear de'n sgiobaidh ris a' "Mhainnean" (far-ainm a bha air, "Tha grian gu leòr againn a nis," "A bhalachaibh," ars am Mainnean, "na leigibh oribh gu bheil sibh 'ga faicinn!").

IAIN N. MACLEOD.

Ann's a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

FIOR NAMHAID NA GAIDHLIGE

LE IAIN A. MACLEOD

(Tha mi toirt urram na cathrach air a' mhìos seo do Mhgr. Iain A. MacLeòid, aon de Bhàird a' Chomuinn agus sàr-sgrìobhadair anns a' Ghàidhlig—F.-D.).

Ged is iomadh rann tiamaidh a tha an Dàn Mór Deuchainnean nan Gaidheal, is e suidheachadh nan sgoilean Beurla anns gach clachan a chuir tonn-fo-thulach orra u'le gu léir. Bha na nithean ud eile searbh gu leòr, agus doirbh ri an giùlan. Bha na Gaidheil, mar gum b'eadh, air an trom lot, agus maille ri sin bha biadh brìgheil a bheiradh beatha air a bhacadh. Ach an lorg reachd nan sgoilean thàinig a' gheur-sgreag a bhinnidh an fhuihl; am puionsean a dh'ith a steach gu spuas nan cnàmh; an nimh a mhill beòthalachd na h-eanchainne agus trèid a' chridhe, agus a rion cladhairan spreòchanach gun seagh de ar daoine.

Le mòr-èigin agus le geur-spàirn ri sinn gréim air beag no mòr de Bheurla, air chor is gu bheil sinn a' tighinn gu bhith a' deanamh seòrsa de atharrais manntach air muinntir Shasainn; ach gè nan Sasannach cha d'fhuaire sinn, agus chan fhaigh sinn sin am mìle bliadhna. Ach ann a bhith a' deanamh na h-oidhirpe seo tha sinn ag call air measa agus ar n-eòlais air cànan oirdhearc ar sinnsre, agus mar sin tha sinn gu neo-mhothachail a' leigeadh dhinn ar còrach air dìleab ghlòrmhor ar n-athraichean. Troimh shìor thoirmeasg tha ar càil do an cleachdaidhean air a smàladh, agus gach tlachd agus crùn a dh'fhaodadh a bhith againn do an alladh fiùghail, tha iad gu léir air an tachdadh. Ged is aithne dhunnu mu thimcheall nan treubhan as buirbe agus as snaraiche air uchdair na cruinne, tha eachdraidh ar daoine fhéin uile gu léir dorcha oirn. Tha gach eud còir agus gach euchd air ar tréig-sinn. Tha ar n-earbha annainn féin air teicheadh. Tha sinn mar iarmaid treud gun bhuaichail, ag gluasad bho chùil gu cial gu faondrach, fiallanach, lìugach, ma chasas madadh a dheud ruinn no ma dh'fhogsaileas measan salach a bheil gu aon abh a dheanamh ann ar n-èisdeachd.

Sgrìobh Mgr. MacDhòmhnaill Hay an *Gaidheal* an Dàmhair, 1937, mar seo: "The real enemy of the Gaelic is the English educational system." Tha mise ag cur m'uile

aonta ris gu bheil smior na tulfhirinne an sin. Ma thig mo nàmhaid 'nam aghaidh le claidheamh rùisgte, an sin tha a rùn follaicheach, agus ni mi rian air mi fhéin a dhion bhuaithe. Ach an uair a thig e 'nam chòmhdhail mar charaid le am 'b'ail còmhnaidh leam, agus an tràth tha a ghiùlan an aimhriochd deagh-ghean agus a ghluasad gu léir fo chidhis càirdeis, an sin nach math a dh'fhaoidteadh gur motha mo ghàbhadh?

Tha *Tacitus* ag innseadh mar thug a athair-céile, *Agricola*, na treubhan Breatannach gu bhith a' strìochdadh do riaghailt na Ròimhe.

"Gus am breugadh bho an cleachdaidhean cinneadail fhéin," tha e ag ràdh, "bha *Agricola* ag cumail iomadh maghar-meallaidh f'an comhair. Le cuideachadh agus le earalan bha e a' moladh dhaibh teampull agus cùrtean agus taighean ùra a thogail. Chuir e cliù orra-san a bha ag gabhail a chomhairle, ach orra-san nach robh ag cur sìme innte rinn e dìmeas agus tair mhiaslach. Mar sin dh'èirich spiorad comh-fharpaise am measg a' phobuill co-cheangailte ris na nithean seo a bha iad a' meas mar an dleasnas a chur air adhart.

"An sin chuir *Agricola* meadhon air chois troimh am biodh clann nan cinn-feadhna comasach air faotainn prabartaich litreachais agus faileas foghlum. Gus am misneachadh mhol e an geur-chuis seach dicheall nan Gall (*Gauls*). Iadsan a thug fuath do chaint na Ròimhe roimhe sin, thàinig iad gu bhith ag glacadh toile dhith. Chitheadh iad an tÒga Ròmanach gun mìothlachd, agus ri tim shin iad fhéin 'ga chaitheamh.

"Mar sin, beag air bheag, rinn drùidheachd nan dubhaillean ud drùidheachd air an cridheachan. Mu dheireadh cha b'fhiù leòd adach ach sgàth-thaighean agus bùitean, feadhachas lèiseamach, faoin-ghlòrach, agus taighean-falcaidh; agus gach nòs ùr de'n t-seòrsa seo nach robh an da-rìribh ach a' deanamh beagan mìlseachaidh air an daorsa agus beagan aotromachaidh air an cuing, bha na Breatannaich bhaoth 'gan saòilsinn 'nan comharraidhean cinnteach air fìor oilean agus air sìobhaltachd.' (*Agricola*, xxii).

Sgrìobhadh na briathran seo còrr agus ochd ceud deug bliadhna air ais, ach gabhadh iad an càradh ri cor na Gaidhealtachd an diugh. Tha bonn teagais ann a tha glé fhreagarrach dhuinne.

North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board

ANNUAL REPORT

THE Hydro-Electric Board's programme for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, on which work is being carried out at present, has a total value of nearly £100,000,000, states the 1948 Annual Report of the Board published recently.

The first of the new hydro-electric schemes came into operation in December 1948—one at Morar, Inverness-shire, and the other at Lochalsh, Ross-shire—and a further twelve hydro-electric stations with a total capacity of 423,000 kilowatts were already under construction by the end of 1948.

The Board's distribution system was providing electricity supplies to approximately 700,000 people at the end of the year. During the year seventy-eight hamlets and villages received a supply for the first time from the Board, and in the whole of the Board's area about 45,000 people were given electricity for the first time.

The extent to which people in the rural districts are taking advantage of the facilities offered is demonstrated by the Lochalsh area where ninety per cent. of the possible consumers have been connected.

Hydro-electric schemes, which were either being surveyed, promoted, or constructed during 1948, will have an aggregate capacity of about 800,000 kilowatts, with an estimated annual output of about 2,200 million units, which is equivalent to over fifty per cent. of the present consumption of electricity in the whole of Scotland.

New Schemes

SEVEN Constructional Schemes for the generation of electricity were published last year. Four of these were large schemes—Garry, Moriston, Lawers, and Glascarnoch-Luichart-Torr Achilty

(Continued on next page)

Duain A Uibhist

(From previous page)

I.

hì ù a hì ù a
hó ró bha hó
hì ù a hao rì o hù

'S beag mo shúnd a dhól a dh' Aros.
'S beag mo shúnd ris, 's mór mo
chall ris.

Chaill mi geala mhac ùr nan
àrmann

Mac an fhìr o 'n taobh sa 'n
bhàghan,

O'n mhachaire mhór 's o 'n
bhàighe.

Gura mise tha fo mhulad,
Cha robh riamh orm na h-urad.

Chì mi na féidh air a' mhullach.
'S coma lium iad falbh no fuireach—

Cha toir mo ghlomanach fuil orra.
'S òg a sgaradh bhuaime 'an
curaidh—

Mo roghainn a dh'fhìr na
cruinneadh.

Chunnaic mi bhith gabhail umad,
A bhith gad chàradh anns a'
churaidh.

'S a' seòladh air tìr an dubhbhroin
Far nach cluinntear aon ghuth
duine,

Faram nam ball, stoirm na tuinn-
eadh,

Fuaim an t-slobain ris a' mhuran,
Fuaim a' chaoil duibh ris an duill-
each.

Och nan och, b'e an latha dubh e.
'S mis' an diugh a' bhean tha
cùrrte.

Chan eil mo leithid 's an dùthaich
Ach a' bhean a th' ann am
Mùideard—

Màthair nan cuailleinan cùbhradh.
Dh' atram i òg air a glúin iad

Cha b'ann le bainne nam brùidean
Ach bainne cloch oirre drùdhadh.

'S gura piuthar is dhùine.
'S gura mise tha fo ghruamein

Nam mhnaoi 's nam nighinn 's
nam ghruaigach.

Gach aon a' leughadh mo
bhuanachd,

Chan e am beagan beag lium bhuaim
thu,

Mhic ac Raghnaill o 'n tùr
stuamaich.

Mearcach nan each seanga luatha,
Farc faobhar-comhragach air ceann
sluagh thu.

'S gura mise th' air mo sgaradh
Fuaghal do léineadh 's ga gearradh—
Cha chuir i feum air na bannan.

Chaidh mo ghlomanach am falach
An ciste nam bòrd air a barradh.

Chì mi comhlan seach an leacach.
'S móran an trom a th' air na
h-eachaibh,

Gu bheil tuilleadh mór 's mo
chreach ann

Aig luchd chleòcannan is bhreacan
Dol gad chàradh fo na leacan

Leis gach buaidh bha fuaight rì
d' phearsa,

Mhic ac Raghnaill far na Ceapaich.

II.

'S truaigh nach robh sinn
comhladh

Ged bhitheamaid falamh,
Hó ró mo nigh 'n donn bhòdhach

'S nan gorm shùl meallach.

'S e mo cheist an fheucag

A muigh an Dùn Eideann.

B' fhearr lium agam fhéin thu

Na ceud a Loch Carthann.

T' fhaicinn ann am bruadaid

A dh' fhàg mo chadal luaineach.

Mur dian mi do bhuanachd

Truaigh nach robh mi 's talamh.

'S mise fhuaire an cliù ort

Mura dian thu m'ùthadh.

Dh' fhaodadh bean do bhùidhais

Nàdar diùc a mhealladh.

Bha do nàdar sònraichte

Iriseal neo-bhòsdail

Gun ghràide gun mhòrchuis

Bainidh bòdhach banaill.

Gur math thig an gùn dhut

Dha 'n fhasan as ùire,

Ribinean ga dhùnadh—

Théid na crùn gan ceannach.

Gur math thig an stoighse

Air brollach na moighdinn.

'S truaigh nach robh mi oidhche

Leat an coill a' bharrach.

'S mise tha fo mhigean

Nach fhaic mi mo nigheag

Dh' fhalbh i ma Lath' Fhéil

Micheil

Suas go tìr a h-ainiuil.

'S toilichte bhiodh m' inntinn

Nan leughadh tu sgrìobhadh—

Chuirinn sa go Sine

Litir ghriinn le m' bheannachd.

Bainnearach na buaileadh

Miar as grinne dh' fhuagheas

'S deis' air achadh buana

An amh chruaig ann bannan.

'S binne lium do chòmhradh

Na uiseag is smeorach

'S ad a' seinn 's a' chòmhlán

Madainn cheòthach earraich.

Chan eil fo na speuran

Té nì coimeas m' fheucaig—

Grian a miosg nan reultan,

Té gun bheum gun mhaill.

[Bha na duain seo air an sgrìobhadh

le K. C. Craig bho Fhoiridh

Aonghais Ruaidh (Bean Iain

Chorghadal), Cill Donnain, Uibhist

a Deas. Tha iad air an clò-bhuailadh

dirèach mar a fhuair sinn iad.—

F.-D.]

—with an annual output of 735 million units. Preparatory work on these schemes has already been started. The other three schemes were the Allt-na-Lairige in Glen Fyne, a scheme to give a local supply in the Ullapool district of Ross-shire, and an extension to the Loch Shùl scheme.

At the end of the year 6,759 workers were directly engaged on the construction of hydro-electric works and the erection of transmission and distribution lines. The number of workers at the end of May, 1949, was 8,041.

Under the Electricity Act, 1947, the Board became responsible (as from 1st April, 1948) for generation, transmission, and distribution in an area of about 21,600 square miles, including the cities of Aberdeen, Dundee, and Perth, the towns of Inverness and Oban, the area of the Grampian Electricity Supply Company, and the undertakings of a number of smaller local authorities and companies. They now operate nine hydro-electric stations, six steam stations, and thirty-two diesel stations, with a total capacity of 250,548 kilowatts. The power generated at these stations during 1948 amounted to 741,357,476 units, of which water-power produced almost fifty per cent. The Board exported to the British Electricity Authority's Grid in Central Scotland over 79 million units during the period from 1st April to 31st December, 1948.

Income and expenditure were about a balance for the year, there being a deficit of £35,635 as compared with a debit balance of £38,710 brought in at 1st January.

Reduced Rate

THE Board have decided to reduce during the winter months the cost of electricity to consumers in Morar, Lochalsh, Lochcarron, Skye, and the Fort William area, districts which are supplied by water-power and isolated electrically from the rest of the Board's area. Desiring to make the benefits of electricity available to their consumers as cheaply as possible, the Board have introduced a cheaper rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per unit in order to encourage the full use of labour-saving electrical apparatus during the winter months when there are abundant supplies of water-power which cannot be disposed of economically.

The new rate is an experiment which relates to "spill-over" periods when there is abundance of water supply. It will not affect tariffs or consumption of electricity

(Continued on page 182)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar I

AN DUBLACHD, 1949

Aireamh 11

An Trosg Mor

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“NAM biodh agam slat is dubhan
Bheirinn sgrìob a dh'iasgach;
Nam biodh agam slat is dubhan,
Rinn is gàine iarainn,
Bheirinn dhachaidh cudaigean,
Bheirinn dhachaidh ciadan,
Trosg is langa 's ugsaichean.
Is tiugainn thusa a dh'iasgach!”

Bha Bus-dubh a' seinn àird a' chinn is e a' tighinn a chéilidh air an tarbh. Ach chuir Blàran clos air.

“Coma leam de do cheilearadh ort! Car son nach dean thu air do shocair mun tog na sìdhichean thu? Cha do dhùirig mi fhéin nuallan a dheanamh o leugh mi iomradh air Coma-Co-Dhiubh anns a' Ghaidheal. Ma thogas iad thu chan 'eil fhios nach ann an Hìort a stadas tu, agus cò chluinneas do chomhartaich an eilean Hìort? Cuimhnich thusa, ged a thigeadh do Rob Donn a bhith ag òran cha tig sin cho maith do na h-uile fear. Cà bheil thu dol an diugh, a thruaghain?”

“Tha mi dol a dh'iasgach. Tha iad ag ràdh gu bheil pris mhòr air iasg, dubh is geal. A bheil fhios agad dé tha ann an trosg-creige?”

“Tha mi an dùil gur e leth-bhràthair do'n mhuc-creige a tha ann, ach dh'fhaodainn a bhith air mo mhealladh.”

“Abair a bhith air do mhealladh, a Bhlàrain! Chan 'eil anns an trosg-creige ach biorach air a feannadh agus i 'ga reic anns na bùthan anns na bailtean móra. Is beag a tha dh'fhios aig muinntir Ghlaschu gur i grannag a tha iad ag itheadh agus dùil aca gur e an trosg a tha aca.”

“Mas ann mar sin a tha, chan 'eil san trosg-creige ach bràthair-màthar do'n dallraig. An uair a bha mise san Eilean Sgitheanach bhiodh iad a' dol a dh'iasgach an uair nach biodh an còrr aca a dheanadh iad.”

“Is e foidhidinn maith a ni an t-iasgach,” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Cha dean a chaochladh e. Ach, nan creidinn-sa na bodaich a bha rathad Ghleann-dail, bha uair a bha an t-iasg cho gòrach agus gun tigeadh e air tìr leis fhéin.”

“Nam bu mhuc bu rud-eigin,” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Car son muc?” arsa Blàran.

“Air son nach 'eil anns a' mhuc-mhara ach mìol no brùid mar thu fhéin. Seo mar a chuir an leabhar-sgoile dhomhs' e: 'Chan 'eil anns a' mhuc-mhara ach ainmhidh blàth-fhuileach—'”

“Blàth-shuileach! Nach i a' Ghàidhlig ùr a tha làn-ghuthach! Ciamar eile a bhiodh a sùil ach blàth?”

“Nach bitheadh cho fuar ri sùil na gaoithe? Ach ciamar a chaidh an t-iasgach leo san Eilean?”

“Thàinig gille Gallda agus chaidh e a dh'iasgach agus thill e gun deargadh aige ach naidheachd an 'fhir mhaoil gun fhalt' aige air trosg a chunnaic e. Chaidh rud-eigin an sàs agus thug e steach e gu réidh socair, mar a dh'iarr an leabhar sin air, ach am bob! bóidh! cha luaithe a nochd an trosg mór na thill e sìos an taobh as an tàinig e!”

“Chaidh e e,” arsa Bus-dubh.

“O! leig e oidhche mhaith leis,” arsa Blàran, “agus an uair a bha e deanamh an t-seanchais thuir Alasdair Crotach, 'Dé chaidh càrr?’ 'Dh'fhosgail e a bhial is leig e as an dubhan,' arsa an gille Gallda!”

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

7. Domhnall MacIomhair

RUGADH Dòmhnall MacIomhair, no “Dòmhnall Ruadh Phabail,” mar a chanadh iad ris, an sgìre Uige an Leòdhas anns a' bhliadhna 1857. Bha a' Ghàidhlig siùbhlach an uair sin, mar a tha i an diugh, an sgìre Uige, agus an àite a' chànan mhàthaireil a bhith 'na cnap-starraidh dha is ann a bha e faicinn gach là a' chuideachaidh mhóir a bha i a' toirt dha an cùrsa fhoghlaim. Is iomadh uair a dh'aicid e fhéin sin domh.

Bha e 'na mhaighstir-sgoile an Leumrabhagh an sgìre nan Loch agus am Breascleit an sgìre Uige, agus anns a' bhliadhna 1896 chaidh e do sgoil Phabail anns an Rubha, agus shaothraich e gu soirbheachail anns an sgoil sin gus an do leig e dheth a dhreuchd. Bha e glic, dìcheallach, éifeachdach, mar fhear-teagaisg, agus bha smachd agus ìghdarras 'na chois an còmhuidh anns an sgoil.

(An còrr air t.d. 42)

Luinneagan na Cloinne Bige

Le AONGHAS CAIMBEUL

DEICH BALAICH BHEAGA DHUBHA

(Ten Little Nigger Boys)

Deich balaich bheaga dhubha
'Nan suidhe muigh air beinge;
Thug an starrag leatha Seoc
'S cha robh ann ach naoi.

Naoi balaich bheaga dhubha
'Nan suidhe muigh air tobhta;
Thuit Fionn troimh tholl nan cearc,
'S cha robh ann ach ochd.

Ochd balaich bheaga dhubha
Ag iasgach le slait;
Ghoid na giomaich Fearchar
'S cha robh ann ach seachd.

Seachd balaich bheaga dhubha
'Nan suidhe 'g ith am biadh;
Thachd buntàta Coinneach crosd'
'S cha robh ann ach sia.

Sia balaich bheaga dhubha
Toirt a steach an fheadr;
Thuit a' chruach air Uisdean beag
'S cha robh ann ach còig.

Còig balaich bheaga dhubha
Seòladh ann an eathair;
Shluig muc-mhara Donnchadh
'S cha robh ann ach ceithir.

Ceithir balaich bheaga dhubha
'Nan cadal leis an sgios;
Thuit Raoghal troimh an leabaidh
'S cha robh ann ach trì.

Trì balaich bheaga dhubha
Ag ithe mìr is càise;
"Mar sin leibh," thuir Alasdair,
'S cha robh ann ach dhà.

Dà bhalach bheaga dhubha
Toirt a steach a' bhùirn;
Thuit Eachann dha 'n an tobair
'S cha robh ann ach aon.

Aon bhalachan beag dubh
'Na sheasamh 's car 'na cheann;
Ruith esan a dh'America
'S cha robh an còrr ann.

Domhnall MacIomhair (bho t.d. 41)

Bha Dòmhnall MacIomhair 'na sgoilear Gàidhlig a bha barraichte 'na latha fhéin, agus dhearbh e sin leis gach duais a choisinn e aig iomadh Mòd. Fhuair a' Ghàidhlig àite cothromach riann an clàr-eagair nan sgoilean anns an robh e, agus a chum teagasg an dà chànan a chur air adhart na bu shoirbheachaile 'na sgoil, chuir e an clò leabhran gasda snasail anns a bheil iomadh seòladh luachmhor air son Gàidhlig is Beurla Shasainn a theagasg còmhla ri chèile.

Tha a' chuid as motha de bhàrdachd Dhòmhnail MhicIomhair am *Bàrdachd Leòdhais*, a tha a nis a mach á clò. Tha smuaintean domhain feallsanachd, gràdh dùthcha, agus mion-eòlas air a staid agus air a h-eachdraidh o chéin, a' boillsgeadh a mach anns gach rann a chuir e ri chèile. Tha smior na Gàidhlig agus ranntaireachd eagnaigh ag cur loinn air a bhàrdachd gu léir, agus is bochd nach do chuir e an còrr air blàr. Tha mi de'n bheachd gur h-e "An Ataireachd Ard" bàrdachd cho cuimir agus a rinn e, agus is e mi-fhéin a dh'iarr air òran de'n t-seòrsa sin a dheanamh an uair a bha mi cruinneachadh òran air son *Bàrdachd Leòdhais*, agus is e seo adhbhar an òrain.

Tha suas ri ceud bliadhna o'n chuireadh na bailtean a bha timcheall tràigh mhór Uige fàs, agus chaidh tuath nam bailtean sin fhògradh anns a' bhliadhna 1851 agus ghabh iad aiseag ann an soitheach seòlaidh a null do Chanada. An déidh a bhith dlùth air dà fhichead bliadhna air falbh thàinig aon duine còir air ais 'na sheann aois a dh'fhaicinn bailtean a òige. Thachair gu robh Dòmhnall MacIomhair 'na chuideachd an uair a bha e gu deurach airtnealach ag amharc is a' meòrachadh air fàsalachd a' bhaile, agus cha b'urrainn da nì a ràdh ach, "Chan 'eil nì an seo mar a bha e ach ataireachd na mara air an tràigh."

SEORAS BEAG

(Georgie Porgie)

Seòras beag reamhar
nam marag 's a' chàise,
Phòg e chlan-nighean
is chaidh iad a rànail.

Nuair thàinig na balaich
a chluich le an camain,
Ruith Seòras nam maragan
dhachaidh gu mhàthair.

Litir Eachainn

GED a bu mhath leam meal-an-naidheachd is fàilte a chur orrasan uile a choisinn duaisean aig a' mhòd, eadhon air na comh-fharpaisich uile, duais ann no as, bu mhath leam ise a choisinn am bonn òir air son seinn an comh-fharpais nan inbheach ainmeachadh. Is i sin Anna NicGhilleathain bho Chaolas Ulbha, no Abair-dheathain, far a bheil a dachaidh, mar mhnaoi-phòsda, an diugh, ainmeachadh, a chionn gu bheil againn an seo aon dhinn féin, aon de bhuill thráthail Comunn na h-Oigridh; agus tha mi cinnteach gu bheil gach aon agaibhe anns an aon intinn riumsa 'ga taobh, is gun cuir sibh bhur làn-aonta rium anns an fhàilte a tha mi ag cur oirre.

Tha aon té eile air am bu mhath leam fàilte a chur, ged nach robh i riamh an Comunn na h-Oigridh, agus is i sin a bean-chinnich, Catriona NicGhilleathain, á Dunomhain, oir tha ise a' riochdachadh nan trì ginealach a choisinn duaisean aig mòd, an aon duine is fhiosrach mi a dh'fhaodas an tagar sin a dheanamh. Choisinn a seanair duais air son bàrdachd bho chionn dà fhichead bliadhna 's a trì; choisinn a dà phàrant àrd-chliù na seinn; agus a nis tha ise mar aon de'n treas ginealach air tighinn air faire ag cosnadh dhuaisean!

TIONNDAIDH sinn, ma tà, ris na cinn ann am paipear-ceasnachaidh nan Sàr-Ghàidheal ris am bu mhath leam buntainn. (Thug mi dhuibh am paipear an litir na Samhna.) Cuimhnichibh, ged is dòcha gu bheil càirdeas dlùth aig an fhacal "ciobair"; ri *keeper*, nach e *gamekeeper* a tha ann an "ciobair"; is e buachaille chaorach is sin a mhàin a tha am facal ag ciallachadh an diugh. Is e "geamair" as bitheanta a theirear, gu sònraichte anns na ceàrnaibh tuath, ri *gamekeeper* an diugh.

Bha na h-uirread a rinn *peace* de "fhois" (an cuan gun stad, gun fhois). Is dòcha gur e *rest* is fearr; agus, ged is e an Cuan an Iar a theirear ris an *Atlantic*, cha bhiodh e ceart ciall a' chuain mhòir a chumhnglachadh ris an *Atlantic*.

Tha ciall sònraichte aig an fhacal "gaillionn"; chan e *rain, snow, cold sleet*, no idir idir *sunny no fragrant* a tha ann. Is facal e nach 'eil furasda co-ionannachadh dha fhaotainn anns a' Bheurla gun ceangal-fhacal (*phrase*) a chleachdadh. Tha *wintry weather* cho freagarrach 's gun deanadh e gnòthach.

Tha tuille na aon chiall aig "còmhdaich," ach is e còmhdaich sneachd air an fhonn is chan e aodach-cuim gu neach a chumail blàth a tha e ag ciallachadh an seo. Chan 'eil "slugadh suas an cuitheachan sneachd" ag

ciallachadh gu bheil a' chaora air a marbhadh as-is-as, ged a dh'fhaodas e bhith gur e am bàs a bhiodh ann dhi mur a teasraigte i; agus a thaobh an fhacail "cuitheachan," is e glé bheag a chuir sìos *snow-drifts* mar a ch-ionannachadh. Glé bhitheanta is e *lumps*, no facail mar sin, a bhàtar ag cur sìos. Agus chan e *chilly* ach *frosty* am facal a bu chòir a chur sìos mu choinneamh "reòta."

Bha na h-uirread nach do ghlac ciall an fhacail "ciùin,"; chan e *lonely, cold*, no facail eile a chuireadh sìos a tha ann. Tha *mild* freagarrach gu leòr air. Bha mòran a leig ris nach robh iad eòlach air an fhacal "sliabh"; chan e *grazings* a tha ann uile gu léir, ged is dòcha gum bi deagh fheurach air sliabh. Cha mhò is e *the tops of the mountains* a tha ann, *mountain, valley no path*, (an e "slighe" a bha a' tighinn fainear do'n aon no dhà a chuir seo sìos?) no idir idir "barr nan sleagh." Agus an uair a bha an ciobair an tòir air an spréidh, cha b'ann idir, co-dhiubh cha bu chòir gur ann, *looking at the sky* a bhiodh e, ged is cinnteach gum biodh a shùil air an iarmailt gun teagamh: có an ciobair aig nach bi? Chan e *rivers* a tha anns na sruthain bheaga, agus thoiribh an aire gu bheil caochladh ciall aig an fhacal "traigh." An seo is e *shore* a tha e ag ciallachadh, is cha e aon chuid *dry no empty*.

CHAN e *variable, changing, warm, soft no bitter*, ged nach 'eil *bitter* fada air seachran, a tha ann an "sgaiteach." Tha *sharp*, ged nach 'eil e a' chòir cho math ris an fhacal Ghàidhlig againn fhéin, cho freagarrach 's a ghabhadh faotainn. Tionnadaidh sinn a nis ris a' Bheurla gu Gàidhlig.

Is iomadh cruth anns an do chuireadh *willy-nilly*. Bha cuid am beachd gur e giollan do'm b'ainm Uilleam, aon air an robh an t-ainm dùbailte, no air an robh Niall a bha ann. Chan e "deònach," "ann an cabaig," "eadar-dha-bharail" no facail eile coltach riu a tha seo ag ciallachadh. Dheanadh "ge b'oil le amhaich" an gnòthach. Tha facal neònach againe an Colla—"air do bhuille-trot" is air uairean "air do chasan beaga" air a chur roimhe. Leig "co-dhiubh no co-dheth" ris gu robh an t-aon a sgrìobh e a' deanamh beagan tuigsinn air ciall an fhacail. Agus thoiribh an aire gur e "iadsan" is nach e "i" no "ise" a tha ann an *them*.

Cha b'ann ag coiseachd a bha an t-each no am beathach ceithir-chosach a bha *galloping*. Is dòcha gur e "na chruinn-leum seachad

(An còrr air an ath dhùilleig)

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 43)

dorus a' mhuilinn bhig" a bu fhreagarraiche an seo. Bha cuid a litrich "muileann" mar gum b'e "mullan" a bha ann. Bha bean a' mhuilleir a' tarraing as *the burn*, cha b'ann as an tobar no as a' ghluamaig, ged a dh'fhaodadh e bhith gu robh "glumag" anns an t-sruth gun teagamh far an robh i a' togail an uisge, oir is ann far an doimhne an t-uisge ann an sruth daonnan a bhìotair a' togail làn na cuinneige as. Feumar, ged thà, am facal a ghabhail mar a tha e againn, agus, le sin, is e "allt" no "sruth" a dh'fheumar a chur sìos. Cha mhò a tha *took to her heels* ag ciallachadh gun do theich i dhachaidh. Dh'fhaodadh a teicheadh a bhith gu àite tèarainte sam bith, ged nach b'ann dhachaidh. Dheanadh "thàr i as" no "thug i na buinn dhi" an gnothach, ceangal-fhacal a tha ro-mhath mar ghnàths-cainnte, mar a chuir mòran de'n chloinn e. Ach bha na h-uiread a fhuair an sàrachadh leis an ruith-fhacal seo.

Bha aon a sgrìobh "an do-tair" mar so, is aon no dhà a chuir sìos "an t-ochtair." Tha mi daonnan a' toirt fairneir gu bheil na h-uiread nach 'eil a' tuigsinn far an còir gada-ceangail a chur an dèidh na litir "t," mar anns "an t-uan." Bha cuid a sgrìobh "t-eine" an àite "teine," agus mearachd 'ga dheanann ann am facail eile de'n t-seòrsa seo. Agus chì mi air uairean cromag air a cur an àite gada-ceangail an dèidh na "t," mar "an t'uan." Tha aon dòigh anns a bheil e ceart cromag a chur an dèidh na "t." Gabhaibh beachd air na facail seo, "thog Iain an t-uan agus thubhairt e. 'An e seo t'uan-sa, a Sheumais?'" Aon sam bith nach 'eil a' làn-thuigsinn ciod a tha mi a' tighinn air, sgrìobhadh e chugam.

GUN teagamh sam bith is e *stranger* a tha Gann an "Gall," ach chan e "Gall" a tha daonnan ann an *stranger*. Mar a bha e air a chur ann an leabhar-taibse a bha agam féin anns an sgoil, "is e creutair dà-chasach a tha ann an giadh, ach cha ghiadh gach creutair dà-chasach!" Is e "coigreach" am facal is feàrr gu a chleachdadh an seo, eadhon ged a theireadh iad ruibh mar a thubhairt a' bhan-Leòdhasach, "Nach tusa a tha air fàs Gallda an uair is e 'coigreach' a their thu ri *stranger*!" Bha is e cho math ris an té a bhuineadh do'n eilean d'am buin mi fhéin an uair a bha i ag ràdh cho Gallda 's a bha aon àraidh a bha an siud an uair is e "coire" a theireadh e ris a' cheatall!

Chan e "blàths" uile gu léir a tha ann an *heat*. Is e "teas" a tha ceart; is e *warmth* as dlùithe air "blàths." Beachdaichibh air "blàths na leapa" is "teas an teine."

Is e "das" an teine a chuir balach Ieach sìos; agus tha aobhar is ciall domhain a chuir gun deanadh e sin. Is e sgoilearachd a tha anns an nì neònach seo a mhineachadh, seadh, mar a tha "d" air a cur an àite "l" leis na h-Ilich, agus nas fhaide na a thoirt fairneir cha téid mise nas doimhne anns a' chùis an dràs, co-dhiubh, nas fhaide na thoirt fairneir gu bheil an "d" an àite "l" r'a fhiosrachadh an cànaean eile cho math ris a' Ghàidhlig, no maille ris a' Ghàidhlig; agus cha nì e gu foachaid a dheanadh orrasan a chleachdas aon seach aon dhiubh.

Tha sin, ma tà, ag cur crìche air paipearan-ceasnachaidh na bliadhna seo; agus dh'fhaodainn a ràdh gu bheil mi làn riarachite leo. Rinn sibh glé mhath. Is dòcha nach robh an fheadhainn a b'fheàrr ann bliadhna cho fìor mhath ris an fheadhainn a b'fheàrr an uiridh; ach bha an fheadhainn a b'fhaide shìos gu math air thoiseach air an fheadhainn a b'fhaide shìos an uiridh. Mar sin, leanaibh oirbh, is ciod am fìos nach ruig sibh coimh-liontachd an ùine nach 'eil fada air falbh. Cha robh aon do nach tug mi *pass*.—Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

RANNAN BHO'N BHEURLA

Ghabh mi beachd le mo shùil

Air Iain Horner sa' chùil

'S e 'g ith maraig air feasgar Nollaig.

Shin e òrdag a steach,

Splon e dearcag a mach,

'S thubhairt e, "Chiall! Nach mise tha ri m' mholadh!"

Seinnibh òran sia sgillinn,

Pòcaid làn de *rye*;

Ceithir-ar-fhichead lon-dubh

Deasaicht' ann am *pie*;

Nuair bha 'm *pie* air fhosgladh,

'S ann sheinn na h-eòin gu binn:

Is nach b'e sin a' mharag bhlasd'

Gu cur fa chomhair an righ!

Bha 'n rìgh anns an lùchtair

Ag cunntadh mach chuid òir,

'S bha bhan-rìgh anns an t-seòmair

'G ith aran 's mil gu leòir;

Bha a' mhaighdean anns a' ghàradh

Cur lìon-aodach air ròp—

Seachad thàinig lon-dubh

Is sgoib e dhi a sròn.

(Rinneadh na rannan seo an Clas Gàidhlig an Dùn-éideann, New Zealand, an 1907, agus chaidh an clò-bhualadh air tùs anns an "*Dèò-Gréine*").

Cape Breton News and Views

Gaelic College Summer School

THIS year the Gaelic College Summer School at St. Ann's commenced on 5th July and terminated on 22nd July, the week before the Annual Mod. Classes were held daily in the following subjects: (1) Gaelic Language (Major C. I. N. MacLeod), (2) Highland Folk-Art (Miss E. Dunbar), (3) Bagpipes and Chanter instruction (Hon. Pipe-Major R. D. Nicholson and Major C. I. N. MacLeod), (4) Gaelic Singing (Mrs Iona MacLeod).

In the Gaelic language class elementary instruction was given in basic grammar, combined with simple sentence construction, verb drill, and practice in Gaelic conversation. Students generally made satisfactory progress. From the initial stages of the class pupils

were taught how to pronounce and read the language. It was interesting to note that the dialectic variations prevalent in Lewis and Harris at the present day were those most easily adopted by the students for pronunciation purposes. The velar "l" was easy to teach, as this sound has remained pure amongst the older Gaelic-speaking generation in Cape Breton Island. The only difficulty experienced in pronunciation appeared to be the initial guttural "cha" and the final "ch".

Result of the Gaelic class examinations were as follows:—

Beginners (written work): 1, Marilyn White, Westville (90%); 2, Fay MacKie, New Glasgow (88%); 3, Linda MacKie, New Glasgow (87%).

Beginners (oral work): 1 (equal), Judith Jackson, Baddeck, and Heather MacLeod, Baddeck (80%); 2, Caldine MacLennan, Cape North (78%).

Advanced (written work): 1, Isobel MacLeod, South Haven (92%); 2, Beverly Cameron, New Glasgow (90%); 3, Catherine Morrison, South Haven (89%); 4 (equal), Evelyn Monck, New Glasgow, and Norma Morrison, South Haven (88%); 5, Marcella Smith, Thorburn (87%); 6, Florence MacLennan, Cape North (86%); 7, Mora J. MacLeod, South Haven (85%).

EIGHT girls attended the Chanter Class. There seems to be a dearth of boy pupils in this category. Some of the girls had previous experience in the reading of pianoforte music, and these naturally made more progress in the actual "sight reading" of bagpipe music. The scale and its accompanying exercises were mas-

(Continued on next page)



Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch MacAulay, Cape Breton
with Mrs. Neil Shaw at Inverness Mod

(By courtesy of "Weekly Scotsman")

(From previous page)

tered by most members of the class; the only stumbling-blocks encountered were the "taurluaths" and the "e" doubling. Grips were well executed by all pupils. Two of the brightest students could play a two-part march accurately and with good timing at the end of the class. These two girls gained first and second places respectively in their age groups at the Mod in the Practical Chanter Competition.

Eighteen girls enrolled in the Gaelic Singing Class. Well-known and simple Gaelic songs were taught by the sol-fa method, and the students took an active interest in the instruction given. The nucleus of a Junior Gaelic Choir was established, and in future years it is hoped that this choral participation will develop and that it will form one of the outstanding musical features at the Annual Gaelic Mod.

The traditional singing of Gaelic songs, however, must not be overlooked, as this form of vocal expression is an innate characteristic of the Cape Breton people, having its own intrinsic value and beauty. This aspect will continue to be encouraged.

The Highland Folk-Art Class, as usual, proved to be popular. Instruction was given in the Highland Fling, Swords, Seann Triubhas and Sailor's Hornpipe. The principal prize-winners in the Highland Folk-Art competitions at this year's Mod were members of the Summer School Class. Great credit is due to the teaching and encouragement given by Miss E. Dunbar in this department, and to the splendid piping for Highland dance instruction by Hon. Pipe-Major R. D. Nicholson.

On the closing day of the Summer School Mrs A. MacDonald, Peterboro, Ontario (a native of Skye), addressed the students in both Gaelic and English. She urged them to continue learning the noble Celtic Culture of their Scottish ancestors, to respect it, and to grow up as worthy Gaels in every sense of the term. The Director-Registrar of the Summer School, the Rev. A. W. R. MacKenzie, in reply thanked Mrs MacDonald for her inspiring remarks.

A feature of the Summer School was the number of visitors, mostly American tourists, witnessing the efforts each day of teacher and student alike.

RUGG MACKENZIE.

Naidheachd A Ceap Breatann

THUG mi tarraing air cor na Gàidhlig anns na sgoilean a' Ceap Breatann anns a' mhìos-achan o choinn ghòird. Sgrìobh Ceannardan Colaiste na Gàidhlig

an Ob na Ban-Naomh Anna Itrichean-tagraidh do fhear-cathrach an Fhoghlum. Anns na Itrichean sin dh' iarr iad cead air an luchd-riaghlaidh Gàidhlig a bhith air a teagasg mar chuspair anns an sgoil-là agus anns na h-àrd-sgoilean air feadh Eilean Ceap Breatann.

Ma gheibh sinn fios-freagairt a bhios fàbharach bidh sin 'na cheud cheum air son leas na Gàidhlig am measg na h-òigridh. An dèidh sin feumar luchd-teagaisg Gàidhlig a bhith air an oilean-achadh san Sgoil-Shamraidh, is dòcha an àite ris an abrar Truro far a bheil na maighstirean-sgoile gach bliadhna mar a thig a' meòrachadh air cuspair anns ùra agus dòighean-teagaisg.

Air an làmh eile dh' fhaodadh an luchd-teagaisg teisteanas fhaighinn o Cholaiste na Gàidhlig, ma bhios i an uair sin fo spòg an luchd-riaghlaidh. 'S e mo bheachd fhéin gum bi sgoilear Gàidhlig air a thaghadh a bhios 'na fhear-comhairleach do Bhòrd an Fhoghlum is do'n luchd-riaghlaidh a thaobh lionsgaradh na Gàidhlig anns na sgoilean a Ceap Breatann, agus eing air eing gum bi meur de Bhòrd an Fhoghlum air a chomharrachadh a mach air son craobh-sgaioleadh na Gàidhlig a mhàin.

Sin gaibh, ma tà, cruth is cumadh na tairge 's an toiseach-toiseachaidh, ach tha mi ag creidsinn gum bi iomadh car adhar an daimh fhathast mun tig cùisean gu ìre.

OCHIONN seachdainne no dhà thadhail mi air muinntir a' Chraobh-sgaoilidh an Sidni, agus chuir sinn romhainn céilidh Gàidhlig no dhà a bhith againn air an adhar. Tha iadsan deònach gu leòir, ach tha iad ag ràdh gur e leth Beurla agus Gàidhlig a dh' fheumas a bhith ann, oir bidh muinntir Chanada gu léir san éisdeachd. 'S e sin as fheàrr na blàth na bochdainn ach, mar a thuig eas sibh, chan 'eil urracha móra a' Chraobh-sgaoilidh an Canada air an riaghladh mar a tha iad san t-seann dùthaich. An cuid de ionadan a' Chraobh-sgaoilidh an ceud feumaidh an dolar a bhith air a' bhòis. An àite a bhith a' fhaighinn phàidhidh air son do shaotrach 's ann a dh' fheumas tu pàidheadh air son do ghuth a chluinntinn air an adhar.

Nuair a bha Céilidh Ceap Breatann air an adhar cheana bha againn ri fichead dolar a phàidheadh air son leth-uair a thide. Lean sin air adhart fad bliadhna no dhà ach bha e eucomasach do mhuintir na Gàidhlig an Ceap Breatann an cosdas seo a choinneachadh a h-uile seachdain.

Tha Comhairle a' Chraobh-sgaoilidh an Canada fhéin (an C.B.C.) reusanta gu leòir, agus dh' fhaodadh iad céilidh Gàidhlig a bhith aca uair sam bith an asgaidh, ach feumaidh na seinn-eadairean agus an luchd-ciùil a bhith mòran nas ealanta na tha iad mun tachair seo. 'S e a tha dhith oirn an dràsda ban-sgoilear a rachadh timcheall air na sgoilean a' teagasg òran Gàidhlig do'n chloinn. Ri tìde chitheadh duine tairge a saotrach agus bhiodh an t-àl ag an uair sin comasach air a' Ghàidhlig a sheinn aig a' Mhòd agus air an adhar.

CALUM IAIN N. MACLEOD.

Gaelic College Notes

SIMPLIFIED Gaelic Lessons for Beginners' is the title of a new pocket-edition textbook just published by the Gaelic College for the use of its Extension Department classes and compiled by Major C. I. N. MacLeod, Gaelic Director.

The schedule of Extension Department classes is now about complete for the Fall and early winter session and limited to five centres at present, namely, Port Hood, Baddeck, St. Ann's, Iona, and Sydney.

The Port Hood and Sydney schedules go under way with a demonstration in the Academy at Port Hood on Wednesday and at the Navy League Centre, Sydney, on Friday, when Major C. I. N. MacLeod and Mrs Eveline Dunbar MacLeod, instructors, were assisted by six Gaelic College Highland lassies demonstrating a Gaelic Class Highland folk art and chanter instruction.

Rev. A. W. R. Mackenzie, Gaelic College Director, conducted these two demonstrations, introducing the instructors and describing the work of Gaelic culture being taught.

At Port Hood Principal MacDougall introduced the programme, and an address of welcome was extended by the Rev. Father Donald MacPherson. A series of twelve weekly sessions will be promoted in the Port Hood Academy at 3 p.m. every Wednesday, and at the Navy League Centre, Sydney, at 4 p.m. every Friday.

Classes will be held at the County Court House, Baddeck, at 3.30 every Tuesday, and at St. Ann's on Saturday afternoons. The Iona classes are scheduled for Thursdays.

The Highland lassies who demonstrated the class instruction at Port Hood and Sydney included Vivian Morrison and June Fraser, Baddeck; Mora Jean MacLeod, Isobel MacLeod, Catherine and Norma Morrison, all of St. Ann's.

Mr Mackenzie said the object of these schools was to train Cape Breton youth in the lost arts, music, and crafts of the Gaelic-speaking pioneer settlers, and he intimated plans were now being formulated to promote County Mods next July at Port Hood, Iona and Sydney, the winners to compete for Cape Breton supremacy the first day of the Cape Breton Mod at St. Ann's.

St Ann's Mod Programme

GAELIC Mod programmes came in for considerable discussion at the recent annual meeting of the Gaelic Foundation Directors at St. Ann's, when Lieut.-Col. Donald Sinclair, New Glasgow, proposed improvements and the Director, Rev. A. W. R. Mackenzie, reported the 1949 event drew almost 500 entries to the ninety-odd competitions, creating an all-time record in entries as well as achieving a high standard of performance.

Col. Sinclair proposed improvements in the entertaining aspects of the Mod, and suggested popular appeal events should be featured early in the afternoon, such as the Milling, and that the formal opening be set for a mid-afternoon hour so that competitions could start at one o'clock. It was also suggested that addresses be reduced to a minimum; that any scheduled event not having at least two competitors be cancelled; and that the general admission charge be the same each day, and reduced if possible.

Col. Sinclair's suggestions were greatly appreciated by the meeting and Mr Mackenzie stated that all suggestions would be given full consideration when preparations were being made for the 1950 event.

In dealing with mod programmes Mr Mackenzie stressed that the aim of the Gaelic Mod was to feature the Mod as the competitive effort culminating the work of the students at the Gaelic College Summer School, with major emphasis upon the progress of students in deportment and performance rather than upon entertainment values. He said it is difficult to educate the general public to the fact that the Mod is not promoted for entertainment and financial profit, but for the development of native talent in the arts and crafts of Gaelic culture. Of course, he stated, great care is always taken to make the presentation of the competitive events as entertaining as possible, by employing exhibition numbers such as massed Highland dancing and the best talent available in

Gaelic song and Highland music between the competitive events, but, until the public learn to regard the Mod as they do any other musical festival, uncharitable criticism is bound to continue.

Scottish Concert Draws Large Crowd

EIGHTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD step-dancer Dan MacIntyre from Glace Bay stole the show at the Highland Scottish Concert at the Lyceum, Sydney, on Friday night, as the 400 Gaels, assembled in support of the programme promoted by the Gaelic College Extension Department in aid of the Sydney Gaelic Culture classes, cheered the marvellous performance of the Cape Breton champion. Dan MacIntyre put on his first exhibition in Sydney seventy-two years ago—"That was before there was a steel plant or harbour in Sydney," stated Judge George Morrison, who presided.

Friday night's concert featured the cream of Gaelic Culture talent in Cape Breton, and every number was well received by the audience. Outstanding was the Gaelic address by Major C. I. N. MacLeod, as also his opening bagpipe selection, "Over the Sea to Skye." Major MacLeod was introduced in Gaelic by Hon. Chieftain J. Chas. MacNeil who welcomed Major MacLeod, wishing him success as Gaelic Director at the Gaelic College. Major MacLeod stated that "the future of Gaelic and Gaelic Culture in Cape Breton depends on the attitude of parents and children to this movement and any stimulus given by the Council of Public Instruction."

The St. Ann's Highland Lassies, dressed in full Highland costume, made a hit in the Highland Fling and Seann Triubhas.

The Gaelic soloists, Mrs Nevin Cameron and Capt. Allan Morrison, excelled themselves as they sang several of the popular Gaelic songs, and Dan MacDonald and J. Malcolm Smith received tremendous applause for their singing of the well-known Milling Songs.

Wm. Lamey was outstanding in usual good form as he played the favourite violin numbers accompanied by Mrs Mary MacLean Gillis at the piano. Piper William MacPherson and Major MacLeod received splendid applause for their many selections of March, Strathspey, and Reels.

Fifty students of the Gaelic Culture classes conducted at the Navy League Centre Hall every Friday afternoon occupied the front seats and appeared on the platform, when Rev. A. W. R. Mackenzie, Gaelic College Director, appealed for the support of teachers

and parents in providing boys and girls for Celtic Culture training at the twelve-week school now commenced in Sydney.

(News of Gaelic College activities gleaned from the *Sydney Post-Record*, Sydney, Nova Scotia, by Rugg Mackenzie.)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

THE Preliminary Meeting of the Executive Council was held in the Town Hall, Inverness, on 8th October, 1949, immediately after the Annual General Meeting. Mr J. M. Bannerman, President, occupied the Chair.

The various Standing Committees were appointed as follows:—

FINANCE. Robert Bain (Convener), Mrs M. C. Edgar, Donald Grant, Kenneth MacDonald, Rev. Joh. MacKay, Donald Shaw MacKinnon, Murdo MacLeod, Farquhar MacRae, Angus Matheson, J. H. Miller, Alexander Nicolson, H. S. Shield, President (*ex officio*).

EDUCATION. Farquhar MacRae (Convener), Nicol Campbell, Donald Graham, Finlay J. MacDonald, Kenneth MacDonald, Angus MacIver, Hector A. Mackenzie, Lachlan MacKinnon, Dr J. A. MacLean, Angus Matheson, Alexander Nicolson, Donald Thomson, President (*ex officio*).

PUBLICATION. Lachlan MacKinnon (Convener), Robert Bain, Donald Graham, Donald Grant, Rev. Alexander MacDonald (Ardchattan), Hector MacDougall, Rev. John MacKay, Rev. Somerled MacMillan, Hugh MacPhee, J. H. Miller, Alexander Nicolson, Donald Thomson, President (*ex officio*), Editor (*ex officio*).

PROPAGANDA. Captain William MacKay (Convener), Donald Thomson (Vice-Convener), Mrs. M. L. Cameron, Nicol Campbell, Mrs C. B. Dunlop, Donald Graham, Hector MacDougall, Rev. John MacKay, Lachlan MacKinnon, Donald MacLean, John N. MacLeod, John A. MacRae, President (*ex officio*).

ART AND INDUSTRY. Mrs. Iain M. Campbell (Airds) (Convener), Mrs J. M. Bannerman, Mrs M. Barron, Mrs C. B. Dunlop, Mrs M. C. Edgar, Finlay J. MacDonald, John MacKay, Donald Shaw MacKinnon, Lachlan MacKinnon, J. H. Miller, Alexander Nicolson, Edward Pursell, President (*ex officio*).

MOD AND MUSIC. Hugh MacPhee (Convener), Mrs M. L. Cameron, Mrs Iain M. Campbell (Airds), Mrs C. B. Dunlop, Donald Graham,

(Continued on page 161)

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A Gael in Korea

JAMES NOBLE MACKENZIE: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, edited by E. MacKerchar. (79pp., 3/6.)

We have been hearing so much lately about the decadence of the Highlander. We are, it appears, a lazy, callous, semi-barbarous people, entirely undeserving of the lavish sums spent on us by a long series of benevolent Governments! Nevertheless, the Highland people, by and large, have made a notable contribution to the life of the nation and to the building up of the British Commonwealth of nations and to humanity in general.

An eighty-four-year-old Gaelic-speaking Highlander, an official of the Gaelic Society of that city, now living in Melbourne, Australia, is one more example of the type of men and women who have been the greatest asset of the Highlands and Islands and their greatest contribution to the good of the world.

James Noble Mackenzie, or "Seumas na Bantraich," as he was called in his youth, was born in Isle Ewe in Ross-shire in 1865. When he was five years old, his father died, leaving the widowed mother with a young family of four sons and three daughters, ranging in age from two and a half to fourteen years. With her family she removed to Plockton, where James received his early education. At the age of sixteen he went to Glasgow and obtained employment, making himself generally useful in a warehouse, at 5/- a week. Resolving to get a better education and to become a missionary, he embarked on the long course of study necessary and at the same time set about earning the money to pay his way through college. He took a job as an auxiliary postman at 14/- a week. Later he was employed as a teacher in the schools of the Ladies' Highland Association in North Uist, Lewis, and the Isle of Coll. In Coll one of his pupils was Mr Hector MacDougall, who needs no introduction to readers of this magazine. In 1894 Mr Mackenzie, having qualified as a missionary, went abroad. He spent the first fifteen years of his missionary career in the New Hebrides in the Pacific. In 1910 he transferred to Korea, and there for thirty years he served faithfully and successfully, being concerned specially with work among the lepers for whom he built churches, schools, hospitals, and homes.

This little book tells the fascinating story of Mr Mackenzie's life and work, and the proceeds from the sale of it go to help the Mission to Lepers, 7 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1., by whom the book is published.

Folk-lore

BEALOIDÉAS, Iml.XVII, Uimh.i-ii, Meitheamh-Nodlaig 1947. The Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society. (Published by the Educational Company of Ireland, 89 Talbot Street, Dublin. 1949. 304pp, 10/6 Post Free.)

The latest volume of "Bealoidéas" contains the usual varied and rich fare. The material is in Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, and English. Pride of place is given to "Gearr-Chunntas air an Athair Manus Mac Suibhne" by Padraig O Moghrain. Father Manus Sweeney, who was born in 1763, was hanged in 1799 on a charge of being implicated in a rebellion when a small French force landed in Ireland that year. A large amount of tradition about Sweeney, gleaned from various sources, is here set forth, and it is interesting to note how much of the material was obtained from aged people not long dead, whose life-span reached back almost to Sweeney's time, or to within a generation of it.

Liam O Danachair writes on "Memories of My Youth," especially the years from 1873 to 1884. Padraig O Conchubhair has an interesting article on "Children's Games." It is, however, unfair to particularise when every item is of interest and value.

Of special interest to Scottish Gaels are the "Sgiallachdan o Uibhist" by Mr K. C. Craig, consisting of two tales, "Sgiallachd Mhìc an Rìdir Albannaich" and "Mar a cheileadh an t-sealg air an Fhìn," both taken down from the recital of Mr Duncan MacDonald, Peighinn nan Aoghairean, South Uist.

Oh! Christina!

CHRISTINA, by J. J. Bell (Moray Press, Edinburgh, 1949, 224pp., 6/-).

This is a new edition of a delightful book first published in 1928 and long out of print. J. J. Bell's chief claim to fame rests on his creation of "Wee Macgregor," but "Christina" has also deservedly won a place for herself, and those who have not yet made her acquaintance should buy this entertaining book.

"Peat-Reek"

PEAT-REEK (SMUID MONA): words and music by Somerled MacMìlan (Bard of the Clan MacMillan). Foreword by Sir Hugh S. Robertson. (Bayley & Ferguson, Glasgow and London, 10/-).

This is a volume of original Gaelic poems and songs, with English versions and with music, all written and composed by Mr MacMillan, with pianoforte accompaniments by E. Russell-Fleming. Sir Hugh S. Robertson writes in the Foreword: "The maker of these songs has much of the old bard in him, for not only does he make the tunes himself, he makes also the words, and forbye all that he sings them, words and tunes, with his own voice." There are sixteen songs in the book, all of them very good, and some of them, we think, excellent. Included is an elegy for Professor James Carmichael Watson.

We heartily commend this attractive volume, with its beautiful cover design by George Bain, and we congratulate Mr MacMillan on his work. He is, we understand, a man for whom Gaelic was not his first language, which makes his command of the language all the more remarkable.

We append a Gaelic review by another hand.

Bha ceist anns a' Ghaidheal o chionn ghoidir, "Cuin a cheannaich thu leabhar Gàidhlig?" Cheannaich mise fear an Inbhir-Nis aig a' Mhòd air an tug mi deich tasdain, agus chan 'eil na deich tasdain ro phailt agam! Tha leabhraichean daor, agus chan iad an fheadhainn Ghàidhlig as saoire. Chan 'eil an fhéill a bu cheart a bhith orra air leabhraichean ùra Gàidhlig. Tha sin, mar aon ni, a' fàgail dhaoine leasg air a bhith cur an t-seòrsa an clò. Rud a tha àraid, tha féill nach beag am measg nan Cuimreach air leabhraichean 'nan cainnt fhéin; ach, gun teagamh, tha cus de bharrachd aca-san a tha comasach air an cainnt fhéin a leughadh.

Chaidh an leabhar seo, eadar ceòl is cainnt, a chur cruinn leis an ùghdar seo e fhéin. Chan ann tric a gheibh sinn duine Gàidhealach a ni an dà nì sin gun dragh. Agus—rud as cliù-thoiltinniche na sin—is e a h-ionnsachadh a rinn an t-ùghdar air a' Ghàidhlig. Agus aig a' Mhòd sheinn e dhùinn, an coimhling nam fear, aon de na h-brain aige fhéin.

Cha leòr do na Gaidheil a bhith beò air Donnchadh Bàn no air Rob Donn. "Teirighidh Cruachan Beann gun rud a chur 'na cheann." Bu mhaith am manadh rath e an tuilleadh 's an tuilleadh de nìthan ùra theachd am follais an Gàidhlig eadar ceòl is cainnt. Is maith an rud e na nìthan ùra bhith toirt leòr an dualchais a tha anns na seann nìthan gun iad a bhith idir am bruid ri linn sin. Tha mi an dùil gu bheil oidhirp mhaith deanta san leabhar seo air sin a chumail dìreach san amharc. Chuala mi an t-ghdhar a' seinn na chumha do'n Ollamh Seumas MacBhàitair agus cha luaithe a thog e a ghuth na thug e Rob Donn nam chumhne agus " 'S e mo bheachd ort, a bhàis. " Thaitinn an cumha gu mòr rium eadar ceòl is cainnt.

Tha a' Ghàidhlig 'na cùis ionghnaidh maith agus 'na cliù do dhùine dealasach a rinn a h-ionnsachadh. Is mòr an teist air an fhoghlum aig fear air bith air cànan gun rachadh aige air bàrdachd a dheanamh innte, agus nìdhean ciallach is fileanta a chur sa' bhàrdachd sin. Tha an duigh againn buidheann bheag de dhaoine cearta comasach a tha air a' Ghàidhlig a thogail agus a tha deanamh feum maith leatha. Tha mi an dòchas gun tig tuilleadh mòr air an cùl. Bidh fàilte mhòr againn roimh gach ceann aca.

Agus bu cheart duinn a nis fàilte chridheil a chur air an leabhar fhùghail seo. Is e call mòr a tha ann cho ullamh agus a tha daoine Gaidhealach air a bhith faotainn coire. "Urram do'n dligheach urram."

Tha mi an dòchas gum bi féill cheart air an leabhar seo agus gum dean cuid de na fuinn is de na dàin seo àite buan a thoir a mach aig ar luchd-chùil. Bu mhaith leam fhéin Cutha MhicBhàitair fhaicinn aig luchd-farpais aig Mòd an hìne gheàrr.

Tha mo bheannachd aig an duine dhìcheallach seo air son a shaothair agus a sgoinn. Tha e airidh air cliù is moladh air son obair cho ionmholta. C. McG.

Skibo

THE ESTATE AND CASTLE OF SKIBO, by William Calder (The Albyn Press, Edinburgh, 1949, 80pp., 6/-).

It is always a pleasure to draw attention to new works on local history, when such books are well done and not just a hotch-potch of legend and conjecture. Mr Calder has done much research and sets forth the results clearly and interestingly in this little book. Against the background of a brief sketch of the history of Sutherland,

he describes the estate of Skibo and outlines its history, with historical accounts also of Dornoch (with its cathedral and castle), Tain, and other places nearby. The last chapter is about "Skibo's Most Popular Laird," Mr Andrew Carnegie, who rose from poverty to vast wealth and used his wealth to endow so many good causes. There are many beautiful photographic illustrations.

Dealbh-Chluichean Gàidhlig

BHA 'AINM ANNS AN FHEARANN, le Iain MacMhathain.

FEASGAR TRANG 'S AN OSD-THIGH, le R. T. MacDhòmhnaill.

Tha ùidh mhòr aig mòran sluaigh mu dheas is mu thuant ann an dealbh-chluichean, agus tha co-fharpaisean 'gan cumail air feadh na dùthcha gach bliadhna an co-cheangail ris an dràma. Tha buidhean is comuinn ann leis am miann dealbh-chluichean Gàidhlig a chur air an àrd-ùrlar. Ged a tha àireamh bheag de dhealb-chluichean Gàidhlig ann a tha glé mhath, agus àireamh eile nach 'eil ro fhreagarrach, tha feum air feadhainn ùra. Tha sinn, mar sin, toilichte innsadh gu bheil na dhà ùra seo air tighinn bho'n chòl-bhuailtear. Choisinn an dealbh-chluich aig Mgr. MacMhathain a' cheud duais aig Mòd Pheairt an 1947, agus chualas e air an ràdio. Tha e fìor-mhath. Agus tha an dealbh-chluich aig Mgr. MacDhòmhnaill glé mhath mar an ceudna. Chan 'eil aon seach aon dhiubh ro dhoirbh, agus tha mi cinnteach gun toir iad mòr thoileachadh do'n bhuidhinn-dràma a chluicheas iad agus do'n luchd-amhairc a chi iad. Tha na leabhrair air an reic leis a' Chomunn Ghaidhealach aig prìs dà thasdan am fear.

A Clan Mag aazine

THE CLAN MACLEOD MAGAZINE, 1948-49 (Clan MacLeod Society, 1/6).

This is the fourteenth number of a clan magazine which always includes items of interest to a wider circle than the Clan MacLeod. Flora Mrs MacLeod of MacLeod describes her visit to Nova Scotia in 1947. Derek Thomson writes about "Imagery in the Poetry of Mary MacLeod." Major Calum I. N. MacLeod writes about the position of Gaelic in Nova Scotia. There is an article on the Fife Adventurers in Lewis by the late Major R. C. MacLeod. The Rev. Donald MacKinnon contributes the first instalment of a valuable account of the "MacQueens of Skye."

Kintyre

KINTYRE THROUGH THE CENTURIES, by D. P. Thomson (Pickering & Inglis, Glasgow, 32pp., 1/-).

This little book is a sequel to Mr Thomson's earlier one, *It Happened in Kintyre* (reviewed in *An Gaidheal*, Oct., 1949, p.145). Many interesting events and personalities in Kintyre's long history are here described. It is not so much a history of Kintyre as a series of pictures or biographical sketches showing the contribution made by Kintyre people "to the onward march of the Kingdom of God throughout the world."

CAN YOU WRITE A GAELIC PLAY?

THE Scottish Community Drama Association invite the submission of plays for their "Fifth Playwriting Competition." The play must not have been published or performed prior to 31st December, 1949. It must be in ONE ACT, preferably without division into scenes, and have a playing time of at least 25 minutes and not more than 40 minutes. (Four pages of normal dialogue plays approximately five minutes). There must be at least four speaking parts.

The play must be typewritten on one side of quarto size paper, and the author's pen-name must appear on the outer cover. The entry fee is 10/- for each play submitted. Entries must be received not later than 31st December, 1949. The prize is £10 10/- and a guaranteed public performance (for which a royalty of £1 1/- will be paid).

The Association is keen to have Gaelic plays submitted, as well as English plays.

Anyone interested should write for rules and entry form to Mr. Lyndesay G. Langwill, C.A., Secretary and Treasurer, Scottish Community Drama Association, 19 Melville Street, Edinburgh, 3.

NATIONAL MOD, DUNOON

Accommodation

The Mod Local Committee has published a little booklet, *Holiday Accommodation*, giving a list of hotels, boarding houses, and apartments in Dunoon and district, for the convenience of persons intending to attend the National Mod at Dunoon, 3rd-6th October, 1950. Copies may be obtained on application to the Accommodation Secretary, Mr J. W. Shankland, 1 Alexandria Terrace, Dunoon.

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

NOW that the National Mod is over and business arising therefrom practically completed, consideration is being given to the work of the new Session. Already several Branches have had their opening meetings and the response has been very gratifying. Notes on the activities of Branches will appear in *An Gaidheal* monthly and Branch Secretaries are invited to send short news paragraphs to the Organiser at 92 Academy Street, Inverness, at the beginning of each month. In this way, readers of our magazine in far-away places are kept in touch with what is being done to maintain the old language at home.

Mod Dates

AT a Meeting held at Fort William recently it was decided to hold the Lochaber Provincial Mod at Fort William on Friday, 23rd June, 1950. The usual syllabus is being arranged. The Secretary is Mr Lachlan MacKinnon, M.A., 18 Grange Terrace, Fort William, to whom all Mod communications should be sent.

At a Meeting of Branch representatives, held at Kingussie, consideration was given to the venue and date for next year's Badenoch - Strathspey Provincial Mod. It was ultimately decided that the 1950 Mod be held at Kingussie on Friday, 2nd June. A syllabus was prepared and adjudicators appointed. It was also resolved to thank the Aviemore and Rothiemurchus Branch for promoting such a successful Mod last June. All communications concerning the 1950 Local Mod should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. John MacKinnon, M.A., Tigh an Eilich, Kingussie.

Radio Lessons

TREMENDOUS interest has been aroused by the introduction of Gaelic lessons on the wireless. It is customary, in many places, for mothers and children to listen-in to these broadcasts, and one can hear children on their way to school endeavouring to repeat the conversation between Alasdair and George. Some Gaelic Continuation Classes also take advantage of these lessons and meet earlier for this purpose. The B.B.C., Mr. Hugh MacPhee, Mr. Pursell, and Alasdair and George deserve the warmest thanks of us all for a grand job of work and for rekindling a love for the language which was

not in evidence before the introduction of these broadcasts.

The full list of Gaelic Continuation Classes is not yet to hand but it is expected that this session may show a record. The various Education Committees are giving every encouragement to the formation of Gaelic language and music classes, and it will be the fault of Highlanders themselves if advantage is not taken of the special facilities provided.

Vacation Course

A Vacation Course for a limited number of Leaders of Comunn na h-Oigridh is to be held at Swordale House, Evanton, Ross-shire, from 27th to 30th December this year. The use of this house has been kindly granted by Mr and Mrs Bannerman. The students will be welcomed by Mr Bannerman, and he will act as Chairman throughout the Course. Papers will be read by Mr Lachlan MacKinnon, M.A., Convener, Dr. J. A. MacLean, Director of Education for the County of Inverness, and Mr Donald MacPhail. Organiser for the Northern

Area. There will be discussions following each talk. It is expected that this Course will stimulate interest in the movement in Gaelic areas. It will also bring together workers for the movement from different parts so that they can exchange views and plan together. It is fully recognised that lack of contact between Leaders has been a handicap in the past.

The Northern Sub-Committees have been re-constituted for session 1949-50 and Conveners appointed.

Glenfinnan Gathering

IN the unavoidable absence of the Chief, the Northern Organiser gave the address in Gaelic at this year's Highland Gathering and Games. In the course of his address he said that Gatherings such as Glenfinnan did much to uphold the traditions and customs of the Gael.

The weather was kind throughout, and the visitors present, many from overseas, were struck by the beauty of the surroundings. The *Ceol Mor* competition was staged immediately to the rear of the monument and facing Loch Shiel, and a large number of people listened attentively to the tunes played by first-class pipers.

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

MASSED CHOIRS' CONCERT

THE Massed Choirs' Concert in St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on Friday, 25th October, was one of the best concerts held in Glasgow for many years. It was an impressive and exhilarating experience, and one wonders why the hall was not packed to overflowing.

The choirs taking part were Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (Mr. J. N. McConnochie), Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir (Miss Helen T. MacMillan), Govan Gaelic Choir (Mr. Pat Sandeman), Dunoon Gaelic Choir (Mr. Neil MacLean), Ayr Gaelic Choir (Mr. Donald MacIsaac), Clydebank Gaelic Choir (Mr. Tom Crawford), and Greenock Gaelic Choir (Mr. Donald McAllister).

Others who contributed to the excellent programme were Ina MacDermid, Catriona J. B. MacLean, Mary MacKenzie and Isobel MacLean, Margaret Ferguson, Finlay MacKeachan, Isobel MacKechnie, Norah Morrison, the Lewis and Harris Luadh Party, a party from the Scottish Country Dance Society, and the Glasgow Police Pipers.

The Chairman was the Very Rev. Alexander MacDonald, D.D.,

Glasgow. Votes of thanks were moved by Mrs. Bannerman, Convener of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund Committee, and Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon, Convener of the Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee.

EDINBURGH HIGHLAND BALL

A HIGHLAND BALL in aid of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Balmoral Restaurant, Princes Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, 26th August. Mrs. Pat MacLaren, Convener of the Ball Committee, received the guests, among whom were the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir Andrew Murray, and Miss Rodney Murray.

Many and varied were the tartans represented at the Ball, and Mrs. MacLaren and her Committee have every reason to feel satisfied with the result of their efforts, as the function proved to be most successful both socially and financially. Mrs. MacLaren was ably assisted by Miss Isa Macmillan and Mr. Donald MacPhail, B.L., who acted as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively.

Iomhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod, Inverness, 1949

Received at Inverness:—

Previously acknowledged	£2,307 17 6	
Portree Secondary School		
Gaelic Choir, per Mr		
J. F. Steele, M.A.	10 — —	£2,317 17 6

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	209 18 6	
Miss Elsie G. M. Douglas,		
Killilan, Kyle	3 3 —	
Lachlan MacKinnon,		
Esq., Fort William	1 — —	
The Clarsach Society	4 10 —	
Glasgow Celtic Society	4 10 —	
Paisley Highlanders		
Association	3 3 —	
Ceildh nan Gaidheal	5 — —	
Uist and Barra Associa-		
tion	3 — —	
Anonymous	1 10 —	
		235 14 6
		£2,553 12 —

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged	£747 1 3	
Miss Jean C. Campbell, Edinburgh	1 — —	
Collecting Box at Lochearnhead Hotel	1 13 8	
Mrs. Margaret E. Matheson, Kyle of		
Lochalsh	— 16 3	
Mrs. Menzies, Ayr-shire	— 17 —	
Miss Mary Boyd, North Uist	— 12 6	
Portree Amateur Dramatic Club	3 3 —	
Flag Day Collection in Lochport, North		
Uist	1 12 6	

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME UIST PLACE-NAMES

Abhainn Ghéidearraig appears on the map as *Abhainn Gheatry* < Norse *Geitard*, Goat River. The river rises in Ben More, *A' Bheinn Mhór*, the earlier name of which is *Beinn Ghéideabhal* < Norse *Geitfell* (fjall), Goat Fell, as in Arran (now *Gaoidbheinn*). Further south is *Ard Ghéidinis* (Gaidinish on the map), < Norse *Geines*, Goat Point.

An Glenn Dorcha is spelt on the map *Glen Dorchay*.

The map forms *Stillgarry*, *Stulaval*, and *Stuley*, < Norse *Stúlgerdi*, *Stúðulfell* (fjall), and *Stúley*, might be spelt *Stadh-laisearraidh*, *Stadhlabhal*, and *Stadhlaigh*, meaning *Gearraidh na Buailleadh*, *Beinn na Buailleadh*, and *Eilein na Buailleadh*.

Shilly More should be spelt *Seileigh Mhór*, < Norse *Seley*, Seal Island.

How- in Howmore comes from Norse *hof* (temple), not from *haugr*, and is masculine. *Hoe*, a name applied to headlands, is from Norse *höfði* and is feminine in Gaelic.
K. C. CRAIG.

Hydro-Electric Bd. (from p. 174) in the rest of the Board's area, although it is hoped to extend a similar arrangement to other parts of the area when the large hydro-electric schemes under construction come into operation and similar conditions exist.

The concession will be applied during the two quarterly meter-reading periods ending December-January and March-April. For domestic consumers the new tariffs will be:—

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Duror and Kentallen Branch 3 — —

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The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

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Alan Grant Humberstone, Esq., Surrey	— 10 —
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Fort William Branch	— 2 —
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	£52 — 9

Executive Council (from p. 177)

Very Rev. Dr. Alex. MacDonald, Angus MacIver, Lachlan MacKinnon, John A. MacRae, Ian Millar, Charles Reppke, Donald Thomson, President (*ex officio*).

CLANN AN FHRAOICH. Eachann MacDhùghaill (Fear-gairme), a' Bhean-usal M. C. Edgar, Dòmhnall Greum, an t-Urr. Iain MacAoidh, Iain MacAoidh, an t-Urr. T. M. MacCalmain, an Deas-Urramach Alasdair MacDhòmhnaill, an t-Urr. Alasdair MacDhòmhnaill (Aird-chattan), Coinneach MacDhòmhnaill, Murchadh MacLeòid, Alasdair MacNeacail, Fearchar MacRath, an Ceann-suidhe (*ex officio*).

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20 APR 1950

An Gaidheal:

(Formerly AN DEO GRÉINE)

The Monthly Magazine of An Comunn Gaidhealach

Volume XLV.

January, 1950, to December, 1950, inclusive.



AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH,
65 WEST REGENT STREET, GLASGOW.

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AN GAIÐHEAL *THE GAEL*

Vol. XLV

JANUARY, 1950

No. 1

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

Bliadhna Mhath Ur

THA sinn ag guidhe do ar leughadairean agus do bhuill a' Chomuinn Bliadhna Mhath Ur. Gu robh sìth is sonas is soirbheachadh agaibh uile rè na bliadhna! Tha aon phaipear-naidheachd Gaidhealach a bhios aig toiseach gach bliadhna a' nochdadh dùrachd do a leughadairean ann am briatharan mar seo—: "Na *Guidheachan* As Fhèrr Air Son Sìth Anns A' Bhladhna Uir." Ma thà, chan ann le guidheachan ach le guidhe a tha *An Gaidheal* ag cur fàilte oirbh uile.

A Highland Veteran

MANY throughout the Highlands will have heard with regret of the death of Ex-Bailie Joseph MacLeod, M.B.E., Inverness. He was eighty-seven years of age and was a kenspeckle figure in the Highland Capital. In his early years he was closely associated with the crofters' struggle for redress of their many grievances, and throughout his life he worked hard for what he believed to be the highest good of the Highlands. He interested himself especially in local government and education, was Liberal Organiser for over fifty years, a member of the first County Council of Sutherland, and for many years a Town Councillor and Magistrate in Inverness. He was one of those who in 1884 went prospecting for gold at Kildonan, Sutherland, and not without some little reward.

An Comunn Badges

THE official badge of An Comunn Gaidhealach is again on sale to Ordinary and Life Members, and may be had from the Treasurer, Mr James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1., price 3/6 (or, including postage, 3/9).

The Coll Ferry-Boat

A few weeks ago the ferry-boat at Coll was wrecked and became a total loss in a storm when conveying passengers and cargo from the steamer to the shore. Fortunately there was no loss of life, but we understand there was damage to cargo. This incident calls attention once again to perhaps the most clamant need of many Highland districts—adequate, and reasonably safe, transport facilities. It is some time now since we were told that the building of a pier at Coll is a "top priority," to use the jargon of the planners and bureaucrats. It is past time that it should be a concrete reality.

Lord Lovat's Plea

LORD LOVAT has again been making a strong plea for turning more of the Highlands over to cattle-rearing as in former times. He has reinforced his speeches on this subject by the example which he himself has given. One area where he has introduced cattle since the war originally carried forty Galloway cows but now carries up to 800 head of cattle. In 1850, according to Lord Lovat, no fewer than 155,000 store cattle were exported from the Highland area, but today in the whole of the Highland area there are only 42,000 hill cattle drawing the hill cattle subsidy.

Correction

"PEAT-REEK"

The price of Somerled Mac-Millan's volume, PEAT-REEK (SMUID MONA), is 10/6, not 10/- as stated in the review (December Number, p.179).

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Is gearr gach reachd ach riaghailt Dhé.

Firinn air son a' Mhìos seo

Seasaidh facal ar Dé-ne gu sìorruidh.

—Isa. xl. 8.

THERE will be wide-spread regret that Mr Alasdair Matheson, on receiving another appointment, has resigned from the staff of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

It was towards the end of 1934 that Mr Hugh Macphie was appointed Gaelic Director of the British Broadcasting Corporation and Mr Matheson succeeded him as Assistant Secretary of An Comunn early in 1935.

During the fourteen years of his service with An Comunn Mr Matheson has become widely known throughout the Highlands, and An Comunn has placed on record its recognition of the work he has done.

We understand that Mr Matheson's new appointment is in a publishing business, and we hope that, just as Mr Macphie's work with the B.B.C. has all along given splendid support to the work of An Comunn, so Mr Matheson's work as a publisher will also help towards a greater output of Gaelic books. We also hope that, although no longer an official of An Comunn, Mr Matheson will continue to help, and that he will still be heard frequently on the concert platform.

We wish Mr Matheson success and happiness in his new venture.

GIFT OF BOOKS

In Memory of General Davies

Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Davies, London, has very kindly presented to the library of An Comunn Gaidhealach a number of useful Gaelic books which belonged to his father, the late General Davies. We would here record our appreciation of this generous gift.

Sir Francis Davies, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., was a keen Gaelic scholar and a member of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and was well known in Scotland when he was Commander-in-Chief, Scottish Command, from 1919 to 1923. He joined the Grenadier Guards in 1884 and retired from the Army in 1926 with the rank of General, having seen service in the South African War and in the First World War, during which he commanded a Division in France and an Army Corps at Gallipoli in the Dardanelles Campaign, and was Military Secretary at the War Office. He was Lieutenant of the Tower of London from 1923 to 1926 and was A.D.C. to the King from 1922 to 1926.

General Davies died on 18th March, 1948.

- Le OGHA DHOMHNAILL
- (Rinneadh na rainn seo do Mhurchadh MacGille-Mhoire, Bàrd Shiadair, a tha o chionn iomadh bliadhna thall an Stàitean Aonaichte Ameriga. Is e am fonn a chuirear r's na rainn seo am fonn a sheinnear le *The Dawning of the Day*—Fàinne geal an lae.)
- Fàilt' ort thall an t-iar na maoin
Tha mór o shàl gu sàl,
A null thar cuan tha duinn gu sior
Dol siar 'na thonnaibh àrd,
A eilean beag nan cearcan-fraoich
A chuir thu caomh 'nad dhàn,
Am beannachd buan air macan caoin
De shliochd nan daoine bàn.

- Tha bailtean beaga an cois a' chuain
Ni nuallan buan ri tràigh,
A' neadachadh ri muir air chuain
'S a' mhòinteach shuas 'nan dail,
Tha mór is beag is boch is slàn
Is dubh is bàn an sàs
O mhoch gu dubh a' dol mun cuairt
Le 'n uallach mar a bhà.

- Tha bailtean beaga an cois a' chuain
'S chan 'eil iad mar a bhà,
Tha mìltean thall san dachaidh bhuan,
Tha cuid a ghluais le càil
Chur eòlais air an t-saoghal mhór
A cheòl 's a dhòigh 's a ghàir,
'S chan 'eil a' chlann cho lionmhor beò
'S a bha iad là an àigh.

- Ach fhathast tha a' ghrian 's an sìon
Mar bha iad riann leat ann,
An samhradh maiseach gu do mhian
Cur sgiamh air sliabh nam beann,
An gearmhradh garbh le buirb is búr
Is dùbhlachd dhruidht' a bhàn,
Cò chuireadh sin an rann gun tùr
Is cuimhn' is sùil aig bàrd!

- An t-iar ri ceòl 's am mart ag òl
'S an t-iasg le sheòl sa' chuain,
Is sean is òg gu cridheil còir
Le dòigh nach òr a bhuaidh,
Measg dubh is geal is glas is ruadh
Cà 'n tugadh buaidh air tìr
Nam fear cho cruaidh, nam ban
tha suairc,
Na h-òigridh usail ghrinn.

Miss Susan Mackenzie

THE death of Miss Susan Mackenzie last November at her home in Toberonochy, Island of Luing, removes from the Gaelic field a worker of rare talent and natural charm. She was outstanding in her native island as a Gaelic enthusiast and propagandist, and her gift as a composer of songs with local colour enlivened many of the ceilidhs. On many occasions she competed successfully in the oral competitions of the National Mod, and in 1938 she won first prize for reciting one of her own compositions. Unfortunately, few of her poems were committed to writing, and it is to be regretted that many of her finest pieces have passed away with her. She had been a member of An Comunn for many years.

Captain Duncan Robertson

CAPTAIN D. ROBERTSON, formerly of the "Lochmor," did not, alas, long enjoy the retirement on which he entered in May last. His death has removed one of the best-known personalities in the West.

At the time of his retreat he paid tribute to him in these columns (*An Gaidheal*, June 1949, p. 72). A life-long supporter of An Comunn, he was particularly associated with the Kyle Branch.

Miss Lettice MacNaughten

MISS L. MACNAUGHTEN, whose home was in Edinburgh, passed away some time ago. She was an assiduous student of Gaelic and used to compete with success in the oral competitions at mods.

Mr Neil MacInnes

MR NEIL MACINNES, Kilmacolm, was a member of An Comunn and served for a period on the Executive Council. In connection with his duties as a District Inspector of the Department of Health he was well-known in various parts of the Highlands. He contributed occasionally to this magazine and other journals.

We record our deep sympathy with the bereaved relatives.

- A Eilean Leòdhais ('s an ceann garbh
Nach gabh a thearbadh as)
Seo chugad slàint' is sonas, cearb
Na biodh an sealb do leas;
'S tu thog an càrn a sheas slàn
Nuair nach bi beàrn air còrr,
Le rann is fìldeachd nan dàin
A chuir sa' Ghàidhlig stòr.

"Mac Talla"

Le FEAR CHANAIDH

"An nì nach cluinn mi an diugh chan aithris mi maireach."

(Chaochail Mgr. Eòin MacFhionghuin, Fear-deasachaidh *Mac Talla*, aig toiseach na bliadhna 1944, agus aig an àm sin bha iomradh goirid air anns *A' Ghaidheal*, air a thogais as a' phaipear, *The Caskeit* (faic *An Gaidheal*, Cèitein 1944, t.d. 94). Tha sinn toilichte an t-iomradh seo a thoirt am follais agus mar an ceudna dealbh an duine còir nach maireann, agus tha ar taing aig ar caraaid, Mgr. Iain Lathurna Caimbeul, "Fear Chanaidh."

Mun d'eug e, dh'eadar-theangaich Mgr. Eòin MacFhionghuin mu dhusan caibideil de'n leabhar Bheurla, "*Treasure Island*," agus chuir Dòmhnall, a bhràthair, crìoch air an obair. Tha an t-eadar-theangachadh sin a nis fo làimh againn agus sinn 'ga ullachadh air son a' chlà. Tha ar deagh charaid, Mgr. Eideard MacUrdaidh, cheana air suim leth-cheud not a thoirt do'n Chomunn Ghaidhealach a chum an t-eadar-theangachadh aig MacFhionghuin a chur an clò a chum feum Comunn na h-Oigridh.—F.-D.)

THUG naidheachd bàis Eòin MacFhionghuin mòran duilichinn air na Gàidheil air fad, gu sònraichte orrasan a bha eòlach air agus air a' phaipear-naidheachd "*MacTalla*," a bha e ag cur a mach eadar 1892 agus 1904. Tha e nis dà fhichead bliadhna agus a còig o'n a sgrù "*MacTalla*," de thighinn a mach, agus theagamh nach robh fios aig a h-uile duine gu robh am fear-deasachaidh beò gu toiseach na bliadhna 1944; oir thuir an t-Ollamh Leathaineach anns an "*Typographia Scoto-Gaelica*" (1915) gun do chuir bàs an fhir-deasachaidh stad air "*Mac Talla*" de bhith tighinn a mach ann an 1904; ach bha an t-Ollamh am mearachd. Gu fortanach dh'fhan Eòin MacFhionghuin beò mòran bhliadhnaichean an dèidh do "*Mhac Talla*" sgrù.

O nach robh mòran san t-seann-dùthaich a chuir eòlas air Eòin MacFhionghuin seach mi fhìn, bu chòir dhomh fàchann air beagan a ràdh mu dheidhinn; agus ar leam gum biodh e mòran na bu fireagarraiche dhomh a mharbhrann a ràdh sa' Ghàidhlig; fòrdadh sin ris na b'fhèarr. (Faodaidh luchd na Beurla sgeul a bheatha a leughadh san *Oban Times* agus anns an *Stornoway Gazette*, far an robh iomradh air goirid an dèidh a bhàis.) Oir gu



Eoin MacFhionghuin

dearbh tha mi am barail nach robh duine riann anns an linn seo a bha na b'euadhmoire a thaobh na Gàidhlig is a thaobh litreachas is eachdraidh nan Gàidheal na bha Eòin MacFhionghuin. Agus cha bheag an t-iongnadh sin. Cha robh Ghàidhlig 'ga teagas gun sgoil nuair a bha e innte; cha robh comas aige dhòl do'n oilthigh ann an àite sam bith; cha robh de bheartas aige air chor 's gum faodadh e bhith coma cò dhu bhiodh "*Mac Talla*" ag call no ag cosnadh an airgid dha. Ach ge b'e cho mòr 's a bha gach anacothrom a bha 'na rathad, thàinig e gu fòghlum 's gu sgoil-carachd nach bu bheag; dh'ionnsaich e ealain na sgrìobhad-airrachadh, agus nochd e ciall agus gliocas anns an sgrìobhadh aige a tha toirt a h-uile creideas dha.

Ach mu'n tòisich mi air cunntas a thoirt air "*Mac Talla*," feumaidh mi facal no dhà a ràdh an toiseach mu Eòin MacFhionghuin fhéin. Thachair mi ris an toiseach an 1932 a' chiad uair a rinn mi tadhal air Ceap Breatann; chuala mi gu robh fear-deasachaidh "*Mhic Talla*," beò fhathast, 's cha robh mi fada gun esan a choinneachadh. 'S e clò-bhuallad-air a bha ann a bhràthair, Dòmhnall MacFhionghuin, agus thachair mi ri Eòin ann am bùth a bhràthair an ann Sidni, 's cha

luath 's a chualas gur h-ann o'n t-seann-dùthaich a thàinig mi, chaidh fàilte bhlàth Ghàidhealach a chur orm.

DUINE meadhonach àrd, tiugh, 'car mall 'na dhòigh 's 'na bhruidhinn a bha ann an Eòin MacFhionghuin. Bha blas Chanada air a Bheurla 's blas an eilein Sgitheanach air a' Ghàidhlig aige. Dh'innis e dhomh eachdraidh nan Gàidheal ann an Ceap Breatann, 's eachdraidh "*Mhic Talla*," 's mu'n obair a rinn e o'n sgrù "*Mac Talla*," 's mu chor nan Gàidheal 's na Gàidhlig ann an Canada an diugh. Cha do thachair mi riann ri duine a bha na b'èolaiche mu na rudan sin na e fhéin. Bha a fhaclan cho làn seagh agus brìgh 's gun do smaointich mi, iomadh uair, gum faodadh e cathair ollamh na Gàidhlig a lìonadh ann an o'ithigh sam bith; nam b'òdh a lethidh sin a'ge, tha mi cinnteach nach biodh e dad air deireadh air a fhear-cinnidh féin a bha 'na ollamh na Gàidhlig ann an Dùn-Eideann roimh an cheud chogadh mòr. Nuair a chuala mi gun do thaghadh e a bhith 'na Dheadhain aig Sgoil-Shamhraidh na Gàidhlig a chaidh a chur air bonn an Ceap Breatann beagan bhliadhnaichean roimh 'n chogadh mu dheireadh, shaoil mi nach robh duine ann a b'iomchuidh air an ònoir sin na e fhéin.

Dh'innis e dhomh gu robh eadar 1200 agus 1500 luchd-leughaidh aig "*Mac Talla*," 's gu robh e pàidheadh ceart gu leòr an toiseach gus an d'fhuaradh meinnean gual agus iarainn goirid do Shidni. An uair sin chruinnich daoine as a h-uile ceàrna de'n t-saoghal do'n bhaile; dh'èirich a h-uile coisgais gu mòr (bha coisgais a' bhualaidh a' r a' dùblachadh eadar 1899 agus 1900), agus mu dheireadh b'fheadar dha toirt suas. Ach faodaidh mi seo a ràdh; cha robh paiper riann air a chur a mach sa' Ghàidhlig a mhàin a mhair cho fada ri "*Mac Talla*," no a thàinig goirid dha, agus sin gun aig an fhear-deasachaidh r'a chumail suas ach an t-airgead a chosnadh e. Tha e toirt cliù mòr do Eòin MacFhionghuin agus a dh'aona chuid masladh agus nàire do Ghàidheil Chanada agus Alba a leig le "*Mac Talla*" dol bàs nuair a b'urrainn dhaibh tighinn g'a chuideachadh. Bhiodh iad 'ga ionndrainn o nach robh e aca tuilleadh.

Turus eile rinn mi sgrìob do Cheap Breatann, an 1937, agus chuir Eòin MacFhionghuin fàilte chùrteil, chòir air Baintighearna Chanadaich 's orm fhìn. Bha e nis a' fuireach leis fhéin anns a'

(An còrr air t.d. 4)

bhaile bheag Whycocamagh, taobh ri Loch Bras d'Or, far an d'rugadh e. Bha sinne an déidh tighinn do Cheap Breatainn air son seann-órain Gháidhlig a chur air an dictíonair againn. Ghabh Eóin MacFhionghuinn tuidh mhór ris an obair seo, 's ghabh e fhéin óran is naidheachd no dhá ris an inneal, agus bha e glé dhealasach a' toirt feadhainn eile thugainn a sheinneadh dhúinn. Dh'fhalbh e cómhla ruinn gu áiteachan iomallach far am faiceamaid seinneadairean no sgeulaichean uair no dhá, agus bha sinn fada 'na chomain air son a' cuideachaidh 's a' bhrosnachaidh a thug e dhúinn fad an t-siubhail.

NUAIR a thill mi a Shasann ann an 1938 thug mi cómhla rium an t-eadar-theangachadh a rinn e air *"The Story of the Other Wise Man"* le Henry Van Dyke. Chunnaim a' na daoine aig an robh an *"copyright"* ann an New York 's fuair mi cead air a chur a mach sa' Gháidhlig an Alba an uair sin. Nuair a tháinig an leabhran a mach, choisinn obair an eadar-theangair moladh mór o luchd-sgrúdaigh an leabhair, rud a thug toleachas mór dha.

A bharrach air obair deasachaidh *"Mhic Talla"* 's eadar-theangachadh *"Sgeul an Draoidh Eile,"* rinn Eóin MacFhionghuinn mórán obrach eile sa' Gháidhlig agus sa' Bheurla cuideachd. Tha fhios agam gun do dh'eadar-theangaich e pios mór de *"Treasure Island"* mun do dh'eug e; thionndaidh e gu Gáidhlig *"Where Love is, God is"* le Tolstoy agus *"The Three Strangers"* le Hardy; bha mi fhin a' deanamh *"An Tréidir Choireach"* deiseil air son a bhualadh ann an Alba nuair a fuair mi sgeul a bháis. Chuir e miosachan *"Fear na Céilidh"* a mach ann an 1928. Bhíodh e sgríobhadh earrannan Gáidhlig air son paipeirean na h-Alba Nuaidhe gu math tric; sgríobh e eachdraidh Cheap Breatainn sa' Bheurla agus eachdraidh nan Gáidheal sa' Bheurla cuideachd; ach chan 'eil mi creidsinn gu robh am fear mu dheireadh ann an cló riamh.

Ach cho fad 's a bhios daoine a' leughadh na Gáidhlig 's ag gabhail tlachd innte, 's e *"Mac Talla"* as mutha a choisneas ciú dha. Gheibhear rogha leughaidh, naidheachdan, sgeulachdan, agus órain ann. Faodaidh duine leughadh ann mu thoiseach a' Chomuinn Gháidhealaich againn, mu chogadh nam Boers 's mu pholitics sna Stáitean 's ann an Canada, 's mu gnothaichean iongantach mar a bha mathain ag ite na n-geamhradh, samhraidhean teth agus geamhradhrean cruaidh, sgiarraidhean sna meinnean-guail 's air na rathaidean-iarainn, muirt

is marbhadh is aimhreit de'n h-uile seorsa an Canada 's an Newfoundland 's air feadh an t-saoghail. Ach, ged a bha politics agus gnothaichean a bhuneadh dhaibh searbh gu léir aig an ám sin, cha chualas aon droch-fhacal no mí-mhodh, táir no soireadh, ann am *"Mac Talla"* riamh. Dh'fhuadadh luchd-sgríobhaidh iomadh paipeir-naidheachd Bheurla air feadh an t-saoghail mórán a dh'ionnsachadh o'n *"Mhac Talla"* chóir mu mhodh, 's mu éolas, 's mu náire, 's mu stuamachd bhriathran. Bha fíor spiorad Chríodail, seaghail, cithromach air chúl *"Mhic Talla,"* 's cha robh e idir cumhang no tara.

B'ole an airdh da-riubh gu bheil *"Mac Talla"* fhéin cho gann 's a tha e a nis. Tha dusan leabhair-raichean dheth ann air fad ach chaidh a' chiad ochd dhíu (na bha san stór dhíu) a sgríos uile gu léir le droch-theine a loisg an taigh far an robh iad. Mar sin chan fhaighear *"Mac Talla"* air fad ach ann am fíor-chorra-áiteachan; 's e sin ri rádh (cho fhad 's a tha fhios agam), ann an leabharlann Cholaiste Iosa an Ocsford, ann an leabharlann Mhitchell an Glaschu, ann an leabharlann Cholaiste Naoimh Phrionnsas Xavier ann an Antigonish, agus ann an leabharlann Oithigh Harvard ann am Boston. Bha iad aig an fhear-dheasachaidh fhéin agus aig fear no dhá eile ann an Alba Nuadh, 's aig an leabharlann Halifax. Ma bha an córr ann, cha robh fios aig Eóin MacFhionghuinn fhéin mu'n deidhinn-san. Chruinnich mi fhin mórán dhíu an siod 's an seo, ach chan 'eil *"Mac Talla"* agam gu h-ìomlan fhathast.

FAODDAIDH mi beagan a' thoirt bho *"Mhac Talla"*, a sheallas do Gháidheil na h-Alba gu de seorsa paiper a bh'ann. Tha na piosan a leanas air an litreachadh mar a bha iad am *"Mac Talla"*; tha mí smaointinn gun biodh am fear-deasachaidh a' leantail dóigh an litreachaidh a bha aig an Urramach A. Mac-Gilleathain Sinclair, a bha cur a mach leabhairraichean Gáidhlig an Alba Nuaidh aig an ám ud.

Nuair a bhíodh e tighinn a mach an toiseach 's e seo an t-ìomradh a bhíodh e toirt air fhéin:—

"Chan 'eil air an taobh-sa dhe'n Atlantic ach aon phaiper Gailig. 'S e 'n aon phaiper sin am MAC TALLA. Chan e sin a mhain, ach chan eil paiper seachdaimeach Gailig air an t-saoghail ach e fehin.

"Nach coir, uime sin, do gach neach a leubhas Gailig a bhí gabhail a phaiper so. Ma tha meas agad air cannt do shinnis,

's ma tha thu deonach a cumail beo, cuiridh tu a dh'iarraidh a Mhac-TALLA leis a cheud airgid a gheibh thu.

"Tha 'm MAC-TALLA tigh'nn a mach a h-uile Disathuirne. Tha naigheachdan na dacha agus a' t-saoghail gu leir air an inneal ann gu pongail, ann am beagan fhacal, agus cho fireannach 'sa gheibh thu iad am paiper sam bith.

"Chan eil am MAC-TALLA a' gabhail taobh seach taobh ann am 'Politics.' Chan eil e 'g iarraidh a bhí' sparradh a bharraillean fhéin air duine sam bith. Chan eil e dol a thoiseachadh air duine sam bith a chaineadh. Tha e fagail gach glocias us goriche dhe'n t-seorsa sin aig na paiperan eile.

"Ma tha toil agad am MAC-TALLA a ghabhail fad bliadhna, cuir thuginn do dholar, agus gheibh thu a cheud aireamh cho luath sa bheir am posta 'ga t'ionnsaidh e, agus leanidh e air taghail agad a h-uile seachdain gu ceann bliadhna. Seol do litir gu J. G. MacKinnon, Mac-Talla, Sydney C.B.

Tuigear an suim a bhíodh *"Mac Talla"* a' gabhail de "politics" o'n earrann seo a tha tachairt an àireamh September 23, 1893:—

"Nuair bhios Murachd na thamh bith e ruamhar'. Chan eil tigh na parlaimaid cruinn an Ottawa aig an am so, 's tha ardc-homhairle Cuan Bhering air sgoileadh, agus uime sin tha Sir Iain Thompson 's a chompanaich agus Wilfred Laurier 's chompanaich fein, nan tamh, ach ma tha, 's iadsan a tha trang a ruamhar. Tha iad a siubhal, gach buidheann air leth, bho aite gu aite a deanamh oraiden fada, briathrach, ann sa bheil gach pa rtiadh aig innshe do t-t-sluagh mu 'n oic a rinn a phairtidh eile 'san am a chaidh seachad, mu'n oic a tha iad a deanamh aig an am a tha lathair, agus gu h-àraidh mu'n oic a tha iad dol a dheanamh 'san am ri teachd ma bheirear an comas dhaibh; agus bheir iad ìomradh aig a cheart am mu'n mthath a bha, 'sa tha iad feid a deanamh, agus a bhitheas iad a deanamh ma gheibh iad an comas. 'Se 'n comas a tha seoid an da thaobh ag iarraidh, agus si bharail a th'ag moran air feadh na dutchga (ge air bith de cho glic sa tha i) nach eil an da phairtidh ach mar bha Domhnull agus Iain air an cualas ìomradh ann sna sean-fhacail. Bha Domhnull cho math ri Iain, 's bha Iain cho math ri Domhnull."

(An córr air t.d. 10)

The Dangers of Mod Adjudication

By DR. MACDOUGALL DUXBURY

RECENTLY Mr. Patrick Shuldham-Shaw gave his impressions of the National Mod in a talk broadcast from the Scottish Home Service of the B.B.C. This talk in an expanded form has now been printed in *An Gaidheal* so that we may all study it at leisure. Mr. Shuldham-Shaw's article is very interesting, and I feel we can learn much from it.

There is one point which I feel I must take up and expand more fully. This is the problem of how we should adjudicate solo folk-song at our mods. At the Mod adjudications we were repeatedly urged to be accurate and to adhere to the printed copy. I feel most strongly that this should not be demanded in the solo singing of folk-song. In fact, I consider the demand to be a real danger to our traditional Gaelic Song. The traditional singer was, and must always be, an individualist. In ancient times songs were handed on from mouth to mouth—they were not written down. Each singer sang the song as he felt it at the time of singing. What appears in print today represents, as Mr. Shuldham-Shaw states, only how that song was sung by one particular singer on one particular occasion. The modern printed copy should be taken merely as a guide. We are gradually losing freedom in many things today, but we must see to it that we never lose freedom in the singing of our Gaelic Song!

I have mentioned the dangers of strict adherence to the printed copy. I will now give two examples

Highland Songs." However good are English "translations," they can never exactly fit the original tune as sung in Gaelic. Therefore slight alterations were made and printed to simplify the singing of the song in English. This usually consisted of slightly altering the time-values of the notes by "smoothing out" the Gaelic "snap" and "dotted" notes. With the gradual infiltration of "Civilisation" and its pianos, the Highlander himself found that he required accompaniments for his songs, and so naturally he took up those accompaniments originally written by the Lowlander. The Gaelic words were sung to those accompaniments but in many cases these were not further altered to suit the original Gaelic version. I was most forcibly struck by this in the early stages of my study of Gaelic songs. I used to hear songs at ceilidhs or over the radio, but, when I referred to them in my books with accompaniments (and English words), I frequently found that the tune as written did not exactly coincide with the native Gaelic version—the Gaelic words were frequently given incorrect stress.

As an example, let us take the song "Muile nam Mor-Bheann," which was one of this year's Mod test pieces. The lines

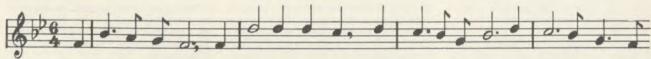
"Bhò'n tha mi gun sunnd, 's is duth dhomh mulad,
"Chà tòg mi mo shùil ri sugradh tuille"

are set to music in the printed copy thus:—



of such dangers. Traditionally, Gaelic songs were sung unaccompanied. The Highland melodies were so much admired by the Lowlander that he "demanded" that they be written down for him to

giving the following stress to the Gaelic words—"Bhò'n thá mí gún súnd" and "Chá tóg mí mó shúil"; whereas the native singer's unaccompanied version is thus:—



sing—in English. Consequently, large numbers of "Translations from the Gaelic" or "Suitable Words" appeared, together with accompaniments. Often appearing in the form of "Collections of our

giving the following more natural stress to the Gaelic words—"Bhó'n thá mí gun súnd" and "Chá tóg mí mo shúil." It is Version A that is set before the non-Gaelic-speaking Music Adjudicator, and

so he is correct when he says that the singer of Version B is not adhering to the printed copy. What more can the poor adjudicator do? The fault lies with us for supplying him with an "incorrect" or too rigid printed version. But—and this is far more serious—what's the poor Gaelic singer to do? He is singing at a Mod before adjudicators; he has repeatedly been told that he must stick rigidly to the printed copy "to satisfy the Music Adjudicator;" and so he—against his will—sings Version A at the competition. If he does so, not only is he dishonest, but he is a traitor to his native Gaelic. What is heard on the Mod platform is considered to be correct, and thus the Mod can unintentionally do harm to our traditional Gaelic Song. If the singer at the Mod sings Version B on the platform to satisfy himself, he is a true hero, but he is at the mercy of the adjudicator. Mr. Shuldham-Shaw, of course, says that the Music Adjudicator should not be so rigid when adjudicating folk-song. I agree, but I am far more concerned at what is actually happening than in what ought to take place.

My other example concerns the gradual disappearance of the characteristic "flattened note" from our Gaelic Song. This "flattened note" is inserted in some Gaelic songs as an attempt to imitate the special peculiar scale of the Highland pipes. I say "attempt" for the sake of accuracy, as the true "pipe scale" cannot be

played on modern musical instruments. The note mentioned is in fact a quarter-tone, and the nearest we can approach it on modern instruments is to make it a complete semi-tone.

Let us take for our example the song "Mo Dhachaidh." When the traditional native Gaelic singer sings this song unaccompanied, he sings the last line thus:—

(Continued on next page)

Annas a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

A' CHOMHAIRLE EARALACHAIDH

THA trì bliadhna air do seachd bho chuireadh air chois a' bhuidheann sin ris an abrar "Comhairle Earalachaidh na Gaidhealtachd." B'ann an Dùbhlachd na bliadhna 1946 a dh'innis Rùnaire na Stàite air son Alba, Mgr. Joseph Westwood nach maireann, gu robh e a' taghadh na buidhne seo gus earaillean a thoirt dha mu na nithean a dh'fhaodadh an Rìaghaltais, comhairlean ionadail, is comunn eile a bhith rùnachadh a chum leasachadh na Gaidhealtachd. Anns a' Chomhairle seo tha riochdairean bho na seachd siorrachdan Gaidhealach, dhithis a baile Inbhir-Nis, a dhà bho'n Chomhairle Albannaich (Leasachadh is Gnìomhachas), agus seachdnar eile aig a bheil eòlas sònraichte mu chùisean Gaidhealach. Thugadh dà bhliadhna do'n Chomhairle a chum na dh'earbadh riutha a thoirt gu buil.

An uair a shuidhicheadh a' Chomhairle bha mòran againn glé mhl-thoilichte gur e seo an seòrsa comhairle a bh'ann—Comhairle Earalachaidh a mhàin, agus gum ùghdarras idir gu nì sam bith a chur an gnìomh ach mar a chitheadh Rùnaire na Stàite iomchuidh.

Feumar aiceadh nach robh a' chomhairle Earalachaidh idir 'nan tàmh anns na trì bliadhna bho chuireadh air chois iad. Rinn iad rannsachadh thall 's a bhios, shuidhich iad fo-chomhairlean gus ceistean sònraichte a chumail fo aire, agus thug iad sùil air suidheachadh is cion-ghoireasan àireamh chèarman de'n Ghaidhealtachd. Bho àm gu àm leig iad fios mu chuid de na bha iad a' smaoinachadh bu chòir a dheanamh.

AIG toiseach an t-samhraidh an 1948 chaidh a ràdh gu robh a' Chomhairle aig an àm ud ag cur mu dheidhinn na rùintean aca a chur an altaibh a chèile agus an cur fa chomhair Rùnaire na Stàite mar rian-leasachaidh do'n Ghaidhealtachd, agus bha bruidheann ann gur e còig bliadhna a bha a' Chomhairle ag earalachadh mar an ùine anns am faodadh an rian sin a bhith air a chur an gnìomh gu h-iomlan. Anns a' gheamhradh an uridh bha dùil againn gum biodh an rian-leasachaidh seo air fhòillsachadh a dh'athghearr. Tha bliadhna air dol seachd agus chan 'eil dad a bharrachd de dh'fhios againn an diugh na bha againn roimhe seo ciod iad rùintean na Comhairle.

'S e a mhàin air a bheil fhios againn gu bheil Mgr. Woodburn, Rùnaire na Stàite, an deidh òraid a liubhart an Dun-Eideann, anns an do gheall e nach rachadh stad no lùghdachadh a dheanamh air gin de na h-obrichean air an do thòisicheadh cheana, ach gum faodadh dàil a bhith ann an obrichean ùra. Tha e fìor gu bheil Bord Tuathach an Dealain air obair mhòr a dheanamh, agus tha e fìor gu bheil Bord na Coille air mòran a dheanamh agus a' rùnachadh fada barrachd a dheanamh fhathast, ach is duilich an gnothach e gu bheil Mgr. Woodburn de'n bheachd—a réir coltais—gum faodar dàil a chur ann an deamhan is càradh rathaidean-mòra agus goireasan-siubhail iad. Faodar a ràdh le fìrinn gu bheil

gach nì anns a' Ghaidhealtachd agus anns na h-Eileanan an crochadh air na goireasan-siubhail, agus chan urrainn cosnadh no comhfhurtachd a bhith aig daoine gus an toirear dhaibh na rathaidean agus na meadhanan-siubhail agus na ceidheachan air a bheil uibhir àitean ag cur feuma.

Tha àm taghadh-pàrlamaid a' tarraing dhùth, agus bu chòir do na Gaidheil gu h-iomlan a dheanamh cho soilleir 's a ghabhas deanamh nach cuir iad an taic ri neach sam bith ach a mhàin neach a thèid gu uchd a dhìchill a chum leas na Gaidhealtachd. Geallaidh feadhainn a' ghealach dhuit, ach cò a chòimhlionas a ghealladh an uair a gheibh e e fhéin gu socair an suidheachan an Taigh-Phàrlamaid?

An t-Seann Bhlidhna Ur

Leis an URR. IAIN MACAOIDH

(Chaidh an òraid seo a liubhart air an radio)

MUN do dh'atharraicheadh rian agus òrdugh nam mìosan agus nan ràithean bha oidhche an dara lè deug de'n Fhaoilleach air a cumail mar an t-Seann Bhlidhna Ur. Ged is fhada o thòisich sinn air a' chunntas ùr, bha e 'na chleachdadh gu o chionn glé ghoirid a bhith ag cumail na Seann Bhlidhna Uire ann an Alba. Gu dearbh, tha mi a' smaoinachadh gu bheil an t-Seann Bhlidhna Ur air a cumail an àiteachan air a' Ghaidhealtachd fhathast. Ach, cò-dhiubh, 's e tha fòdhan-sa an dràsda iomradh a thoirt air an oidhche seo mar a b'aithe dhomh fhéin i, agus mar a tha cuimhne agam i bhith air a cumail an uair a bha mi 'na mo bhalach.

Tha cuimhne agam aon uair 's a bha Oidhche Shamhna seachd gum bithist ag amharc air adhart ri teachd na Bhlidhna Uire. Bhitheadh greadhnachas agus cur-seachd daonnann anns an Dùbhlachd. Is ann a mach mu'n Nollaig agus mu'n Bhlidhna Uire a bhiodh na bainnsean gu minig, na céilidhean, agus na cuirmean. Bhiodh crunnichidhean agus cuirmean anns na taighean an siud 's an seo. Ma dh'fhaoidte gum biodh adhbhar air a thoirt seachad air son cuirm no crunnichidhean greadhnach a chumail—cuid-eigin air tighinn dhachaidh à Glaschu, no eadhon à America, agus càirdean air an cuireadh gu cuirm.

Bha e furasda féisd agus banais a

dheanamh anns an latha ud. Bha biadh agus deoch saor agus pailt, gun riaghailt no achd an aghaidh am faotainn. Bha Spiorad na Bhlidhna Uire anns an adhar, mar gun canadh tu, fada mun tigeadh i.

B'e àm dhìomhan na bliadhna e, cuideachd. Cha robh obair tuathanais no mòran de obair iasgaich r'a dheanamh, agus bhiodh mar sin a' chuid bu mhotha de na teachlaichean aig an dachaidh. Dé an t-ionghnadh, ma tà, gu robh an geamhradh ag còrdadh ruinne mar bhalaich! Ma bha sradag de dhùinealas idir ann an duine, ge b'e air bith cho grunnach no cho somalta 's gum bitheadh e rè a' chòrr de'n bhlidhna, thigeadh i am follais aig àm na Bhlidhna Uire. A dh'àindeoin cho cruaidh 's a bhiodh nàdur no cridhe duine, bha sùil ri càrdeas agus coibheanas uaithe aig an àm seo, agus, mur bitheadh duine mar bu chòir dha bhith, aig àm na Nollaig agus na Bhlidhna Uire, bhiodh e cho ainneil anns an tìr ri Bodach Dubh Mhic Fhionnlaigh, nach do chum 's nach do dh'fhaireich an Nollaig, ach—mar a bhàtar ag cur air—idir nach do dhùilt i.

Bha latha na Seann Bhlidhna Uire 'na latha mòr aig na seann daoine. Bhiodh eadhon na bodaich fhéin ag crunnichidhean chum na h-iomlan. Is ann air a' chuid latha de'n bhlidhna, mar is aithe dhùinn an diugh e, a bhitheadh

(An còrr air t.d. 8)

ag cruinneachadh chum na h-ìomai
mhóir, ach is ann air oidhche na
Seann Bhladhna Uire a bhith-
maid ag cumail na Calluinn.

Faodaidh mi iomradh a thoirt an
toiseach air an ìomai. Gheibh-
eadh gach fear caman dha fhéin.
Chan e na camain mhìn, shleamh-
ainn, ris a bheil luchd-ìomai
cleachdte an duigh, ach camain a
bhithmaid fhéin a' deanamh
aig an taigh. Bha iad de chaochladh
seorsa: caman cho math 's a bh'ann
's e seann bhata cromagach de'n
fheadhainn rìghinn — "bata
fraich," mar a chanadh na
bodaich—a' chas air a giorrachadh
agus a' chromag air a sineadh
beagan le bhith fàgail a' bhata
fo'n uisge greis. Bha, rithis, an
conas a tha fàs 'na bhadan ann an
iomadh àite feumail gu camain a
chumail ris na gillean. Bha e
rìghinn cuideachd agus cromagan
air gu nàdurach, ach bha e duilich
a ghearradh 's a thoirt as a chéile,
agus bha e smaointinneach
biorach. Gidheadh, is iomadh
caman a thugadh as.

IS e am ball ìomai bu luach-
mhóire 'nan sùilbh-ne ball
glaoidh—glaodh cho cruaidh ris
a' chloich—mu mhead ball golf.
Nuair a bhuiladh an caman e,
leumadh e air falbh le brag, agus is
iomadh gille a fhuair droch bhuille
dheth.

Air latha na Bliadhna Uire
bhithmaid ag iarraidh gu
machair no lèana réidh far
am biodh farsaingeachd—an àite
a b'fhéar a gheibheadh sinn.
Aig amannan is ann gu machair
na mara a rachadh sinn; aig
amannan eile gu raon réidh air
taobh a' mhuigh a' bhaile. Bha aon
àite sònraichte mar sin far na
chleachd sinn a bhith ag ìomai
gu tric—lèana mhór ri taobh uillt
agus creag árd aig an dara ceann
dhith. 'S e 'A' Chreag Gheal'
a theirte rithe agus a theirte
rithe gus an là an duigh. Nuair a
rachadh tu ma' coinneamh bha
mac-talla a' freagairt a mach
aisde, agus do bhrìgh sin bhiodh
sinn gu minig ag éigheach ris a'
chreig. Saoidh mi, ged nach
fhaca mi riamh ann an eachdraidh
e, gu bheil buntanas aig coimhead
Seann Bhladhna Uire ri iongantais
a' chruthachaidh, agus gur ann air
an adhbhar sin a bha e 'na chleachd-
adh aig daoine air latha na Bliadhna
Uire a bhith ag cruinneachadh aig
na h-àiteachan a bu chomharrachite.
Lean sin daoine a dh'ionnsaigh
nam bailtean móra fhéin, far a
bheil e 'na chleachdadh aca a
bhith ag cruinneachadh aig àitean
àraidh gu bhith feitheamh ri
tàighinn a steach na bliadhna.

Ach, biodh sin mar a bhithas e,
is e an oidhche mhór againne

oidhche na Calluinn, an oidhche a
bhiodh na balaich ag cumail anns
gach baile. Cha b'e an aon
dòigh a bha aca anns na h-uile
cearnaich, ach tha deagh chuimhne
agam mar a bha i againne. Bha an
oidhche air a suidheachadh agus
an taigh air a thaghadh anns an
robh a' chuirn gu bhith air a
cumail. Cha robh e 'na chleachd-
adh aig na balaich a bhith dol a
mach air crìochaibh a' bhaile aca
fhéin, agus chan fhadadh fos a
bhith aig balaich baile eile air dad
mu dheidhinn nan gnòthaichean a
bha 'ar an ullachadh. Anns na
seann làithean bha an t-airgead
gann agus is e tiodhlacan bidh a
bha air an tabhairt seachad, ach,
mar a bha an saoghal a' fàs na bu
bheartaiche, bha an t-airgead a'
fàs na bu phailte, agus na Calluin-
ean mu dheireadh aig an robh mise
's e tiodhlacan airgid bu mhotha
a bha sinn a' faighinn.

Bha againn fhéin ri suim àraidh
am fear a bhith againn, agus leis
an sin bhiodh sinn ag ceannach
anns a' bhùth tea is siucar agus
rudan mìlis cho fad agus a ruig-
eadh sinn orra, agus gheibheadh
sinn tiodhlag o fhear na bùtha
fhéin còmhla ri sin.

Nuair a thigeadh oidhche na
Calluinn bha sinn ag cruinneachadh.
Bha fear air a chur air leth le poca
air son an arain, fear eile le soith-
each air son nan uibhean, fear eile
le sporan air son an airgid, agus
fear eile le craiceann caorach agus
son a dhòl timcheall an teine anns
gach taigh. Bha, mar an ceudna,
fear air a shònraichadh air son Duan
na Calluinn a ghabhail, agus
dh'fheumadh e a ghabhail anns a
h-uile taigh. Dh'fheumadh fear
a' chraicinn dol timcheall an teine
car deiseal am feadh 's a bha
am fear eile ag gabhail an duain.
Bha an teine anns na làithean sin
am meadhan an làir gu ire bhig
anns a h-uile taigh. Chan 'eil
cuimhne agam gu robh mi ro thric
leis a' chraiceann, ach tha cuimhne
mhath agam a bhith air mo chur
air leth air son an duain.

Dh'fheumadh fear a' chraicinn a
bhith tapaidh, oir is ann aige-san
a bha ri seasamh ris a' chruadal.
Dh'fhalbhamaid mar sin o
thaigh gu taigh. Dh'èigheamaid
'Hurrabh-i-ò'—b'e sin suaich-
eantas balaich na Calluinn—agus
a steach leinn is sheasamaid air an
starsaich.

GIE thric theirst ruinn gum
feumadh sinn an duan a
ghabhail. Bha e ri ghabhail,
cò-dhiubh. Dh'iarraist oirnn
teanntain a nuas a dh'ionnsaigh
an teine, agus sin thòiseachd
dileasna na h-oidhche. Bha an
duan air a ghabhail agus am feadh
a bha sin a' dol air adhart bha
fear a' chraicinn ag coiseachd

timcheall an teine. Bha cothrom
aig gach aon a bha staigh a bhith
bualadh a' chraicinn le maide na
plocan no sgab no fad mòna no
eadhon leis a' chlobha—rud sam
bith a bha ri làimh. Tha sibh a'
tuigsinn mar sin gum feumadh
druim làidir a bhith aig fear a'
chraicinn, agus bhiodh am fear a
bha ag gabhail an duain cho
cabhagach 's a b'urrainn dha air
son gum biodh deuchainn a chom-
panaich cho aotrom agus a ghabh-
adh deanamh.

"Thàinig mi gu modhail, eòlach an
t-àm tòiseachadh na Calluinn,
'S chan 'eil nàire orm gu innse,
bha i ann o linn mo sheanar.

Ghabhaidh mi an t-aran gun an im,
is gabhaidh mi an t-im gun an
aran,

'S gabhaidh mi a' chàis leathà
fhéin 's cuig a réist a bhithinn
falamh?

Hurrabh-i-ò!

Chan 'eil aon ni 'nad fhàrdach
nach gabh mi pàirt dheth 'nam
eallach,

Ach aon rud as urra mi àicheadh,
cha ghabh mi buntàta carach;
Chan 'eil e furasd a ghiùlan 's chan
'eil e sundach no fallain,
'S cumaidh e naoi tràth gun
éirigh am ball as treune tha anns
a' bhaile.

Hurrabh-i-ò!

A bhean-an-taighe, éirich 's theirig
suas 's gearr cùl càbaig,
'S na gearr bàrr t'òrdaig 's thoir a
bhiaidh do fhear-an-taighe,
'S thoir a' bhanag dhòmhsa.

Hurrabh-i-ò!

Nochd oidhche na Bliadhna Uire,
oidhche nan lùrach 's nan caman.
Bithidh gach cuilean anns gach
cùil 's rud eile nach fù dhomh
aithris;

Oidhche nam mulachagan leathan
liatha a bh'ann o thri bliadhna
an earraich;

Oidhche an aighir, oidhche an
t-sùgraidh, oidhche cùil is
oidhche drama.

Bithidh na buidsicean sidhe a'
toirt a bhrìgh as a' bhainne.
Bha i riamh 'na h-oidhche shona.

Hurrabh-i-ò!

Gheibh sinn sogan à gach maigh-
deann,
'S gheibh sinn pinnt o gach
cailleach,

'S gheibh gach aon aca am pianadh
nach iarr 's nach toir dhunne
a' bhanag.

Hurrabh-i-ò!

An sin gheibhst na tiodhlacan,
aran no im no uibhean no airgead—
rud sam bith ach ann buntàta
carach. Anns an dol a mach
dh'iarraidh sinn beannachadh na
Calluinn air an fhàrdach: "Mo
bheannachd, mo bheannachd aig
an taigh a bh'ann, eadar choin
is chait is chrodh is chaochail;
slàinte dhaoine gu robh ann!"



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AM FAOILLEACH, 1950

Aireamh 1

Buntata is Sgadan

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“AN toigh leat buntàta?” arsa Bus-dubh.
 “Gun teagamh,” arsa Blàran, “is toigh.
 Ach an uair a bhios iad amh feumaidh buar a bhith glé fhaicilleach; tha iad air leth buailteach air do thacadh. An uair a bha mise san Eilean Sgitheanach bha bó mhaol dhubb aig an tuathanach air an robh Maolag againn, agus latha de na làithean fhuair i cothrom air sloc bhuntàta a bha aig Ruairidh Geàrr, agus bha gu maith agus cha robh gu h-olc gus an do stad buntàta 'na h-amhaich. Thuit i air a taobh is i spreathairtich agus na suilean aice tionndadh geal na ceann. Ghabh sinn uile eagal, is bu bheag an t-iongnadh, agus thòisich an crodh air rànaich, agus cha b'fhada gus an do nochd Ruairidh Geàrr agus a bhean agus dithis de na balaich aige, agus thòisich an othail ceart. “Dé a tha ceàrr air Maolag?” Dé nach robh ceàrr oirre, gus am facas far an robh am buntàta an siud air stad aice? Cha robh fhios dé a ghabhadh deanamh gus an d'fhuaradh seann chaman agus chaidh sìod a sparradh sìos slugan Maolaig, agus thug i am breab mu dheireadh aise, agus riamh o'n uair sin chan 'eil cus agam fhéin mu'n bhuntàta amh.”

“Coma leam dhiubh, amh no bruich iad,” arsa Bus-dubh, “ach nach ann a tha iad a' tighinn anns an taigh againne air buntàta is sgadan. Thuirt Fearchar nach robh greim a' dol an ceann duine a b'fheàrr dha na buntàta is sgadan. ‘Faodaidh tu bhith sgur’, arsa Mór. ‘Cha b'iongnadh do leòir muilt-fheòil a ràdh—’”

“Fhad agus a dh'fhanas iad aig na muilt, nach coma!” arsa Blàran.

“Thuirt Dòmhnall Glas, ‘Cha b'iad a thogadh mo shùil, ach an t-iasg ùr mar a thigeadh e as an lòn; dé tha ceàrr air an trosg?’ ‘Chan 'eil dad ceàrr air, ach gu bheil e air fàs cho gann an taobh seo ris an aran-mhilis’, arsa Fearchar. ‘Tha an sgadan ceart gu leòir 'na àite fhéin, ach ma thig ort a bhith 'na eisimeil o Di-dòmnaich gu Di-sathurna bidh faireachdainn agad air! Bhithinn fhéin marbh aige eadar am padhadh agus an losgadh-bràghad; mur b'e na bhios mi ag ithead de'n t-soda-aran cha tiginn buaithe,’ arsa Mór. ‘Biadh maith, biadh ceart, biadh saor, is

biadh a chuireas an t-acras dhìot,’ arsa Fearchar. ‘Chan 'eil eagal do'n chosnach aig a bheil a dhìol buntàta is sgadan!’ ‘Nach e sin a thuirt am bodach an Cille-mo-cheallaig an uair a chaidil e san t-searmon agus e dusgadh le sgorraige—Abradh gach duine a thoil, ach is e sgadan annlann a' bhuntàta,’ arsa Dòmhnall Glas.

“Ach,” arsa Bus-dubh gu tapaidh, “b'fheàrr leam fhéin sgudal sam bith eile na iad; biodh iad aig an fhear ris an còrd iad!”

“Chan eagal do'n duine aig am bi am buntàta is an sgadan,” arsa Blàran.

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

8. Mairi Mhor nan Oran

THA robh mise ach glé òg an Cille-Mhoire an Trondairnis an uair a bhithinn a' tachairt ri Màiri Mhòr nan Oran, no Màiri Nighean Iain Bhàin, mar a shloinneadh na h-eòlaich i. B'e Iain MacDhòmhnail, no Iain Bàn Mac Aonghais Oig, croitear ann an Sgiabost, a h-athair, agus rugadh i an sin anns a' bhliadhna 1821. Chuir Màiri seachad a h-òige air a' chroit ag obair gu dìcheallach am beinn is aig baile agus a' faighinn eòlais air gach seorsa banas-taighe a bha feumail an taigh croiteir aig an àm ud.

An uair a bha i seachd bliadhna fichead phòs i Isaac MacMhuirich (no Mac a' Phearsain), griasaiche à Inbhir-Nis, agus thog iad ceathrar de theaghlach anns a' bhaile sin. Chaochail a companach anns a' bhliadhna 1871, agus is ann a' bhliadhna an dèidh sin a thachair am mì-fhortan di a dhùisg innte spiorad na bàrdachd air nach robh lorg aice roimhe sin. Tha e coltach gu robh ban-nàbaidh aice a chuir as a leth gun do ghoid i nigheadaireachd oirre a bha a' tiormachadh a muigh air na ròpan. An uair a bha Màiri as aonais an taighe chuir a ban-nàbaidh a nigheadaireachd fhéin an cistidh an taigh Màiri, agus chuir i fios air sith-mhaor air son Màiri a chur an làimh. Thugadh Màiri bhochd gu cùirt agus fhuaradh ciontach i agus bha i greis am prìosan Inbhir-Nis gus an do

(An còrr air t.d. 2)

Luinneagan na Cloinne Bige

Le AONGHAS GAIMBEUL

UILLEAM BEAG NAM PRABSHUILEAN

(*Wee Willie Winkie*)

Uilleam beag nam prabshuilean
 'Na ruith troimh 'n a bhaile,
 Sios an staidhir, suas an staidhir
 'Na léine bheag anairt;
 Gnogadh aig na h-uinneagan,
 'G éigheach troimh na glasan,
 "Tha e ochd uairean
 'S a bheil a' chllann 'nan leabaidh?"

IAIN BEAG NAN ADHAIRCEAN

(*Little Jack Horner*)

Iain beag nan adhaircean
 'Na shuidhe sa' chùil-mhònadh,
 'G itheadh marag mhór na Nollaig,
 Stob e steach innt' òrdag,
 'S thuirt e nuair sin,
 "Bu mhi am balach;
 Chan 'eil ann cho còir rium!"

HIP! HOP! A LAIR GHLAIS

(*Ride A Cock Horse*)

Hip! hop! a làir ghlais,
 Gu seana bhaile Dhail,
 A dh'fhaicinn Bean Uilleim
 'Na suidh' air each geal;
 Fàinneachan 's glagan
 M'a làmhan 's m'a casan;
 'S bidh piobaireachd 's òrain
 An còmhnuidh 'ga leantainn.

UAN BEAG MAIRI

(*Mary had a little lamb*)

Bha uan beag Màiri bòidheach mear
 'S a chlàimh mar shneachd an t-sléibh;
 Is ge b'e àit' 'n deidheadh Màiri bheag
 Bha 'n t-uan a' ruith 'na déidh.

Aon là 's ann lean e i do'n sgoil,
 Is bhris e 'n riaghailt chruaidh—
 A' chllann ag gàireachdaich 's ag cluich
 Nuair chunnaic iad an t-uan.

MAIRI AIR STOL

(*Little Miss Muffet*)

Màiri air stòl
 Ag itheadh 's ag òl
 Mèag 's bainne-bhinid air leth;
 Shuidh damhan-allaidh
 Ri taobh 's e 'ga h-amharc,
 'S ruith Màiri le eagal a' beath'.

Mairi Mhor (*bho t.d. 1*)

chuireadh mu sgaoil i troimh ùghdarras a caraid, Tearlach Friseal Mac-an-Tòisich. Chuir an tàmailt a fhuair i Màiri Mhór gu bàrdachd, agus creididh mi, mur biodh gun d'rinneadh an eu-ceart ud oirre, nach biodh againn air mhair-eann an diugh gach òran gasda, geur a rinn i.

Is ann air an eilean aice fhéin agus air na càirdean còire a bha coibhneil rithe a tha i ri luaidh anns a' chuid as motha de a bàrdachd. Chuir i eòlas maith air daoine móra 'an eilein gu léir, agus bha iad sin uile càirdeil, carthannach rithe an deireadh a latha. Chan 'eil na daoine còire sin an làthair an diugh, agus mar sin cha tuig an òigrìdh móran mu chuspairean a bàrdachd. Ach tha beagan de na h-òrain a rinn i a mhaireas, mar a tha "Nuair bha mi òg" agus "Eilean a' Cheò."—"Ged tha mo cheann air liathadh." Sheinneadh i fhéin a h-òrain gu suigeartaich anns an t-seann dòigh, ach is ann air seann fhuinn a sheinn i iad gu léir.

Bha Lachlann MacDhòmhnaill, Fear Sgiaboist, glé mhath dhi an deireadh a latha. Thug esan taigh saor dhi an Sgiabost, agus is e a bha 'na mheadhon air a bàrdachd a chur an clò anns a' bhliadhna 1891. Sgrìobh Iain MacGhille-Bhàin, Inbhir-Nis, iad o a deachdadh fhéin, agus bha féill mhór air a bàrdachd aig an àm ged is ann glé ainneamh a tha an leabhar sin a nis.

Thàinig bàs aithghearr air Màiri an Port-rìgheadh anns a' bhliadhna 1893, agus tha i air a tiodhlacadh an Cladh an t-Seipeil ri taobh a companaich an Inbhir-Nis. Chuir a caraid, Tearlach Friseal Mac-an-Tòisich, leac-lighe ghrinn air an uaigh aice.

SIMON SIMPLIDH

(*Simple Simon*)

Simon Simplidh 's Rob nam Bonnach
 A' dol thun na féille;
 Thuirt Simon Simplidh, "Roib, a bhalach,
 Reic iad sin rium féin."

Thuirt Rob nam Bonnach, "Ceart a thà thu;
 Càit a bheil do sgillinn?"
 Thuirt Simon Simplidh, "Siud mo phòcaid!
 Fhaic thu, chan 'eil gin innt'."

Simon Simplidh chaidh e dh'iasgach
 Null gu ceann na bàthaich,
 'N dùil gun glacadh e muc-mhara
 'N cuinneag uisg' a mhàthar.

Litir Eachainn

“Air do shlàinte, Ghàidheil ghasda,
 Ghabh an t-aiseag thar a’ chuain;
 ‘S e mo dhùrachd cliù is ceartas
 Bhith ‘gad leantainn le deagh bhuaidh.
 ‘S càirdeach thu dh’Iain Ciar nam Batal,
 Thogadh creach ‘s a leanaidh ruaig:
 Thog e cis o Iarl Chilleann-drainn,
 ‘S thug e ‘n ceann de ‘n Robair Ruadh!”

INSSIDH mi dhuibh a thiotra brìgh is aobhar
 inn sreathan bàrdachd seo a tha os cionn mo
 sheanachais air a’ mhòs seo; ach an toiseach,
 is cinnteach gur e mo cheud dhleasan-as-sa
 deagh dhùrachd na Bliadhna Uire a thoirt
 dhuibhse, a chlann. Agus eadhon ged a bhiodh
 e an dèidh do’n Bhladhna Uir tighinn a
 steach mu’n leugh sibhse so, bidh cuid ag
 coimhead na seann Bhladhna Uire, agus mar sin
 cha bhì mo dheagh dhùrachd a thaobh na
 Bliadhna Uire fada air seachran. Agus eadar-
 dha-sheanachas, bho’n a tha sinn a’ bruidhinn
 mu’n Bhladhna Uir co-dhiubh, tha cuimhne
 agamsa bliadhna an siud, an geamhradh a
 bhàtar a’ togail an taighe-sgoil anns a’ cheann
 againne de’n eilean, Colla, gu robh fir-
 chèird ag obair aige á Muile is á Tiridhe.

Bha sinne an Colla ag gleidheadh na
 Bliadhna Uire air a’ cheud latha de’n mhòs,
 ach aig an àm ud b’i an t-seann Bhladhna Ur a
 bhàtar ag coimhead an Muile is an Tiridhe, ach
 gu robh aon latha eatorra, aon ‘ga gleidheadh
 air an dara là deug de’n mhòs is an t-aon eile—
 chan ‘eil cuimhne agam co dhiubh—air an treasa
 là deug. A’ bhliadhna seo, ma tà, ghleidh iad
 a’ Bhladhna Ur an Colla an toiseach, is dà
 sheann Bhladhna Ur air an dara is an treasa
 là-deug a rithist! Saoil sibh nach biodh
 cridhealas an sin!

Mar sin féin bitheadh e, ma tà, Bliadhna
 Mhath Ur dhuibhse uile, agus do bhur daoine,
 an là a chì ‘s nach fhaic; sin an t-seann fhàilte,
 agus na dearmadamaid a h-ùrachadh an uair
 a thig an t-àm.

Sin, ma tà, mo cheud chuspair seanachais.
 Is e an ath aon a chur ‘nur cuimhne gun do
 chuir sinn crìoch air na bha againn r’a ràdh
 mu na paipearan-ceasnachaidh, agus tha mi
 cinnteach gum bi sibh féin (mar a tha mise)
 làn-thoilichte gu bheil sin again air fhàgail
 ‘nar dèidh air son bliadhna eile; ach, fathast,
 tha bliadhna eile a’ tighinn is feuch gum bi
 sibh ‘gur n-uidheamachadh féin gu deagh
 obair a dheanamh an uair a thig an t-àm.

MAR sin, leis nach ‘eil nì sònraichte
 sam bith a’ tarraing ar n-aire an ceartair,
 ciod a bhuail ‘nam inntinn ach gun
 innsinn sgeul dhuibh, sgeul air guaisbhearitan

mo dheagh cheann-cinnidh féin, Iain Ciar
 MacDhùghaill Dhunolla, “Tain Ciar nam
 Batal,” mar a thug am bàrd a thiodal a bu
 mhath a thoill e dhà anns a’ bhàrdachd as an
 do thog mi na h-ochd sreathan a tha os cionn
 mo sheanachais. Tha mi am beachd an sgeul
 seo a thoirt dhuibh glé mhean is gu cùramach,
 gun nì a chuala mi bho aon sam bith aig an
 robh fiosrachadh gu thoirt domh a dhearmad.
 Mar sin is cinnteach gum feumar sineadh a
 thoirt dhi gu ruig dhà no trì àireamhan de’n
 Ghàidheal.

B’ann bho m’athair féin a fhuair mi cnaimh-
 drama na sgeòil, ach fhuair mi fiosrachadh bho
 thaobhan eile cuideachd, mar aon, Ban-
 tighearna MhicDhùghaill Dhunolla anns a’
 chuid a tha a’ buntainn ri pòsadh Iain Chair,
 agus cuiridh mi gach fiosrachadh a fhuair mi
 fo’n aon cheann. B’e, ma tà, Iain Ciar ceann-
 feadhna Chlann Dùghaill an àm an éirigh a
 rinn na Gàidheil as leth an rìgh dhligich,
 Seumas, athair a’ Phrionnsa Tearlach, anns a’
 bhliadhna 1715, agus thog esan a bhhratach
 allail, is bratach Chloinn Dùghaill, le a
 cheatharnaich aig a shàil, as leth na còrach.

Ach mum buin mi ris an togail-arm sin,
 feumaidh mi innsadh dhuibh gum bu bhan-
 eileanach a bha pòsda aig Iain Ciar. B’i sin
 boinne-fala cho ceanalta ‘s a thàinig air a
 cinneadh, Dòmhnallaich Shléibhte, agus i mar
 sin, mar e féin, a mach á craobh bhuidhach
 shìol Shomhairle Mhóir nan Eileanan. Bha
 i cho measail aig cinn-fheadhna an taoibh an
 Iar, ‘s gum bu shè cinn-fheadhna a shuidh air
 raimh na sè-ramhach a thug an t-aiseag dhi
 gu Tir-mór an uair a dh’fhàg i a dachaidh féin
 anns an Eilean Sgitheanach gu Iain Ciar a
 phòsadh.

Dh’fheuch mi ri soillearachd fhaotainn air
 có a b’iad na cinn-fheadhna seo, ach leis nach
 ‘eil cinnt agam fathast air có a b’iad, tha e cho
 math gun ach mo bharrail féin a thoirt seachad.
 Faodar a chreidsinn gu robh Triath Dhubhaird
 air aon dhiubh, oir bha togsh bhras de fhuil nan
 Leathanach ann an Iain Ciar; bu bhan-Leath-
 anach a sheanamhair, a shin-sin-seanamhair is
 glùinean eile ‘na shloinntearachd. Is dòcha
 gum biodh MacDhòmhnaill-duibh air aon
 dhiubh, oir b’i ogha do’n Ridire Eoghan
 Camshron Loch-iail a bha anns a’ bhan-
 Dòmhnallach a phòs e, is ogha do’n Ridire
 Dòmhnall Shléibhte. Is cinnteach mar sin
 gum biodh fear Shléibhte féin ann, theagamh
 Mac Mhic Alasdair, is co-dhiubh aon Leòdach,
 ach nas fhaide na sin cha téid mi an ceartair.

(An còrr air an ath dhuilleig)

Ceol-Sidhe Agus Trusadh

Le DOMHNALL IAIN MACPHAIL

CHÀIDH duine àraidh aon latha a mach a thrusadh do bheinn a bha fad air falbh, agus an déidh dha earrann mhór de chaoiraich a thrusadh, shuidh e sìos air bruaich bhig agus shìn e e fhéin chum cadal a dheanamh, oir bha an latha blàth agus na caoraich ag itheadh an fheòir mun cuairt.

Chaidil e, agus an uair a dhùisg e cha robh sgiál air na caoraich agus, ged a bhitheadh e 'gan lorgachadh cho math 's a b'urrainn e, chan fhaigheadh e iad.

Mu dheireadh thall choinnich cailleadh mhór dhubh ris agus thubhairt i ris, " 'S fheàrr dhuit a dhol dhachaidh, a charaide; tha gu leòr air tachairt bho dh'fhalbh thu."

Chaidh am bodach dhachaidh agus chunnaic e gu robh a thaigh air a robaigeadh le mèarlich. Cha robh fios aige ciod a dheanadh e, agus chaidh e do'n leabaidh. Mu mheadhon-oidhche chuala e fuaim shìos an staidhir agus fhuair e gréim air a bhata 's a bhrògan agus rinn e a mach as an taigh cho luath 's a b'urrainn e.

Chaidh e am falach ann an craoibh far am faiceadh e na bha tachairt. Thàinig dithis mhèairleach a mach as an taigh agus daga aig gach fear dhiubh. Chuala fear-an-taighe fear dhùbh ag ràdh, "Nam biodh fear-an-taighe a staigh chuireadh mise peilear 'na chlaigeann, ach feuchaidh sinn am measg nan craobhan a tha anns a' ghàradh feuch an lorg sinn e."

Rinn fear-an-taighe as cho luath 's a leigeadh a chasan leis, agus stad e an uair a bha e pìos mòr air falbh.

Bhruidhinn fear de na mèairlich ris, ag cantainn, "Cha lorg sinn idir e. Trobhad a staigh a rithist agus gheibh sinn ar còtaichean agus nì sinn air falbh."

Dh'fhalbh iad agus nuair a chaidh fear-an-taighe do'n t-seòmar anns an robh na mèairlich chunnaic e gun do thill iad air a chuid ghnòthaichean, ach an cùl an doruis bha duine air a thachdadh.

Cha b'fhios do'n duine bhochd ciod a dheanadh e, ach chuala e ceòl binn far bhàrr an t-sléibhe agus chunnaic e tòrr mòr shìdhichean a' tighinn. Chaidh e am falach agus sguir an ceòl brèagha. Thàinig na sìdhichean a staigh agus thog iad leotha an duine marbh, agus thòisich ceòl mar gum bitheadh tuireadh. Suas an cnoc rinn iad leis agus a staigh do'n talamh chaidh iad leis. Dh'eubh fear aca, " Bhàsaich an rìgh againn agus teicheadh sinne." Agus chan fhaca an duine bochd sìdhean no sìdhean a rithist, agus tha iad ag ràdh gum b'e sin bu choireach nach 'eil sìdhean ann an dùgh.

Luinneagan (bho t.d. 2)

CO MHRBH ROB DEARG?

(Who killed Cock Robin?)

"Cò mharbh Rob Dearg?"

"Mise," thuir an speireag,

"Le mo bhogha 's mo shaghead,

Mharbh mi Rob Dearg."

"Bheil fianuis air a bhàs?"

"Thà," thuir a' chuileag,

"Le mo shùil bhig bhioraich,

Chunna mis' a bhàs."

"Cò ghlac an fhuil?"

"Mise," deir an t-iasg,

"Le mo thruinneair criadh,

Ghlac mis' an fhuil."

"Cò nì 'n t-aodach mairbh?"

"Mise," thuir an gurra-mhàgag,

"Le mo shnàth 's mo shnàthaid,

Nì mise 'n t-aodach mairbh."

Agus uile eòin nan speur

Thuit gu caoineadh 's gu osnaich,

Mar a chaochail Rob Dearg—

Smuaintean searbh agus goirt ac'.

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 3)

Chan 'eil mise a' dol a ràdh nach faodadh gu robh tuille na sèanar chinn-feadhna anns a' bhirlinn, ged nach biodh ach an t-sè air na raimh aig aon àm—dh'fhaodadh iad a bhith ag atharrachadh air a chéile, mar a bhios sgiobaidhean an uair a bhios iad a' dol air astar fada. Ach biodh sin mar a thogras e, is nì ro ionntasach a tha ann r'a thoirt fainear am meas a bha air a' mhaighdinn òig agus air an fhear a bha i an ulla ri phòsadh.

Mar a tha fios agaibh uile, chaill na Seumasach ann an iomairt na "'15." Chaill na cinn-fheadhna a dh'èirich an aghaidh nan Seòrasach an cuid fearainn, ged a fhuair iad am bitheantas air ais a rithist e, agus a' chuid dhiubh nach do ghlacadh 'nam prìosanaich, chaidh an cur fo'n choill. Bha Iain Ciar air aon dhiubhsan a chuireadh fo'n choill is air an robh an tòir, agus faodar a thuigsinn nach robh cor a mhnatha agus a theaghlach ach glé through fad 's a mhair an tòir. Mu dheireadh thàinig chùisean cho teann air deagh Iain Ciar 's gum b'èiginn dha a bheannachd fhàgail aig Albainn is dol thar Sruth garbh na Maolìe do Eirinn, ach fàgaidh sinn an sin e gus an ath mhìos.—Bhur Caraid Dìleas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Executive Council

A MEETING of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gàidhealach was held in Room 2, St Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, on Friday, 11th November, 1949. The President, Mr John M. Bannerman, was in the Chair, and there were forty members present.

The President made sympathetic reference to the death of the Dowager Marchioness of Ailsa who had been a staunch supporter of An Comunn for many years. She and her late husband, as Earl and Countess of Cassillis, presented the "Cassillis Cup," which is awarded to the competitor having the highest number of marks in the Senior Literary Competitions at the National Mod. Only two years ago she presented another trophy in memory of her husband, which is known as the "Ailsa Trophy" and is awarded to the Crowned Bard.

Mr Matheson's Resignation

A letter was read from Mr Alasdair Matheson intimating his resignation from the post of Assistant Secretary as from 23rd December. The President said that this intimation would be received with great regret, and he referred to Mr Matheson's service during the past fourteen years, and especially during the past year when he did an enormous amount of work in connection with the Inverness Mod. Mr Matheson's resignation was accepted by the Council, but the hope was expressed that Mr Matheson would give his assistance and support to the work of An Comunn, a service which would be greatly valued.

The Treasurer read a minute of meeting of the Finance Committee. In moving the adoption of the minute Mr Farquhar MacRae made sympathetic reference to the illness of Mr Robert Bain, Convener. There was some discussion about the financial position of An Comunn and the need for increasing revenue and curtailing expenditure.

The Magazine

IN the absence of Mr Donald Shaw MacKinnon, unfortunately absent through illness, Mr Kenneth MacDonald moved:—

"That Bye-law 4 be rescinded and that the undernoted Bye-law be substituted:—
"The Official Magazine of the Association shall be sent to subscribers at an annual subscription to be fixed by the Executive Council, payable in advance, before the first day of in each

year. Order forms shall be issued to all members not later than the in each year."

This was seconded by Mr Farquhar MacRae. It was then remitted to a joint-meeting of the Finance and Publication Committees to consider the working of the new Bye-law and to report back to the January meeting of the Council.

Minute of meeting of Education Committee was read. There was a discussion about the teaching of Gaelic in the Glasgow Secondary Schools, and various suggestions were made, one being that an approach be made to parents in the city through the various Associations.

Mod Arrangements

MINUTES of two meetings of the Mod and Music Committee were read. The President, as former Convener, moved the adoption of the first minute and welcomed Mr Hugh MacPhee as the new Convener. Mr MacPhee moved the adoption of the second minute.

The Committee reported that they had considered the remit from the Annual General Meeting about the extension of the Mod period, and they suggested that the Junior Section of the Mod be held on Thursday and Friday of the previous week; senior competitions to commence on the Tuesday following and continue until the Friday evening. The Committee delayed making a recommendation about a scheme of elimination until the Executive Council had dealt with the foregoing suggestion. After a very lengthy discussion, Mr Donald Thomson moved as an amendment (a) that the proposal to extend the Mod period be remitted back to the Committee for further consideration, and (b) that elimination be considered this year. Mr Donald MacLean, in seconding, suggested a one-day extension. On a vote being taken amendment (a) was carried and amendment (b) was rejected. With this alteration the minute was adopted.

Minute of meeting of Publication Committee was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Lachlan MacKinnon, Convener. The Committee recommended that all advertising connected with *An Gàidheal* and the Mod programme should be handled by one party on behalf of An Comunn. It was agreed that there be more co-operation between this Committee and the Mod and

Music Committee in connection with An Comunn publications.

Minute of meeting of Propaganda Committee was read and approved on the motion of Capt. William MacKay, Convener, who was welcomed by the President on his first appearance as Convener. The Minute made reference to the services rendered to the Committee by the former Convener, Mr Donald MacDonald. It was agreed to record the Committee's appreciation of the B.B.C.'s broadcasting of Gaelic lessons, and especially of the work done by Mr Hugh MacPhee and Mr Edward Pursell. An approach for release of lady teachers for adjudicating at Provincial Mods was recommended by the Rev. John MacKay. Mr Charles Reppke recommended that badges be made available to learners of Gaelic.

Minute of meeting of Art and Industry Committee was read and adopted on the motion of the Convener, Mrs Iain M. Campbell (Airds).

Youth Leaders' Conference

MINUTE of meeting of Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee was read and approved on the motion of Mr Lachlan MacKinnon, Convener. The Committee reported that arrangements were being made to hold a Youth Leaders' Conference in Swordale House, Evanton, during the Christmas recess. The Convener thanked Mr and Mrs Bannerman for their kindness in putting Swordale House at the disposal of the Committee for this Conference. The Annual Camp will be held next year (1950) at Inverailort, the date being—girls, 29th June to 10th July; boys, 13th to 24th July.

Notices of motion were tabled by Mr Angus MacIver, Mr Donald Thomson, and Mrs MacPhail Holt.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Council at Glasgow on Friday, 13th January, 1950, at 6 p.m.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

ANN AN GALLAIBH

EADAR leth-cheud is trì fichead bliadhna air ais is e "dol a Ghallaibh" a theireadh iad anns na h-eileanan ri "dol gu iasgach na h-àird-an-ear." B'e Inbhir-Uig (*Wick*) prìomh phort-iasgaich an sgadain. Aig an àm ud cha robh dol do Ghallaibh cho goireasach is a tha e an diugh. Bhiodh na h-iasgairan Niseach, ann an ceann-a-tuath Leodhais, a' dol tarsainn Cuan nan Orc le an cuid sgathan gu ruige Inbhir-Theòrsa (*Thurso*), far an robh iad

(*An còrr air t.d.* 10)

MAC TALLA (bho t.d. 4)

Ann an àireamh 14 April, 1894:—

“Tha fios gu ‘m biodh e chum math nan rioghachdan air leth agus chum math na h-Iompair-eachd Bhreatainnach air fad, na ‘m biodh pàrlamaidean beaga dhaibh féin, cha ‘n ann a mhain aig Eirinn ‘s aig Alba, ach mar a ceudna aig Sasunn ‘s aig Wales. Tha an obair a tha ri dheanamh do na ceithir dùthchannan tuilleadh ‘sa chòir air son a bhì air fhàgail aig aon phàrlamaid. Tha moran uine air a chosg an dràs anns a phàrlamaid Bhreatainnach a deanamh reachdan beaga de nach eil a chuid mhor de na buill a gabhail suim sam bith. An diù ‘s ann a deanamh riaghailtean mu nì-eigin ann an Eirinn, agus cha ‘n eil na Sasunnach no na h-Albannaich ag radh dad; ann màireach bidh iad a deanamh nì eile air iartus nan Albannach agus cha bhì e cur dragh sam bith air na Sasunnach no air na h-Eironnaich. Ach ‘s e ‘s dòcha nach lean iad fada air an dòigh so. Gheibh Eironn parlamaid dhith féin ged tha i tighinn gu math slaodach; gheibh Alba a parlamaid féin agus bheirear an nì ceudna do Shasunn ‘s do Wales. Cha bhì aig an Ard-phàrlamaid an sin ri dheanamh ach a bhì dealbh reachdan ‘sa cur an ordugh nithean a bhios cho math ‘s cho math do gach rioghachd fa leth.”

Ann an àireamh 17 April, 1897:—

“Chaidh giomach a ghlacadh air Cladach de dhe na Staiten a Tuath o chionn ghoid, a tha tri troighean us sia oirlich a dh’fhad, agus a tha aona phund deug air fhichead a chudhtron. Thatar a deanamh amach gur e giomach a ‘s motha air an ‘rughadh riamh. Tha e beò fhathast, agus tha e ri bhì air a chumail ann an tigh-ìoghnaidh am baile New York.”

Ann an àireamh 18 Ogust, 1900:—

“Tha teachdairean a Finnlann an drasda ann an Newfoundland a feuchainn ri cordadh a dheanamh ri riaghladh na dutcha sin air son àireamh mhiltean de ‘n co-luchd-dutcha a tha air son tighinn air imrich. Tha na Finns air fas sgith de ain-tighearnas Ruisia air am bheil iad fo smachd agus a tha deilgeadh riuth gu cruaidh agus gu h-eucorach.”

Ann an àireamh 9 Februaireadh, 1900:—

“Ann am baile beag an stait Illinois, tha fuireach Gearmailteach pòsda ri ban-Shasunnach, agus Sasunnach pòsda ri ban-Ghearmailteach. An la roimhe

chaidh an dithis fhear bhar a cheile mu choghadh nam Boers, agus shabaidich iad, agus mu ‘n do sguir iad, chaidh an Gearmailteach a stobadh le forc fheoir, ‘s chaidh an Sasunnach a phronnadh ‘s a sgròbhadh gu dona. Bha na mnathan ‘sa cheud dol a mach a togail an guth air taobh an dutcha, ach ‘nuair thainig a chèis gu buillean ghabh gach te dhiubh taobh a fir, ‘s ‘nuair a chaidh na fir a chur o fheum, thòisich iad air a chéile.”

THAINIG crìoch air “*Mac Talla*” le àireamh 24 Iun, 1904, agus seo aigabh facal mu dheireadh an fhìr-dheasachaidh:—

“FACAL ‘SAN DEALACHADH.”

“Leis an àireamh so tha MAC TALLA a’ crìochnachadh a thuruis. Mar chaidh a ràdh cheana, tha barrachd is aon aobhar air sin a thachairt; ach gheibhte buaidh air gach aobhar a th’ann ach an t-aon, nach eil na ‘s leòir de na Gàidheil a’ gabhail a phaiper. Anns na ceud bhliadhnaichean bha moran chàirdean aige a chuidich leis le sgrìobhaidhean ‘s le faighinn luchd-gabhail ùra dha. Ach an ceann ùine sguir sin ann an tomhas mor; cha robh de luchd-sgrìobhaidh aige ach an fheadhainn dhileas nach trèigeadh e fhad ‘s a bhiodh an anail ann, ‘s cha robh ach duine ainneamh a ghabhadh de dhrgan na rachadh a shireadh luchd-gabhail ùra. Bha moran eudmhor d’a thaobh fhad ‘s a bha e ùr, annasach, ach ‘nuair chaidh e seachad air ùiread ‘s annas, theirig an t-eud. Cha robh àireamh an luchd-gabhail riamh thairis air trì no ceithir ceud deug, agus rè na ceithir no coig bliadhna mu dheireadh cha robh bhar aona cheud deug ‘ga ghabhail. Agus ‘nuair a dh’innsear nach d’thainig astigh o’n luchd-gabhail a bhliadhna b’fhearr a chunnaic e ach mu dheich ceud gu leth dolair (£300) suim nach paidheadh cosdas a chlà-bhuallaidh, tuigidh an ti a bheirneicheas nach robh moran dòigh air a chumail air adhart. Airson MAC-TALLA a chuit a mach uair ‘san da sheachdain cha b’fhuilear air a chuid bu lugha da mhìle fear-gabhail a bhì aige. Dh’fhaodadh sin a bhì aige ged nach biodh ann do luchd-leughaidh Gàilig ach na th’air eilein Cheap Breatainn; ach ‘nuair nach faighear an àireamh sin air fad is leud an t-saoghail, cha ‘n urrainnear tighinn gu co-dhùnadh sam bith eile ach nach eil paiper Gàilig a dhith

air na Gàidheil, gu bheil iad riarachite le bhì comharrachite mar an aon chinneach Crìosdaite a th’air talamh nach cosd ri paiper a chumail suas na ‘n cainnt féin.

“Tha sinn gu mor an comain nan càirdean a chuidich leinn ann an dòigh sam bith, gu h-àraidh iadsan a bha o am gu am da a sgrìobhadh. Tha sinn duilich air an sgàth-san nach eil MAC-TALLA ri mairsinn. Na ‘m biodh dòchas againn gun rachadh chisean na b’fhearr, leanamaid air; na ‘m faigheamaid dearbhadh gu robh àireamh a dh’ fhòghnadh de na Gàidheil iarrrach a chumail suas, bheireamaid ionnsuidh eile air. Ach gun dearbhadh no dòchas, cha ‘n urrainn duinn nì eile dheanamh aig an am so ach, le mor dhùilichinn, a leigeil bàs.”

Sin am facal mu dheireadh. Bhàsaich “*Mac Talla*,” ‘s cha robh e idir ‘na chreideas do na Gàidheil gun do leig iad leis dol bàs, oir bha e cho math ‘s a bha e riamh nuair a chaidh e bàs.

Am neasg nan Gàidheal ainmeil a bha sgrìobhadh ann an dràs ‘s a rithist, bha an t-Ollamh Dòmhnall MacFhionnghuin, an t-Urramach A. MacGilleathan Sinclair, an t-Urramach Iair MacRuairidh, an t-Urramach D. B. Blair, Seumas N. MacFhionnghuin, Niall MacLeòid, agus mòran eile, cuid dhiu nach do chuir an t-ainm aca ris na sgrìobhaidh. Ach chaidh mòran dheth a sgrìobhadh le Eòin MacFhionnghuin fhéin; agus bheir e iongantais air duine a chluinntinn nach robh e ach dà bhliadhna fichead a dh’aois nuair a thòisich e air “*Mac Talla*” a chur a mach.

Ma tà, ged a tha e fada a nist o’n a sgrù “*Mac Talla*” cha bu chòir duinn a chlàb no clùb an fhìr-dheasachaidh leigeil air diochann, agus bioamaid ag cumhneachadh ‘s ag ionndrainn Eòin Mhic-Fhionnghuin a bha ‘na shàr-Ghàidheal ‘s ‘na shàr-dhuine-uasal ‘s ‘na shàr-sgoileir ‘s a sheas cho calma ‘s cho iad-fhoighidhean air son na cànan a tha ‘gar ceangal r’a chéile—ge b’e àite am bi sinn, an Alba no ‘n Canada, sna Staiten, an Africa mu dheas, no ‘n New Zealand, no ‘n àiteachan eile. A chuid de Phàrais dhà.

(Bho t.d. 9)

a’ tarrainn suas nan eathrachean agus ag coiseachd a sin gu Inbhir-Ùig. Aig deireadh an iasgaich bha iad ag coiseachd agus a’ seòladh air ais air a’ cheum air an tainig iad.

Is ann aig iasgach Ghallaibh a bha Pàdraig a’ bhliadhna a ghabh

(An còrr air t.d. 13)

Ann's A' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

MOD SYLLABUS

A Charaid,—I have always been looking for an enlargement and improvement of the competitions in the Senior Literary Competitions in the National Mod Syllabus, but these very important competitions seem to be static year after year. The short story and the long story competitions have appeared each year as long as I can remember. It is, I think, very desirable that the nature of those literary competitions should be changed year by year and given a much wider range so as to attract the attention of literary Gaelic scholars. A story can easily be got without much effort and does not demand a very critical literary effort on the part of the writer.

There is a very wide field for literary efforts on the works of our Gaelic bards right down through the ages, the social and economic conditions of our Highlands at different stages in our history, and—perhaps the most important subject of all—our social prospects for the future. These aspects, to mention only a few, would form most searching competitions for our many able Gaelic literary scholars, and the prize-winning efforts in each of those competitions should be published in booklet form for the information of our general public.

And, in these days of austerity, is it necessary to have the Mod Syllabus printed in Gaelic as well as in English? The Gaelic translation is certainly well done, and that task was not easy, but how many study it? I certainly turn to the English side myself whenever I want any information. And how many Mod competitors could fully understand the Gaelic translation where so many coined words had to be used?

A man who acquired Gaelic very thoroughly called at a Post Office in the Hebrides to send a telegram. The old postmaster appeared, and this gentleman at once exclaimed, "Tha mi air son luath-sgial a chur air falbh." The Gaelic postmaster was completely staggered, but said in a quiet voice, "A dhùine chòir, tha a' Ghàidhlig agaih-se cho math is nach 'eil mi fhéin' ga tuigsinn."

JOHN N. MACLEOD.

[Our correspondent's suggestion for widening the scope of the senior literary competitions is worthy of consideration. There is also need to insist on consistently

high standards, and prizes should be withheld if a certain standard is not attained. Sometimes in the past prizes have been awarded for rather unsatisfactory efforts. As regards dispensing with the Gaelic version of the syllabus, it is a debatable point. Surely, however, Gaelic has as much right as other languages to 'coin' words, when necessary.—ED.]

LOCAL MODS

A Charaid,—I have lately attended two very successful local mods at Kyle of Lochalsh and at Lairg, and I can see clearly that local committees have very great difficulty in raising the necessary funds for prize-money and the many other items of expense in connection with those organisations.

I am of opinion that many more of these district mods could be held in Gaelic-speaking districts, if the granting of prize-money were dropped and some form of proficiency certificates for successful competitors substituted. Before the wars 5/- was considered a good first prize for a juvenile, but now that sum has to be doubled before it will be of much value, and when thirty or forty competitions at least, with three prizes in each, appear on the syllabus of each local mod those money-prizes mount up to a big sum.

After all, the chief aim of a local mod is to discover Gaelic boys and girls who speak and write the language and sing our Gaelic songs with the true Gaelic flavour, and when those are discovered—and there are hundreds of them in the isles—they should be encouraged to take their place in the National Mod competitions. The islands of Innes-Gall are the only stronghold of Gaelic left to us now, and local mods, without much expense to their promoters, should be encouraged in every district.

IAIN N. MACLEOD.

(Bho t. d. 6)

dràsdan ubh gu leth! Gun tà, nach dean cuid againn am breacan a sgioblachadh nas dlùithe ris a' chneas agus a ràdh, "Maith gu leòir, ach chan e mo ghnòthach-sa e." Is e sin fàth na bochdainn gu bheil a leithid de "ghnòthaichean" aig daoine agus gu bheil gnòthach cho mòr seo gun duine idir a' dol thuige anns na h-àitean anns an gabhadh *An Gàidheal* reic.

The cuid eile againn is canaidh iad: "Mur pàidh buill a' Chomuinn air son a' mhiosachain,

"FRAOCH"

Notes on the Word

THE etymology of the word "Fyaoch" (Heather) was recently given briefly in this magazine (September, 1949 p.106), and those interested in the long history of the Gaelic tongue may wish to hear more of it

How did the ancient badge of Clan Donald get its name, *fraoch*?

Early Irish *fráech*, *fráech*; Pictish *uruech*(?); Gallo-Roman *brucus* (from which, through a popular Latin *brucaria* and the French *bruyère*, English *briar*-root is derived); compare Old Provençal *bruc* and Spanish *brezo* (for *brezio*); Breton *brug*—all these are forms which point to an Old Celtic and Indo-European *vroikos*.

To the Russian and Polish words we may add the Czech *vr(z)hes* and an Old Slavonic *vres*, originally *vrēk*; September was the 'month of heather', (*veresen*, *urzesien*) to Ukrainians and Poles. The Greek (*v)ereike* is the source of Latin *erice*, *erica* (Italian *erica*), now applied to the genus of plants known as 'heath.'

Thus we obtain in common Indo-European a stem *vrēik-*, *vroik-*, the origin of 'which we might be tempted to see in an old word for "crooked" — Greek (*v)roikhōs*, Gothic *vraihkus*, Indo-Eur. *vroikh(w)ōs*—if the strict rules of philology permitted it. As they do not, some other explanation must be sought.

A probable connection would be with Greek (*v)erekein*, Albanian *gryis* for *vrik*, and Sanskrit *tras(h)ch* for *vrehk(w)-*, meaning 'to tear, rend.' Any young lady who wishes to ascertain for herself how appropriately the heather might be called a 'tearing plant' can do so, if she cares to try climbing over a heathy moor in her latest pair of nylons! The original sense, however, may have been "dragging" rather than "tearing."

K. B. JAMESON.

chan 'eil dragh aca dheth; tha iad coma, agus dé a ni sinn dheth?' 'Coma! Mas e miann a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach a h-uile duine a tha coma fhàgail coma! Feumaidh sinn a' mhàintir a tha dèidh, dealasach a chumail mar sin, agus a' mhuintir a tha coma a dheanamh cùiseach. Tha e mar fhiahaibh oirn eòlas a chur an ceann ann duine agus dùrachd an crìde an duine cheudna—duine mòr, trom, cadalach, coma air a bheil 'M.O.THOGAIR'!

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Gaelic Studies

SCOTTISH GAELIC STUDIES, Vol. VI., Pt. 2, September 1949 (B. H. Blackwell, Oxford, 9/-).

We welcome still another number of this journal, which first appeared in 1926 and which, after being in abeyance during the war years, continues on its way. We congratulate Mr John Macdonald, Reader in Celtic at Aberdeen University, for the splendid work he is doing in editing this journal.

Vol. VI., Pt. 2 is up to the standard one expects. Mr W. L. Lorimer, St Andrews University, contributes an article on "The persistence of Gaelic in Galloway and Carrick," but unfortunately we shall have to wait for the next Part to read the conclusion of the article. Mr Lorimer says that "a scholarly book dealing with the linguistic history of Scotland is badly needed, but before such a book can be written there is still much spadework to be done. Among the principal subjects requiring investigation is the progressive substitution of Gaelic by Lallans." Mr Lorimer assembles and sifts the evidence of the persistence of Gaelic in south-west Scotland, and, although we shall have to wait some time for the remainder of the article, it would seem that he doubts whether Gaelic survived there as long as is sometimes alleged.

Mrs Nora Chadwick writes about "The story of Macbeth" (this article also is "to be continued"). John Lorne Campbell has an interesting contribution on "Hiatus in Hebridean Place-Names." Mr Kenneth Jackson contributes "More Tales from Port Hood, Nova Scotia," and there are contributions also from Margaret Dobbs and Professor Myles Dillon. The Editor pays tribute to the late Professor W. J. Watson.

Orain is Dain

ORAIN IS DAIN, le Niall Mac-Gilleathain, (50/-d., 6/-).

Có nach cuala uair is uair an t-òran maiseach sin, "Hug Oireann O," agus is tric a chluinnear na h-òran sin eile, "Mo Mhàthair," "Gleann Chille-Mhàrtainn," agus "Uibhist Tìr Mo Ghràidh."

Seo, ma thà, leabhran anns a bheil a h-òan thar fhichead de na h-òran aig Mgr. Niall Mac-Gilleathain ("Bàrd Baile Ghobhann"), agus 'nam measg na ceithir a dh'ainmich mi shuas, agus còmhla riu tha trì pìosan eile—laidh, "An Crann-Ceusaidh"

agus dà lunnraig air son na cloinne a bha an toiseach air an foill-seachadh anns a' Ghaidheal, "Bodach na Nollaig," agus "An Cat, an Luch, agus a' Phiseag."

Tha cèl nan òran air a chur sìos gu dòigheil le Mgr. Alasdair MacCoinnich agus a' Bhean-Uasal NicMhathain. Tha an leabhar air a chur a mach le muinntir Cèilidh Baile Ghobhann, agus is mar a rinn iad! 'B'fheàrr gun deanadh comuinn eile a leithid do bhàird is do sgrìobhadair eile.

Cha ruig sinn a leas a ràdh gu bheil fìor spiorad na bàrdachd ann an òran Néill, agus gu bheil ealdhain aige air fuinn a dheanadh a' freagas air na faacail. Is ann a' mhòrag na dùthcha agus ag cumhneachadh nan càirden a bhios Mgr. MacGilleathain daonnan, agus faodaidh Muile is Colla, Tìriodh is Uibhist, Gleann Chille-Mhàrtainn is an t-Eilean Sgitheanach a bhith moiteil mu'n luaidh a tha air a dheanadh orra anns an leabhran seo.

Tha sinn an dòchas gun téid a cheannachadh. Neach sam bith a cheannachas e, cha bhì aobhar gearrain aige gun d' rinn e sin.

This collection of twenty-four songs and poems by Mr Neil MacLean, Govan, is published by the Govan Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach and contains those of Mr MacLean's songs which have already won popular favour, such as "Hug Oireann O," "Mo Mhàthair," "Uibhist Tìr Mo Ghràidh," and "Gleann Chille-Mhàrtainn." As is said in the Foreword, "the dominant themes are the memories of home and youth, the exile's love of the homeland, the friends of yore, the changing face of nature, and, above all, the places that have a special niche in the bard's heart." Muil and Uist, Tìree and Skye, Coll and Kilmartin—all are praised here. The music—in staff and sol-fa—has been arranged by Mrs Violet Mathieson.

The Govan Bard

In Honour of Mr Neil MacLean

IN The Ca'doro Restaurant, Glasgow, on 3rd December, a pleasant Social Evening was held, when the Committee of the Govan Ceilidh (Govan Branch of An Comunn) and other friends—some eighty persons altogether—met to do honour to Mr Neil MacLean ("The Govan Bard") and to three others who had served the Branch well.

Mr Donald MacCulloch, President of the Govan Branch, occupied the Chair. He expressed the regret of all that their late President, Mr Coll MacDougall, had not been spared to preside over this happy function, but they were glad to have Mrs MacDougall with them.

The Govan Ceilidh has published a collection of the songs and poems of Mr Neil MacLean (see notice on p. 13 of this Number), and Mrs T. M. Murchison, in name of the Ceilidh, handed over to Mr MacLean a specially bound copy of his book along with the copyright documents, and in so doing she expressed the pride they all felt in being able to honour Mr MacLean and hoped that he would long be spared to compose many more songs. Mrs Murchison then presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs MacLean and a beautiful clock to Mr Peter MacArthur, to mark his twenty-five years' service

to the Govan Ceilidh, and wristlet watches to Mr MacInnes and Mr Kelly, in recognition of their services.

Mr MacLean said he owed a great debt to the Govan Gaels for making possible the publication of his songs and he thanked especially those who had helped him in seeing the book through the press. Messrs MacArthur, MacInnes, and Kelly also expressed their thanks for the gifts they had received.

Thereafter the following paid tribute to Mr MacLean as a man and as a bard—Rev. T. M. Murchison, Mr Neil Shaw, Mr Alasdair Matheson, Mr Alexander Mackenzie, Mr John Macphee, Mr Donald Maclean, Mr Hector MacDougall, and Mr Duncan Thomson.

Following the speeches an informal ceilidh was held, many of those present contributing songs and stories.

(Bho t. d. 10)
e an daorach mhòr. Chaidil e a muigh air a' ghlasaich agus, mar a dh'innis e fhéin dhomh, " 'S e ceàrd mór Gallach, ann an càinn-ealachadh an latha, a dhùisg mi." "Thuirit an càrd rium," arsa Pàdraig, "'Never sleep on the blue grass.'"

Agus, arsa Pàdraig, "'Never shall I'" A. M.

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

THE Gaelic play, "Domhnall 's an Tombaca," by the late Archibald MacCulloch, was staged in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 3rd November, those taking part being Mrs M. Barron, Miss Katie Ann Nicolson, Miss Winnie Young, John M. Bannerman, Angus M. MacDonald and Alasdair Stewart. I had the honour of presiding and, having seen this play acted on a number of occasions and having also taken part in the cast, I think this was the ablest performance of it that I have yet witnessed. The play was preceded by a humorous dialogue, "Coireannan," by the same author, and the performers were Mrs Barron and Angus MacDonald. The evening's entertainment was in aid of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund. A Gaelic play in the city of Glasgow, with its thousands of Gaelic speakers, should attract a larger audience than was present on this occasion. All who attended were unanimous in their appreciation of the performance.

THE weekly meetings of the Govan branch continue to draw large audiences, and accommodation in the Cardell Hall is severely taxed at each ceilidh. I presided over the meeting on 17th November, when a first-rate programme was submitted, including Gaelic songs and instrumental music. The office-bearers of this branch are to be heartily thanked for the provision they are making for the entertainment of their many members and for the excellent manner in which their meetings are conducted.

MR HUGH MACPHEE, Convener of the Mod and Music Committee, accompanied me to Edinburgh on the evening of 23rd November to attend a meeting specially convened to form a Local Committee to carry out arrangements for the National Mod, which is to be held in the Capital in 1951. There was a good and representative attendance presided over by Mr John MacKay, President of the Edinburgh Branch of An Comunn. Those present unanimously agreed to constitute themselves as the Mod Local Committee, with power to add to their number. Office-bearers were appointed as follows:—Convener, Mr Donald Shaw MacKinnon, M.B.E.; Vice-

Convener, Miss Whigham and Mr John MacKay; Secretaries, Miss Isa MacMillan and Mr Donald Cameron; Treasurer, Mr Euan MacDiarmid. The dates fixed for the Mod are: 2nd to 5th October, 1951.

ON the following evening, 24th November, I was present at a meeting of the Gaelic Society of Perth. Chief John MacDonald, M.A., presided, and Gaelic songs were sung by Miss Dorothy Hunter and Paul MacInnes, Glasgow, and Scots songs by Mrs MacRae, Perth. The Society piper, Pipe-Major MacPhee, opened the proceedings with fine selections. I gave the members a talk on the official visit which my wife and I paid to Nova Scotia, with particular reference to the Gaelic Mod at St Ann, Cape Breton, in July. The members were interested to hear first-hand news of the Gaelic communities out there and of the efforts made to preserve the old language so carefully fostered by the pioneer settlers and their descendants. Mr Roderick MacKinnon, M.A., moved votes of thanks at the close. I was much interested to learn from Mr MacKinnon that he has a regular attendance of 40 pupils at his Gaelic Continuation Class.

ON Saturday, 26th November, I was present at a meeting of the Perthshire Provincial Mod. Committee at Aberfeldy. The Rev. Ian MacLellan, M.A., Convener, presided, and Mrs Campbell, Hon. Secretary, read an interesting and encouraging report of the mod held at Aberfeldy last June. The number of competitors had greatly increased and the general standard was most satisfactory. The financial statement was also encouraging, there being a substantial balance at credit. It was decided to hold next year's mod at Aberfeldy on 16th June. I expressed the thanks of the Propaganda Committee and complimented the Local Committee on the success of their efforts.

THE Islay Provincial Mod Committee met recently and fixed the date of the Local Mod for 31st March, 1950. This will be the first of the Provincial Mods and, in bringing forward the date of their mod, the Islay Committee have helped to relieve the congestion in June, the month most favoured for Provincial Mods.

Balmacara Branch

OPENING CEILIDH

THE local Branch held their inaugural Ceilidh of the current season in the Hall, Balmacara, on Friday, 9th December. The proceeds were in aid of the Annual Christmas Treat to the children of the district, and the necessary financial arrangements were in the capable hands of the Branch Treasurer, Mr. Angus MacPhail. Despite severe weather conditions and other attractions in the district, there was a good attendance, including a large muster of lads from Balmacara House School. Selections by Piper Roderick MacLeod, who also played at an interval, opened the proceedings, after which 'Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig' was enthusiastically sung by those present.

The General Treasurer of An Comunn Gaidhealach happened to be in the district and had the honour of being called upon to be 'Fear-an-tighe.' In course of a few remarks he emphasised to the young people present the advantages of bilingualism and strongly commended to them the continual use and study of Gaelic. The intimate Ceilidh atmosphere was maintained throughout a most enjoyable evening.

During an interval a substantial tea, which was especially acceptable on a cold winter night, was served by the ladies of the Branch. An interesting and varied programme was sustained by Mrs. MacLellan, Mr. Murdo Beaton, and Messrs George Matheson, sen. and junr. (vocalists), and Miss Joan MacDonald and Mr. J. Munro (violinists). Mr Neil Gordon rendered a selection of music on the accordion. Solos were sung by two of the lads from the School, Duncan MacLean and Malcolm MacDonald, the latter singing in the traditional mode.

An item of somewhat unusual interest was the playing by the Misses Rose of the Jew's Harp or 'trump.' A little group of children from Auchtertyre School rendered Christmas Carols in a simple but most attractive manner.

Remarks and intimations were made by Mr Calum MacLeod and Mrs MacDonald, respectively Vice-President and Secretary of the Balmacara Branch. Thereafter the company dispersed, after singing the usual valedictory chorus and the National Anthem.

J. T. G.

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NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

THE November meeting of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhir-Nis was held in the Town Hall on Saturday, 19th November, before a crowded attendance. Mr Donald MacPhail, President, was in the Chair and an excellent programme was submitted. Mr John N. MacLeod (Alasdair Mor) gave a most interesting talk in the course of the evening.

On this date also the 1949 National Mod General Committee met in the Caledonian Hotel. An apology was read from the President who found it impossible to be present. He was represented by the General Secretary, Mr Neil Shaw, and Mr J. T. Graham, C.A., General Treasurer, was also in attendance. Reports on the work of the various committees were submitted and approved. The local Treasurer, Mr George A. Smith, submitted a statement of income and expenditure, and the General Treasurer said that he had examined the statement and relative vouchers and found everything in perfect order. He congratulated the local officials on a job well done. After the usual votes of thanks had been proposed, the Chairman, Captain William MacKay, said that, in terms of bye-law 40, the Committee would now be dissolved.

Wester Ross

THE Organiser paid a visit to Wester Ross and the following places were visited:—Badachro, Opinan, Gairloch, Poolewe, Inverisdale, Aultbea, Laide, Gruinart, Ardandean, Logie, Ullapool, Strathcanaird, and Achiltibuie. School rolls still continue to decrease and several of the smaller schools have been closed. At Achiltibuie religious instruction is given in Gaelic, and during the Organiser's visit he heard the children singing a psalm in Gaelic in the old way with a nine-year-old boy chanting the line. Is e an t-ionnsachadh òg an t-ionnsachadh grunn.

Tain

ON 25th November the Tain Branch held a Ceilidh with the Organiser as Fear-an-tighe. Mr A. R. MacKenzie, who has resigned the office of President, is succeeded by Mr Angus MacLeod, Fearn, and the new Hon. Secretary also bears the same name. In recognition of his good work in the

area, the former President was appointed Hon. President of the Branch.

Meetings of the Northern Propaganda and Education Sub-Committees were held on Saturday, 26th November, when the work of the new session came under review.

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund.

ON 1st December, Mrs J. M. Bannerman was present at a meeting in the Inverness Office, when a committee was set up to organise an Inverness Burgh and County Stall at the Feill to be held at Glasgow next year in aid of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund. Mrs J. A. Mackintosh was appointed Convener, Mr Donald MacPhail, Hon. Secretary and Mr George A. Smith, Hon. Treasurer.

Sutherland

THE Lochinver Branch held the second ceilidh of the session in the Comrades Hall, Lochinver, on Friday, 2nd December. Rev. Angus MacKenzie presided, and the Organiser gave a talk in Gaelic and English. A happy ceilidh followed. Despite very inclement weather there was a good attendance.

On the following day, a meeting of Branch representatives in Sutherland met in the Higher Grade School, Lairg. The report and balance sheet for the 1949 Local Mod was unanimously approved, and the Committee at Lairg were sincerely thanked for promoting such a successful Mod. Lairg, Golspie, and Dornoch were proposed as venues for the 1950 Mod and, on a final vote, Golspie was selected by a majority of two votes. Adjudicators were appointed and a mod syllabus prepared. Mr MacPhail was thanked for his attendance and assistance.

On Thursday, 8th December, the Organiser was present at the meeting of the Golspie Branch. This meeting had been called to consider the 1950 Local Mod and to appoint office-bearers. The following were elected:—Convener, Mr Donald MacLeod; Hon. Secretary, Mr Hector G. MacDonald; Hon. Treasurer, Mr Jack Ross.

On the same evening, the Organiser was present at a ceilidh of the Brora Branch. Mr W. Grant presided, and an interesting pro-

gramme was submitted. Mr MacPhail addressed the gathering in Gaelic and English and gave an account of his recent visit to the West Coast. He appealed for support for the County Mod to be held at Golspie next year on Friday, 2nd June.

South-West Ross Mod

ON the following morning the Organiser left for Kyle of Lochalsh via Inverness. On Saturday, 10th December, he presided over a meeting of district representatives at Kyle. After the report and financial statement for the 1949 Mod had been approved consideration was given to the 1950 Mod. To avoid clashing with other functions, it was unanimously decided to hold the 1950 Mod on Friday, 2nd June, at Kyle of Lochalsh. The arrangements for the Mod were remitted to the Kyle Branch, with a recommendation that representatives from other Branches in the Mod area be co-opted to the Committee. Adjudicators were appointed and a syllabus prepared. Mr James T. Graham, C.A., General Treasurer of An Comunn, who is on holiday in the district, was present, and he was warmly welcomed by Mr Donald Nicolson, Branch President, who also thanked Mr MacPhail for his attendance and assistance.

Vacation Course

ARRANGEMENTS are now practically complete for the Vacation Course to be held at Swordale House, Evanton, from 27th to 30th December, 1949. This course is for leaders of Comunn na h-Oigridh. Students will be present from Barra, South Uist, Benbecula, North Uist, Harris, Lewis, Skye, Wester Ross, and Lochaber. It was hoped to have representatives from Argyllshire but, at the time of writing these "Notes," no names have come forward. Swordale House has been granted by Mr. and Mrs J. M. Bannerman, to whom sincere thanks are due. The B.B.C. are interested, and it is hoped that part of the proceedings will be recorded for transmission at a later date. In this way all who are interested in Comunn na h-Oigridh will be able to hear part at least of what engaged the attention of the delegates. Sincere thanks are due to Mr Hugh MacPhee and the B.B.C. for their warm and practical interest in Gaelic Youth. A report of the School will appear in the next issue.

Ionmhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod, Inverness, 1949

Received at Inverness:—

Previously acknowledged £2,317 17 6

Received at Headquarters:—

Previously acknowledged £235 14 6

Oban & Lorn Association 6 — —

241 14 6

£2,559 12 —

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged £52 — 9

Miss Margaret Colquhoun, Largs 1 — —

Mrs I. Findlay, Glasgow 10 — —

Donald MacRitchie, Esq., Glasgow 7 — —

Seumas O Dubhaghail, Eire 7 — —

D. Livingstone, Esq., Fort William 10 — —

G. C. Colmar, Esq., Aberdeen 6 3 —

Malcolm MacPhee, Esq., Irvine 10 — —

Miss J. C. Macdonald, Sutherland 10 — —

Rev. W. Wortley French, New Zealand 2 6 —

John Whyte, Esq., Morven 1 — —

£57 3 6

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged £759 16 2

Proceeds of Miss C. B. Cameron's Ceilidh (of which £100 is a donation from Iain MacLeod, Esq., Torgorm) 125 — —

Surplus from Dramatic Night, 3/11/49, per Mrs Barron, Glasgow 8 12 —

Collection Box in Columba Hotel, Oban, per A. J. Gillespie, Proprietor — 10 6

Collection Box in Cumming's Hotel, Inverness, per D. Mackenzie, Proprietor 1 10 —

Collection Box in Lochside Hotel, Bownmore, per John Brown, Proprietor — 6 2

Collection Box in the "Craigie" Hotel, Dunoon, per John McVicar, Proprietor — 2 6

Collection Box in Commercial Hotel, Port Ellen, per Wm. White, Proprietor 1 11 2

Collection Box in Tartan Hotel, Kinlochleven, per Mr and Mrs T. E. Young, Proprietors 1 2 —

Collection Box in Crown Hotel, Dunoon, per J. A. Brown — 14 6

Collection Box in the Birnam Hotel, Dunkeld, per R. Gillies 1 7 7

Collection Box in Taynult Hotel, Taynult, per Hector Gunn — 14 6

Collection Box in Lochshiel Hotel, Acharacle, per Neil Cameron — 12 —

Collection Box in the Hotel, Strontian, per Ewen MacLean 4 12 6

Proceeds of Work Party Bring and Buy Sale, 26/11/49 60 7 —

£966 18 7

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 s₁ | s : - l : s | m : - : s₁ | d : - : - | - : - : r |

- Bha iargan air m'anam
Air astaran aineol,
Bha samhradh mo latha fo sgleò;
'S mar iocshlaint fhallain bha 'n abhainn a fhuair,
Sin abhainn mo luaidh, Aimh-chrò.
- Chuala mi cagar
'Gam thàladh gu h-aighgearr
Le mànan is caithream gun ghò;
'S theich anranachd m'anam, mar fhaileas fo 'n
ruaig,
Aig carthannas fuaim Aimh-chrò.
- I fiaradh an tulaich,
'S a' tèarnadh a' bhruthaich,
Tha màthair a guire sna neòil;
Ged thilleas an iomart a turas gu cuan,
Tha t'iomachd-sa buan Aimh-chrò!
- Tha sonas 'na cuideachd,
Tha binneas 'na luinneig,
Chan fhìdear thu mulad 'na ceòil;
Tha seòid a' chreachainn bho'n tharraing i luaths'
Fo bhillichean brauich Aimh-chrò.
- Mo bheannachd, a shruthain,
Gur bith-bhuan do ghuthan,
A dhealaich buam sìleadh an deòir!
Ged liathainn air thalaimh, cha chaill mi mo
luaidh,
Do abhainn nam buadh, Aimh-chrò.

IAIN MACARTAIR.

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The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

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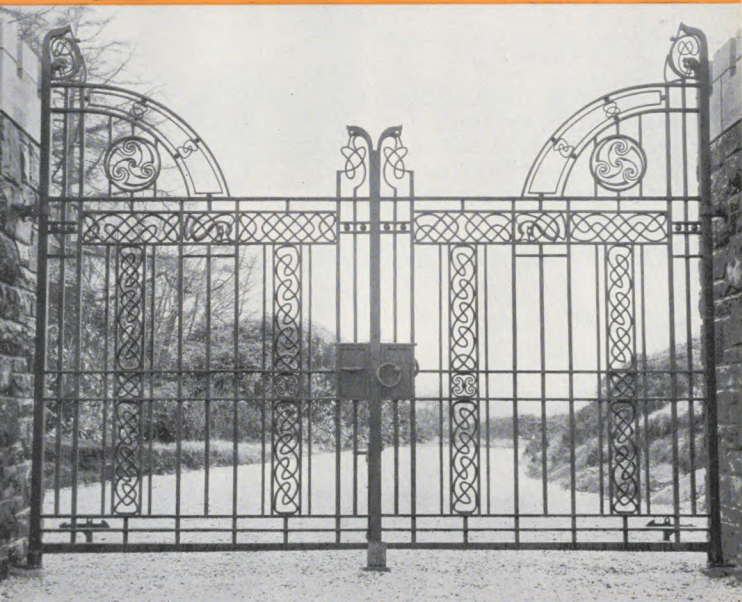
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AN GAIDHEAL *THE GAEL*

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FEBRUARY, 1950

No. 2

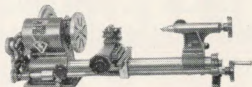


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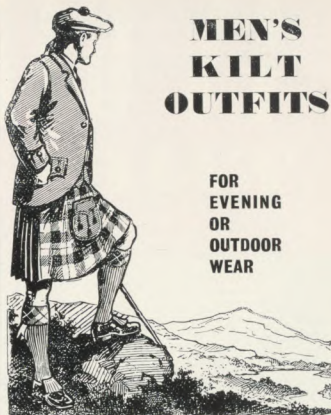
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NOTES AND COMMENTS

AN GAIDHEAL THE GAEL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

"Dunvegan Castle Gates"
(Designed by Dr. Colin Sinclair)

PLEASE MENTION OUR NAME WHEN
WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

The Election

AN Comunn Gaidhealach is non-political, but it is not thereby debarred from concerning itself with those matters of daily life and livelihood which vitally affect the well-being of the Highland people and therefore of the Gaelic language. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that An Comunn is not an academic institution for the study of Gaelic, ancient and modern. It is concerned, not with Gaelic as a subject of academic study and research, but with Gaelic as a vehicle of communication and expression.

As a subject of academic research the Gaelic language can still be of interest and importance—and learned societies will devote themselves to it—long after it has ceased to be a spoken language. As a vehicle of communication and expression, however, Gaelic cannot be considered apart from the people who use it. In seeking to achieve its objects, therefore, An Comunn cannot ignore those matters which affect the economic and social condition of the Gaelic people. The call is to all our people to make use of political and governmental institutions to further those policies which will help towards the up-building of a well-based and prosperous economy in the Highlands and Islands.

Skye Week

A special committee, in co-operation with the Scottish Tourist Board, is busy preparing for "Skye Week," 19-27 May, when visitors from all over the world will be welcomed to "Eilean a' Cheò," which, we hope, will be sparing of its "ceò" during that period.

The week will be officially opened at a Ceremony of Welcome

to be held at Portree on Saturday afternoon, 20th May, followed by a Highland Gathering. During the week there will be Highland Games, evening ceilids, dances, sheepdog trials, shinty matches, sea cruises and mountaineering, boating, film shows, excursions to places of interest, and an exhibition of the arts, crafts, and industrial life of the island, including the carding, spinning, and weaving of tweeds, tartans, rugs, woodcarving, leather work, and other handicrafts.

The Hon. Joint Secretaries are: Mrs E. M. Macdonald, Viewfield, Portree, and Ian Campbell, Esq., Sligachan, Skye.

The Late Mr Angus Campbell

A few weeks ago there came to hand, through the good offices of Mr. Donald MacArthur, Cross, Ness, Lewis, and the Rev. John MacKay, Glasgow, the MS of "Luinneagan na Cloinne Bige," Gaelic versions of many of the familiar English nursery rhymes. These Gaelic rhymes are not exact translations of the English, but rather adaptations, and, in our opinion, are very well done. Several of them have been published in "An Gaidheal Og," in the last two numbers and in this number, and there are more to come.

The author was Mr. Angus Campbell, South Dell, Ness, and we greatly regret to learn that Mr. Campbell died on 15th December last. He was only in his forty-first year. In a fine tribute in "The Stornoway Gazette" Mr. Campbell is described as "the most gifted of a clever family," a man of faith and courage. He served the community as a District Councillor and was in business as a general merchant.

He was also a poet of no mean

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Is fearr gruaim caraid na aoidh nàmhaid.

Firinn air son a' Mhìos seo

Bu mhìne na im facail a bheòil, ach bha cogadh 'na chridhe; bu bhuige a bhriathran na ola, ach bu chlaidhean rùisgte iad.—*Salm* Iv. 21.

order and published a volume of his Gaelic songs some years ago. "Mainly to amuse his own children," says *The Gazette*, "he composed a number of Gaelic nursery rhymes, which have been tried out in the local school with great success."

We would record our deep sympathy with Mr. Campbell's widow and young family, and we hope that the Publication Committee of An Comunn may consider publishing Mr. Campbell's collection of rhymes in a large-type, suitably illustrated book, which will fill a big gap in Gaelic reading-matter for young children.

Fios as a' Chaisteal Nuadh

IS tlachdmhor litir fhaotainn bho Iar caraid, Mgr Tomás MacNeacail, agus tha sinn a' toirt taing dha. Chì e gun do chuir sinn gu feum na chuir e thugainn o chionn ghoirid.

PRESENTATION TO MR. ALASDAIR MATHESON

The Executive Council, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, have decided that the most fitting expression of appreciation of Mr. Matheson's fourteen years' service would be a testimonial subscribed for by members of An Comunn and friends.

Donations towards this testimonial will be received and acknowledged by the General Secretary at An Comunn Office, 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.1. This fund will close on 17th March, 1950.

SEANCHAS

Bha an Dotair Ard a bha an Craoich glé mhionaideach ann a bhith cumail gealladh na h-uaire ri neach sam bith a bhiodh air son fhaicinn.

Bha bean àraidh anns a' choimh-thional aige a bha ag iarraidh Comanachaidh, agus dh'ìarr an Dotair Ard oirre coinneachadh ris anns a' mhansa aig trì uairean feasgar Di-sathuirne, ach cha d'ràinig i am mansa gu naoi uairean air an fheasgar sin.

"Car son nach tàinig thu an uair a dh'ìarr mi ort?" ars an Dotair.

"O, Dhotair," ars ise, "dh'fhàg mise an taigh tràth gu leòr, ach thachair na h-ainglean rium, agus bha mi còmhla riutha gus an dràsda."

"O, bhòrnag," ars an Dotair, "nach bu tu fhéin an òinseach nach do lean thu riutha seach am fàgail agus tighinn far a bheil mise!"

IAIN N. MACLEOD.

NATIVE LANGUAGE IN SCHOOL

The *Montreal Standard* (24th September, 1949), reported that at Cantley, Quebec, a school teacher who could not speak French and thirteen children who could not understand lessons in English were central figures in a situation that might cost the town \$850 in education grants.

The teacher, aged nineteen, had come from Ontario, and this was her first job. She did not speak French, but she found that thirteen of her twenty pupils were unable to follow the lessons in English. For nearly two weeks the children stayed away from school. Should the teacher resign or should she not?

The local School Board had signed a contract with her, so she could continue to teach the seven children still attending school. But, if she decided to stay on, the Board might be forced to close the school, and that would mean forfeiting \$850 in education grants from the province. Or the province might withdraw the grant because of the thirteen absentees, even if the school stayed open.

The mayor and school commissioner said the town needed the grant to help run the schools. He added that, when the Board signed the contract with the teacher, they understood she could speak French fluently.

"We hope for her sake, as well as the Board's, that she will decide to resign," he said. "Those children are entitled to be taught in their own language."

In Scotland also Gaelic-speaking children are entitled to be taught in their own language.

BAS CARAID

Mr Peter MacIntyre

ANOTHER old member of An Comunn passed away with the death at Innellan, on 26th December, of Peter MacIntyre, a native of Easdale. He had served on the Executive Council and on the Mod and Music Committee. He was closely connected with the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association and was a singing member of the choir for many years. He had been laid aside for a considerable time, but retained his interest in the work of An Comunn up to the end.

The interment took place at Dunoon, and the musical side of the movement in which Peter was most interested was represented by Mr. J. N. MacConochie, Mr. Neil MacLean, and Mr. Donald Buie.

He will be much missed by the older members of An Comunn and the "G.G." He has left to perpetuate his memory in a volume of *An Gaidheal* a poem entitled "Dachaidh nan Laoch."



(Copyright "Press & Journal," Aberdeen)

In conference during Comunn na h-Oigridh Gaelic Vacation Course at Swordale House, 27th-30th December, 1949

An Taigh Dubh

Le SEUMAS MACTHOMAIS

(Chaidh an oraid seo a liubhart air an Radio)

ANNAS linn a dh'fhalbh b'e an taigh dubh dachaidh a' mhòr-shluaigh anns a' Ghaidhealtachd agus anns na h-Eileanan an Iar, agus rè iomadh linn air ais cha robh eòlas aig an tuath-cheatharna air a' chòrr. Faodar a chreidsinn nach ann gun aobhar a lean an sluagh ùine cho fada buidheach le aitreabhann nach robh aon chuid sgiamhach no goireasach. Dh'fhàs ginealach an dèidh ginealach suas anns na dachaidhean seo gun mhòran atharrachaidh no leasachaidh dheanamh orra. Car son?

Bha an taigh dubh farasda a chur suas, agus saor r'a thogail—dà nì a bha do-sheachnaichte feumail do shluagh nach robh riamh saidhbhir ann am maoin an t-saoghail. Agus, a thuilleadh air sin, b'e lagh a' Ghaidheil nach tug nì ùr no annasach uair air bith barr air na seann nithean air an robh iad eòlach. An rud a riarach na sinnsirean, car son nach biodh an t-àl òg buidheach leis?—lagh leis nach tig piseach air luathair.

Ach bha aobhar eile a chuir adhartas fo chis. Cha robh còir-sheibh nan Gaidheal air an fhearann no air an dachaidhean ro chinnteach dhaibh anns na seann làithean, agus, gu an tug Achd nan Croiteirean anns a' bhliadhna 1886 còir chinnteach dhaibh, bha iad toilichte fàsghadh a ghabhail anns na dachaidhean bochda a bha aca o bhliadhna gu bliadhna. O'n latha ud thòisich iad a' togail thaghean na b'fhearr agus na bu chomhfhurtaile anns gach dòigh, agus an t-àinig an linn a tha againn a nis—lìnn nan taghean gèala.

Suarach an ùine tuilleadh gu nach fhaicear taigh dubh le cagaill bhlàth agus le comhlan de chloinn òig, shona a' fàs suas ann. Tha iad 'gam éisdeachd an nochd a dh'àraicheadh ann an dachaidh de n t-seòrsa seo, agus leis am bu mhithich ath-chuimhne a bhith aca air làithean an òige agus an sonais—air a' chuideachd a bha leotha anns a' chlachan, an dàimh 's an carthannas a bha an dlùth 's an cur an nàdur, an coibhneas agus an fhialaidheachd leis an fàilteheadh iad am fear-tadhail, an dilseachd, an iochd agus an cridhealas.

Dh'ìrarrainn anns an ùine ghoirid a th'agam carragh-cuimhne a chur suas air an taigh dubh air son dà aobhar:

An toiseach, gu bhith ag cumail beò ainmean a tha co-cheangailte ris an aitreabh fhéin, agus ris an acfhuinn oibreach leis na choisinn an luchd-àitich an teachd-an-tir.

Agus a rithis, gu bhith deanamh gearr iomradh air subhaillean na muinntir a dh'àraicheadh ann.

I.

GED ma dh'fhaoidte nach robh an taigh dubh maiseach ann an sùil coigrich, bha a dhreach 's a chumadh co-fhrea-gradh ri sealladh is cumadh na tìre, direach mar gum fàsadh e mach à sìos a' chreagain air an robh e 'na sheasamh. Bha e daonnann seasgair, neo-ghluasach, air a thogail gu bhonchar le clachairean tìrùil, làmhcharach a' chlachain fhéin a bha usal à obair an làmh. Anns an latha ud cha robh baile gun luchd-cèairde.

Bha dà nì sònraichte anns an t-sealladh ann a bhith roghnachadh làrach an taighe—an robh e goireasach do'n rathad mhòr, agus an robh e fàsghadh ri am gaillinn. Fhad 's a bhiodh fàsghadh ann ri àm an fhaoillich agus aghaidh an taighe faisg air rathad an rìgh, éireadh a' ghrian far an togradh i! Cha robh ùidh mhòr ann an gathan fallain na grèine, no ionndrainn orra.

Bha an taigh air a chumadh air a leithid de dhòigh 's gun sìtheadh a' ghaoth bu chruaidhe sheideadh dheth mar a bhuaidheadh i air. Bha na ballachan ìosal agus leathann air an togail le clachan cladaich no talmhainn agus le troighean de ghluadhad eadar an dà bhalla. Le tìgheadh an tughaidh troimh nach fhaigheadh gaoth no sìtheadh an uair a bha e air gabhail aige gu math le lìon is sìoman is acraichean, bha mullach an taighe cruinn, air sìaradh o gach cèarnaidh. Spionadh a' ghaoth na cnuic as an àite mus gluaiseadh an taigh-dubh. 'Na bhroinn bha blàths is seasgairachd. Bha tallainn chloiche no fiodha a' roinn an taighe 'na sheòmraichean. B'e a' chlàist an t-àite cadail, agus an teine le a ghealbhan math monadh am meadhan an làir àite na h-oibreach agus na cuid-eachd, àite a' bhlàiths agus a' chathannais.

Cha robh àirneis an taighe air a chiallachadh air son daoine

diomhain, toigheach air fois is socair. 'S e sgiòs na h-oibreach a dh'fhàgadh a' bheing dharaich socrach air son cadail-cèarnach. A thuilleadh air leappannan, being, séis, stùil, is dressair, bha cisteachan mine agus aodaich, bìrd is cathraichean cruaidhe, loinnireach anns gach taigh.

Cha robh gainne, mar bu trice, air goireasan eile ri làimh an fhìr oibreach. Bha lòban ann gu gleidheadh sil, cìosan air son mine, coidhean air son ime, noigean gu cumail bainne, muidhe no biota air son barra, loinid is roineach, cuach shiùc'air agus spàinnean air dheagh lìomhadh.

Bha cuibhle ann gu sniomh, càrdan gu cìreadh, cuigeal gu toinneamh, crois iarna, liathra gu tachrais an t-smàth, spàl gu fìghe. Cha robh nì a bha feumail air son calanais nach fhaighte.

Bha acfhuinn àitich is buain is iasgaich anns gach dachaidh—spàinean is gràpa, cliath is corrain is speal, toirsigian is cliabh; agus innealan iasgaich de gach seòrsa, lìon beag, lìon mòr, agus lìn sgadanach.

II.

IS iomadh duine usal agus iomadh dhubb. Dh'fhoghlum iad o'n òige a bhith toilichte le'n staid. Cha robh maoin an t-saoghail 'na éire thruim orra. Fhad 's a bhiodh a' chiste mhìne làn agus buntata anns an t-sabhal, iasg air sìoman agus sgadan anns a' bhàraille, caoraich air sliabh, crodh-laogh air an tothar, no cearc air spiris, thugadh an sporan Taigh Iain Ghòr air!

Bha iad neo-eisimeileach air sluagh an t-saoghail a thaobh bidh, aodaich, agus connaidh. Chuir iad gu ìre an connadh a bha saidhbhir mu na dorsan aca. Rinn iad aodach de chloimh nan caoraich aca fhéin. Chìreadh is chàrdadh, shniomhadh is dh'fhigheadh iad mu'n chagaill na dh'fheumadh iad. Dheanadh griasach a' chlachain casbhairt gearmhraidh dhaibh, agus chaomhnadh craicann nam bonn an còrr.

Dh'fheitheadh iad ri bhith sona, agus b'e an obair làitheil mar bu trice am fearas-chuid-eachd, agus b'e comunn a chèile am miann. Cha robh ùine aca air son fadal altruim. Nuair a bhiodh saothair an latha seachd, bha an taigh-cèilidh fogsailte do gach neach leis am b'àill a thadhail. Nuair a chruinnicheadh an luchd-cèilidh mu'n teine air oidhche gheamhraidh chan fhaighte an ùine fada. Bhiodh na bodaich a' deanamh ath-luaidh air na seann làithean, ag

(An còrr air t. d. 26)

News from Eire

EXTRACTS FROM THE IRISH PRESS

SHOCK for the Governing Body of U.C.D. (University College, Dublin), amounting literally to a vote of censure, came with the results of the elections of its graduate representatives last night. The students' Gaelic organisation put forward candidates to fight the Governing Body's anti-Irish-language policy and won a smash victory.

Standard-bearers of the language, sponsored by the Inter-Varsity Comhchaidreamh, were An t-Athair Mac Aodhagáin, President of Rockwell, and "An Seabhaic," well-known Gaelic writer. Those two were elected. An t-Athair Mac Aodhagáin topped the poll.

Only two of the former members of the graduates' representatives are left: Senator Henry Barniville (top of the poll last election, 1947) and Professor Ní Fhaircheallaigh. Prof. Ní Fhaircheallaigh is a strong supporter of the Gaelic policy.

(*The Sunday Press*, 15/1/50)

THE affairs of U.C.D. are managed and controlled by the Governing Body, which consists of thirty-four members. Four of these are chosen by co-option. The other thirty are divided equally between three groups, viz. (a) the College University, 10; (b) the local authorities, 10; (c) the graduates and the Government, 10. The third group is made up of six graduates elected by graduates of the College and four persons nominated by the Government.

A few weeks ago the General Council of County Councils elected eight representatives, its full quota, who are in favour of advancing the use of Irish in University studies, and that policy was strongly endorsed by the graduates of the College in Saturday's election.

It now remains for the Government's nominees to be chosen. By choosing four persons who unequivocally support the established policy of the State with regard to the national language, the Government can ensure that there will be a clear majority of the Governing Body in favour of a new Irish language policy in U.C.D.

Representatives of the Committee of "An Comhair" told the Irish Press yesterday that the election results give the lie to those who claimed that its campaign for lectures through Irish in U.C.D. was inspired by a few "cranks" unconnected with the College. The fact that one of the candidates put forward by the "cranks"

headed the poll shows, they said, that U.C.D. graduates are far from being satisfied with the place given to Irish by the College authorities. "It is indeed a sorry blow for the College reactionary elements when they find themselves overwhelmingly beaten on their own ground."

(*The Irish Press*, 16/1/50.)

THE question of the national language was so unsatisfactory in U.C.D. that a special meeting of the Council should be held to consider it, said Mr. D. O'Rourke, T.D., to a deputation from the Gaelic League to the General Council of County Councils.

"An Seabhaic" reported thus when presenting a report on the deputation to the Coiste Gnótha on Saturday.

The deputation, the report said, was very cordially received and many members of the Council spoke strongly on the College's refusal to provide scholarship examination papers in Irish and on its general neglect of the language, and said that the attitude of the National University generally could be much improved.

(*The Irish Press*, 16/1/50.)

THE announcement that the C.I.E. is having its bus tickets printed in Irish may seem unimportant to some people. But undoubtedly it is a sign of the times. The language revival movement goes on steadily, gaining new adherents every day. The issuing of bus tickets in Irish will be particularly useful. Hundreds of thousands of people will handle these tickets and notice the change from English. That in itself cannot fail to be of value to the revival, for it is helping to bring the language into the sphere of everyday life.

.. Tremendous difficulties have had to be surmounted, but the progress that has been made, and that is being made, is gratifying. What has to be remembered is that for more than three centuries, as a matter of deliberate policy, every effort to suppress the language was made.

The language was the chief target, for there, the invaders realised, was the chief repository of native culture and the strongest basis against anglicising influences.

That was a long and a slow process—one that lasted from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. It was not to be expected that it could be undone in a few short

years. In the eighties of the last century the Irish language seemed at its last gasp, and only a small section of the people were aware of the heritage that was being lost. The movement started by "An Craobhin" and his comrades only just came in time, and it was fortunate that the policy adopted was one of arousing a general feeling for Irish as Irish, and of stressing the truth that the language was an essential part of nationality.

To-day education is in our own hands, and the schools are doing excellent work. Every year thousands of young people leave school with a working knowledge of Irish. Young and old should "Go Ahead" every day and keep Irish spoken during the daily round. No matter how little you know, use it. It is the spoken word that will win through to ultimate victory.

(*The Sunday Press*, 15/1/50.)

MY KILT STOPPED THE CARS IN BARCELONA!

THE night I wore the kilt in Barcelona!

"Never since I got the 'strap' at school have I had so many eyes focussed on me. All Barcelona takes its evening stroll along the tree-lined Ramblas in the centre of the city. And I walked down it at the "rush hour."

Mine must have been one of the few kilts ever seen there. They stopped, stared, and sometimes laughed. Even the tramcars slowed their pace or stopped. The drivers wanted to look, too. A shout from an urchin stealing a ride on the projecting rear coupling would bring the eyes of passengers upon me. I felt like the "burning spot" under a magnifying glass.

At the bottom of the Ramblas you either turn back or continue round the docks. I strode on at a pace that marked me again as a stranger. A cadet training ship and a minor naval vessel were berthed there, and, as I glanced at some signallers dressed in their "walking-out blues," a bunch of gaily-coloured ribbons dangling from the left shoulder, the seamen called to each other. Their laughter and a tune they whistled to keep time with my steps showed that sailors are the same the world over.

Thanks to Hollywood, however, the Spaniards knew my nationality. They also knew what went with the kilt. In the bar where I sought refuge I was offered "real Escocés whiskey—made in Madrid."

By that time I needed it!

J. B. ADAMSON.

SENIOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION, 1949

GAELIC

LOWER GRADE

Tuesday, 22nd March—9.30 A.M. to 12 NOON

The value attached to each question is shown in brackets after the question

N.B.—Begin the answer (or fair copy of an answer) to each question on a fresh page. Write legibly and neatly, and leave a space of half an inch between the lines. Marks will be deducted for bad spelling and bad punctuation, and for writing that is difficult to read.

1. Translate into English, paying careful attention to idiom:—

Ri mo cheud chuimhne, agus chan 'eil ach mu dheid bliadhna fichead bho an uair sin, cha robh fear-tighe anns a' choimhearsnachd nach robh 'na fhear-ceàrde air rathad air chor-eigin; agus tha mi cinnteach gu robh sin fìor mu luchd nan eilean air fad, ged nach robh mion eòlas agamsa orra. Am fear a bhiodh ri iasgach dheanadh e a bheairt fhéin air a mhiaran; dheanadh fear fearainn gu ìre bhig gach bearraid air an robh e cur feuma. Chan e a mhàin gun togadh na fir sin an tighean féin, ach chuireadh iad air dòigh 'nam broinn iad le snas is grinneas. Mar bu trice is e saor ionnsaichte a thogadh am bàta, saor a thog a cheàird bho a athair. Ach bha fir ann a thog eathraichean matha gun ionnsachadh idir. Bu mhath na dhà a thog Dòmhnall Mhurchaidh, agus cha do ghabh e riamh air a bhith 'na shaor, dubh no geal. Chà toireadh saor ach mu fhichead latha air 'cur bàta ochd troighean deug ri chéile. Mar bu nòs do luchd-ceàrde bho shean, thigeadh an saor a dh'fhuireach còmhla ris an fhear leis an robh an obair gus am biodh i deis. Bheir-eadh sgìoba an eathair cuideachadh gu leòir dha ris a' gharbh-obair. An uair a bhiodh am bàta ullamh b' i a dhuais trì no ceithir punnd Sasunnach.

A. T. MacGilleathain. (25)

2. Translate into English, paying careful attention to idiom:—

'Nuair thig oirnn an samhradh, b' e m' annsachd 's mo mhiann,
Bhith dìreadh a' bhealach 'nuair dh'éireas a' ghrian;
Am fear air na raointean fo eallach de dhrùchd,
Is lùb air gach cuiseig, gach lus agus flùr.
Bu shunnach bhith 'g éisdeachd, 's an òg mhaduinn chiùin,
Ri ceilear na h-uisge bràigh lòintean an drùchd,

I seinn òrain maidne le grinneas 's gach pong,
Is gach cun anns an caitainn a' togail air fonn.

Tha 'n smèorach gu cridheil 's an doire ud thall,
A' chuthag 's gùg-gùg aic' air mullach nan crann;

Grian òirdhearca a' boillsgeadh troimh dhùmhlachid nan geug,
'S an drùchd air gach duilleig a' deàrrsadh mar reul.

Ged bhithinn fo mhighean is m' inntinn fo leòn,

Mi airseulach, tùirseach, neo-shunnach gun treòir;

Ged bhithinn gun spèiread, is m' aigne fo phràmh,

'S e dh'fhuadaicheadh m' éislean bhith 'g éisdeachd nan dàn.

Donnchadh MacCuinn. (25)

3. Translate into Gaelic, paying careful attention to idiom:—

At one time there was a band of warriors called the Feinn, of whom Fionn Mac Cumhaill was the redoubtable chief. The whole company entered a large cave where they were put under a spell. They were cast into a deep slumber. Nothing could rouse them except three blasts on a magic horn that hung at the mouth of the cave. After the warriors had been a long time asleep, a stray hunter came to the entrance of the cavern. He blew one blast on the horn. The heroes opened their eyes. The hunter sounded a second blast. The warriors rose on to their elbows and looked at him. At their terrible appearance the hunter took fright and ran away. The third blast on the horn has never yet been blown. The warriors are still recumbent, resting on their elbows, their faces set in a wistful gaze. (25)

4. Write in Gaelic a continuous story based on the following summary. **The story should be about the same length as your answer to question 1.** Failure to comply with this instruction may lead to a loss of marks.

A story is told of an island piper who had gone to London for the first time. On his return he was asked how he had got on and what he had thought of the English. "Hach," said he, "a strange people, with strange ways. Every night they kept on knocking, knocking at my bedroom door—yes, till two in the morning—but I just went on with my piping."

(Complete the story in your own way.) (25)

(Continued on next page)

Tuesday, 22nd March—9.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M.

The value attached to each question is shown in brackets after the question.

N.B.—Begin the answer (or fair copy of an answer) to each question on a fresh page. Write legibly and neatly, and leave a space of half an inch between the lines. Marks will be deducted for bad spelling and bad punctuation, and for writing that is difficult to read.

1. Translate into idiomatic English:—

Tha e feumail gum biodh muinntir an Eilein a' rannsachadh a mach agus a' meamhrachadh air suidhichidhean ann beatha fhéin agus air na dòighean anns am faod leasachadh tighinn. Tha e do-sheachnaichte feumail gum biodh aire an riaghaltais air a stiùradh a dh'ionnsaigh cor an t-sluaigh an ceàrnaidhean iomallach na tìre cho cinnteach ri math agus cor a' mhór-shluaigh air tìr-mór. Tha e ceart gum biodh muinntir ann a sheasas còraichean an dream nach seas air an son féin, agus a thogas gu sgairteil cùis nan feumach fa chomhair luchd-ùghdarrais troimh an tig cobhair is leasachadh.

Tha Comunn Leòdhais a' deanamh so, ag càradh air beulaibh luchd-riaghlaidh an t-eòlas a tha iad féin a' dìoghlaim, agus a' sparradh orra oibrichean freagarrach a chur air chois anns an Eilean a chum obair do' n òigridh a ghleidheas iad o 'n saoghal a thoirt fo 'n ceann an tòir air teachd-an-tìr. Tha feum air iomadh leasachadh air son beatha nan Eileanach a bhith an ni bu mhiann leinn.

Is e iarrtas Comunn Leòdhais nach bi muinntir an Eilein air dheireadh air sluaigh eile na dùthaich ann an cothrom a thaobh oibreach is comhfhurtachd. Nan seasadh sluaigh na Gàidhealtachd gualainn ri gualainn anns an ni so, nan togadh iad an guth an tagradh gu h-aon-sgeulach gun athadh, gun tàmh, nan dleasadh iad an còraichean gu dìleas agus gu cunbhalach, chan 'eil teagamh idir nach tigeadh latha eile—latha an àigh—air an tìr.

Seumas MacThòmais. (32)

2. Translate into idiomatic English:—

Théid mi le m' dheòin
Do dhùthaich MhicLeòid,
M' iùl air a' mhór luachach sin.

Bu chòir dhomh gum bi
M' eòlas 's an tìr
Leòdach mur pill cruadal mi;

Siùbhlaidh mi an iar
Troimh dhùbhlachd nan sian
Do 'n tìr g' am bi triall thuathcheathairn,

O 'n chualas an sgeul
Buadhach gun bhreug
Rinn acaìn mo chléibhe fhuadachadh.

Chì mi MacLeòid,
Is prìseil an t-òg
Riomhach gu mòr buadhalach,

Bho Olghar nan lann
Chuireadh sròiltean ri crann,
Is Leòdaich an dream uabharra.

Firidh na fuinn
Ghleusta air na suinn,
Is feumail ri am cruadal iad,

Na fùranan garg,
An am rùsgadh nan arm
Is clùiteach an t-ainm fhuaras leibh.

Sìol Tormoid nan sgiath
Foirmeileach fial,
Dh'èireadh do shluaigh luathlàmhach;

Dealradh nam pìos,
Torman nam piob,
Is dearbh gum bu leibh an dualachas.

Màiri nighean Alasdair Ruaidh. (32)

3. Turn carefully into Scottish Gaelic, or translate into English:—

Do bhí d' fheabhas¹ ghníomh bhreath agus reachta Chormaic gu dtug Dia solus an chreidimh dó seacht mhbladhna ré mbás. Agus uime sin do dhiúlt adhradh do láimh-dhéibh, agus do ghabh ré a ais² cádhbas³ agus onóir do thabhairt don fhír-Dhia, ionnus gurab e an treas fear⁴ do chreid i nEirinn é sul táinig Pádraig.

Lá da raibh Cormac i dtigh Cleitigh do bhádar na draoithe 'n-a fhiadhnais ag adhradh an laoih órdha, agus cách da adhradh ar lorg na ndruidh. Do fhiafruigh Maoilgheann draoi do Chormac créad as nach adhradh an laogh órdha agus na dée mar chách. "Ni dhéan," ar Cormac, "adhradh don cheap do róine mo cheard féin; agus do b' fhearr an duine so rinne e d' adhradh, óir is uaisle é ioná an ceap." Greasais Maoilgheann draoi an laogh órdha go ro ling 'n-a bhfiadhnais uile. "An bhfaice sud a Chormaic?" ar Maoilgheann. "Cia do-chám," ar Cormac, "ni dhéan adhradh acht do Dhia nimhe agus talmhan agus ifrinn."

Foras Feasa ar Eirinn. (20)

(Continued on page 25)

Ann's a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

EASBHUIDH NA GAIDLHIGE

BU mhath leam ceist chudthromach a thogail air am bi feadhainn dhinn aig amannan a' beachdachadh, agus 's e sin mu'n fheum a th'ann gum biodh facail ùra againn anns a' Ghàidhlig air son nan nithean agus nam beachdan ùra a tha anns an t-saoghal an diugh agus a tha daonna air bilean dhaoine.

Tha Gàidheal còir an Glaschu a tha fo mhòr-iomagain mu'n chùis, agus an taobh a staigh de bhliadhna gu leth tha mi fhéin, mar Fhear-deasachaidh a' mhìosachain seo, agus Rùnaire a' Chomunn air trì litrichean mòra fhaighinn bhuaite mu'n chuspair. Chan 'eil mi ag cur sìos ainm ar caraid an dràsda, oir chan aithne dhomh an toilich-eadh sin e. Ma tha mi 'ga thuigsinn gu ceart, 's e a tha dhith air gum bi an gnothach a tha e a' togail air a ghabhail os làimh leis a' Chomunn no le buidhinn eile.

Tha ar caraid de'n bheachd gur e an t-saoghal as motha air a' Ghàidhlig a bhith mar a tha i an diugh—ag gabhail an dara h-àite aig na Gàidheil agus 'ga cur air chùl agus a' sealltainn sìos oirre aig muinntir eile—nach 'eil i 'ag coiseachd ri gualainn an adhartais agus an eòlais san t-saoghal a th'ann mar na cànanean eile. Chan 'eil ainmearan aice air son nan cuspair sin a tha ùr 'nar latha, agus chan 'eil i a' deanamh fhacilan ùra mar na cànanean beòtha, adhartach eile. Is ann a tha i, mar a tha ar caraid ag ràdh, a' tighinn beo "air cìch na Beurla." Chan 'eil ainmearan againn air cùil ach na bha ann an saoghal ar sinnsreachd bho chionn cha mheud ceud bliadhna. Chaidh aig na Gàidheil o shean, ars esar, air facail ùra a dheanamh an uair a bha feum orra. Ach chan 'eil sinne a' deanamh sin; 's ann a tha sinn ag gabhail a steach as a' Bheurla Shasannaich gach facal ùr air a bheil feum againn. Cha chòir sin a bhith!

Tha meas mòr aig ar caraid air a' Ghàidhlig—is soilleir sin—oir is i "cainnt cho àlainn agus cho làidir, fearail 's a bha riamb air an talamh." "Ach tha nithean duilich aice ri thilgeil air a daoine agus eigeach an toll-chuaise an t-saoghail: 'Tha sibh 'gam chumail beò, ach cha thu sibh adhartas sam bith orm bho chionn cha mheud ceud bliadhna; cha do rinn sibh trusgan dhomh leis an urrainn dhomh a dhòl còmhla ris na cànanean eile gu irlar agus àrd-ùrlar na beatha agus an t-saoghail."

Tha mise an làn-aonta ri ar caraid gum feum a' Ghàidhlig facail ùra ùisneachadh ma tha i ri bhith "na h-inneal eifeachdach air an latha an diugh, ach 's i a' cheist cìod an dòigh as freagarraiche agus as nàdurraiche air na facail ùra sin a dheanamh. Thubhairt Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair, agus e a' moladh na Gàidhlig, "Chan fheum i iasad," ach, a dh'aindeoin sin, tha a chuid bhàrdachd fhéin làn de fhacail-iasaid, fada barrachd (saoilidh mi) na dh'fheumadh a bhith aige. Tha e furasda a nochdadh gu bheil mòran fhacal againn anns a' Ghàidhlig a thugadh a steach bho'n Laidinn, bho'n Bheurla Loch-lannaich, agus bho'n Bheurla Shasannaich. Tha facail ann mar an ceudna a thàinig bho'n Bheurla Albannaich agus bho'n Fraingeis,

agus 's dòcha bho chànanean eile. Chan 'eil cànan sin t-saoghal an diugh—co-dhiubh de na cànanean mòra—nach 'eil a' togail isaidh bho chànanean eile, agus chan urrainn a' Ghàidhlig na dorsan a dhùnadh air facail ùra.

MA tha dhith orm rud-eigin a chur an cèill, an sgriobhadh no an labhairt, agus mas e rud ùr a tha ann, cìod a ni mi? An toiseach, tha mi a lorg a mach a bheil facal nàdurach againn anns a' Ghàidhlig, no ceangal-fhacal, a dh'fhaodas an ni a tha air m'aire a chur an cèill do dhaoine eile. Ma tha, ni mi feum le sin. Mur 'eil, tha mi ag gabhail an fhacail no an ainm a tha agam cheana air an rud agus ag cur cumadh no deise Ghàidhlig air a réir mo

(An còrr air t.d. 24)

Grand Feill Arrangements

MANY members and friends of Comunn na h-Oigridh and of An Comunn Gàidhealach and its Branches and Affiliated Societies are busy preparing for the Grand Feill, in aid of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund, to be held in the St. Andrews Halls, Glasgow, on May 17-20, 1950.

The Convener of the organising committee is, of course, Mrs. J. M. Bannerman, The Old Manse, Balmaha.

Patrons

Her Majesty the Queen has graciously promised to send a gift for sale at the Feill.

The following have kindly agreed to be Patrons of the Feill. Other names have still to be added to the list:

His Grace the Duke of Hamilton; His Grace the Duke of Argyll; Lord James Stewart-Murray (Duke of Atholl); His Grace the Duke of Montrose; and His Grace the Duke of Sutherland; The Right Hon. Lord Lovat, D.S.O., M.C.; Brigadier Lorne Campbell, V.C., D.S.O.; His Excellency Lewis W. Douglas (U.S.A. Ambassador in London) and Mrs. Douglas; The Right Hon. the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the Lady Provost; The Right Hon. the Lord Provost of Glasgow and the Lady Provost; The Very Rev. Alexander Macdonald, D.D.; and the Most Rev. D. A. Campbell, D.D., Archbishop of Glasgow.

Stalls

THE following is a list of Stalls, with Patrons and Conveners, as already arranged. The list is not complete, and additional information will be given in later issues.

Ross and Sutherland Stall

Conveners: Ross-shire—Mrs. Munro - Ferguson, Assynt House, Evanton; Mrs. Gascoigne, Foulis Castle. Wester Ross Association—Mrs. Mackay. Sutherland—Mrs. Ronald MacLeod, Tigh-na-mara, Dornoch; Mrs. W. A. Calder, Embo. Sutherland Association—Mrs. John Murray, 412 Mosspark Drive, Glasgow, S.W.2.

Inverness and Skye Stall

Patron: Lady Hermione Cameron of Lochiel. Convener: Mrs. MacIntosh, 5 Ardross Terrace, Inverness. Skye Association—Patron: Iain MacLeod, Esq., Torgorm, Conon Bridge; Convener: Mrs. Calum Robertson, 23 Woodlands Drive, Glasgow, C.3.

Stirlingshire Stall

Patron: The Hon. Mrs. Stirling of Keir. Conveners: Mrs. Rowley Orr, Lednabra, Ballfron; Mrs. Connal Rowan, Gargunnoch.

(Continued on page 30)

Caoilte Agus Am Fuamhair

Le TORMOD DOMHNALLACH

chomais agus a' deamh feum de sin. Ciod an còrr as urrainn domh a dheanamh? No ciod an còrr a dh'fhoadh neach eile a dheanamh?

Tha mo' charaid, saoilidh mi, an aghaidh a bhith ag ùisneachadh fhacal Beurla anns a' Ghàidhlig. B'fheàrr leis na facal ùra a thoirt bhò chànaine eile, gu sònraichte bhò chànaine Ceitiche eile. Ach gabh beachd air seo. 'S e a' Bheurla cainnt eile a' mhòr-chuid de na Gaidheil, agus 's ann throid an Bheurla a tha a' mhòr-chuid de na beachdan ùra agus ainmean nan nithean ùra a ruigheachd oirn. Nan robh sinn a' fuireach san Fhraing, 's ann as an Fraingeis a bhitheamaid a' tarraing fhacal ùra. Nan robh sinn beò anns a' Ghearmailt, 's ann as a' chàin Ghearmailtich a bhitheamaid na facal ùra.

Bha ìnn ann an eachdraidh nan Gaidheil an uair a bha an Laidheann mar dhara chàin àireimh dhiubh, agus b'ann an uair sin a thugadh a steach facal-iasaid bhò'n Laidinn. Fad linntean an dèidh sinn bha a' Bheurla Lochlannach mar dhara chàin moran de na Gaidheil, agus b'ann an uair sin a thugadh facal-iasaid bhò'n Bheurla Lochlannaich. Bho chionn linntean a nis tha a' Bheurla Shasannach againn mar "chànain eile" mòr-roinn nan Gaidheil, agus cha ghabh e seachnadh a' mhòr-chuid de na facal-iasaid air a bheil feum againn a thogail bhò'n Bheurla.

Feumar a thoirt fàinear gu bheil cànanain eile ris a' cheart chleas— a' faotainn iasaid bhò chànaine eile. Leugh paipear-naidheachd Frangach agus chì thu air gach duilleig mòran fhacal air an togail dìreach as a' Bheurla, agus le glé bheag oidhirp air cumadh Frangach a' chur orra.

A bharrachd air sin, tha a' Bheurla Shasannach i fhéin loma-làn de fhacal-iasaid á iomadh canain, àrsaidh is nodha. Tha mo charaid ag gearan gum b'fheudar dha seo a ràdh, agus gum fhacal nàdurach Gàidhlig aige air a theang: "Thèid mo do an t-circus." Chan 'eil Gàidhlig againn air son "circus," ars esan, agus nach b'òchd gur e facal Beurla a dh'fhumas an Gaidheil ùisneachadh! Ach chan e facal Beurla a tha ann an "circus" idir, ach facal Laidheann, agus tha a' cheart chòir aig a' Ghàidhlig air 's a th'aig a' Bheurla.

Algebra, geometry, physics, atoms, psychology, submarine— facail de'n t-seòrsa sin: a bheil Gàidhlig againn air an son? Freagraidh mi, "A bheil Beurla againn air an son? A bheil Fraingeis

(An còrr air t.d. 27)

ANN an làithean na Féinne bha fuamhair ris an abhradh iad Dearg Mac Draidheann ag gabhail còmhnuidh air an dùn a tha fathast air ainmeachadh air ann am Bhaltois, anns an Eilean Sgithanach. Tha an dùn cas, creagach seo còrr is dà cheud troigh os cionn a' chladaich, agus bha a mullach chithear fad is farsaingeachd a' Chuain Sgith, bho Eileanan Móra Leòdhais anns an àird a tuath gu Caolas Ratharsaidh mu dheas, agus, an taobh thall de'n Linne, Siorrachd mhonaidh Rois, le a glinn bhòidheach a' lùbadh a steach mu bhun nam mòr-bheann.

An taobh a muigh de'n dùn, agus beagan shlatan bhò'n cheann a tuath, bha, gu chionn ceud gu leth bliadhna air ais, clach snaidhte 'na seasamh anns an robh naoi troighean de àirde. Mu theis-meadhon na cloiche, agus faisg air an taobh a deas dhith, bha toll cruinn air a chladhach gu snasmhor troimpe. Bha aghaidh na cloiche, mar a tha aghaidh an t-òrn féin, air cridhe na h-àird an ear.

Bha ceum grinn air a dheanamh de leacan cothrom a' falbh bhò'n chòlch seo air son gearr astair. Is e Ceum na Sréine a b'ann dha, agus a réir beul-aithris is e seo an ceum air an biodh Dearg daonnan a' toirt dhachaidh an eich aige los a bhith 'ga cheangal ris a' chloich àrd. Bha ceann na sréine 'ga chur a steach tre an toll is snaim-cruaidh a' dol air. Is ann bho seo a dh'èirich an t-ainm.

Bu lionmhor na sgeulachdan a bh'aig na seann daoine a bha anns an àite ri mo cheud chuimhne mu Dhearg Mac Draidheann agus na fuamhairean 's na Fiannaichean cile a bha ann a' n linn.

Bha buachaille-fàsaich aig Dearg air an robh an t-ainm Caoilte, probhaisteach tapaidh balaich mu fhichead bliadhna de aois a bha glé chuagach anns a' chois chli.

Air fcasgar earraich, aon de fheasgair nan "Tri Latha Luime Rì Luime," bha Caoilte a muigh a' buachailleachd a' chruidh aig Dearg air a' mhòintich.

Bha luime a' gheamhraidh fathast air cluain is blàir, is bha an luime cheudna a steach an sabhal 's am bàithach far nach robh dias de bhìadh spréidhe air fhàgail ach fasgair a mhàin, nì a dh'abobraich gu robh dà bhò cho grìdheil 's a bha aig Dearg ionn 's a bhith air thogail.

ANN am beul a' chomhair-thrà, am feadh 's a bha Caoilte ag cur mu dheidhinn dol dhachaidh leis a' chroch, faicear giadh mòr a' tuiteam 'na phlod air an raon ri thaobh agus saighead 'na sgéith. Dh'èalaidh Caoilte null gu mall, fòill, is thug e an t-saighead air a shocair féin a' sgiath a' gheoidh is thig e uaithe i fad a làimhe ann an surrag dhubb a bha faisg air.

Ann an sin chaidh e nuna far an robh an t-eun, ach an àite an eòin, cò bha aige ach an t-òganach bu deise air an do dhearc a dhà shùil. Bha fhalt fàinneagach, cam-lùbach cho dubh ri sgiath an fhithich, a dhà shùil sboillear mar rùsg lionmharra a' challtainn agus fiamh a' ghàire air aghaidh fhlat-hal a' fàgail lag-maise 'na ghruaidhean.

"Is mise," ars e féin, is e cur fàilt' air Caoilte, "Mac Rìgh Mheangain, agus is i m' amhuilt a bhith shìos agus shuas, thall agus a bhòs, an cois cladaich agus an druim sléibhe a' faicinn nach bi daoine coingheallach a bhios ri oircheas a dh'èasbhuidh duais an saothrach."

"Le 'ur ceud," arsa Caoilte, is e a' freagair, "tha barail agam gum deach sibh iomrall an tràth seo."

"Chan iomrall dhuinn e," arsa Mac Rìgh Mheangain, "oir cùmhnich'gur ming a' fhuairheadh gaisge is tèo-chrìdheachd an lùib a chèile. Is e mise a chunnac thu a' tuiteam gu talamh ann an siud an riochd an eòin leòinte, agus bhò'n a rinn thu iochd ort nì mi iochd ort. Tha mi tuigsinn gur e do mhiann faotainn ann am feachd na Féinne."

Nis chuir e mòr iongnadh air Caoilte ciamar a bha fios aig Mac Rìgh Mheangain air an nì a bha bhò chionn fada folaichte gu diomhair 'na chridhe agus nach do leig e ris do dhume beò, agus thuir e gum e siud a rùn ach nach robh fios aige ciamar a ghabhadh an rùn sin coimhlonadh le ciorram a' cho se.

"Chan 'eil ciorram nach leigheasar," arsa Mac Rìgh Mheangain. Le seo a ràdh, chuir e a làmh 'na chrios is thug e a mach as an sin Fideag Bhuidhe na h-Eiginn.

Chuir e an fhìdeag ri bheil is gheàrr e fead chaol, chruaidh, bhinn, is mun robh fios aig Caoilte dé ghabh àite bha a' chas a bha cho cruinn ri leth roth air a deanaigh

(An còrr air t.d. 26)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN GEARRAN, 1950

Aireamh 2

Sruth Is Steall

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“ACH dé tha aige an diugh?” thuir Blàran ris fhéin is e ag cnámh a chuir air cùl gàraidh, latha nan seachd sian agus am boinne trom a’ tuiteam far gach ròine cuilg a b’fhaide na chéile de a sheice.

Bha Bus-dubh ag crònan ‘s e a’ tighinn.

“Ma thig an geamhradh fan ris an earrach, ‘S thig fàs air a’ bharrach ‘s bidh blàths ann; Cha chinntiche am fuachd is cruas is gaillean Na buar is bainne is—

“Uf! uf! uf!” ars esan; “nach tu tha ‘na do chrùban bochd! Dé a tha tighinn riut?”

“Coma leatsa: ach car son a mhill thu do phort le do gheimhidich ort? Cha mhór an rud duit smachd beag a bhith agad air do bheul co-dhiùbh, dhiùbh.”

“Tha sin maith gu leòir, ach dé dheanadh an dithis againn gum am beul an uair a bhios an t-acras oirn?”

“Siuthad, siuthad, a laochain! Dé bha gu bhith agad cho cinnteach ri ‘buar is bainne?’”

“Nach deanadh buntàta a’ chùis?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Chan ‘eil dad ceàrr air buntàta mar bhuntàta; ach cha chuala mise na bàird Sgitheanach a’ leigeil orra gu robh a leithid de rud riamh ann. Tha fhios gum faodadh tu rud bu ghrinne na buntàta a lorg air son dàn?”

“Chuala mise rann anns an robh buntàta,” arsa Bus-dubh.

“A mach leis, ma tà,” arsa Blàran.

“Ach stad agus innsidh mi rud duit. Bha fear aon uair air a’ Bhràighe shuas eadar Dùthaich MhicAoidh is Cataibh, agus bha dà rud àraid a’ deanamh dragh dha. Is e a’ cheud rud eagal gun tigeadh am Pàp. Is e an dara rud eagal gun lobbhadh am buntàta mar a rinn iad bliadhna an laomaidh. Agus nach ann a rinn bàrd òran dha, is thuir e:

“Ma thig ort am Pàp ‘s nach cinnich buntàt’

Gun cluinnear do ràn an càrn—

‘s chan ‘eil cuimhn’ agam cà robh an càrn.”

“Am beinn air chor-eigin,” thuir an tarbh.

“Is dòcha gur h-ann; ach, ma thogras tu fhéin, fàgaidh mise e an dràsda aig ‘an càrn air chor-eigin’.”

“Fàgaidh sin farsaingeachd cheart agad,” arsa an tarbh.

“Am bu mhaith leat rann eile dheth a chluinntinn?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“A mach le do rann!” arsa Blàran.

“Ma tà, cha robh duine aig a’ bhòdach a dheanadh beanas-taighe no ceannas-taighe dha ach e fhéin, agus thigeadh air fhéin a bhith deanamh a bhith; agus anns an latha bh’ann cha robh an t-aran-bùthadh aca, mar a tha e aca an diugh, is thigeadh air a bhith fuinne; agus seo mar a chuir am bàrd a’ chuid sin dheth:

“S tu dh’fhuinneadh gu teann

Am bonnach ‘na dheann,

‘S tu gabhail nan rann

‘S do cheann air nodagan.’”

“An deach e maith ris, a thairbh?”

“Thuit am bar’ air an òtraich,” arsa Blàran.

“Dé tha sin?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Bha, ‘choinnich sruth ri steall’.”

“Is beag an t-iongnadh ged a chanadh tu e is uillt a’ tuiteam dhìot fhéin dheth, agus beannachd leat! Tha mi gu bhith air mo bhogadh! Agus, mas fheàrr leatsa bhith *flùch* na bhith tioram, biodh agad, amadan nan amadan!”

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B’Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

9. An t-Urramach Murchadh Mac a’ Ghobhann

CHUIR mise deagh eòlas air Murchadh Mac a’ Ghobhann, á Leurbost an Leòdhas, an uair a bha sinn le chéile an Obhar-dheadhain anns an sgoil, agus feumaidh mi aideachadh nach do thachair balach Gaidhealach rium riamh anns a’ bhaile sin a bha cho càirdeil, carthannach, blàth-chridheach ri Murchadh. Cha robh foill no tuailleas ‘na nàdur, agus b’e a mhiann an còmhnuidh gach cuideachadh a bha ‘na chomas a dheanamh air gach foghlum-aiche Gaidhealach a bha air chuairt còmhla ris anns a’ bhaile sin.

An uair a bha e dol troimh chùrsa an fhoghlum air son na ministearachd bhiodh e gach samhradh a’ teagasg anns na sgoilean beaga an Innse-Gall a bha fo chùram Comunn Gaidhealach Mnathan Uaisle Dhun-èideann, agus is ann rè a chuairt an Aird-mhuirlidh, Loch Sciort,

(An còrr air t. d. 2)

Luinneagan na Cloinne Bige

Le AONGHAS CAIMBEUL

SEANN CHAILLEACH EILIDH

(Old Mother Hubbard)

Seann chailleach Eilidh
A' rùrach sa' phreasa
Ach am faigheadh i cnàimh do'n chù;
'S ged rannsaich i mach e,
Bha am preas aice falamh,
'S an cuilean 's an t-acras 'na shùil.

Nuair thill i 'na cabhaig
Le aran gu leòr,
Bha 'n cuilean beag carach
Gun anail gun deò.

Chaidh i dh'iarraidh cist-amhlaig
'Na deann air an t-saor;
'S nuair thill i 'na fallus,
Siud gu lachainn an cù.

Nuair thill i o'n bhùidsear,
'S i ceannach dha feòil,
Bha an cù is car 'na cheann
'S e ri dannsa air a' bhòrd.

CRUINNEAN BEAG REAMHAR

(Humpty Dumpty)

Cruinnean beag reamhar
'Na shuidh' air a' bhalla;
Thuit e 'na sgailleagan
'S chaidh e 'na chlàraibh.
Chaidh eich agus marcaich
An rìgh ann an cabhaig;
Ach dh'fhaillich orr'
Cruinnean beag reamhar a chàradh.

CATRIONA BHEAG NAN CAORACH

(Little Bo-Peep)

Catriona 's i caoineadh
'S na caoraich air chall,
Gun fhios cò'n taobh théid i 'n tòir orr'.
Leig thusa leò fhéin;
Thig iad dhachaidh gu réidh
Le 'n earbail 'nan déidh an òrdugh.

MAIRI, MAIRI, NIGHEAN CHARACH

(Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary)

Màiri, Màiri, nighean charach,
Ciamar dh'fhàs do lios am bliadhna?
Glagan airgid is sligean-creachainn,
'S clann-nighean bheag 'nan sreathan breagha.

Mr. AONGHAS CAIMBEUL

Nach Maireann

Tha sinn glé dhuilich a chluinntinn gun do chaochail Mgr. Aonghas Caimbeul, an Nis, Leódhas, o chionn ghoidir. B'esan ùghdar "Luinneagan na Cloinne Bige" a tha sinn an ceartair a' toirt am follais anns a' *Ghaidheal*.

Tha ar co-fhaireachdainn aig a bhantraich agus a theaghlach 'nan call 's 'nam bròn.

Bu mhaith leinn call a thoirt do Mhgr. Dòmhnall MacArtair, maighstir-sgoile an Nis, agus do'n Urramach Iain MacAoidh, Glaschu, air son gun d'fhuair iad dhuinn na Luinneagan seo. Tha feadhainn eile dhuibh fhathast againn ri'n toirt am follais.—F.-D.

Murchadh Mac a' Ghobhann (*Bho t.d. 5*)

Loch Euraboll, agus Gramasdal an Uibhist a thòisich e ri bàrdachd. Fhuair e fiosrachadh farsaing air suidheachadh nan eileanan, agus cha robh cùil no dìomhaireachd a bha an cridhe is an aigne a luchd-dùthcha air nach do ghabh a intinn thàbhachdach gréim, agus tha sin uile soilleir 'na bhàrdachd.

Bha e 'na mhinistear anns an Eaglais Shaoir Aonaichte am Beàrntraigh na Hearadh agus anns an Ath-leathann, agus bha meas agus miadh a bha mór air anns na sgìrean sin. Bha e iongantach taitneach an ceann na seirbhis Ghàidhlig, agus bha brìgh agus susbainn anns gach searmon a chuala mi fhéin uaithe.

Bhris air a shlàinte an uair a bha e glé òg, ach, a dh'aindeoin gach camaidh a bha sin, chùim e air adhart gu dìcheallach an seirbhis na h-eaglaise gus am b'fheudar dha mu dheireadh a dhreuchd a leigeadh seachad.

Rinn e mòran òran 'na latha, agus tha cuid aca am "*Bàrdachd Leòdhais*." Tha fìor bhuadhan a' bhàird aithnichte anns gach aon diubb. Bha a ghràdh-dùthcha daingean gun cheilg, agus coltach ris gach Leòdhasach eile b'e "Eilean an Fhraoich" dhàsan an t-eilean as àillt' air na dhealraich a' ghrian. Bha eòlas farsaing aige air eachdraidh a dhùthcha, agus is tric e a' deanamh luaidh air na h-eu-ceartan a rinneadh oirnn an uair a chuireadh ar glinn fàs gu raoin a dheanamh do'n fhiadhus agus an ruadh-chearc.

Cha dhì-chuimhnich sinn Murchadh.

SEOC IS SINE

(Jack and Jill)

Chaidh Seoc is Sine suas an cnoc
A' dh'iarraidh cuinneag uisge;
Thuit Seoc le creag is sgòilt e cheann,
'S chuir Sine car-a'-mhuiltein.

Litir Eachainn

BHA mi a' toirt dhuibh eachdraidh air Iain Ciar, ceann-fine mo chinnidh féin aig ám éirigh nan Gaidheal as leth Sheumais Stùbbhart, athair a' Phrionnsa Tearlach, anns a' bhliadhna 1715, is bha ceud roinn mo sheanachais an litir a' mhios a dh'fhalbh. Tha mi an dùil gun d' fhàg mi e le a shùil ri faotainn thar na linne do Eirinn, far an robh deagh chàirdean aige. A réir mar a bha an eachdraidh aig m'athair b'e bráthair màthar dha a bha ann an Iarla Chill-eannndruim, is tha cuimhne agaibh mar a chuir an rann a thog mi á aon de òrain a' Bhàird Ruaidh, 's a bha os cionn mo sheanachais air a' mhios a dh'fhalbh, a' chùis,—"Thog e cis o Iarl' Chill-eannndrainn." Chan 'eil sin a' leigeil ris air dhòigh sam bith gur e bráthair a mhàthar féin a bha anns an Iarla, agus, ged a b'e sin a' bheul-aithris, is cinnteach nach b'è, ged nach 'eil teagamh sam bith nach bu dhùth fhear-dàimh dhà a bha ann. Is e nighean do Iain MacLachainn Chille-Bhrìde a bha pòsda aig Ailean MacDhùghaill Dhun-olla, agus mar sin a bu mhàthair do'n diùlnach, Iain Ciar; ach chan 'eil e a' dol a mhilleadh sgeòil nach 'eil làn dhearbhadh againn air an fhìor chàirdeas a bha eatorra.

Co-dhùibh, chuir Iain Ciar roimhe gun ruigeadh e fearann na h-Eireann agus fearann na h-Eireann ràinig e, ged nach 'eil an eachdraidh a fhuair mise a' toirt soillearachaidh sam bith air ciamar a fhuair e thar Sruth garbh na Maoile; ach fhuair e a chas air fonn na h-Ulladh, agus gun a' bheag de dhàil rinn e air caisteal an Iarla. Rinn e farbhais mu'n rathad mar a bha e a' dol air aghaidh oir, a réir coltais, cha do sheas a chas air fonn na h-Eireann, co-dhùibh a' chuid sin dheth, riamh gu sin. An uair a bha neòil an fheasgair air cruinneachadh thàinig e gu iomall coille, agus air dha an tuille farbhais a dheanamh mu'n t-slighe bho mhnaoi a bha a chòmhnuidh an tigh beag faisg air iomall na coille, dh'innis ise dhà gu robh caisteal an Iarla dìreach air an taobh eile de'n choille; ach chomhairlich i dhà an rathad fada mun cuairt a ghabhail, oir gu robh a chòmhnuidh àbhaisteach aig feur-reubainn cunnartach, a bha 'na chuis-ghèilt is 'na eire-thruim air an tir uile, am meadhoin na coille. Cha b'aon eile am fear-reubainn seo ach an Robair Ruadh, agus dh'innis am boireannach do Iain Ciar gu robh còig ceud punn Sasunnach de airgead-cinn mar dhuais aig an Iarla air a thairgsinn do aon sam bith a bheireadh chuige ceann an Robair Ruaidh.

"Ach," arsa ise, "tha an duine cunnartach seo cho deas is cho dàna agus cho ealamh air

cùl a chlaidheimh 's nach 'eil duine anns an dùthaich seo aig a bheil de mhisnich no de èòlas-airm aghaidh a chur air no feuchainn ris." Mar sin, dh'earailich i air Iain Ciar a rithist gur e a ghabhail an aithghearr troimh an choille, oir gum faodadh e a bhith cinnteach gur e a spùinneadh, is theagamh a mharbhadh, a bhiodh a' feitheamh air.

Ach an uair a chuala Iain Ciar mu'n Robair Ruadh is an duais mhór a bha mar gheall air a cheann a thoirt a dh'ionnsaigh an Iarla, rinn e suas inntinn an sin féin gur i slighe chunnartach na coille a ghabhadh e, thigeadh i thall mar a thigeadh: cha b'esan am fear a ghabhadh "ceum an t-slinnein" idir, idir! Agus chan e mhàin nach seachnadh e an Robair Ruadh, ach gun sìreadh e a mach e gu còmhrag a dheanamh ris.

THA mi an dùil gun d'innis mi dhuibh cheana gum bu cheatharnach claidheimh Iain Ciar cho deas is cho ainmeil 's a bha beò 'na linn; mur d'innis tha mi 'ga innseadh dhuibh a nis! A dh'aindeoin gach deagh earail a thug am boireannach còir a dh'innis a chunnart dha air, is ann ri rathad cunnartach na coille ris an do chuimsich Iain Ciar a cheum.

Bha a' ghrian air dol fodha agus gealach làn ag cur roimhe anns an ear an uair a dh'inntich e a steach do'n choille, is e ag cumail ri ceum frith-rathaid a bha a' ruith troimhe cho math 's a dh'fhaodadh e. Faodar a thuigsinn mar a bha e a' tarraing a steach do'n choille gu robh a shùil is a chluas daonnan 'nam faireachadh, is gun fios cuin no càite am buaileadh cunnart air, agus glé obann.

Bha a' ghealach a nis air éirigh gu math os cionn nan craobh, agus ciod ach gun tàinig an t-slighe air an robh Iain Ciar ag imeachd air bad réidh is fosgladh fuinn far an deach, a réir coltais, cuid de'n choille a ghearradh, agus an sin féin chuala e bruidhinn a' tighinn air bho'n fhoghladh seo. Dh'èalaidh e air aghaidh le stùil fhurachair bho thaobh gu taobh agus a chluas ri claisteachd, agus cha b'fhada gus am faca e có bha ris a' bhruidhinn.

Bha diùlnach an siud le ceann rùisgte, ruadh air, a lùireach crochte aige ri géig agus a chlaidheamh gliostach aige 'na dhòrn f'a comhair. Bha e a' feansaichead ris an lùirich, mar gum biodh còmhraghaiche eile m'a choinneamh, is e ag cumail còmhradh rithe mar a bha e ag cluich r'a h-aghaidh; agus b'iad na briathran air an do rug cluas Iain Chiar,—"Fhuair mi rud-eigin bhuaist an raoir, ach cha d'fhuair mi dad idir bhuaist an nochd!"

(An còrr air an ath dhuilleig)

Dòmhnall 's An Tannasg

Le MURCHADH MAG-AN-TUAIRNEIR

A dh'aindeoin gach facail a their na daoine a fofhluimte agus am fanoid air buidseachas, droch-shùil agus fuathan, tha gréim mór aig na nithean seo air inntinn sluagh na Gaidhealtachd. Tha iad saobh-chràbhach, ach tha iad cuideachd nas diadhaidhe na iomadh gineal nach 'eil.

Suas ri ciad bliadhna air ais bha a' fuireach ann am Mealbhadh, baile beag a deas air Tair-beart na Hearadh, duine làidir calma ris an abradh iad Dòmhnall Mac Ailein. Bha taigh-dubh aige ri taobh na mara, ach chan 'eil eachdraidh ag innse an robh e fuireach 'na aonar no nach robh.

Bha e mar chleachdadh aca anns an àm ud a bhith ag iasgach bhreac anns na h-aibhnichean air an dòigh seo a leanas. Chuireadh iad lion air ceann shìos na h-aibhne, agus thòisicheadh iad air slachdraich an uisge le maide. Chuir-eadh seo teicheadh air an iasg sìos leis an abhainn do'n lion.

Air oidhche Di-sathuirne rinn Dòmhnall Mac Ailein agus companach suas an inntinn gum falbhadh iad an uair a bhiodh an t-Sàbaid seachad, air madainn Di-luain, agus gun iasgaicheadh iad an Abhainn Tharsainn mu trì mìle bho'n dachaidh. Air oidhche na Sàbaid cha b'fhiach le Dòmhnall a dhol a chadal idir an uair a bha dùil aige éirigh aig uair cho tràth. Cha robh uaireadair aige, ach bha e a' feitheamh ri gairm a' choilich air son innse dha gu robh an t-Sàbaid seachad.

Fad is a bha e a' feitheamh gu foidhinneach thàinig an cadal air agus shin e e fhéin air a' bheinge. Thuit e 'na chadal ach an ceann greis dhùisg e. Bha e anabarrach soilleir leis, agus smoinich e gum b'e an latha a bha ann. Thog e leis an lion agus dh'fhalbh e anns a' bheachd gu robh a chompanach a muigh roimhe. Rinn Dòmhnall mearachd. Gu dé an t-soilleir-eachd a mheall e ach solus na gealaich! B'e deireadh gealaich a bh'ann, agus bha an oidhche mùgach.

Ràinig Dòmhnall an Abhainn Tharsainn gu dòigheil agus chuir e an lion. Bha iongnadh air nach tàinig a chompanach, ach thòisich e air slachdraich na h-aibhne. An uair a thàinig e chun an lìn tharraing e gu bruaich na h-aibhne e, agus dhòirt e an t-iasg air lianaidh. Mhothaich e gu robh duine 'na sheasamh aig ceann shìos na h-aibhne agus cas air gach taobh dhìth. Shaoil e gur e a chompanach a bha air tighinn agus chaid e sìos a bhruidhinn ris. Cha do fhreagair an nì a bh'ann Dòmhnall idir, agus thuig Dòmhnall nach e duine nàdurra a bha 'na chomhair. Chunnac e gu robh

plùtan air an àite làmhan. Thach Dòmhnall ach thàinig an rud mì-nàdurra sa a dhéidh 'ga leigeil aig a h-uile buille a bheireadh e dha leis na plùtan ud. Bha cù aig Dòmhnall agus leig e san fhuath e ach cha deidheadh e idir an sàs ann. Bha Dòmhnall a' fàs sgìth ach cha robh e air a mhisneachd a chall gu buileach.

Ann an eu-dòchas leum Dòmhnall air an tannasg agus shàth e a sgian ann. Cha robh e a' toirt feachd sam bith air an fhuath a bha ann ach mar gum bitheadh e a' sàthadh sgian ann am poca càtha. Gu fortanach do Dòmhnall ghairm an coileach agus dh'fhalbh an rud mì-nàdurra 'na lasair de theine uaine.

Rinn Dòmhnall aiseid agus bha e gu bhith a staigh an uair a bhual an cù e san druim eadar an dà shlinnean. Bha am fuath air an cù a leigeil ann an Dòmhnall agus fhuair e a shàrachadh leis a' chu fad a' chòrr de'n rathad dhachaidh.

Cha chuala mise gu dé a thachair do Dòmhnall no gu dé a rinn e an déidh dha dhol dhachaidh, ach is cinnteach gu robh e gu math faiceallach nach do rinn e mearachd de'n t-seòrsa ud tuilleadh.

(Plùtan—anns a' Bheurla, *flippers*).

Litir Eachainn (Bho t.d. 3)

Aig a' cheart àm thug Iain Ciar fainear gu robh steud-each loinneil, le dhìollaid 's le shréin air, ceangailte ri craoibh an iomail an fhosglaidh seo, ach duine no creutair eile cha robh ri faicinn. Ma bha sgiobadh-reubainn eile leis an Robair Ruadh, oir is e an Robair Ruadh da-rìreadh a bha ann, cha robh iad leis aig a' cheart àm ud co-dhiubbh.

Dh'fhuirich Iain Ciar far an robh e is e a' toirt mean-aire do'n iomairt a bha aig an fhear ruadh air beulaibh na lùirich. Mu dheireadh thàinig e a dh'ionnsaigh a' cho-dhunaidh nach robh cleas no clic aige 'ga chleachdadh nach robh aige féin, agus, theagmair, ceas no dhà tuille air chùl a làimhe nan tigeadh an éiginn. Thug e an sin ceum air aghaidh, agus chuir e chas air géig chrìonaidh, a chum an uair a bhriseadh i fo chois gun cluinneadh an Robair Ruadh an fhuaim, nì a chuala e gun teagmair, agus, gun tiota de dhàil, bha an lùireach aige a bhàn bharr na craoibhe; chuir e uime i, is sheòl e a cheum an taobh bho'n tàinig an fhuaim.

Chì sinn air an ath mhìos ciamar a chaid do'n dà fhuirbirneach seo, a bha a nis air tighinn am fagus d'a chéile. Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

(Continued from page 22)

¹ do bhi d' fheabhas= is ann air feabhas.

² do ghabh ré a ais=ghabh e os làimh.

³ cádhas=urram.

⁴ an treas fear=aon de 'n triùir.

HIGHER GRADE—(SECOND PAPER)

Tuesday, 22nd March—1.0 P.M. to 1.30 P.M.

*This paper must not be seen by any candidate.
To be read out by the Teacher at 1.0 P.M. in the
presence of the Supervising Officer.*

To be written by the candidates on the separate sheets provided which must be collected before the Second Gaelic Paper is distributed.

DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHER

1. Inform the candidates that they may not ask for the repetition of any word or phrase.
2. Read the passage aloud distinctly and deliberately, but not slowly, in order to bring out the meaning of the whole as clearly as possible.
3. Then dictate the passage slowly, saying each group of words (as indicated by vertical lines) twice, and pronouncing every word very distinctly. The punctuation should be indicated.
4. After an interval of five minutes read the text over again in the same manner as on the first occasion, but do not on any account repeat separate words or phrases at the request of individual candidates.

DICTIONARY

Bha a' mhaduinn ceutach, | agus òg-ghathan na gréine | ag òradh nan réidhlean agus nan slios. | Bha gach stùc is mullach | air an leth fhalach | le sgàile de chèò tana | anns an robh an gorm, | an donn, | agus am buidhe, | air am measgadh gu maiseach. | Aig iochdar a' mhonaidh | bha a' choille mhór dharaich | a' sìneadh a mach gu fada | mar bhrat-ùrlair uaine, beartach. | Cha d' rinn ceòlraidh nam preas an cadal-maidne. | Bha an Ion-dubh is an smòrach, | le mór dheòthas | a' taomadh a mach an ceilearadh bòidheach, milis. | Bha uiseag no dhà | ag cur nam both dhiubh | gu h-àrd anns na speuran, | agus bha iomadh eun eile | ag gabhail pàirt anns a' chomh-sheirm éibhinn. | Bha an drùchd a' deàrrsadh air gach sop | mar shradagan drillseach daimein. | Rathad mór cha robh ann | no iomradh air a leithid, | agus b'ann le socair agus faicill | a dh' fheumadh luchd-diollaidd | triall feadh nam monaidhean.

Angus MacEanruig. (20)

HIGHER GRADE—(SECOND PAPER)

Tuesday, 22nd March—1.45 P.M. to 3.45 P.M.

The value attached to each question is shown in brackets after the question

N.B.—Begin the answer (or fair copy of an answer) to each question on a fresh page. Write legibly and neatly, and leave a space of half an inch between the lines. Marks will be deducted for bad spelling and bad punctuation, and for writing that is difficult to read.

SECTION I

All the questions in this Section should be attempted

1. Write an essay in Gaelic, of not more than two pages in length, on any one of the following subjects:—

- (a) "B' e sin an sealladh éibhinn Bhi 'g imeachd air na sléibhtean."
- (b) Is làidir an t-slabhraidh, droch cleachdadh
- (c) An geamhradh anns a' bhaile againn fhéin.
- (d) An dreuchd bu mhath leam. (40)

2. Translate into Gaelic:—

In "The Life of Columba," by Adamnan, we get a clear and complete view of everyday existence in the Highlands during that age. We are among the red deer, and the salmon, and the cattle in the hills, among the second-sighted men, too, of whom Columba was far the foremost. We see the saint's inkpot upset by a clumsy but enthusiastic convert; we even make acquaintance with the old white pony of the monastery, who mourned when St. Columba was dying; while among secular men we observe the differences in rank, measured by degrees of wealth in cattle. Many centuries elapse before, in Froissart, we find a picture of Scotland so distinct as that painted by Adamnan.

Andrew Lang. (30)

3. Give Gaelic equivalents for:—

- (a) I'll be frank with you.
- (b) How stupid of me not to think of it!
- (c) You owe me three months' rent.
- (d) No man can serve two masters.
- (e) Let us cast lots.
- (f) Between jest and earnest. (6)

SECTION II

Two questions should be attempted from this Section. The answers may be either in Gaelic or in English, except when otherwise indicated

(Continued on next page)

Caoilte (*Bho t.d. 24*)

cho dìreach ris an t-saighead a thig e uaithe aiteal beag roimhe siud, is cha mhór nach do thuit e air a leth-toabh air do'n chois seo a bhith nis cus na b'fhaide na a' chas dheas.

Chuir Mac Rìgh Mheangain an fhìdeag a rithist ri bheul is gheàrr e fead chaol, chruaidh, bhinn, is ann am prìoba na stùla bha a' chas dheas aig Caoilte air a deanamh cho fada ris an t-òisigeil.

"Tha thu nis," arsa Mac Rìgh Mheangain, "cho coingeis bhothaig ri Fionn féin no aon de a ghillean, agus faic seo—tha Fionn ann an ceann ceithir latha eile a' dol do cheàrdach an Rubha air son claidheamh a tha an gobha a' deanamh dha. Nuair a bhios e tilleadh air ais rach far a bheil e is innis dha na tha 'na do bheachd a thaobh faotainn ann am feachd na Féinne, agus is iongantach leamsa mura faigh thu éisdeachd, agus seo dhuit Fideag Bhuidhe na h-Eginn, is nuair a bhios tu anns a' cheud chruaidh-chàs séid i."

Le seo a ràdh, chaidh Mac Rìgh Mheangain an t-sealladh.

MAR a thubhairt b'fhior. Air a' cheathramh latha chunnaic Caoilte Fionn a' tilleadh le a chlaidheamh bho Rubha na Ceàrdach, agus chaidh e 'na choineamh.

Nuair a dh'innis Caoilte do Fhionn na bha fainear dha, mhìnich Fionn dha nach robh e mar chleachdadh aige bhith ag gabhail aon a steach do'n Fhéinn ach neach a bha comharraichte air son euchdan-gaise; "ach," aris e féin, "cha robh Fionn riann nach tug e seachad cothrom na Féinne, agus bheir mi dhuit-sa an cothrom ceudna a nis."

(*R'a leantainn*)

DA SHIOLA IS LETH BHOTUL

B'ANN aig Seònaid Dhòmhnail a bha an taigh-òsda am Baile an Dùin, agus mar bu dual do a seòrsa bha ise daonnaan dlèasail ann a bhith dol do an eaglais gach Sàbaid.

Ged a bha sin mar sin, bha e 'na chleachdadh aice a bhith tuiteam 'na cadal an uair a bhiodh am ministear a' teannadh ris an t-searmon.

Sàbaid a bha siud bha i 'na suidhe còmhla ri Dòmhnall Ruadh an uair a theann i ris a' chleas àbhaisteach. Bha esan, an duine còir, air a nàrachadh le leithid a bhith 'na suidhe ri a thaobh.

Thòisich e an dràda is a ris ri toirt putag dhi an uair a bhiodh i 'na surram-suain, ach cha robh sin a chum feuma sam bith.

Mu dheireadh thall thug am ministear an aire do Sheònaid agus ars esan ri Dòmhnall, "Leig thusa le Seònaid; cha bhì mise fada 'ga dùsgadh!'"

"Thug e an deagh sgailc air a' chùbaid agus dh'èibh e. 'A Sheònaid, dà shiola agus leth bhotal!'"

Thug ise daoi-leum aise agus bha i air a casan an tiota ag ràdh, "Tha mi tighinn; tha mi tighinn!"

Chaidh Seònaid bhoghd 'na tiom-tàisean an uair a mhothaich i far an robh i, ach riann tuille chan fhacas i 'na cadal ann an eaglais. IAIN N. MACLEOD

An Taigh Dubh (*Bho t.d. 19*)

Ùrachadh an cuimhne air 'na chunnaic 's na chuala iad anns na puirt iasgaich, na choisinn agus na chaill iad air muir ri an-uair.

Cha bhiodh na mnathan gun an còmhlan fhéin aca, trang a' fuaigheal no figheadh no snìomh, ag cagarsaich mu na h-amannan

sona a bha aca sa' Bhruaich no an Gallaibh.

'S ann leotha fhéin a bu mhaith leis an òigridh a bhith cruinn. Cha bhiodh cuideachd fada gun seanchas 'ga h-aithris no òrain 'ga seinn, agus cluasan biorach ag éisdeachd. Bhiodh toimh-seachain 'gan cur, agus deas-boireachd air bonn—fear a' feallsanachd, fear a' mineachadh, agus fear a' teagasg. Neartaich an cleachdadh seo geur-chuis agus tuigse an t-sluaigh ionnas gun tugadh iad breith air ceistean domhain na cruithachd. Bha rìoghachd na h-inntinne aca farsaing, agus an creideamh ann an diomhaireachd na beatha spioradail neo-ghluasadach.

B'e an taigh-céilidh an oil-thaigh far na theagasg iad a chéile ann an nithean fùthail na beatha. A' chuid a thog orra gu tìrean céine—agus bha iad lìomhor a b'fheudar falbh an uair nach robh teachd-an-tìr cho furasda chosnadh aig baile—thug iad leotha ullachadh air son an turuis—cridhe coibhneil fialaidh, làmh deanadach, inntinn gheur-chuiseach ghreimeil, duinealas agus spiorad gaisgeil ri ám a' chruaidh-chàis.

A mach as na taighean dubha dh'èirich armailt de fhoghlum-aichean—lighichean is banal-truman, ministearan is luchd-teagasg, luchd-cèairde is luchd-oibreach—a dh'fhàg an ainmean agus an deagh chliù sgrìobhte ann an ceithir ranna ruadh an domhain.

Ged a dh'atharraich suidheachadh sluaigh nan Eilean a thaobh dachaidhean, dòighean, agus crannchuir, cha do chaochail an nàdur coibhneil, modhail, càirdheil, leis na choisinn an sinsireachd àrd-ùrram an measg chinneach eile an t-saoghail.

(Continued from previous page)

4. Give an account of the life and literary scope of *one* of the following:—

Dòmhnall MacEatharn, Tormod MacLeòid, Dùghall Bochanan, Iain Ruadh Stiùbhart. (10)

5. Discuss, with examples, the Norse element in the place-names of your native county, or of any Highland area with which you are familiar. (10)

6. Comment on any *five* of the following clan slogans, mentioning the clan to which each refers and the territory with which the clan was or is associated:—

Beinn Cruachan, Caisteal Dhùnaidh, Creag

Eileachaidh, Loch na Mòighe, Tulach Àrd, Creag Dhubb Chlann Chatain, Caisteal Fhòlais 'na theine, Cuimhnech bàs Ailpein. (10)

7. Discuss and illustrate by quotation the element of "gràdh-dùthcha" in the Gaelic poetry of the Highlands. (10)

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COMHRADH

Dòmhnall—'S math a' Bèurla a tha agat fhéin, a Dhùghail.
Dùghall—Math no don' i, Dhòmhnall, ni mi no ghnòthach leatha. Bha mi an Coire-nan-Cuilean an dé le sealgar 's chunna mi cearc-fhraoich a' laighe air sùil-chruthaich agus thubhairt mi ris, "heathery hen in creation eye!"

Dòmhnall—'S an do thuig e thu?
Dùghall—'S e a thuig, agus loisg e air a' chirc-fhraoich cuid-eachd, ged nach do mharbh e i.

Dòmhnall—A bheil Beurla agad air Coire-nan-Cuilean?

Dùghall—Tha, sheòid,—'Kettle of Whelps!'

Dòmhnall—Glé mhath, a Dhùghail. Ciamar a nis a dh'eadar-thèangaicheadh tu ainm a' bhaile ud shios?

Dùghall—Balmacara! Ach tha sin furasda gu leòir; nach math a dheanadh 'Town-Mac-Turn' an gnothach! U.M.P.

Easbhuidh na Gàidhlig

(Bho t.d. 24)

againn air an son?' Rannsaich a mach agus chì thu nach 'eil anns na fhacail sin ach seann fhacail as a' Greugais agus as an Laidinn agus beagan cumaidh air a chur orra a rèir na cànan a tha 'gan togail. Car son nach togradh a' Ghàidhlig iad mar an ceudna, agus cumadh Gàidhlig a chur ora?

Tha aon ni eile as còir a ràdh, agus 's e sin seo. Thuige seo bha agus tha gach neach a' deanamh mar a chì e fhéin ionchuidh ann a bhith deanamh fhacail ùra anns a' Ghàidhlig. Nach biodh e mòran nas fhèarr nam biodh comunn no buidheann againn de dhaoine cothromach a dh'aontaicheadh air an fhacal no an ainm as freag-arrachd air son gach ni? Aireamh mhaith bhliadhnan air ais chuir An Comunn Gàidhealach mu dheidhinn a leithid sin a dheanamh, agus thugadh am follais anns a' Ghaidheal àireamh fhichead de fhacail ùra, ach cha deachaidh leantainn air an obair.

Mu cheithir bliadhna air ais thug mi fhéin air aghaidh rian-oibreachaidh leis am fo-dmaid an obair seo a chur air aghaidh, agus faclair de fhacail ùra a dheanamh. Fhuair mi beannachd a' Chomuinn anns an oidhirp agus chuir mi an céill anns a' Ghaidheal na bha romhainn a dheanamh, ach cha d'fhuair mi cuideachadh sam bith, no gealladh air, ach a mhàin bho thrìuir dhaoine. Cha d'fhuair mi cobhair sam bith aig an àm ud bho mo charaid a tha a nis a' deanamh gearrain mu'n chùis. Bheirinn dha a nis a' chomhairle seo: leugh na

tha sgrìobhte anns a' Ghaidheal (Am Màrt, 1946, t.-d. 51-52) agus ann an *Alba* (t.-d. 32-35), far a bheil Nils Holmer, an sgoilear Suaineach, a' sgrìobhadh mu "fhacail ùra anns a' Ghàidhlig."

Agus, an uair a leughas tu sin, tòisich air cuideachadh leinn ann a bhith cur ri chèile faclair de fhacail ùra. 'S e sin as fhèarr na bhith gearran nach 'eil daoine eile a' deanamh dad.

Annas A' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

"IN THE LAND OF DONNACHADH BAN"

Dear Sir,—In the article that appeared in the December issue of *An Gaidheal*, J.E.S. uses the same title and quotations (without reference to source) as the late Wm. MacKenzie did in a series of articles published in the *Oban Times* in 1904.

Students of Macintyre's poetry would be much obliged if J.E.S. could elaborate some of his statements by answers to the following questions:—

(1) "At an early age we find the bard appointed as watcher on the Ben Dorain beat?"

At what age was he appointed, and where can "we find" a reference to his appointment?

(2) On what authority (apart from Mackenzie) does J.E.S. say the bard was first stationed at Ais-an-t-sithein? Did he supervise Coire a' Cheathaich from this centre?

(3) Did a gamekeeper have no remuneration except a free croft? I am, Sir,
"CREAG MHOR."

RURAL CHOIR SONGS

A Charaid,—I hope that the Mod and Music Committee will clearly indicate in the 1950 National Mod Syllabus the verses of the prescribed songs which Rural Choirs are expected to sing at the Mod.

Hitherto, as far as I know, those Choirs chose their own selections of three verses, but a good deal of disappointment was caused last year when, in the short space of three weeks before the Mod, instructions were sent from Headquarters that certain verses of the prescribed songs were to be sung by Rural Choirs. Many of the Choirs, including the one for which I was Gaelic tutor, happened to fix on other verses of the songs which we were studying for months before the Mod. The members of our Choir were naturally very much annoyed, and rightly so, because the Mod Syllabus contained no indications whatever as to the precise verses of the songs which they were expected to submit.

It is well known that the majority of the members of Rural Choirs cannot speak or read Gaelic, and consequently it takes a long time to teach them the pronunciation and meaning of the text. But, in spite of all those disadvantages, they, by constant repetition, give a very creditable rendering.

They must be encouraged in their efforts, and I am sure I write on behalf of all Rural Choirs when I strongly suggest that the Mod Syllabus should always indicate the verses of the prescribed songs which are meant to be sung in the Mod competitions.

JOHN N. MACLEOD.

AN ASTRALIA

A Charaid,—Nach d'fhuair mi litir-adhair á Astràlia an diugh, agus dé a tha agam air duit ach gu bheil Iain Mór nan Creag agus Iain Mór an Fhéilidh—agus is ionann iadsan is Iain M. Moffatt-Pender—a nis thall san tìr "far a bheil e 'na shamhradh an còmhuidh."

Cha b'fhada an cèilidh leinn! Ach is maith dùil a bhith ri a' tilleadh, agus bidh fàilte is furan air air ais. Saoghal sona gun éis aige thall!

Rinn e saothair mhór o thàinig e an turas seo. Bha e 'na oileanach an Oil-thaigh Dhun-éideann, agus e ag cur tuilleadh eòlais air cànan-ean. Ma thachras Gàidheal Albanach ris thall, gheibh e a dhol Gàidhlig. Ma thachras Gàidheal Eireannach ris, gheibh e a dhol Gaedhlig. Ma thachras Greugach ris, gheibh e Greugais, agus, ma thachras Frangach ris, gheibh e Fraingis!

Tha sinn uile toilichte gu bheil Eireamh mhaith dhaoine an diugh ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig, agus fìor dhaoine foghainteach is foghlumte 'nam measg. Tha Iain Mór an Fhéilidh aca mar cheannard is mar fhear-iuil, agus cha bhi iad fann a chumas suas ris. Feumaidh iad moch-eirigh a dheanamh.

Cha bu chòir duinn a bhith riarachite le cròilean beag anns an Eilean Fhada ri Gàidhlig—an Inmse-Gall! (thoir fainear!). Car son nach tigeadh "Fìr Alban uile" fhathast gu bhith Gàidhealach?

Is mise gu dileas.

LE PETIT BLANC.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Cornish Language

BEWNANS MERYASEK, edited by Morton Nance and A. S. D. Smith.

One of the most encouraging things that a Celt can find to-day—and there are many such things—is the way the Cornish people continue to work for the revival of their own form of Celtic speech, a highly interesting form, of much interest to all who study Celtic philology.

The Cornish language seems to have died out as a spoken tongue about 1800 A.D. In 1776 William Bodener, who lived in Mousehole, wrote a letter in Cornish to the Hon. Daines Barrington. In it he uses these words:—"Nag es moy vel pager pe pemp en dre ny ell clappya Cornoak lebben—poble coath, pager egance Blooth. Cornoack ew oll nekeavys gen poble younk," that is, "There are not more than four or five in our town who can speak Cornish now, old people, four-score years of age. Cornish is all forgotten by the young people."

William died in 1789, and he is the last of whom we can be certain that he spoke Cornish.

Yet in the last few years we have had several well-produced booklets in Cornish—"Nebes Whethol Ber" (a few short stories), "Whethol an Seyth Den Fur a Rom" (a translation from the Welsh), "Chwedleu Seith Doethon Rufein," and now the first of the long-promised and eagerly awaited extracts from the Middle Cornish texts, "Bewnans Meryasek."

This extract gives us from line 759 to line 1096 (inclusive) of the "Life of Meriasek," i.e. Meriadoc, Bishop of Vannes in Brittany. This text, "Bewnans Meryasek," was unknown until 1872, when the MS in which it is preserved was discovered in the Peniarth library in Merioneth, Wales. Thus Cornwall, Wales, and Brittany are all concerned in this particular text, and that fact should heighten the interest of all interested in Brythonic literature. Along with the "Origo Mundi," "Passio Domini Nostri," and "Resurrexio Domini Nostri," this play gives us our knowledge of Cornish, for—except for "The Creation of the World" (a much later play than the aforementioned)—these plays are almost all we have of Middle Cornish. These were very scarce and inaccessible to the ordinary student.

This booklet is the first of a series which will give an accurate transcription in unified spelling,

with an entirely new English translation, of these texts. They are the result of the co-operation of Mordon (Mr. Morton Nance) and Caradar (Mr. A. S. D. Smith). Mr. Nance obtained photostats of the original texts, and these enabled him to clear up many doubtful points, but the work took a long time and much discussion before the text was ready for the printer. Even then we would have had to wait longer but for the generosity of Talek (Mr. G. Retallick Hooper), who met the costs of printing the booklet. These three—Mr. Nance and Mr. Smith for their labour and scholarship, and Mr. Hooper for his generosity—have earned the gratitude of all who are interested in Celtic philology and literature, but especially that of all Cornishmen who desire to see their own language restored to its rightful place in the lives of the Cornish people and the Celtic world.

Anyone who has struggled with the texts as printed by Norris and Stokes (1859-1872) knows well the difficulties due to erratic spelling and mistakes in copying the original black-letter texts. Here the way of the student is made smooth and easy. All Cornish people who wish to perfect their knowledge of their own speech *must* obtain this (and the extracts to follow), if they would know how people who spoke and thought in Cornish expressed themselves, and become acquainted with what is in very truth a lively, flexible form of speech, well worthy of being again lifted up to a place of honour in the life of the nation and studied by all Celts who desire a good general knowledge of Celtic speech. The study of Cornish will repay any Celt, whether Gael or Brython, by the light such study sheds on his own speech.

There ought to be a record demand for "Bewnans Meryasek." It may be obtained from Mr. G. R. Hooper, 5 Union Street, Camborne, Cornwall, and the price is 1/6 (post free).

GWAS KENDERN.

Wild Life

NATURE RESERVES IN SCOTLAND (H.M. Stationery Office, 1/3).

This is the final report by the Scottish National Parks Committee and the Scottish Wild Life Conservation Committee.

Over two years have passed since two reports on National Parks were published: the Hobhouse Committee's report for England and Wales, and the Ramsay Com-

mittee's report for Scotland. The English report has been followed by the necessary legislation for the setting up of National Parks, but so far nothing has been done in that direction in Scotland.

Nevertheless, certain measures have been taken in regard to wild life conservation in both England and Scotland, and in this report under review specific and detailed proposals are made.

It may be recalled that the Scottish Committee on National Parks recommended that within the next ten to twenty years the following five areas should be developed as National Parks under an *ad hoc* Commission: (1) Loch Lomond - Trossachs; (2) Glen Affric-Glen Cannich-Strath Farrar; (3) Ben Nevis-Glencoe-Blackmount; (4) The Cairngorms; (5) Loch Torridon-Loch Maree-Little Loch Broom.

This latest report recommends the setting up of "Nature Reserves," of which there may be four kinds:

(1) National Park Reserves—selected areas within the National Parks, where larger beasts and birds and rarer plants may be protected.

(2) National Nature Reserves, for the study of plant and animal communities—a study which would provide knowledge of economic value for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

(3) Nature Conservation Areas, such an area being a tract of country which it is desirable to preserve in its existing character because of the beauty of its landscape or its scientific value or both.

(4) Local Nature Reserves which would aim at saving from destruction or interference small areas near towns and villages.

It is stressed that there is no intention of "sterilising" the areas proposed as "Reserves." There must, of course, be certain restrictions and safeguards, but agriculture and other occupations will continue, and in some ways these "Reserves" may even be of considerable economic value to local communities.

Am fear a bhios air thoiseach
théid a stobadh anns an fhéith.
(He who goes first will get stuck in
the mud.)

Am fear a bhios air dheireadh
beiridh a' bhias air. (Him who is
last the beast will catch.)

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Vale of Leven

ON Wednesday, 21st December, in the Masonic Temple, Alexandria, a very well attended ceilidh was held by the Vale of Leven Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, which has, from its inception in 1926, been very active and, after the late War, resumed activities on an encouraging scale a year and a half ago.

An excellent programme was provided by a section of the Govan Gaelic Choir, who, with their President, Rev. T. M. Murchison, received a cordial welcome and were most hospitably entertained.

Mr. Murchison was "Fear-an-taighe" and, as a member of An Comunn's Executive Council, conveyed to the Branch the greetings and thanks of the parent Association, complimented them on their fine record of work to the Cause, and commended to them specially for their continued support the Grand Feill to be held in Glasgow next summer and the National Mod at Dunoon next autumn. Remarking that there had been a Gaelic community in the Vale of Leven for many generations, he recalled the work done for Gaelic by the Rev. Dr. Alexander Cameron (editor of "Reliquiae Celticae," who had been minister at Renton from 1859 to 1874.

The programme consisted of several choral pieces, with solos by Neiliann MacLennan, Norah Morrison, Nina Cameron, George MacCallum, Eoghan Brown, Donald MacRitchie, and Donald Johnston (violin).

Among those present was Miss Millar Weir, a staunch and generous supporter of An Comunn.

Dunoon

I attended a meeting of the Dunoon Branch on 9th December, and, by request, gave the members a talk on my visit to the Cape Breton Mod. The night was bitterly cold and stormy but, notwithstanding, there was a very good attendance. The President, Mr. Angus MacTavish, M.A., was in the Chair, and the Committee had arranged a splendid programme which had a strong Mod flavour—Miss Cathie B. MacLean (Oban and Lorn Medallist), Mr. A. P. Shaw (Joint Mod Secretary), James MacHugh (Violinist—a Mod competitor), and Mrs. Neil MacLean (Mod Gold Medallist), who played the accompaniments. The Mod Local Committee are working strenuously to make the 1950 Mod an outstanding success. The Branch meets once a month and

its well conducted ceilidhs are eagerly looked forward to by members and friends.

Tiree

I paid a special visit to the island of Tiree on 13th December. Steamer communication with the Islands was very uncertain at that time and therefore, to ensure a landing and avoid being stranded on the island for some days, I travelled by plane. I visited all the schools in the island, viz., Ruaig, Scarinish, Coraigmore, Heylipoil and Balemartine, and enrolled 92 members in Comunn na h-Oigridh. A number of these are boarded-out children who speak Gaelic as fluently as the native children and with no trace of "blas na Beurla." The school population on the island is 233, and of these 104 are boarded-out children. No difficulty or unpleasantness is experienced with children of 3 to 6 years of age when they reach the island. They soon acquire the language and habits of the native children and grow up to be well behaved and industrious. Older children do not acquire the language or habits so readily.

Mr. Alan C. MacDougall, M.A., President of the recently reconstituted Branch at Coraigmore, had arranged a ceilidh for the evening of my arrival, and there was a full house when the programme commenced at 8 o'clock. I addressed the gathering in Gaelic and English, the latter being mainly for the benefit of some of the teachers who are keenly interested in the movement. The programme was excellent from all points of view.

A ceilidh was also held at Balemartine on the following evening with Mr Hector MacLean, Balinoe, in the Chair. A number of those who attended at Coraigmore were present. My address was entirely in Gaelic and I was able to contribute to the programme with songs and recitations. Many of those who were prominent as Gaelic enthusiasts, speakers and singers, have passed away since my previous visit in 1939, and they are greatly missed. There are, however, among the present generation young men and women who can be depended upon to keep alive and vigorous the native language and customs of a people worthy of remembrance.

I am confident that my visit was worth while and that the people of the Island are whole-heartedly in sympathy with the aims and

objects of An Comunn. The re-establishment of Feachdan of Comunn na h-Oigridh will stimulate interest among the school children and with the guidance of an excellent band of teachers the Youth Movement will flourish in Tiree. The Feachdan formed will make contributions towards the Comunn na h-Oigridh Stall at the forthcoming Feill. I was much encouraged to note that Gaelic is still the home language and that, with few exceptions, the children speak the language with ease and native grace.

Edinburgh

A Local Mod, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Branch of An Comunn, will be held in the Central Hall, Tollcross, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 29th April, beginning at 10 a.m. The syllabus is now ready and comprises prescribed pieces for this year's National Mod. The Secretary is Mr. Donald Cameron, 3 Hillview Drive, Edinburgh, 12.

London

THE Gaelic Society of London has resumed its activities after a lapse of a number of years. The Secretary, Mr. John Laver, 120 Douglas Way, London, S.E.8., will be pleased to hear of any member of An Comunn visiting London during the current session. The presence of a member from Scotland would be very welcome and much appreciated. A Local Mod is to be held in the Metropolis on Saturday, 10th June, and entries will be received by Mr. Laver from any quarter.

Grand Feill (from p. 23)

Argyll and the Isles Stall

Patrons: Her Grace the Duchess of Argyll; Lady MacLean of Duart; the Hon. Mrs MacLean of Ardgrou; Miss Campbell of Inverniln; Mrs. Newton, Rahoy; Miss Edith Taylor, Rahoy.

Conveners:

Mull and Iona Association—Mrs. Mackinnon;
Coll Association—Mrs. Macdonald;
Morven Association—Mrs. M. L. Cameron;
Islay Association—Mrs. Cameron;
Oban and Lorn Association—Mrs. C. B. Dunlop.

Glasgow, Lanark, Renfrew, and Dumbarton Stall

Conveners: for Glasgow, Lady French and Lady Weir; for Lanark, Mrs. MacLachlan, Luing Cottage, Wishaw (of the Motherwell and Wishaw Highlanders).

(Continued on next page)

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

AT the December meeting of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhir-Nis, Mr. Angus MacLeod, now in Aberdeen who held the post of Hon. Secretary for one year and was a tower of strength to the Ceilidh over many years as a soloist, was made the recipient of a wallet of notes as a mark of esteem from the members. Dr. D. J. MacLeod, Hon. President, made the presentation and Angus briefly replied. The Ceilidh continues to draw large audiences and the membership is nearing the hundred mark.

Swordale

AN All-Gaelic Vacation Course on Youth Leadership was held at Swordale House, Evanton, Ross-shire, from 27th to 30th December, 1949. Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bannerman had very kindly placed this beautiful and spacious house at the disposal of Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee, and representatives were present from Lewis, Harris, North Uist, South Uist, Skye, Lech Broom, South-West Ross, and Lochaber. Two members of the standing Committee were also present, in addition to Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary, and Mr. Donald MacPhail, Organiser for the Northern Area, who organised the Course. The President presided at all the sessions.

Papers were read on (a) "Comunn na h-Oigridh: its Purpose;" (b) "Comunn na h-Oigridh's Contribution to Education;" (c) "The Work of the Feachdan or Branches."

Keen discussion followed and recommendations were made for the consideration of the parent committee. The Course was recognised by the Scottish Education Department and supported by the respective Education Committees. It should be added that the proceedings were entirely in Gaelic. Recordings were made by the B.B.C. and will be broadcast before these "Notes" appear in print. The students were the guests of the Dingwall Branch one evening at Dingwall, and warm thanks are due to the Branch for this thoughtful action.

At the close of the Course, an open ceilidh was held in Swordale House Hall, when about eighty people were present with Mr. J. M. Bannerman as Fear-an-tighe. At the close the sincere thanks of the students were expressed by Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon, Convener of Comunn na h-Oigridh, to Mr and Mrs. Bannerman for all their

kindness to the students and for placing their beautiful house at the disposal of his Committee. All the students expressed the hope that a similar course might be held in 1950.

Sutherland

THE Organiser presided at a Gaelic and Scots Concert promoted by the Dornoch Branch on Wednesday, 4th January. There was a very large attendance and a splendid programme was submitted. The Chairman paid a warm tribute to the Branch for the good work being done in the area and congratulated Mr. Iain Murray, the new Hon. Secretary of the Branch, on the success of the gathering. The Branch membership is now over the 100 mark.

Mr. MacPhail visited Embo School on the following day and had a talk with the children. He was introduced by Mr. A. W. Calder, M.A., Headmaster. Eighteen girls and eight boys were enrolled in Comunn na h-Oigridh. All the girls promised to make articles for the Grand Feill, to be held on 17th-20th May at Glasgow.

On that evening the Organiser was present, in an advisory capacity at a meeting in Golspie of the County of Sutherland Mod Local Committee. The Committee were very glad to learn that the Mod is to be opened by the President of An Comunn, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, M.A., B.Sc. The President will also act as one of the Gaelic adjudicators and as Chairman at the Mod Concert. Mr. MacPhail reported that all the adjudicators invited had accepted. This Mod will be held at Golspie on 9th June.

Provincial Mods

ON his way home that night the Organiser encountered heavy flooding on the Bonar Bridge road, and he had to pass the night at a farm-house at Kirkton. Sincere thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Murray for the hospitality provided. Next morning Mr. MacPhail continued on his way, and that evening he had several interviews at Fort William in regard to Comunn na h-Oigridh and the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund Feill. Afterwards he returned to Inverness.

Provincial Mods will be held in the Northern Area as follows:—
June 2—Badenoch-Strathspey at Kingussie.

June 2—South-West Ross at Kyle.
June 9—County of Sutherland at Golspie.
June 20-21—Isle of Skye at Portree.
June 22-23—Isle of Lewis at Stornoway.
June 23—Lochaber at Fort William.

Grand Feill (from previous page)

(Highland Societies, Branches, etc., in the area are co-operating, but additional Conveners have still to be appointed).

Edinburgh and the South-East Stalls

Hon. Convener: The Countess of Errol and Lady Elphinstone.
Convener: Mrs. Pat MacLaren, 3 Minto Street, Edinburgh.

Arvan, Bute and Ayrshire Stalls

Convener: Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose; The Marchioness of Bute.

London Stall

The Patrons include Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl and Lady Londonderry. The Convener is the Countess of Dunmore.

Scottish American Stall

Convener: Mrs MacNeill of Barra.

Comunn na h-Oigridh Stall

IT is hoped to make this a very special feature of the Feill. Mr. Donald MacPhail is supervising the work for this Stall in the Northern Area, and all goods, money, etc., should be sent to him at 92 Academy Street, Inverness. The Southern Area is under the care of a Committee in Glasgow, and goods and money should be sent to An Comunn Office, 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2. A letter has been sent to all the Feachdan, asking each member to send at least one article (more, of course, will be welcome) for the Stall.

A Comunn na h-Oigridh Concert, to be held during the Feill, is also planned.

There will also be a Work Party Stall, to be called "A Gift Stall," run by the Ladies' Work Party who worked together in Glasgow for An Comunn throughout the war years.

It is also hoped to have a Flower Stall and a Book Stall, and donations of books will be gladly received. An Exhibition of Celtic Art is also planned, and Mrs. Bannerman will be glad to receive suitable exhibits from those interested. Exhibits will be insured and well cared for and returned. There will also be other exhibitions and side-shows.

Ionmhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

Received at Headquarters, already acknowledged 241 14 6

£2,569 12 —

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged	£966 18 7
Collection Box in the Palace Hotel, Oban, per Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Kilgour, Proprietors	2 18 4
Collection Box in Lovat Arms Hotel, Fort Augustus, per James B. Nelson, Esq.,	— 10 —
Collection Box in Kylesku Hotel, by Lairg, Sutherland, per John Moffat, Esq.,	1 10 —
Proceeds from Flag Day, per Mr. L. MacDonald, Arisaig, Inverness	3 1 7
Net Proceeds—Gaelic Concert 22/10/49, Balmaha	10 18 9
Mrs. Baikie, Drumchapel, Glasgow	— 5 —
Callander Gaelic Society	7 — —
Collection Box in Tomdoun Hotel, Invergarry, per Peter Grant & Co., Proprietors	— 14 6
Collection Box in Columba Hotel, Inverness, per R. Williamson, Proprietrix	1 — 3
John Macaskill, Esq., Isle of Harris	— 10 —
Collection Box in Duror Hotel, Duror, by Appin, per Mrs. Malloch, Proprietrix	— 10 —
Andrew MacKillop, Esq., Drem, East Lothian	— 8 —
Proceeds of Work Party Bring and Buy Sale, 26/11/49, per Mrs. J. M. Bannerman (additional)	2 19 6
Collection Boxes, per J. Gillies, Esq., Inveraray	2 6 4

£1,001 10 10

An Comunn Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged	£71 18 4
County of Sutherland, Provincial Mod (1949) Committee, per D. MacPhail, Esq.,	7 — —
John Macaskill, Esq., Isle of Harris	— 10 —
Hugh Macleod, Esq., Edinburgh	— 9 —
H. H. Foers, Esq., Stockton-on-Tees	— 10 —

£80 7 4

National Mod, Inverness, 1949

Received at Inverness

Previously acknowledged	£2,317 17 6
Children's Function, per Miss Gordon, Kingussie	10 — —

£2,327 17 6

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£57 3 6
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Dr. D. Malloch, Asken, near Doncaster	— 7 —
Alex. MacLeod, Esq., Aberdeen	— 7 —
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A. Munro, Esq., Sutherland	— 2 6
Angus Murray, Esq., Strachur	— 7 —
Miss Edith Macgregor, Fort William	— 7 6
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W. M. Alexander, Esq., Aberdeen	— 15 —
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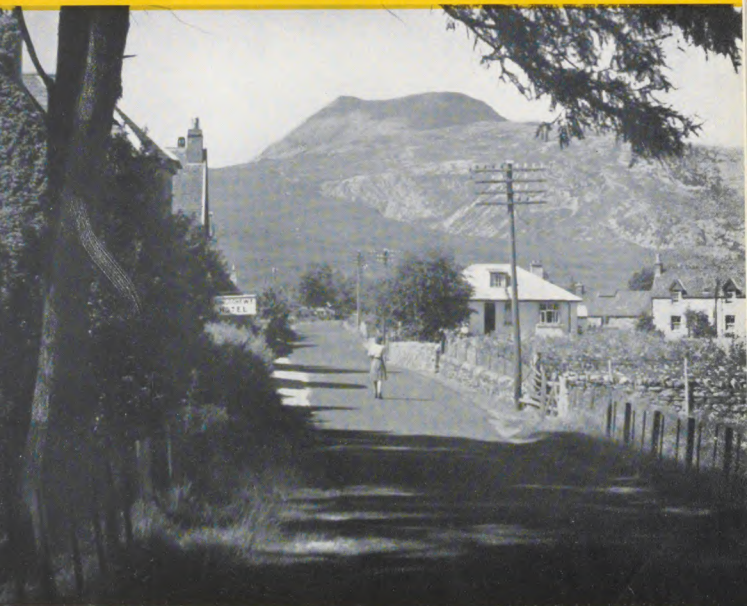
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MARCH, 1950

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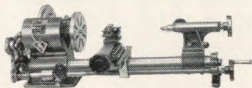


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Clar-Innsidh

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

“Gaidhlig a' Bh.B.C.”

THE Irish, it is said, are sometimes heard to speak of “Civil Service Irish,” by which is meant the language acquired in order to qualify for those appointments for which a knowledge of Irish Gaelic is essential. We have heard not a few references to “B.B.C. Gaelic,” and the suggestion has been made that, through the medium of the Gaelic Department of the B.B.C., the still existing differences between the various dialects may be smoothed out and “a common Gaelic” come into use. We do not know whether “Civil Service Irish” is meant to be a term of contempt, but “B.B.C. Gaelic” is not to be sneered at, despite the pedants. The amazingly widespread interest in the broadcast Gaelic lessons is the most encouraging feature of the post-war years.

The Follow-up

IT is, of course, one thing to gain the ear of a large number of listeners for a course of beginners' lessons, but it is quite another thing to maintain that interest. Many Gaelic classes can boast of very large numbers in attendance—which is very gratifying—but, unfortunately, there is a strong tendency to fall off as the elementary stages are left behind. It is not really difficult to acquire a variety of simple phrases in Gaelic, but to become reasonably proficient in reading and writing demands much hard work, spread over quite a length of time, while the ability to converse with some ease will—normally (for there are always exceptions)—take longer. Nevertheless, one is encouraged by the number—by no means small—of those who have doggedly and enthusiastically gone on to mastery.

What We Need

THERE are some serious gaps in the equipment available to adult students who wish to continue the study of the language beyond the elementary stage. We need a series of graded readers for adult students. The Gaelic School Readers are graded, it is true, but the grading is according to school-age. One would like to see something in Gaelic like the “Basis and Essentials” series published by Messrs Nelson for the Orthological Institute. For each of many foreign languages two little books are provided—one “containing all that must be known of grammar, vocabulary, and idioms in order to express the most frequently occurring ideas”; the other, a “Reader,” using only the material in the basic grammar and vocabulary. The aim is to provide “the minimum of word-material” and a “workable grammatical tool to shape it.” One thinks also of Harrap's “Introductions” to various languages, for the use of adult students, containing “minimum essentials of grammar,” with text, translation, phonetic transcription of the text, and vocabulary.

News from Brittany

THANKS to Mons. Rene for his card of good wishes at Christmas, and for the copy of “An Liamh” containing his article on Scotland and Gaelic.

Grand Feill—A Correction

ARGYLL and the Isles Stall: AOban and Lorn Association Section. The Convener is Mrs MacCall, and not Mrs C. B. Dunlop, as stated in February Number, p. 30.

Hold Over

IT is regretted that the Gaelic Editorial and Book Reviews have had to be omitted from this Number.

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Am fear a théid a ghnàth a mach le lion, gheibh e iasg uair-eigin.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Annas a' mhadainn cuir do shìol, agus san fheasgar na toir air do làmh sgar; oir chan 'eil fhios agad cia dhiubh is feàrr a shoirbhicheas, seo no siud.—Eccles. xi.6.



Mr Malcolm MacLeod

As empowered by the Executive Council, the Finance and Advisory Committees have made choice of a successor to Mr Alasdair Matheson. The new Assistant Secretary of An Comunn is Mr Malcolm MacLeod, who belongs to Ardhaisaig, Harris.

Mr MacLeod received his early education in Bunavonnedder School and Sir Edward Scott Junior Secondary School, Harris, and Portree Senior Secondary School, Skye. At Portree he gained the Senior Leaving Certificate, Gaelic being one of his subjects, and also the Angus Robertson Gold Medal for Gaelic. He was also Ceannard of Feachd Phort-righeadh of Comunn na h-Oigridh and attended the Camp at Sonachan in 1938.

After being a student of Glasgow University for two years, Mr MacLeod enlisted in the Royal Artillery Anti-Tank Corps and was on active service in the Far East. At the fall of Singapore in 1942 he was taken prisoner and remained in the hands of the Japanese until the end of the war in 1945. During the years of captivity he worked on the making of the railroad between Bangkok and Moulmein.

Mr MacLeod comes to An Comunn's service young in years but—like so many of his generation—with much experience. We welcome him as a member of our staff, and we wish him well in his new post, for which he is so well fitted.

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Helensburgh

THE monthly meeting of the Helensburgh and Clan Colquhoun Highland Association was held in the Victoria Hall on 1st February. I had the honour of presiding over this delightful gathering, and gave the members a talk on the work of An Comunn in general and complimented them on the good work they are doing. The Gaelic Class has been well attended, and an appeal was made for members for next session. The Gaelic artists were Miss Mary Hunter, Miss Flora M. Campbell, and Iain R. Douglas. Mr. Ewing Hunter moved votes of thanks and made intimation of a number of functions to be held in the near future. The Association are joining whole-heartedly in support of the County Stall at the Great Feill.

Skelmorlie

I paid my annual visit to Skelmorlie on 7th February, and presided over a well-attended meeting of the Skelmorlie and District Highland Association. Accompanying me were Miss Bessie Alexander (violin), Miss Margaret MacCallum, Miss Chris Turner (accompanist), and Alasdair Matheson. All these well-known concert artists gave fine renderings of Gaelic and Scottish items, and their contributions were much appreciated. In my address I referred to the various efforts put forth by An Comunn in different directions towards the furtherance of its objects. A special plea was made for the Great Feill, and support is assured. Mr. Malcolm Ramsay, President, moved votes of thanks.

Alexandria

ANOTHER annual visit was paid to Alexandria on 15th February, when I presided over a large gathering of members and friends of the Vale of Leven Branch of An Comunn. Those who accompanied me on this occasion were Miss Bessie Alexander, Miss Jean Cameron Greer, Miss Chris Turner, Peter MacKay and Hugh Martin. This Branch is doing good work in the Vale of Leven and presents programmes of a very high order at all its meetings. The members are busily engaged in collecting for the National Mod Fund and the Great Feill. Votes of thanks were proposed by Councillor Donald Aitken, J.P.

Provincial Mods

THE following are the dates fixed for Provincial Mods in the Southern Area:—

March	31—Islay.
April	29—Edinburgh.
May	25-27—Glasgow.
June	6-7—Mid-Argyll.
June	15-16—Kintyre.
June	16—Perthshire.

MISS LETTICE MACNAUGHTEN

A TRIBUTE

As a Pan-Celt and one who had a long acquaintance with Miss Lettice MacNaughten, I would like to express in *An Gaidheal* what a loss her passing is to the Gaelic. She was one of the band of patriotic Scotswomen whom Mrs Burnley-Campbell won to the Gaelic Cause.

A daughter of Sir James MacNaughten, first cousin to the Chief, she went back to her Perthshire home full of enthusiasm for the language and determined to master it. Henceforth it was the dominant influence in her life. She learned to read, write, and (most important of all) speak Gaelic, and this beautiful Celtic tongue would be in a far safer position today had her contemporaries followed her example. She realised that "no language can live unless spoken every day," and—what I admired so much—she had no inferiority complex to hamper her mission. With what joy she travelled to Glenfinnan for the 'Forty-Five' anniversary. "A wonderful day, she said," and, as for me, I spoke Gaelic here, there, and every where.

During the Inverness Mod she asked us to join her party to Culloden, and we were shocked to find children on Drumossie Moor could only speak English!

One of her last expeditions was to a bird sanctuary in the Highlands, and she was delighted to find the people in the neighbouring village thought it quite natural to be greeted in the Gaelic.

May the example of Lettice MacNaughten be an inspiration to the young Gaels!

MALLT WILLIAMS.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR COMUNN BADGE?

(see p. 46)

Gaelic Newspapers and Prose Writings in Nova Scotia

By Rev. D. M. SINCLAIR

(Read before the Nova Scotia Historical Society, April 14, 1944)

LONG before the art of printing came to be used in Gaelic for the recording of facts and the spreading of news, the old bards and seannachies of Scotland performed the combined functions of historians and news-tellers with grace and distinction, if not always with accuracy and dispatch. They were accepted as essential members of the clan, just as much as the schoolmaster, the piper, and the minister. Their book-learning may have been scanty, but they knew how to express themselves in their native language, and they possessed to a high degree the journalist's nose for news. Even in a community such as Pictou, where hard work was the order of the day, and where homes had to be hewn out of the forest, these men were more or less privileged characters. Steeped in the lore and traditions of Scotland, they attended the ceilidhs in the neighbourhood, reciting tales of "far-off things and battles long ago," and composing verses to describe some local happening such as a wedding or an election. The ceilidh was well-adapted to provide recreation for the lonely pioneers, being, as Alexander Carmichael so well puts it, "a literary entertainment where songs and tales, poems and ballads are rehearsed and recited and songs are sung, conundrums are put, proverbs are quoted, and many other literary matters are related and discussed. This institution is admirably adapted to cultivate the heads and to warm the hearts of an intelligent, generous people." These bards and seannachies took part in the social life of the community, sometimes to the detriment of hard work. They shared the joys and sorrows of their neighbours, and recorded in prose or verse events of interest. In short, they were the newsmen and historians of their time.

Gaelic was the mother tongue of the early settlers who came from the northern shires of Scotland to settle in Pictou and Antigonish counties and Cape Breton Island. In it they wrote letters which they sent back to the Old Land, letters descriptive of the primitive conditions in which they lived, their hardships, and their prospects. These letters provided the best medium of getting news to and from Scotland. Gaelic was the

language of the home, the marketplace, and the pulpit. In it family worship was conducted, the Psalms of David and the hymns of Peter Grant and Dugald Buchanan were sung, and in it the clergy preached to their congregations.

Early Prose Writings

It is in the field of poetry rather than prose that Gaelic literature shows its richest products—the songs of Alexander MacDonald, Rob Donn, Iain Lom, Duncan Ban MacIntyre, John Maclean, John MacCodrum and many, many others. Indeed it may be said that until the middle of the eighteenth century little, if any, original Gaelic prose was published. The earlier publications consisted of translations of religious books such as *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Boston's Fourfold State*, *Alleine's Alarm*. The first prose work printed in Gaelic was John Knox's *Liturgy*, translated ninety years after Caxton set up his press in London and printed the first book in England. Of original prose works in Gaelic there are but few as compared with the ballads, elegies, eulogies, satires, war-songs, love-songs and hymns of the poets. A fine example of excellent original prose is to be found in the *Clan Tales of the Western Highlands* as compiled by J. F. and J. Gregorson Campbell.

News from the Old Land in the early days was scarce. The chief link with the Highlands was *Cuairtear nan Gleann*, which came monthly. It was a well-known magazine edited by Dr. Norman MacLeod, affectionately known as *Caraid nan Gaidheal*. This periodical had a wide circulation among Gaelic people in Nova Scotia, and treated of a great number of subjects. The *Cuairtear* for 1842, for example, contained articles on astronomy, diamonds, the Falkirk Islands, emigration to New Brunswick, songs, sermons, and news about China, Holland and France, as well as Scotland. John Maclean, the Tirie Bard, who settled at Glenbard, composed a poem of twenty-one verses in which he welcomes the *Cuairtear* to America. He describes all his neighbours gathering on its arrival and listening eagerly as the latest news is read by the flickering light of a tallow candle.

The first Gaelic paper to be printed in Nova Scotia, of which I

can find any trace, was *An Cuairtear Og Gaelach*, a monthly magazine begun in 1851 by John Boyd, Antigonish. One year later, in 1852, the Antigonish *Cashe* commenced publication and had a Gaelic column which has continued ever since, and for the last twenty-three years has been edited by Rev. Dr. P. J. Nicholson, one of our great Gaelic enthusiasts. It is of interest to note in passing that the first Gaelic book both composed and printed in America was entitled *Companach an Oganach* (Youth's Companion), by Alexander MacGillivray, son of the Piper, and printed in the Bee Office, Pictou, in 1836.

MacTalla (The Echo)

THE most ambitious and successful newspaper attempt in Canada to preserve and foster Gaelic literature and culture was *MacTalla*, edited by Jonathan Mackinnon. This weekly of four pages, three columns each, was printed in Sydney regularly for twelve years, 1892-1904. The first issue appeared on May 28, 1892, and contained among other articles a translation of *Scots Wha Hae* by Rev. A. Maclean Sinclair, a translation by Angus MacDonald of *God Save the Queen*, and a book review of Neil MacLeod's *Clarsach an Doire* (Harp of the Grove). The editor asks for five hundred subscribers. For a time *MacTalla* was published bi-weekly. Occasionally, when the press broke down, it appeared on one sheet, as for instance the issue of July 15, 1898. The last issue came out on June 24, 1904. The subscription price of the first volume was fifty cents, that of the second, which was made up of eight-page issues, was one dollar. The paper had subscribers from all over America and many from Scotland, New Zealand and Australia.

The last issue gives the following reasons for its ceasing to be printed. The first and most obvious reason was that not enough people were taking and paying for the paper. At first there were many subscribers but after a time some lost interest and stopped paying their subscriptions. The list of subscribers never was above 1400. When it dropped below 1000 it did not pay. The editor, after thanking all those

(Continued on next page)

who had contributed to *MacTalla*, concludes by remarking that apparently the Highlanders did not want a Gaelic paper. *MacTalla* was printed wholly in Gaelic, including the advertisements. It was well patronised by merchants of Sydney, New Glasgow, and Pictou. But the venture was not a financial success, which state of affairs led the editor to print this poem in English and offer a prize for the best translation of it into Gaelic. The prize was won by Malcolm Gillis, Margaree. This is the poem:

THE EDITOR'S PANTS

Lives of poor men oft remind us
Honest men won't stand a chance;
The more we work, there grow
bigger patches on our pants.

On our pants, once new and glossy,
Now are stripes of different hue,
All because subscribers linger,
And won't pay us what is due.

Then let us all be up and doing,
Send your mite, however small,
Or, when the snows of winter
strike us,

We shall have no pants at all.

Several versions of this were printed in Gaelic, but that of Mr. Gillis was adjudged the best.

THE main advertisement seeking new subscribers was quite dignified. This is a translation of it—"Long may the Gaelic live. Follow faithfully the customs of your forefathers. No Gael should be without *MacTalla*. Your duty . . . to take *MacTalla*, to read *MacTalla*, to pay for *MacTalla*, to try to get new subscribers. The only Gaelic newspaper on this side of the Atlantic. There never was anything like it, and there is still nothing to compare with it. It is written wholly in Gaelic and is published once a week. It keeps you local and world news. It gives you up to date and tells you old stories and the history of the past. Besides that it offers from time to time, poetry, letters, and many things that will please you, and will enrich your mind. Many excellent Gaelic scholars contribute to its pages, and they are fully capable of entertaining young and old. It was customary for men, when selling something that no one else had, to put a high price on it, but *MacTalla* does not do that at all. It wants to give the same opportunity to all Gaels, young and old, and so the price to subscribers is only a Dollar a year."

MacTalla did a great deal in preserving old poetry that would otherwise have been lost, and in

giving a place to contemporary original poetry. Of its four pages, approximately one page was wholly given to poetry, most of which was original. Among the original poems we find—at least four in praise of tobacco; *To the Highlanders at Dargas*, by J. T. MacKinnon, Moosomin; *The Proud Gael*, Maclean Sinclair; *The Crofters*, D. B. Blair; *Lament on the Death of Gen. Hector MacDonald*, J. N. MacKinnon; *The Coming of the Polly*, Maclean Sinclair; *Song to Cape Breton*, Alexander MacDonald, the Big Painter; *Barney's River*, D. B. Blair; and many poems by Alasdair an Ridhe. *Mother's Wee House*, a poem of fourteen stanzas, was composed by Maclean Sinclair while driving along the road. The horse went on his way and when the driver looked up he did not know where he was. He drove on till he met a man who told him to go back three miles for the right road. That, comments the author, "put a stop to composing songs in my head while on the highway." Alexander MacMillan of River Inhabitants composed several war songs, *The Battle of Alma*, *Song to the Crimea*, and *The Empire*. *A Battle Song*, written by Maclean Sinclair during the Boer War, attracted much attention, and the English translation of it appeared in many papers.

Waken Britain rise and stand,
Grasp the sword in thy right hand,
Throw the scabbard on the strand,
Rise in all thy might.

Many translations of English poems appeared in *MacTalla*—*The Psalm of Life*, *Breathes There a Man*, *March of the Cameron Men*, *The Wreck of the Hesperus*, and *My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose*.

Much of the prose in *MacTalla* consists of translations from English such as *The Arabian Nights*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and stories from Greek mythology. Original prose contributions consist of articles on the Highland Regiment of Canada, *Pickle the Spy*, the gold rush to the Klondike, emigration to Prince Edward Island, the life of Queen Victoria, history of the Campbells, of Sir William Wallace and Rob Roy MacGregor. There was always some interesting correspondence in each issue. Alasdair an Ridhe complained that he had attended a St. Andrew's dinner in Antigonish and not a word of Gaelic was spoken. A letter from an Ontario subscriber protested that his previous letter had not been printed. Another man, Alexander Matheson, gives his address as North Atlantic, Latitude

50.59° N., Longitude 19 W., 1825 miles out of Halifax.

Every issue has odd items of general interest, proverbs and riddles. Reference is made to Marconi and the telegraph, in which the editor wisely does not attempt to put the word "telegraph" into meaningless Gaelic. There is the story of the Prodigal Son in Manx, an article on the coronation of King Edward VII, short stories for the young, and an occasional sermon. One issue has some shrewd remarks about a man from Amherst who was arrested in Massachusetts on a charge of bigamy. The editor suggests that he must have been a clever man as there were but eleven miles between the homes of wife number one and wife number two.

There is a most interesting description of how Sydney celebrated the Queen's Jubilee. Here it is in part: "Sydney is but a small town, so small that there are many who have never heard of it, it is our opinion that there is not another town in Victoria's Empire in which the Jubilee was better observed. There were many people from all parts of the Island, between seven and eight thousand. The day was fine. Flags and pictures were hung outside the shops. At 11 a.m. the park and barracks were opened and named after Queen Victoria. The children sang and addresses were given by two or three prominent citizens. The ship *Pelican* fired a salute of sixty guns. In the afternoon a great parade of 3,000 sailors, soldiers, and citizens marched through the streets. There were eight bands and the streets were crowded. Although there were so many, there was no fighting; it was as quiet as if in church on Sunday. If any other place did as well as Sydney, it did very well indeed."

Other Works

OTHER short-lived ventures in Gaelic journalism were *Teachdaire nan Gaidheal* (Highland Messenger), edited in Sydney for ten years by James MacNeil. Mr. MacNeil was an ardent Gael, and took a great interest in having Gaelic put on the school curriculum of Nova Scotia, and in securing the inclusion of a Gaelic programme on the CBC. He conducted a Gaelic page in the *Sydney Post-Record* for four years, until his death in 1939. In 1908 Jonathan MacKinnon edited *Fear na Ceilidh*, a monthly which ran for two years. *Am Mòsgladh* (The Awakening), the organ of the Scottish Catholic Society of

(Continued on page 40)

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

THE Organiser attended meetings of Standing Committees and of the Executive Council at Glasgow on 12th and 13th January, 1950.

Skye

ON the following Tuesday he proceeded to Skye where he visited the majority of the Feachdan on the island. He explained to the children that Comunn na h-Oigridh have been given a very special job of work to do—that of having a Stall of their own at the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund Feill to be held at Glasgow for four days—17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th May of this year. He appealed to each member to make at least one article which could be sold at the Feill and advised the children to attach their names and name of Feachd to each article made. In this way, Highlanders in Glasgow would be able to buy goods made in their own home districts and possibly by their own relations. The following enrolments were made during the visit:—

Broadford,	20 girls	17 boys
Portnalong,	9 „	14 „
Kilmuir,	28 „	19 „
Bernisdale,	7 „	4 „
Dunvegan,	17 „	14 „

81 girls 68 boys

On his way home the Organiser called at Balmacara Boys' school by arrangement with the Headmaster, and addressed the boys in residence there, thirty-one in number. Twenty-seven of these are Gaelic-speakers and they were enrolled in a new Feachd of Comunn na h-Oigridh. It is also hoped to form a Feachd at Duncraig Girls' School in the near future.

Inverness Feachd

A meeting held in the Inverness Royal Academy a Feachd of Comunn na h-Oigridh was formed with thirty girls and twenty-three boys—53 altogether. Leaders were elected by the boys and the girls, and Mr. A. J. MacAskill, M.A., Assistant Teacher of Gaelic in the Royal Academy, was appointed Ceann-Feachd along with Mr. Ronald J. MacDonald, M.A.. On the following Friday a meeting of the Feachd was held in the Parish Council Hall, Bank Street, when the work to be undertaken by the members was fully explained

by the Northern Organiser and Mr. MacAskill. Weekly meetings are to be held in the meantime, but it is intended to take the members to places of historical interest in the vicinity when the days get longer. We wish this new Feachd all success.

West Tour

BECAUSE of the prevalence of influenza in North Uist, the Organiser was advised not to visit that district at the moment, so he commenced his Uist and Barra itinerary at Benbecula on Monday, 6th February. He visited the majority of the Feachdan in South Uist and the following enrolments were made:—

Cnoc na Mona,	2 girls	3 boys
Lochcarnan	Nil	Nil
Iochdar	3 girls	3 boys
Locheynort,	7 „	9 „
Stoneybridge	Nil	Nil
Howmore	Nil	5 boys
Kildonan	2 girls	2 „
Garrynamona	8 „	16 „
Daliburgh	5 „	6 „
Lochboisdale,	5 „	7 „
Eriskay,	30 „	25 „

62 girls 76 boys

Ceilidhs were held at Cnoc na Mona, Iochdar, and Howmore. Because of the prevalence of whooping-cough, the attendance at these functions was not up to the average, but there was no lack of talent. At Iochdar and Howmore Messrs. John MacInnes and John MacLeod delighted every one with their puint-a-beul contributions. The Organiser explained in detail the various activities in which An Comunn is engaged and appealed for the whole-hearted support of everyone for the Grand Feill to be held at Glasgow next May. In the schools the teachers and children promised to support the Comunn na h-Oigridh stall to the utmost of their ability.

Eriskay

IT is not everyone who has an opportunity to visit Eriskay, "Eilean na h-Oige." This I did on Friday, 10th February. Neil Campbell was, as usual, ready when the car arrived from Lochboisdale and we were soon across the Caolas. Ten minutes brought me to the school, which, by the way, has last year's Crowned Bard as its Headmaster—Mr. Donald MacDonald, M.A., or, as he is better known to his friends,

"Domhnall Eirisgeidh." I was welcomed by himself, his staff, and the children. After a talk, in Gaelic of course, we commenced with the task of forming a new Feachd. Thirty girls and twenty-five boys were enrolled and all of them promised faithfully to uphold all that is best in the Gaelic tradition, our language, and our music. The return journey was not so pleasant, as a nor-west gale sprang up with showers of sleet and snow. We were glad to be on the mainland of Uist again.

At 11 p.m. I was on the pier at Lochboisdale waiting for the "Lochearn" to make her appearance. On consulting Captain MacKinnon, he informed me that he was not to call at Castlebay on his return journey to Oban, owing to bad weather conditions. I had no alternative, therefore, but to return via Mallaig with the "Lochmor," and will have to travel via Oban to Barra at a later date.

Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhir Nis

THIS all-Gaelic Association continues to draw large audiences to the monthly ceilidhs, and the January meeting was no exception. This night (21st) was in the hands of the ladies. With Mrs. Menzies as Bean-an-taighe and a fine band of artistes, including the Merkinch School Choir, and Action Song Party under the direction of Miss J. E. MacKenzie, a very pleasant evening was spent. Mrs. Menzies fully justified her selection as Bean-an-taighe and opened the ceilidh in the old way by telling a sgeulachd herself. Votes of thanks by the President and the singing of the parting-song brought the evening to a close.

'S TU AS FHAISGE

Bu duine mòr Tormod—bha e còrr is sia troighean air àirde. Bha e a' dol dhachaidh an oidhche seo, is cò a thachair ris ach Dòmhnall. Thug Dòmhnall sùil air a' ghealach.

"A bheil thu faicinn Bodach na Gealaich, a Dhòmhnall?" arsa Tormod.

"Chan 'eil mise 'ga fhaicinn,'" fhreagair Dòmhnall, "mur a faic thu fhéin e—is tu as fhaigse air!" (Bho "An Cabairneach," 1945, le cead).

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"Nach neònach leatsa Ruairidh
Bhith seòladh chuain gun
lasachadh
'S an t-arbhar thall sa' bhuaile
Dol bhuaithe le cus abachaidh!"

THA còrr is fichead bliadhna air dol thairis thar ar ceann bho'n 's a sgrìobh Iain Erchie Mac-Asgail na briathran ud mu Ruairidh Phàdraig à Bèarnaraidh na Hearadh 's e ri bhith gabhail naidheachd Ruairidh agus an àm bho charaid da ann Bèarnaraidh a dh'ionnsaigh an robh Iain ri sgrìobhadh.

B'e seo Iain Erchie a thug greis 'na mhaor-sithe am baile-mór Ghlaschu 's aig an robh àrd-urram na pìobaireachd ann an Comunn Pìobaireachd Maor-
Sìthe Baile Ghlaschu. Nan robh Iain air fuireach 's e a bha air a bhith 'na cheannard thairis air a' Chomunn ud. Cha robh e an dàn. Chaidh Iain thar cuain a null do dh'Àstràlia far an do ghabh e seilbh fearainn. Gu duilich, cha robh mòran ùine air dol thairis an uair a dhùin an uaigh air an òighear chalma ud 's a chaidh a chruit-chiùil 'na tàmh. 'S iomadh òran a thàth Iain agus tha mi an dòchas gu faigh mi cothrom air beagan diubh a chur a dh'ionnsaigh a' Ghaidheil mun ruith mòran ùine.

Ach, gu tilleadh gu Ruairidh, feumaidh mi innse gu bheil e beò-slàin agus fallain, a' tàmh an Lag-a'-chealla ann an eilean Bheàrnaraidh na Hearadh far an do rugadh e bho chionn còrr is ceithir fichead bliadhna.

Dh'fhàg Ruairidh eilean àraich 'na ghiullan òg agus thog e aghaidh ri muir far an do chosg e a bheatha a dh'ionnsaigh an ama a thug e suas a' chèaid ud 's a thogair e tighinn dachaidh.

Chan 'eil mòran chèarnan san t-saoghal anns nach robh ar caraid. Is òg a chunnac e Buenos-Ayres, agus is iomadh naidheachd as urrainn da aithris mu na h-àitean 's an robh e, agus b'e féin am fear eachraidh! Tha cuimhne air leth làidir aige gu ruige 's nach 'eil soitheach riann air an robh e nach innis e duit a h-ainm, am port bho'n robh i mach, 's gach port 's am b'Àbhaist di tadhal, agus eadhon gu ruige an seòrsa carago a bhiodh aca air bòrd.

Chan e mhàin gu bheil e mion-eòlach anns gach port-mara ach tha e fiosrach mu sheann eachraidh an eilein anns an do rugadh e. 'S iomadh naidheachd as

urrainn da innse mu thimcheall naidheachd anns a' Ghaidheil 's mu dheidhinn nan seann laoch a bha chòmhnuidh anns na h-eileanan. Tha e fiosrach mu'n teaghlach bho'n tainig e. Bhuineadh a sheanair do'n Eilean Sgith-eanach, do theaghlach Clann Mhic Asgail an Dùinaid—na fir-bhirlinn a bha aige na Leòdaich. 'S ann, ma tà, 'na fhear de chuid-eachd na birlinn aig Fear Bheàrnaraidh a thainig sin-seanair Ruairidh do Bheàrnaraidh air tús. Le sin chan 'eil an teagmhas as lugha nach robh tarraing a' chuain umhalta ann an cuislibh Ruairidh, agus 's e sin a chuir òg e a sheòladh nan tonn.

B'i Màiri Gobha, piuthar do'n duine ainmeil ud, "Gobha na Hearadh," a bu sheanmhair do ar caraide. B'i seo ùghdar an dàin mhaिस sin, "Bunaichean Bhòais." B'i piuthar a shean-amhar Eibhric Gobha, bana-bhàrd ghleusda; 's ise a rinn iomadh rann, agus cuid diubh a gheibhear air an clò-bhuailadh maille ri Dàn Iain Ghobha.

CHAN 'eil ro fhada bho bha mi ag cèilidh air mo charaid. Cha robh a staigh ach e fhéin, agus, ged bha m'ùine ceannaichte, cha b'urraim mi falbh cho luath 's a dh'fheumainn—bha a leithid de thàladh anns gach naidheachd a bha aige ri aithris 's gun deachaidh an ùine thairis gun fhios domh.

Dh'innis e dhomh an turas a thogair e coiseachd troimh Cheap Breatainn, agus gu firinneach is fhuach an naidheachd éisdeachd rithe.

An turas bha siud dh'fhàg Ruairidh am bàta 's an robh e agus déidh aige air piuthar màthar da, a bha air falbh do Cheap Breatainn mun do rugadh e, maille ri mòran chàirdean à Bèarnaraidh, fhuacinn. Dh'fhàg e am port agus chuir e aghaidh an iar. Cha robh e air dol ro fhada nuair a thachair fear ris de'n d'fhoigheachd Ruairidh eòlas air an rathad. 'S i a' Ghàidhlig a labhair e agus 's ann an Gàidhlig a cheart cho glan a chaidh a fireagairt. Thug an neach ud da stèòrnadh air an rathad agus dh'iar e air cumail a' r'ofis a' phuist agus gu faigheadh e còmhla ris a' phost glé fhaig air an àite do'n robh e a' dol.

"An déidh greis coiseachd," arsa Ruairidh, "ràinig mi baile beag agus cha chluinute ach a' Ghàidhlig air gach làimh, gu ruige

's gu robh i aig na daoine dubha fhéin. A' chlann bheag dhubh ag cluich an siud 's an seo 's gun srann ach a' Ghàidhlig!

"Co-dhiubh, chaidh mi steach do'n phost-oifis agus chuir mi falte air na bha a staigh anns a' Ghàidhlig.

"Cò as an tug thu a' choiseachd?" arsa fear a bha sin.

"Thug," arsa mi féin, "as a leithid seo a dh'àite far an do dh'fhàg mi am bàta agus tha iudh agam dol gu Loch Laomainn." (B'e seo àite ann an Richmond, Ceap Breatainn).

"Gheibh thu sin," arsa am post. "Falbhaidh tu còmhla riumsa anns a' charbad agus bheir sin thu mu leathach slighe."

Dh'fhalbh sinn co-dhiubh agus le tuilleadh còmhraidh fhuair mi mach gun ann a Ceann-deas Uibhist a thainig cuideachd a' phuist agus gu cinnteach 's e bha gasda.

Air an rathad thachair ministear orra, agus 's ann a dh'fheumadh Ruairidh dol maille ris thun a' mhansa. Air an rathad fhuair ar caraide a mach gur e an seirbhis-each a bha aig a' mhinistear caraide a dh'fhàg Bèarnaraidh agus e pòsda aig nìghean piuthar a thar do Ruairidh. Abair thus a toilleachadh roimhe nuair a nochd iudh a steach! Cha do dh'amais Flòraidh air falach ach "A Chrutheair bheannaichte! Ruairidh Phàdraig!" Cha b'fhada an oidhche gu latha 's cha robh iad leathach seanchais mu dheidhinn na seann dùthcha 's nan càirdean nuair a thainig air Ruairidh falbh.

"Thog mi orm a rithist," arsa caraide, "còmhla ris a' mhinistear 's e dol 'gam thoirt gu taobh Loch Laomainn an sgrì Richmond far an robh piuthar mo mhàthar 's an teaghlach a chòmhnuidh. Cha robh falbh 'ga labhairt no 'ga chluinntinn ach a' Ghàidhlig, agus cha mhòr nach robh mi togairt mo chranncuig a thilgeil an measg nan daoine còire coibheoil ri m' bheò."

MU dheireadh ràinig sinn an t-àite 's an taigh a bha mi ag iarraidh. Ged nach thaca mise piuthar mo mhàthar riann roimhe gu dearbh 's mi a dh'aitheachadh i an àite air thalamh. Bha mi smaoineachadh gur i mo mhàthar a thainig a mach 'gam fhàilteachadh, agus 's e teannadh air caoineadh a rinn i nuair a phòg i mi.

"Suidh, a ghaol, ri m' thaobh," arsa ise, 's gu faigh mi bhualt

(An chrì air l.d. 40)

naidheachdan a bha mi feitheamh bho'n latha a chuir mi mo chùil ri eilean m'araich.

"Cha robh agamsa," arsa Ruairidh, ach gach naidheachd a b'fhiosrach mi air gach duine 's gach teaghlach am Beàrnaraidh a thoirt di.

Chaidh oidheche eile gun chadal seachad agus 's ann am àm a bu chòir domh bhith 'g èirigh a chaidh mi a chadal. Co-dhùibh, bha mi sona, 's cha robh dragh de'n chadal. Dh'fhan mi mu sheachdain an Loch Laomainn 's b'fheadar togail rithe a rithist, 's mi deanamh air Sydney an dùil ri bàta fhaotainn a bheireadh mi air ais do Alba.

Chuimhnich mi air Tormod MacNéill a dh'fhàg Beàrnaraidh bho chionn omadh bliadhna 's a bha a chòmhnuidh am Framboise 's thogair mi tadhal air mar an ceudna.

Dh'fhàg mi slàn aig mo chàirden taobh Loch Laomainn 's thog mi orm còmhla ris a' phost a bha dol gu ruige Framboise. Bha beul na h-oidheche ann nuair a ràinig sinn bàtha Thormaid 's bha an solus 'ga lasadh.

"Fiach," ars am post ri Tormod, "An aithnich sibh an gille Beàrn'-drach a tha agam an seo."

"Thug am bodach," arsa Ruairidh, "tarraing orm a dh'ionnsaigh na lampa 's air da beachdachadh gu geur orm thuirte e. 'S ann le Pàdraig Mac Iain a tha thu."

Fhuair Ruairidh gabhail gu math aige an oidheche sin as ùr, agus an larna-mhàireach dh'fhàg e air son Sydney. Troimh ùine reusanta fhuair e ann, agus dachaidh a dh'Alba air bàta Suaineach.

Ràinig e a chuideachd am Beàrnaraidh le naidheachdan air na càirden feadh Cheap Breatainn.

Dh'fhàg mise slàn aig mo charaide agais ghuidh mi da gach beannachd le deagh dhùrachd.

RUAIRIDH IS MAIREAD

Is e nàbaidhean a bha ann an Ruairidh agus am Mairead ann am baile beag anns na Hearadh.

Thòisich cù Ruairidh air ithe nan uibhean air Mairead, agus a nall a bha i a throd ri Ruairidh.

An uair a bha i seachd seann sgith ag cur as a corp mu dheidhinn a' choin, fhreagair Ruairidh air a shocair:

"Tud, a ghaoil, cha dean iad càil air!"

(Bho "An Cabairneach," 1944, le cead).

Gaelic Newspapers, etc. (Contd. from p. 36)

Canada was first printed as a quarterly in 1923. *Solus Iuil* (The Beacon) was printed for but a short time.

Jonathan MacKinnon made excellent translations into Gaelic of Hardy's *The Three Strangers* and *The Other Wise Man* by Van Dyke. Shortly after arriving in Pictou, Dr. James MacGregor translated the *Westminster Confession of Faith*.

Rev. Dr. D. B. Blair, of Barney's River, compiled a most complete dictionary, which is in manuscript form in the library of the late Dr. Sinclair in Hopewell, Nova Scotia. He also wrote a very thorough Gaelic Grammar, with many references to Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. This, too, is in manuscript form. A shorter Gaelic Grammar was compiled by George Lawson Gordon in 1876, entitled *The Gaelic Class-Book*, and dedicated to "The Officers and Members of the Highland Society of Nova Scotia." This book was written for and used in a class in Gaelic grammar and literature taught by Mr. Gordon. In 1939 James MacNeil published *Gaelic Lessons for Beginners*.

Parliament, Court and Pulpit

Gaelic has occasionally been heard in the Parliament of Nova Scotia in speech and in song. In 1879 John A. Morrison, member for Victoria, made a strong plea for the teaching of Gaelic in the schools of the province. Mention, too, must be made of the cheerful songs of D. B. MacLeod in the House.

On several occasions Gaelic has been used in the Law Courts. On one occasion when Judge James MacDonald, who was Chief Justice of the Province from 1881 to 1904, was holding Court at Baddeck, a case came up between two neighbours, neither of whom understood English. Despite that handicap they managed somehow to quarrel, and landed in Court. Not a word of English was used in the case, the witnesses, the lawyers, and the judge all using Gaelic.

But the place where Gaelic was pre-eminent in the early days was

not in Parliament, nor in the Law Courts, but in the Pulpit. It is true, as Jean Paul Richter says, that "the way to a mother's heart is through her children; the way to a people's heart is through their language." It was chiefly through the Gaelic that James MacGregor and Norman MacLeod won and held the loyalty and affection of their people. Rev. James Robertson, who wrote just seventeen years after Dr. MacGregor's death, says that, "when he addressed the Highlanders in their native tongue, the effect was most striking. With breathless attention, and tears in their eyes, they would listen for hours to the precious tidings of salvation, falling upon their ears like sweetest music, in a language that awakened the most heart-stirring associations."

Dr. Patterson in describing Dr. MacGregor's preaching writes: "as he warmed up to his subject, his eye kindled with such brilliancy that it seemed to pierce through each beholder, and his whole frame seemed instinct with emotion. And he had all the command over the feelings of his audience which marks the genuine orator. In the proclaiming the justice of God against sinners, he was sometimes terrific. As one described it, 'you would think that the judgments of heaven were about to alight on you,' or, as another said, 'he would almost make your hair stand on end.' Sometimes he used strong expressions that would not readily be forgotten. Describing the worthlessness and vileness of mankind by nature, he concluded by saying that they were fit only to be 'shovelled into hell.'" It can readily be seen that in the Gaelic the preacher had at his command a very impressive and devotional language.

In this paper I have very inadequately dealt with the prose contributions of Gaelic to Nova Scotian culture. In order to understand fully the place of Gaelic in the social, religious, and economic life of our Highland communities it would be necessary to consider the works of our Gaelic poets, both Scottish and Canadian. But that is another story.

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AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AM MART, 1950

Aireamh 3

Agus is Is

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“BHA mi a’ leughadh san leabhar Ghàidhlig seo an oidhche roimhe nach ‘eil a leithid de nì is ‘is’ idir ann,” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Is? Dé an seòrsa ‘is,’ ma tha? Sin an rud air a bheil sinne eòlach o rugadh sinn,” arsa Blàran.

“U, gun tà, chan ‘eil againn ach rud nach ‘eil idir ann.”

“Tha e ann. Mur biodh e ann, ciamar a bhiodh e againn?”

“Eisd rium, a bhodaich, agus bi ‘na do thod! Seo agam e dìreach as an leabhar duit. *There is no such thing as ‘is.’ There never was a Gaelic conjunction ‘is.’*”

“Tìlg bhuaic e, a chùis-bhùrta, chan ‘eil e ann is cha robh e riann ann, agus e agam a h-uile latha chuireas mi mo bhriogais orm!” arsa Blàran.

“Bhuil, a Bhlàrain, mur ‘eil e ach mar do bhriogais-sa chan ‘eil fhios an robh e riann ann an dèidh a h-uile rud.”

“Coma leam de do mhagadh ort! Nach ann aig an fhear a chuir sin ‘na do leabhar a bha a’ bhathais làidir!”

“B’fheàrrid e fhéin sin,” arsa Bus-dubh. “Ciamar a bhiodh na reitheachan mur biodh an cinn làidir?”

“Chan ‘eil an sin ach seanchas eile. Dé a tha dùil agad a tha ann?”

“Tha e ag ràdh nach ‘eil ach an leth-deiridh de agus agus gur e ‘us a bu chòir a bhith againn ann.”

“‘Us ‘us, cus cus, arsa tusa riumsa! Tha mi cinnteach gun do leugh thu ‘na do leabhar mu Dhòmhnall MacPhàil, fear na Gàidhlig? Cha tugainn gròt air do leabhar mur ‘eil iomradh ann air Dòmhnall MacPhàil. Sin am fear a chunnaic mise anns an Eilean Sgitheanach agus càr soilleir aige latha agus mi ri taobh an rathaid mhóir. A mach a leum e as a’ chàr agus a nall far an robh mi. ‘An tu fhéin a tha siud, ghille’, arsa esan rium, ‘bu tu fhéin am bodach laghach.’ A bheil fhios agad gun tug e na deòir o mo shùilean, còtan bàn beag air agus féile de’n fhìor sheòrsa bhreac cheart. Is e a chòrd rium. An fheadhainn a b’abhaist domh a bhith a’ faicinn is ag cluinntinn, nach ann a shaoilinn orra gu robh dearg eagal an beatha aca romham, cia b’e air bith dé an

seòrsa cainnt chabhadh chnapach a bhiodh aca. Bha a’ Ghàidhlig cheart aige-san, cò-dhiùbh, ged a dh’fhairtich orm a dheanamh a mach idir, idir, cò an t-eilean as an tàinig e.

(An còrr air t.d. 12)

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B’Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

II. Coirnealair Iain MacGriogair.

IS e saighdear cròdha, lighiche ainmeil, agus bàrd deas-bhriathrach, eagnaigh na Gàidhlig is am Beurla Shasainn a bha an Coirnealair MacGriogair. Rugadh e an Steòrna-bhagh, agus chuir e seachad mòran de a latha ‘na àrd-oifigeair agus ‘na lighiche anns an arm anns na h-Innseachan an Ear agus an dùthchaibh céin eile. Bha àrd-fhoghlum, eòlas air saighdearachd an iomadh cèarnaigh, agus teas-ghràdh do a dhùthaich ag cur snas agus Ìomhaigh àlainn air a bhàrdachd, air chor is gu bheil a chuid òran cho taitneach ri obair bàird a bha beò ‘na linn fhéin.

Is ann an tìrìbh céin a chuir e a’ chuid a bu mhotha de a bhàrdachd cruinn, agus tha snuadh na dùthcha anns an robh e ag còmhnuidh aig an àm air cuid aca, mar a tha an t-òran a rinn e air a’ cholera anns a bheil e toirt dhùinn dealbh eagnaigh air an sgrios a bha an tinnneas gabhaltach sin a’ deanamh air muinntir na tìre anns an robh e a’ briseadh a mach.

Tha “Tìr nam Beann Ard”—a thir ghaolach fhéin—air a sheinn aig iomadh cuirm agus feadh, agus tha “Steòrnabhagh Mhór a’ Chais-teil” muirneach aig gach Leòdhasach, gu h-àraidh an uair a tha a thuineachas an tìr chéin.

Ann an “Grinneas na Gàidhlig” tha ranntaireachd chuimhir, cheòlmhor, agus taghadh nam briathran, a tha ag cur an cèill a eòlais dhomhain air eachdraidh a chànain mhàthaireil.

Is ann glé ainneamh anns an linn seo a gheibhear bàrd a chuir uibhir de shnas ann an ranntaireachd a chuid òran, agus tha sin fìor gu h-àraidh an “Tìr nam Beann Ard” agus “Beannachd leis na Beanntan,” far a bheil ranntaireachd dà-lìeach glé choimhlionta—rud nach ‘eil idir cumanta am bàrdachd an latha an diugh.

Luinneagan na Cloinne Bige

Le AONGHAS CAIMBEUL

SEINN PORT NAN SIA SGILLINN

(Sing a Song of Sixpence)

Seinn port nan sia sgillinn,
Mo fhòcaid làn siol dubh;
Ann am broinn a' bhonnaich mhóir
Tha còrr is fichead druid.

Nuair chaidh am bonnach fhosgladh suas
'S ann sheinn na h-còin le spid;
Nach b'è sin an truinnsear breagh'
G'a chur air beulaibh rìgh.

Bha 'n rìgh an taigh an ionmhais
Ag cunntadh suas gach sgillinn;
Bha bhan-rìgh anns a' chùlaist
'S i 'g itheadh mir is mil air.

Bha 'n t-searbhant anns a' ghàradh
Cur aodach air an ròp;
Nuas druid dhùbh le sian
Is spion e dhith an t-sròn.

HEIGH-DIDDLE-DIDDLE

'Mo chreach!' ars a' phiseag,
An cat ag cluich an fhidheall,
'S leum a' bhó thar na gealaich le ràn;
Lach an cù beag
Ris an spòrs a bha siud,
'S ruith an truinnsear air falbh leis an spàin.

A' CHAILLEACH SA' BHROIG

(The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe)

An cual' thu mu 'n chaillich
Bha fuireach sa' bhròig?
Bha 'n teaghlach cho lionmhor
Gun rian orr' no dòigh.
Thug i dhaibh brochan
Gun aran, gun mharag;
Is sgaile i gu cruaidh iad
'Gan ruagadh do'n leabaidh.

PEIGI BHEAG A SUARDAIL

(Little Polly Flinders)

Peigi bheag á Suardail
Shuidh i anns an luathadh,
'S ghar i casan beag sa' ghriosach.
Thàinig oirre màthair
Is thug i dhi na stràicean
Mar shalaich i cuid aodaich cho riasach.

GLAG AG GLAODHAICH

(Ding Dong Bell)

An glag ag glaothaich cobhair
'S a' phiseag anns an tobar.
Cò a chuir ann i?
Cò chuir ach Andra!
Cò a thug as i?
Cò thug ach Peadar!
Nach b'è sin am peasan crosd'
A dhòl a bhathadh piseag bhochd
Nach do rinn de chron air thalamh
Ach sealg nan luch an sabhal athar!

BALACH BEAG NA DEISE GHUIRM

(Little Boy Blue)

'Ille bhig na deise ghuirm,
Thig is séid an dùdach;
An crodh air feadh an arbhair;
Sa' chluan tha na caoraich.
Ach càit' a bheil an gille beag
Bu chòir bhith toirt an aire orr'?'
'Na shineadh ris an dig fheòir
Is srann aige 'na chadal!

MEILEAG! A CHAORA DHUBH!

(Ba! Ba! Black Sheep)

Mèileag! A chaora dhùbh,
'Eil clòimh agad an dràs'd?
Tha, dhuin'-uasail, sin agam.
Tri poca làn—
Aon do'n mhaighistir,
'S do bhean-an-taighe aon,
Is aon do'n a ghille bheag
Tha fuireach san t-sràid chùil.

GU MARGADH, GU MARGADH

(To Market, To Market)

Gu margadh, gu margadh,
A cheannach uircean reamhar;
Ob, ob, air an each,
Siud sinn a' dol dhachaidh.
Gu margadh, gu margadh,
A cheannach muc mhór;
Ob, ob, air an each,
Dhachaidh leis air ròp.
Gu margadh, gu margadh,
A cheannach aran-cridhe;
'S cha téid sinn gu margadh
Gu 'm bì i ann a rithist.

(An còrr air t. d. 12)

Litir Eachainn

THA mi an dùil gun d'fhàg sinn Iain Ciar air a' mhìos a dh'fhalbh is an Robair

Ruadh dìreach air a thoirt faineur gu robh neach-eigin 'na fhochair, agus e ag cuimseachadh a cheuma an rathad bh'o'n cuala e an fhuaim a thug gu fhàireachadh e a' tighinn. Bha Iain Ciar a nis air tighinn am follais, is rinn am Fear Ruadh an taobh a bhà e.

"Seas far a bheil thu!," ghlaodh an Robair "agus liubhair do sporan!"

"Cha liubhair mi mo sporan," arsa Iain Ciar, "gus an tachair fear nas fearr na mi féin orm gu sin a thagar bhuam!"

"Thoir an deagh aire nach 'eil e an seo a nis," arsa am Fear Ruadh, agus gun an tuille seamasain dheasaich na fir iad fhéin ri aghaidh comhraig, is thòisich i an làn da-rìreadh.

Bha i rìghinn is dìorrasach, agus cha b'fhada gus an do thuig Iain Ciar gu robh an seo fear a b'ion dha a làn aire a thoirt air, is gun an cothrom a b'fhaoine a thoirt dhà, no gun creanadh e air. Mu dheireadh, air dha ealain-eachd làimhe a eascaraid a chur gu a làn dhearbhadh, theann Iain Ciar ri cur ris an Robair na bu dàine uidh-air-an-uidh, agus le seul ghoirid a dheanann de seul fhada, uair de na h-uaireannan, air dhà an cothrom fhaotainn, chuir e cleas a ghléidh e gu sin air chùl a làimhe an cleachdadh, is bha ceann leadanach ruadh an Robair a' sìleadh fala air an riasg!

Leig Iain Ciar anail, agus b'ann aige a bha feum air, oir bha an iomairt cruaidh is leantalach. Ghlan is thiormaich e faobhar a luinne, is chuir e air ais d'a thruaill an claidheamh. Thug e an sin sùil ealamh mun cuairt, agus thug e deagh aire do'n each a bha ceangailte ris a' chraoibh dlùth do làimh. Thug e faineur am beairteachadh saidhbhir a bha air, agus ciod a tha agaibh air ach an uair a chaidh e am faisg air an steud is a laimhsich e an acfhuinn a bha air, gun tug e an aire gu robh bùc a bha neo-chumanta am pòcannan na diollaid, is dh'fheuch e iad. Ciod a tha agaibh air ach gu robh iad cho làn de shòbharain 's a ghabhadh dinneadh anna!

Bha ulaidh an seo da-rìreadh; agus an uair a chuir e cheum ris an astar a rithist, creidibh gun tug e leis an t-each 's na bha air a dhruim. Ach thug e tuille na an t-each leis. Mhothaich e, am measg gach treallaich a bha aig an Robair anns a' chòmhnard bheag seo a bha air a réiteach am meadhan na coille, gu robh bata àlainn aige; agus cha b'e cho àlainn 's a bha e uile gu léir a dhùisg iunntas, ach an cudtrom a bha ann! Thug e leis am bata, agus thug e

leis claidheamh an Robair; agus—gach diùbhrais gu deireadh—thug e leis ceann an Robair Ruaidh fo a bhreacan. Leis a' chreic seo uile, is deagh steud-each a nis foidhe, rinn e air caisteal an Iarla.

BHA e glé anmoch mun do ràinig e, ach bha muinntearas an Iarla fathast gun ghabhail mu thàmh. Bhuail Iain Ciar gu farumach air glongaire a bha an crochadh ris a' gheata a muigh, is fhreagair an dorsair. Dh'fharraid Iain Ciar an robh an t-Iarla aig baile, is thuirt an dorsair gu robh, is aig a' cheart àm dh'fheòraich e có esan a bha 'ga shìreadh, oir nach robh esan ri neach sam bith a leigeil a staigh gun chead mu'n àm ud de oidhche.

"Innis dhà," arsa Iain Ciar, "gur e coigreach á Albainn a tha an seo, 's gum feum mi an t-Iarla fhaicinn mun éirich reannag eile air an spur!"

Chaidh an dorsair a staigh, is dh'innis e do'n Iarla gu robh "coigreach á Albainn" ag iarraidh fhaicinn.

"Ciod a choltas?" dh'fharraid an t-Iarla: is rinn an dorsair a dh'icheadh gu cruth, deilbh is fearalas a' choigreach a chur am briathraibh dhà; agus mu dheireadh arsa esan:

"Agus nì a chuir annas anabarrach o'm, is nach fhaca mi an clàr aodainn neach eile riamh roimhe, tha atharrachadh dath 'na dhà shùil, tè dhiubh gorm is an té eile donn!"

"Thoir a staigh an seo e gu h-ealamh," arsa an t-Iarla, "mac mo pheathar fhéin, Iain Ciar Dhunolla!"

Chì sibh gu bheil mearachd a' chàirdeis a' tighinn a' staigh an seo a rithist; ach tha an seul agamsa mar a fhuair mi i. Co-dhiubh, leig an dorsair a staigh Iain Ciar, agus tha na ceud bhriathran a labhair an t-Iarla is an fhàilte a chuir e air, mar a bha sin aig m'athair, a' tagar rud beag de mhineachadh.

"Seadh, cha do stad thu riamh gus an deach thu an comunn nan ceàrd," arsa esan. Is dòcha nach robh ciall ceart nam briathran seo aig m'athair. Is e an dòigh air an robh an seul aige-san gun do thuit Iain Ciar an ainbheach do òr-cheàrd ri linn obair àraidh a rinneadh dha, 's gu robh an t-ainbheach cho trom 's gu robh earrann d'a oighreachd ri thoirt bhuaithe. Air an làimh eile, faodaidh gur ann mar dhìmeas air na Seumasaich is na Stiùbharthaich a chleachd e iad.

"B'fheàrr dhuit gu mór," arsa esan an sin, "goistidh claidheimh mar a tha thu, feuchainn ris an tìr seo, a tha air a sàrachadh is air a

(An còrr air an ath dhùilleig)

Agus is Is (bho t.d. 9)

Thuirtear fearan caol, glas a bha cuide ris, agus e fhéin a' tighinn an taobh a bha mi, 'Tha an deagh cheann air!' 'Nach 'eil e maith,' arsa MacPhàil. 'Nach e tha snog mu na casan?' arsa am fear glas. 'Tha e fhéin is na casan snog,' arsa MacPhàil. Agus cho cinnteach agus a tha an dà chluais orm chuala mi MacPhàil ag ràdh 'is far an robh e 'na sheasamh.'

"Càite as an robh am fear glas?" arsa Bus-dubh.

"Bha sin furasda gu leòir aithneachadh. Nach fòghnadh snog dhuit air son sin innseadh?"

"Dh'fhòghnadh dhuit, ach chan fhòghnadh dhomh. Sin facal a tha aig gach dàrnach duine a chluinneas mise ag cainnt."

"Thàinig e, ma tha, 'a Port-righeadh. Ach innsidh mise dhuit-sa dé a ni thu. Cuir thusa cairteag bheag Ghàidhlig gu Dòmhnall MacPhàil agus can ris mar seo:

'A charaid an tairbh, car son a bhios tu fhéin ag cleachdadh is an àite agus?—Is mise, BUS-DUBH.'

agus fan ri dheireadh."

"Cha bhi moille air ach mise an taigh a thoirt a mach. 'Car son a bhios tu ag cleachdadh is an àite agus?' An e sin uile e?."

"Fòghnaidh na dh'fhòghnas de aran 's de ìm," arsa Blàran, agus e toirt sguabag ghrad de a cheann air na cuileagan dubha.

Bha Bus-dubh bochd na ruith a' dol dachaidh, agus a cheann làn de cheistean, agus e cur roimhe nach canadh e guth ri athair no ri mhàthair mu'n chùis an uair a ghrad-stad e agus shuidh e air a chasan deiridh is leig e an donnal fada cianail sin as, agus arsa esan, "Ach càite an cuir mi mo litir? Am fear a bha anns an Eilean Sgitheanach le càr a dhà bhliadhna an t-samhraidh-sa chaidh chan 'eil càil a dh'fhios nach 'eil e an diugh air an t-slighe gu Borneo. Nach ann orm a thàinig e!" arsa Bròinean, "Uth, uth, u!"

Luinneagan (bho t.d. 10)

PISEAG BHEAG, PISEAG BHEAG

(Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat)

"Phiseag bheag, phiseag bheag,

Càit an robh thusa?"

"Ag céilidh air a' Bhan-rìgh
Shìos am baile Lunnainn."

"Phiseag bheag, phiseag bheag,
Gu dé rinn thusa 'an siud?"

"Fo chathair mhóir na Ban-rìgh
Air m'onaìr ghlac mi luch."

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 11)

creachadh le Robair Ruadh na coille sin thall, a shraoradh bho a fhòirneart is a ainneart òirnn, cur as dha, agus an duais 's an t-airgead-cinn a tha mise mi féin air a thairgsinn air a cheann a thagar."

"Agus nach math an t-àm gus an duais sin a thagar seo féin!" arsa Iain Ciar, 's leis na briathran sin e a' toirt ceann ruadh an Robair a mach bho chìrb a bhreacain is 'ga leagail air an ùrlar.

Cha mhór nach do bhuaileadh balbh an t-Iarla an uair a chunnaic e ceann an Robair Ruaidh air an ùrlar aig a chasan; ach b'è a bha deònach na còig ceud sòbharan a bha anns a' gheall a chùnntadh a mach an sin féin air aon cheann buird, agus làn bheatha Iain Ciar a dheanamh aig a' cheart àm. Bha a nis a dheagh dhachaidh aig Iain Ciar an Caisteal Chill-Eannrain air an do thogadh an tòir a bha air na Seumasaich ri linn àr-a-mach na '15, is an robh gach ceann-feadhna no aon eile a bha fo'n choill le an saorsa air a h-aiseag dhaibh.

THA aon ni eile a dh'fheumar innseadh, ged thà, mun crìochnaichear an sgeul. Mar a dh'innis mi dhuibh mar thà, air aon de na nithean a rinn Iain Ciar mar a chuid fhéin e am measg na treallaich de an do rinn e creach á ionad-dìon an Robair Ruaidh, bha am bata annasach seo anns an robh, mar a thubhairt mi, a leithid de chudhtorm. Bhiodh e daonnan a' laimhseachadh a' bhata seo le neònachas is iongnadh, agus ciod, uair de na h-uairean, ach gun do chuir e plùchadh òrdaige ann an dòigh shònraichte mu bhall-cinn a' bhata; agus ciod a shaoileadh sibh a thachair? Dh'fhosgail am bata 'na dhà leth air fhad bho a cheann gu a bhàrr, agus nach ann a bha e fosgailte 'na bhroinn coltach ri slat de chuile Fhrangaich, agus an glomhar a bha 'na chridhe air a phacadh muin-air-mhuin le sòbharain òir!

Saoil sibh nach math a phàidh a chuairt do Uladh do Iain Ciar; agus, ma bha e fìor gu robh e an ainbheach do òr-cheàrd no ceàrd sam bith eile, bha aige a nis—eadar na bha de shòbharain am pòcannan na diollaid, na bha anns a' bhata annasach seo, maille ris an duais a dheagh choisinn e le ceann an Robair Ruaidh a luibhairt do'n Iarla, bràthair a mhàthar—bha aige a nis na phàidheadh an t-ainbheach sin, cho trom 's gum bitheadh e.

Sin gaibhse mo sgeul air deagh Iain Ciar nam Batal, mar a chuala mise i bho m'athair féin is aon no dhà eile, bean mo cheann-cinnidh féin, Ban-tighearna Dhunolla, air a h-aon.

Bhur Caraid Dìleas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Executive Council

A MEETING of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gàidhealach was held in the St. Andrew's Halls (Room 2), Glasgow, on Friday, 13th January, 1950. There were forty-three members present, and the President, Mr. John M. Bannerman, occupied the Chair.

The President made feeling reference to the death of Mr. Robert Bain, which took place on 12th November. Mr. Bain had been for many years an enthusiastic supporter of An Comunn, and his passing was a great loss to the movement. As City Librarian he was always ready to assist and he placed his wide knowledge at the disposal of all enquirers. He had been a President of the Glasgow High School Ceilidh and of the Highlanders' Institute. As one of the Feill Trustees and Convener of the Finance Committee he rendered great service to An Comunn. The sincere sympathy of the members was extended to Mrs Bain and the family.

The President also made reference to the passing of an old member of An Comunn, Mr. Peter MacIntyre, who had been well-known to them all as a member of the Council and of the Glasgow Musical Association.

The Minute of previous meeting was read and approved. Minutes of two meetings of the Finance Committee were read. The first Minute recommended the appointment of Mr Kenneth MacDonald as Convener of the Committee, and the President extended to him a cordial welcome.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Mrs Edgar, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr MacDonald to fill the vacancy among the elected members of Council caused by the death of Mr Robert Bain.

The resignation of Mr Jas. T. Graham, C.A., for health and business reasons, from the office of Treasurer of An Comunn, was received with great regret.

The Minute of the joint-meeting of the Finance and Publication Committees was read, and its adoption was moved by Mr Donald Shaw MacKinnon, seconded by Mr Kenneth MacDonald. The Joint Minute recommended that the magazine be published bi-monthly (six times per year); that its price be 1/- per copy to the public and 5/6 per year, post free, to members and subscribers; and that it remain in its present form. A lengthy discussion ensued in which many

members took part and, on the motion of Mr Donald Grant, seconded by the Rev. Malcolm MacLean, it was finally decided to remit the whole matter to another joint meeting of the two committees for further consideration and report. The Finance Committee had also reported having received applications for the post of Assistant Secretary and that they had drawn up a short list of three. After some discussion it was agreed, on the motion of the President, that the members of the Advisory Committee should act with the Finance Committee in making the appointment.

A MINUTE of the Education Committee was read. Its adoption was moved by the Convener, Mr Farquhar MacRae, and seconded by Mr Alex. Nicolson. Mr MacRae made reference to the teaching of Gaelic in Glasgow Day Schools and reported on steps taken to ensure that parents should be advised of the provision made by way of offering Gaelic to pupils in Woodside and Bellahouston Secondary Schools. Mr Alex. Nicolson referred to the number of students attending Jordanhill Training College who, on completion of their training, would be qualified to teach Gaelic, and said many were desirous of obtaining posts in the Highland areas. It was agreed that this should be brought to the notice of the Director of Education concerned. Mr Nicolson was thanked for his splendid work for Gaelic. The Minute was adopted.

A Minute of the Publication Committee was read, and was adopted on the motion of Mr Lachlan MacKinnon, Convener, seconded by Rev. Somerled MacMillan.

A Minute of meeting of Propaganda Committee was read, and its adoption was moved by the Convener, Capt. Wm. MacKay, seconded by Mrs C. B. Dunlop. The Minute reported on the Secretary's visit to Tiree and referred to the number of boarded-out children attending the schools in that island. The total school population is 233 and the number of boarded-out children is 104. Mr. Donald Shaw MacKinnon reported that the Edinburgh Local Mod was now being held under the auspices of the Edinburgh Branch of An Comunn. The Minute was adopted.

Minutes of three meetings of the Mod and Music Committee were read. The dates of the Edinburgh

National Mod had been fixed for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th October, 1951, and halls had been booked for these dates. The Committees had been considering the syllabus for the Mod and pieces had been prescribed, and there was every hope of having the music ready for distribution at the Dunoon Mod. The Minutes were adopted on the motion of Mr Hugh MacPhee, Convener, seconded by Mr John A. MacRae.

A Minute of meeting of the Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee was read. Adoption of the Minute was moved by Mr Lachlan MacKinnon, Convener, seconded by Rev. Alex. MacDonald, Ardrhattan. A Report was read of the Youth Leadership Conference held at Swordale House in December. The conference was most successful, and Mr and Mrs Bannerman were cordially thanked for placing their residence at the disposal of the Committee. The Minute and Report were adopted.

MR ANGUS MACIVER moved the motions of which he had given notice, namely:—

(1) "That Bye-law No. 31 be deleted and the following substituted: 'Each Mod Local Committee shall appoint a Convener, a Local Secretary and a Local Treasurer. These, and any other necessary appointments, shall be subject to approval by Executive Council.'" This motion, with the word "the" inserted before "Executive Council," was accepted by the Council.

(2) "That Bye-law No. 32 be deleted and the following substituted: 'The remuneration, if any, to be paid to those entitled to consideration for special services rendered, shall be determined by the Mod Local Committee.'" This motion was rejected.

(3) "That Bye-law No. 37 be deleted." This motion was rejected.

(4) "That Bye-law No. 40 be deleted and the following substituted: 'After an accounting by the Local Treasurer to the Mod Local Committee a statement thereof shall be forwarded within two days to the Treasurer of the Association.'" This motion was accepted by the Council.

(5) "That Bye-law No. 41 be deleted and the following substituted: 'The Treasurer of the Association shall, within three months after every National Mod, prepare a statement of all

(Continued on next page)

Caoilte Agus Am Fuamhair

Le TORMOD DOMHNALLACH

(Air a' leantainn bho Aireamh a' Ghearrain, t.d. 26)

"Tha am fuamhair Tosg air tighinn a nall à Sorcha an dé, agus is mór an taig a tha aige. bhith dol ann an comb-fharpais-ruith ris an Fhéinn. Chan 'eil duine air a t-saoghal cho luath ris. Thàinig Tosg trì uairean a thoirt dúbhlann do'n Fhéinn agus gach uair dh'ubh sin chaidh aon mu seach de na diùnaoich as luaithe a tha agamsa a mach a thoirt deuchainn-ruith dha, ach mus deach an ruith ro fhada air adhart chaidh aig Tosg air an cur fo dhùtharan air a leithid de dhòigh is gun do ghéill aon an déidh aoin dhiubh gu tubasteach do a chuilbheartan is chaill iad a' bhuaidh.

"B'e Oscar a chaidh a mach le Tosg an toiseach. 'S e latha briagha a bha ann anns an Ogmhios Shamhradh. Bha a' ghrian gu meadhraid an àird nan speur, an iarmailt gun sgòth oirre, agus coileach-an-teas gu boillsgeil a' dol eadar thu is gach faire ghuirm.

"Dé is ceann-uidhe dhuinn?" arsa Oscar. "Bithidh ar ceann-uidhe mu thuath," fhreagair Tosg.

"Dé cho fada tuath?" dh'fheòraich am fear eile.

"Cho fad 's a leigeas fairge," ghlaodh Tosg.

Ann an sin thòisich an ruith, is b'e sin an ruith!

Nuair a bha na sunn a' teannadh dlùth ris an abhainn sin shìos (abhainn Chill Mhàrtainn), bhuail tart anabarrach Oscar is air dha a ruigheachd chaidh e air a bheùil-fodha air a bruaich is thòisich e ri òl.

Air dha a shàth òl, mhòthaich e do dhòrr cruinn de shligean-madaidh an grunnn na h-àibhne agas bhuail 'na intinn gun biodh corra iomha (neamhnaid) bhòidheach am broinn na bha ann an siud de shligean. An sin chaidh e steach do'n uisge is theann e ri togail nan sligean-madaidh is air am fosgladh a' sireadb nan iomhachan is dhì-chuimhniche e gu tur fàth an turuis air an robh e.

Thug e ùine mhór mar siud a' sealltainn air son iomhachan, ach cha d'fhuair e ach aon a mhàin.

Am feadh agus a bha e car greis ag amharc na leug 'na bhois, thachair gun do thog e a shùil thun na h-àird a tuath agus cò a chunnaic e a' tighinn 'na dheann dearg ach gum b'e Tosg is e air ceann-uidhe ruigheachd agus tilleadh. Cho luath 's a ràinig e Oscar rinn Tosg bùrt-mhagaidh dheth air son gun do chail e an latha.

An ceann ùine ghoirid an déidh siud thàinig am fuamhair a rithist air son dol ann an comb-fharpais-ruith ris an Fhéinn. An uair seo chaidh Goll a mach leis.

"Dé is ceann-uidhe dhuinn?" arsa Goll.

"Bithidh ar ceann-uidhe mu thuath," arsa Tosg.

"Dé cho fada tuath?" dh'fheòraich Goll.

"Cho fad 's a leigeas fairge," fhreagair am fear eile.

Le seo a ràdh, thòisich an ruith is b'e an ruith i da-rìreabh.

MU leitheach slighe, am feadh 's a bha Goll a' sìor dhòl ann an spionnadh, dé a chual e ach an còil bu bhriagha ris an do dh'èisid e riamh.

Thàladh an còil an iolair bho'n lach, an dòbhran bho'n bhreac, agus thàlaidh e Goll cho mór is gum b'èiginn dha seasamh far an robh e agus cas chan fhaigheadh e air son ceum a thabhairt à làrach nam bonn. Ann an sin féin shuidh e air tolmam fraoich air a shìor thàladh gus na dhì-chuimhniche e an turus air an robh e.

An ceann deagh gheiris, ged nach do shaoil Goll fada e, scàd an còil. Ann sin thog Goll a shùil ris an àird a tuath agus cò a chunnaic e a' tighinn bho thuath le luathas an uamhais ach gum b'e Tosg is e air an ceann-uidhe ruigheachd agus tilleadh. Nuair a ràinig am fuamhair e rinn e bùrt-mhagaidh dheth air son gun do chail e cho leibideach an latha.

An treas uair thàinig Tosg air son dol ann an comb-fharpais-ruith ris an Fhéinn, agus an latha seo chaidh Daorghlas a mach leis. Nis, is e Daorghlas an sealgair as fhearr agus an t-aon as luaithe a tha anns an Fhéinn air fad, agus mar sin bha ar dòchas uile an taic ris air son na buaidh-làraich.

"Dé is ceann-uidhe dhuinn?" arsa Daorghlas.

"Bithidh ar ceann-uidhe mu thuath," arsa Tosg.

"Dé cho fada tuath?" ghlaodh am fuamhair.

"Cho fad 's a leigeas fairge," arsa Tosg.

Ann an sin thòisich an ruith agus b'e sin an ruith! Bheireadh iad air a' ghaoith luath Mhàrt a bha air toiseach orra, agus a' ghaoith luath Mhàrt a bha air dheireadh orra cha bheireadh i orra! Am feadh a bha iad a' dol troimh bugha luachrach, dé a dh'èirich air toiseach air Daorghlas ach gum

b'e am fiadh bu sgoinneile a chunnaic e bho chionn iomadh bliadhna.

MAR shealgair math, cha b'urrainn Daorghlas ach seasamh 'ga amharc agus an sin thug fear na cròic a mach, a' deanamh air Beinn Eadra agus siud Daorghlas 'na shinteanag 'na dhèidhinn.

Bha Daorghlas a' ruag an fhéidh fad na còrr de'n ùine bho bhealach gu bealach, bho chnoc gu cnoc, is bho chùil gu cùil, gus mu dheireadh thall an do rinn am fiadh air a' bhugha luachrach bho'n do dh'fhalbh e.

Am feadh a bha Daorghlas a' dlùthachadh ris an àite sin, dh'amais e air sealltainn uaithe ris an àird a tuath agus cò a chunnaic e ann an siud a' tighinn le léideag is ceum is leum ach gum e Tosg agus e air an ceann-uidhe ruigheachd agus tilleadh.

Cho luath 's a thàinig Tosg far an robh e rinn e bùrt-

(An còrr air t.d. 44)

Executive Council (from p. 41)

revenue and expenditure connected with the Mod and submit the statement to a specially convened meeting of the Mod Local Committee for approval. This obtained, the Mod Local Committee shall be dissolved.' This motion was rejected.

Mr Donald Thomson's motion to delete Bye-law 7 and substitute a new Bye-law was rejected.

In the absence of Mrs Macphail Holt, Mr Donald Thomson moved the motion of which she had given notice, but there was no seconder.

Mr Angus MacIver and Mr Donald Thomson gave notices of motion for consideration at next meeting.

The next meeting was fixed for 24th March, 1950, at 6 p.m. in Glasgow.

Mr Donald Thomson asked that a committee be appointed to consider the Constitution and Rules of the Association. On the suggestion of the President it was decided to remit this matter to the Advisory Committee for report to next meeting of the Council.

It was agreed that a notice should appear in the February issue of *An Gàidheal*, inviting subscriptions towards a testimonial to Mr Alasdair Matheson, who had been Assistant Secretary for fourteen years—the closing date to be 17th March.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

Bas Chairdean

Mr Donald Shaw MacKinnon,
M.B.E.

THE news of the sudden death of Mr Donald Shaw MacKinnon at his home in Edinburgh on 10th February came as a great shock to his many friends in An Comunn and to the Highland community in Edinburgh. He was present at the last meeting of the Executive Council and took part in the discussion.

Mr MacKinnon was born in the Ross of Mull, but almost all his life was spent in Edinburgh, where for many years he had been closely identified with the work of the various Highland societies. For a long period he was Hon. Secretary of the Celtic Union. He was also a founder and for a period Secretary, and latterly President, of the Clan MacKinnon Society.

Mr MacKinnon did excellent work for the Association of Highland Societies in Edinburgh during the First World War, and was treasurer of a three-day Feill which raised over £8,000. He initiated the movement to institute another Association of Highland Societies during the recent War, and served as Hon. Secretary. Altogether the Association raised over £11,500 to provide comforts, etc., for the Highlanders on active service. In recognition of his services Mr MacKinnon received the honour of M.B.E. in the New Year Honours of 1947.

For many years Mr MacKinnon had been a member of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and was particularly helpful as a member of the Finance Committee. He had recently accepted the Convenership of the Local Committee appointed to arrange for the National Mod in Edinburgh in 1951.

A large congregation assembled for the funeral service in the chapel of Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh. The service was conducted by the Very Rev. Charles L. Warr, K.C.V.O., D.D., J.L.D., Minister of St. Giles and Dean of the Thistle and Chapel Royal, assisted by the Rev. Coll A. MacDonald, D.D., formerly of Logierait, who offered a prayer in Gaelic. An Comunn Gaidhealach was represented by Mr. Farquhar MacRae, Vice-President, and Mr Neil Shaw, General Secretary, while the Edinburgh Branch was represented by Mr John MacKay, President, and Mr Donald Cameron, Secretary.

We express our deep sympathy with his sister, Miss Jessie F. MacKinnon, in the loss of a devoted brother.

Mr. David Urquhart, M.A.

MR. DAVID URQUHART, M.A., who died in a nursing home in Glasgow on 27th January, was a native of Gairloch and was one of the best known Gaelic teachers of his generation. He was successively headmaster at Achiltibuie, Kyle, and Ferintosh Schools, and in all of them he gave Gaelic a prominent place in the school curriculum.

Mr Urquhart also acted as President or Secretary of the branches of An Comunn in the various places in which he lived. He taught the Junior Gaelic Class at the Gaelic Summer School at Broadford in 1913 and at Inverness in 1920. He contributed five lessons to Book IV of Blackie's first series of Gaelic School Readers and also contributed Gaelic articles to *An Gaidheal*.

In all his Gaelic work Mr Urquhart was ably assisted by his wife, who predeceased him many years ago. She was crowned Bardess at the Oban Mod in 1934, the only woman who has so far gained the coveted bardic crown.

We extend to the members of the family our very sincere sympathy, and we add the following fine tribute (reprinted from *The North Star*, 4th February, 1950) by Mr John N. MacLeod.

"A very wide circle of friends in the Highlands and Isles will learn with deep regret of the death of David Urquhart, late headmaster of Drumsmittal School, Kessock, who passed away in Glasgow on January 27. David Urquhart was a native of Inverasdale, in Gairloch, where in his youth he drank freely of the high ideals of Christian life and character, and those beautiful traits of the genuine Celt were very evident in his walk and conversation all through his long life. Early in life he learned to appreciate all that was noble in his native language and culture, and his facile pen, both in Gaelic and English, was always ready to extol the value of that language.

"He held teaching appointments in Kyle of Lochalsh, Ferintosh, and Drumsmittal, and in all these localities he took the deepest interest, not only in his professional duties but in the social welfare of the community. While in Kyle,

he was one of the prime movers in the building of the Kyle Social Institute and the first street-lighting scheme in that village. His name will long be remembered in that place with honour and respect. In Ferintosh and Drumsmittal he worked with sustained energy in all welfare schemes which helped to maintain the interest of old and young.

"After he retired, he lived for some years in Killilan, Lochalsh, where his daughter, Colina, had charge of the local school. There his gracious and saintly wife died, and everyone who knew her felt that a woman of noble character and unique spiritual graces had been called to higher service.

"David Urquhart was one of the most accurate writers of Gaelic of the present day. He contributed a number of lessons to the first set of Gaelic Readers for schools, and his nature lessons are of special interest. He wrote a School Geography of Scotland in Gaelic, but unfortunately it was never published.

"In the difficult task of translating English into Gaelic he was most successful, and those contributions, which appeared from time to time in periodicals, showed his mastery of the real genius of his native language. It is a pity we have not a greater range from his able pen, but poor health over a long number of years prevented him from producing more in this field, for which his talents were so suitable.

"David had a charming personality. He hated the limelight, because he was so full of that humility and self-effacement which is one of the hallmarks of the sincere Gael. His friendship was fast and abiding, and there was no guile in his nature. If David left enemies behind him in this world, it was certainly not his fault, for he trusted everyone to be on the square to himself and to all mankind, just as he himself always was. He suffered from ill-health for many years, but he never complained, and was always solicitous for the welfare and happiness of those around him. His devoted family cared for him to the last, and they will always be beloved for the sake of their noble parents.

"We in the Highlands are much the poorer by his passing, but he has left a noble record behind him, which will always remain as a sweet memory in the hearts of his many friends."

(Continued on next page)

(From previous page)

Mrs Neil Cameron

WE regret to record the death of Mrs Cameron, wife of our esteemed and generous member, Mr Neil Cameron, Sunderland, which took place at her home in Sunderland on 12th January. Mrs Cameron had been a member of An Comunn for many years and shared all her husband's enthusiasm for the Gaelic cause and the Highland people. She attended National Mods with him on many occasions. Her name will always be associated with the Male Voice Choral Competition as joint-donor with her husband of the "Mull and Iona Shield." She herself also donated a Shield for choral competition at the Mull Provincial Mod.

We express deep sympathy with Mr Cameron in his great loss.

Alexander Cameron

ONE of the best-known songsters of the past generation has passed away at Corpach in the person of Alexander Cameron. Although not actually the first to sing puirt-a-beul on the public platform, he made that particular type of music highly popular and introduced many of the tunes so much favoured by the public and singers to-day, such as "U-bhi, A-bhi" and "Mac a' Phi cnag-shuileach." He had a most amiable personality and his presence at any Gaelic function was warmly welcomed. He was a member for many years of the St. Columba Church Gaelic Choir, and competed successfully at a number of Mods. On retiring from business he took up residence at Carrick Castle, but since the death of his wife he made his home with a married daughter at Corpach. We extend deep sympathy to the members of his family in their loss.

Miss Jessie A. MacKenzie

MISS JESSIE A. MACKENZIE, well-known in Highland circles in Glasgow, died suddenly at Portree on 13th February. She was an enthusiastic member of the Glasgow High School Ceilidh and of the Glasgow Inverness-shire Association. She was also a member of the Feill Committee of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund, and was actively engaged in preparing for the Great Feill to be held in May of this year. She had been a member of An Comunn for many years and was always ready to help the cause for which it stands. We extend sincere sympathy to her sorrowing sister.

Caoilte (bho t.d. 42)

mhagaidd dheth air son gun do chaith e cho faoin an latha.

"Nis, a Chaoilte, théid thusa a mach ann an aghaidh an fhuamhair ann an comb-fharpais-ruith agus, ma gheibh thu a' bhuaidh, bidh tu an latha sin féin air do ghabhail ann am feachd na Féinne agus cha bhí duine air an t-saoghal cho luath riut."

Nuair a chuala Caoilte an aonta a chuireadh air thuit a thud 's a thad air, oir bha dearbh chinnt aige nach b'urrainn dhàsan a chaoilidh an nì a dh'fhairtlich air Daorghlas luath na Féinne a dheanamh is thill e air ais gu trom-intinneach thun na buachaill-eachd.

Mun do ràinig e an t-ionad anns an robh an crodh ag ionaltradh thachair gun do chuir e a fàmn 'na chrios agus gu dé a fhuair e ann an sin ach Fideag Bhuidhe na h-Eiginn is chuimhnich e air na feartan iongantach a bha co-cheangailte rithe is air comhairle Mac Rìgh Mheangain.

Gu grad chuir e an fhuideag ri bheul is ghearr e fead chaol, chruaidh, bhinn, agus mun gann a thug e bho bhilean i bha Mac Rìgh Mheangain 'na sheasamh nu choinneamh.

"Seadh, ciamar a chaidh dhuit féin is do Fhionn?" arsa mac an rìgh. Dh'innis Caoilte facal air an fhacal mar a bha eatorra agus mu'n aonta chruaidh a chuireadh air agus cho eumasach 's a bha e dhàsan eadhon air smaointeachadh air oidhirp a thoirt air an nì ud a dheanamh nach tug na gaisgich bu lùthmlor a bh'anns an Fhéinn gu buil.

"Na cuireadh sin iomagain sam bith ort ma leanas tu mo chomhairle-sa," arsa Mac Rìgh Mheangain.

"An larna-mháireach, mun tig a' cheud bhall air an latha, nì thu air Ceum na Sréine agus ruigidh tu a' chlach àrd. Cho luath 's a bhios an iarmailt ag giasadh, cuiridh tu do sìbil ris an toll agus leanaidh tu air amharc tre an toll gus am faic thu a' ghrìan ag éirigh: thar chùl nam beann ud thall. Bidh tu tacan a' beachdachadh air a' ghréin agus an sin cuiridh tu do chluas ris an toll air son na h-ùine cheudna. Ma nì thu seo, faodaidh tu dol uair sam bith a thoirt dùbhlán do Thosg. Am feadh 's a bhios tu anns a' chomb-fharpais-ruith, cha bh'esan no fuamhair eile comasach air do chur fo dhatharan agus ged a bhiodh am fiteach ag cur a mach a theanga leis an teas cha bhualt tart no pathadh na teus an toir thu mach a' bhuaidh."

AN ath mhadainn, mun tàinig a' cheud bhallachadh air an latha, bha Caoilte a' deanamh air Ceum na Sréine. Cha bu luaithe a ràinig e a' chlach àrd na chunnaic e fann bhristeadh a' tighinn air nèoil na h-oidhche agus chuir e a shùil ris an toll.

Dh'fhuirich e mar siud gus an do ghabh e a' cheud sealladh air a' ghréin ag éirigh 'na h-àille thar cùl bheanntan Ghéarrloch. An déidh a bhith car greis ag amharc na gréime chuir e a chluas ris an toll air son na h-ùine cheudna.

An latha sin féin thachair do Caoilte a bhith muigh anns a' bheinn-sheilg.

A' dol seachad fo Chreag Dhubb Chuitheir, cò a chunnaic e os a chionn gu h-àrd 'na shuidhe ri bun stidhe ach gum b'e Tosg agus e a' leig-il anail.

"Ceum ann is ceum nach fann," arsa Tosg. Thubhairt e seo ma b'fhior mar chomunn-airidh ri Caoilte.

"Is e an latha an diugh a dhearbhas sin," arsa Caoilte, "tha mise air son deuchainn a thoirt dhuit a' ruith!"

Rinn Tosg lasgan mòr gàire nuair a chual e briathran Caoilte.

An sin thòisich e air mèananaich agus air a stadhadh féin.

Mu dheireadh thall, air do Thosg a thuigsinn nach ann ri feala-dhà a bha Caoilte ach ceart da-rìreabh, thèamaich e sìos maille ris thun a' chòmhnaid.

"Dé is cearn-uidhe dhuint?" dh'fheoraich Caoilte.

"Bithidh air ceann-uidhe mu dheas," fhreagair Tosg.

"Dé cho fada deas?" dh'fhoighneadh Caoilte.

"Cho fad 's a leigeas faireg," arsa Tosg.

Le siud a radh, rinn iad ri gorm, agus cha bu ruith riamh gu seo e.

A' dol thar an Allt Fhionaghas, ged is bras, soilleir uisgeachan, cha do dh'fhairich Caoilte an tart bu lugha.

A' dol seachad an Loch Fada chual e ceòl a chuireadh eòin an craunaibh, ach leig e an ceòl mu chluasan.

Suas mu Ghuala Thosgadail, leum am fadh bu bhriagha chunnaic e riamh bho a leabaidh anns an fhraoch ri thaobh, ach bha Caoilte mar nach faicheadh e idir e.

Nuair a bha iad dìreach mu choinneamh Dun Chraicag fhuair Caoilte an ceum-toisich air an fhuamhair.

Ann's a' bhad, shioldaidh Tosg gu bog, balbh as an t-sealladh is chan fhaic tuilleadh e.

Am feagair sin féin bha Caoilte air a ghabhail a steach ann am feachd na Féinne, is cha robh duine air an t-saoghal 'na latha, no bho a latha, cho luath ris.

Ann's A' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

THE DANGERS OF MOD ADJUDICATION

Dear Sir,—In September, 1948, Mr and Mrs Angus White of the Imperial Hotel, Fort William, staged a concert on behalf of An Comunn in our Town House here. I was asked to take the Chair. On the afternoon of the concert, and during my consultation hour, a small young chap wearing spectacles came in and said at once that he was not a patient but would like to take part in the Gaelic Concert.

It was obvious to me that he was not of our tribe and that he could not speak our language, and I told him so. His reply was startling. He immediately, to my delight and to the joy of the patients in the consulting room, sang a Gaelic song. I rang up the Whites at once, and over the telephone he sang to them in the liveliest manner, "Cur nan gobhar as a' chreiger."

That settled the matter, and Dr. Duxbury was on our programme that night. Did he steal the show? It was sheer robbery, and that night, in the presence of a crowded, perfervid, Gaelic audience, he was accepted to our community and called "Our Blood Brother."

I feel, therefore, Mr Editor, that what Dr. MacDougall Duxbury says about Mod adjudication and the dangers annexed should be most seriously considered.—Leis gach dùrachd,

ISAAC MAC IAIN AN TAILLEAR.

Dear Sir,—It is clear from the article, "The Dangers of Mod Adjudication," in this month's copy of *An Gaidheal*, that your printers do not understand how to print music. To see a piece of music with a key signature of E sharp, C sharp, F sharp, and C sharp, and with a "natural" coming after a note, would lead us to believe that Dr MacDougall Duxbury is some extraordinary musician descended upon us from some other planet! Therefore we do not know whether we can trust that your printing of Dr Duxbury's version of "Muile nam Mor-Bheann" is as he sent it to the press.

However, this does show up the difficulties discussed in the article, which are caused by the fact that there does not appear to be a musician who is also a Gaelic speaker.

As Dr Duxbury says, the fault lies in supplying the music adjudi-

cator with an incorrect printed version.

The printed version *only* must be the guide of the music adjudicator, as this is the only guide he has as to what is wanted by Gaeldom from the Gaelic singer.

"What shall be done to stop this rot?" says Dr. Duxbury. The answer is not difficult:—

- (1) Choose the song for the Mod.
- (2) Ask one of your best Gaelic singers to sing it (a version which is as the Committee like it) to a musician who will take down the melody.
- (3) Give the musician the Gaelic words and ask him to sing this song back to you (no matter how bad the pronunciation), reading it from his music. He will be able to correct his melody until he has it from music exactly the same as your Gaelic singer.

I have done this successfully with an unpublished song taken from someone who did not understand any written music, and I was able to do it absolutely to his satisfaction, and it did not take very long. I had previously been given a version of the notes taken down from his singing, without the words, and which was therefore quite incorrect.

There are, of course, some extremely ancient songs which can never be translated accurately on to paper. But they would be as near as is possible, and simple mistakes such as the example in "Mo Dhachaidh," would not occur.

Also we must remember that there are versions of the same song coming from different districts, which vary greatly, particularly with regard to dotted notes, and therefore one chosen version will not please everyone.

Should not the heading of Dr. Duxbury's article have been "The Dangers of Using Printed Music?"

Please accept this letter, which I send with great respect, as from a non-Gaelic-speaking member, keenly interested in the work of An Comunn and its Magazine.—Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. RAILTON.

[We apologise to Dr. Duxbury for three misprints in the bars printed on p. 6 of our January Number—"Mo Dhachaidh." The key signature should be: F sharp, C sharp, G sharp, D sharp. The "natural" sign should precede the

D on its level and not follow the F on the F-stave. The second-last note should be a dotted crochet.

The bars relating to "Muile nam Mor-Bheann" are printed exactly as in the author's MS.

Mr J. L. Campbell writes: "You are to be congratulated on printing the articles by Shuldham Shaw and Duxbury in *An Gaidheal*. These criticisms were long needed. I said the same thing myself in my review of Amy Murray's "Father Allan's Island" in *The Outlook* in 1936, and Amy Murray herself said it too, giving "Mo Rùn Geal Dileas" as sung as a folksong and as sung as a Mod song."—Ed.]

MAIRI MHOR NAN ORAN

From a study of the poems of Màiri Mhòr nan Oran, the Skye poetess, it seems quite clear that her bardic muse was brought to light through the sense of injustice and insult to her good name at the time of her imprisonment in Inverness in 1872, the year after the death of her husband, Isaac Macpherson, a shoemaker in Inverness.

I have been trying to trace the actual case which led to her confinement in prison for a time, but I have not been successful in that matter. I wrote some time ago to Mr Murdoch Mackintosh, Sheriff Clerk of Inverness, to see if he could trace Màiri Mhòr's case in the Court records, but, after an exhaustive search, he was unable to find any reference to her appearance in the law courts.

I saw Màiri Mhòr once or twice in my native parish of Kilmuir, but I was too young to take any interest in her career, though I do remember that old people used to talk about her imprisonment in Inverness.

According to what I used to hear in those days in Skye, it seems that Màiri Mhòr quarrelled with a neighbouring woman, and, as is always likely in those cases, the differences between them grew more heinous with the passing days. Màiri one day left her house, and her neighbour seized her opportunity of avenging her spite. She packed up the clothes which she had newly washed, entered Màiri's house, and deposited her newly washed garments in a trunk in Màiri's kitchen. She then sent for the police, identified her own clothes, and accused Màiri of stealing them from her clothes' ropes. Poor Màiri Mhòr was evidently found guilty of this theft, and consequently served a term of

(Continued on next page)

(From previous page)

imprisonment. Her close friend, Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P. for Inverness, whose praises she often lauded in her poems, seems to have intervened on her behalf with the result that she was soon afterwards set free.

That is the story I used to hear in Skye, but I have no proof whatever that it is the true version.

Perhaps some readers of *An Gaidheal* may be able to throw further light on this matter. At the time it was fully declared that Màiri Mhòr was unjustly accused, and that must certainly have been true if the circumstances of the case are in accordance with the story which I have related.

JOHN N. MACLEOD.

AM BREACAN

A Charaid.—Chan 'eil e gu dragh ged a chidhte Gall is Sasannach leis an fhéile bheag (ged is iomadh rud as docha leam fhéin fhacinn na an Sasannach leis), ach is ann leis a' Ghaidheal a tha am féile-beag gu buan. Sin fìor shuaicheantas a dhaoinne riamh o thùs agus chan fhacas a sheòrsa riamh cruinn an cogadh no sith an còmh-dhail gun féile beag, piob-mhòr, is Gaidhlig.

Chan eagal do'n phìob-mhòir agus chan eagal do'n fhidheall, ach tha cleachdadh is tuilleadh cleachdaidh a dhith a nis air an dà nì eile!

"Bu mhaith an là 's an oidhche thu,

Bha lioinn ort am beinn 's an cladach."

"Chan fhaca tu mac màthar air sràid no faiche
As deise na mac Gaidheil le shàr phearsain."

Gu dileas,

L.P.B.

MAR THA 'S MAR BHA

"Bha 'n sruth mar bha a' ruith gu tràigh,

'S na fùirean fàs m'a bhruchaibh;
Bha eòin nan speur air bhàrr nan geug

A' seinn gu h-éibhinn guanach,
Ach dhòmhsa cha robh nì mar bha."

AN dèidh sgaradh bhliadhnanach bho àite a' bhreith is àrach, thàinig am bàrd air ais agus cha d'fhuair e "nì mar bha." Nach lionmhor iad a fhuair iad fhéin anns an dearbh shuidh-eachadh, ged nach robh iad comasachadh mar am bàrd air luaidh a dheanamh air an smaoin-tean agus am faireachdainn? Is e

crìdhe fuairaidh nach deanadh ionndrainn air càrdean is eòlach a b' àithne dha. Chan e a mhàin 'na daoine bh'ann, nach maireann iad,' ach tha caochladh air iomadh rud eile. Cha b'e a' Bheinn Dòbhrain a dh'fhag Donnchadh Bàn a fhuair e, nuair a thill e—

"S a' bheinn is beag a shaoil mi
Gun deanadh ise caochladh."

Air mo thurus fhuair mi aon nì
"mar bha" an làithean m'òige.

Ann am bruidheann ri càch a chéile, no mu chàch a chéile, cha robh sloinneadh 'ga chleachdadh. Anns an t-seagh sin bha an sgìre fhathast, mar a bha i uair-eigin ann an iomadh rud eile, mar aon teaghlach. 'S e theireadh iad, "Dòmhnall Chalum," "Iain Mhurchaidh," "Peigi Mhurchaidh Iain," no, gu tric, far-ainm.

"Cò," thuirt mi ris a' cheatharnach, "am fear tha siud?"

"Siud," ars esan, "an Clamhan, brathair a' Chalmain."

"Agus," arsa mise, "'cò e an Calman?"

"Tha e fuireach air a' Cheannshios. Cha chuala mise ainm eile a riamh air ach an Calman!"

Ri linn Phàdraig cha robh sgoil Bheurla ann, agus ars e fhéin, "Chaidh m'ainm 's mo shloinneadh ann an seotal na ciste an là a bhaisteadh mi, agus cha chuala mi mo shloinneadh air ainmeachadh gus na lugh fear an taigh-chuspaoin, air paipear a chuir e 'nam làimh, an là a ghabh e mi dh'an *Reserve*, 'Peeter Ma-Cloud!'"
A. M.

TRUAIGHE NA H-EORPA

Tha mùir shnaidhte na h-Eòrpa shìos 'nan tòrr air a raointean.

Tha an gràbbaladh àrsaidh air a sgàineadh is gaorr air.

Tha dlùth-shreathan a tùirean 'nam mion-sprùdhlich air aomadh.

Tha muinntir a tallachan sgapte air faonra.

Is luaineach, làn airce,
Oidhch' is latha a daoine.

Chaidh geur-ghuth an truaighe thair cruaidh-ghàir a gaathan.

Dh'fhalbh bharr na h-Eòrpa trian de 'bòidhchead séimh aosda.

Sean teamrann na h-ealain,
crìdhe meachair na daondachd.

Och, Rubha na h-Aisia,
Bàlcán an t-saoghail!

DEORSA CAIMBEUL HAY.

AN COMUNN BADGES

THE official badge of An Comunn Gaidhealach is again on sale to Ordinary and Life Members, and may be had from the Treasurer, Mr James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1., price 3/6 (or, including postage, 3/9).



At Dunoon "Fancy Fayre," in aid of National Mod Funds—Mrs MacDiarmid, Mr Neil MacLean, and Master Duncan MacKay.
(Copyright by Jas. Murchison, Dunoon.)

RANNAN FIRINNEACH

Le GILLEASBUIG NA CEAPAICH

Chunnaic mi Eaglais Ghlaschu,
Chunnaic mi Caisteal Dhun-Eideann,
Dun-Canaich MhicGhille-Chaluim,
Calasraid is Inbhir-Eireann.

Chunnaic mi Eig' agus Ile,
Chunnaic mi Cinn-tìre 's Barraidh,
Thug mi seachdain an *Kirkcaldy*,
'S air Bealach-na-Bà chaidh mi thairis.

Chunna mi Dun-phris is Cataobh,
Chunna mi Geat' Ionar-Aora,
Chunna mi 'n gobhainn a bha 'n Easaich,
Chunna mi Ceapach nam peuran;

Drochaid mhór an Ionar-Nis,
Cinn-a'-chneis an Dun-Blàthainn,
Eòrna 'n Ros-Chill-Andrais,
Is seann stuic an Uachdar-shrath.

Coille leamhain an Achadh a' Mhadaidh,
Raineach fhada 'n Leitir-Fhiunnlaidh;
Bidh na féidh an Coire-Bhrodainn,
Is dubh bhodaich am Both-Fhiuntain.

'S aithne dhomh Beinn-obainn-aoigh,
'S aithne Coill' Chinn-a'-Mhara;
'S aithne dhomh 'n Rubha 's an Caol
'S Tobhta Raonuill an Colla.

'S a' Chròc Mhuileach, an Còrn Collach,
'S Crò an eich an Cearrara.

(Bho *An Duanaire*, 1868).

RANNAN BREIGE

Le GILLEASBUIG NA CEAPAICH.

Dh'éirich mise moch sa' mhadainn,
'S chualas cruit 'ga seinn;
Bangaid aig a' chat
'N déis a bhaisteadh anns a' chill;
Pìob-mhór air an fhìtheach
Is fìdheall air an ròcas;
Targaid air a' bhudagoc,
Is musgaid air an smèdraich;
Sgiath is claidheamh air an dreathan,
'S e gu leathan còmhnaidh;
Am bricean-beith' a' treabhadh,
An seobhag ag cliathadh;
An uiseag ag uirsgèuladh,
'S an luch ag cur gun fhiamh oirr'.
Chunna mi iongnadh mór,
'S iongnadh mór a chunna mi—
Craobh gun bhàrr, gun duilleach oirr',
'S i fàs gun bhun, gun fhriamhaich!

Chunna mi—'s cha b'iongnadh leam—
Paidhir thromb am bial a' bhruc.
Chunna mi a' chorr' a' danna's;
Chunna mi 'g reic branndaich a' mhuc!
Ged chunna mi na chunna mi,
Chan fhaca mi na daoine!
Chunna mi na caoraich
Ag caol-ruith a' bhalgaire.
Chunna mi 'n iolair 's an tràigh,
Agus tàrmachan na beinne;
An fheadag a' spionadh fraoich.
Chunna mi 'n fhaòileann ri teine.
Chunna mi na lochannan
'S na tobraichean a' tràghadh,
An fhaireg ghlas 'na h-iomairean
Fo churraim 's fo bhùntata,
'S na bha innt' a dh'uile-bheistean
'G imeachd air am màgan,
A' dol a ghabhail gearasdain
Do dh'fhearann Thigearna Ghrannda!

(Bho *An Duanaire*, 1868).

Dunoon Mod Donations

(Continued from page 48)

Committee, Old-Fashioned Dancing, Dunoon	£5 5 —
John Sands, Esq., Dunoon	1 — —
Greenock Morton Football Club	90 5 —
Jumble Sales (two)	140 18 5
H. & M., Dunoon	1 — —
Kirn and Hunter's Quay Bowling Club	3 3 —
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Ceillidh, Annet Bhan, Dunoon	10 15 —
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Proceeds of "Fancy Fayre"	560 11 6
Messrs. Cooper & Co., Ltd.	1 1 —
Messrs. Sawers, Ltd.	2 2 —
Messrs. Fleming, Reid & Co., Ltd.	5 5 —
Anonymous	— 11 6
Donations of 5/- and under	— 17 6

£1,137 5 8

Ionmhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged	£1,001 10 10
Less entry—Miss Mary Boyd, North Uist—in December Magazine previously acknowledged in July/August Magazine	— 12 6
	<hr/>
Proceeds of Flag Day at Carbst Public School, Skye, per Head Teacher ..	3 14 10
Collection Box in Easdale per Donald Dewar, Esq., J.P.	1 8 —
Saltire Society, Edinburgh Branch, per Alastair Mackenzie, Esq.	2 2 —
Contents of Collecting Box, per Miss Catherine Colquhoun, Loch Awe ..	2 13 11
	<hr/>
	£1,010 17 1

An Comunn Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged	£80 7 4
David Matheson, Esq., Dornie, by Kyle	— 10 —
	<hr/>
	£80 17 4

National Mod, Inverness, 1949

Received at Inverness—	
Previously acknowledged	£2,327 17 6

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	£241 14 6
David Matheson, Esq., Dornie, by Kyle	— 10 —
W. H. Mackintosh, Esq., London	— 5 —
	<hr/>
	242 9 6
	<hr/>
	£2,570 7 —

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£78 2 9
Angus Smith, Esq., Arran	— 7 —
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DUNOON MOD, 1950

Growing interest in the forthcoming Mod, to be held in Dunoon in the Autumn, is apparent from the very practical steps that are being taken to ensure its success financially.

As may be seen from the appended list, a large number of individuals and organisations (both local and from further afield) have already contributed most handsomely. The Convener, Officials, and Committee of the Dunoon Mod are indeed grateful to all those who have donated so generously, and they would like to thank them publicly for their practical and much-appreciated help.

Further donations, large or small, will be received most gratefully by the Local Treasurer:—Mr. Angus Mackay, Ardfin, Mary Street, Dunoon.

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(Continued on page 47)

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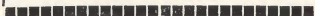
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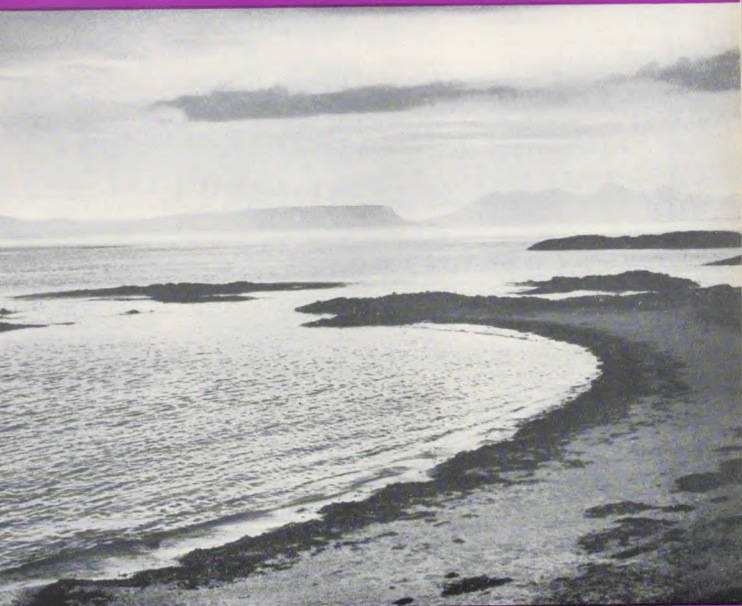
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APRIL, 1950

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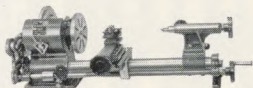


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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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AN GIBLEAN, 1950

Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

Egg and Rum from Arisaig

(Copyright by R. Macleod)

PLEASE MENTION OUR NAME WHEN
WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

Major C. I. N. MacLeod

MAJOR MACLEOD, who last year was appointed Assistant Executive Director and Gaelic Lecturer at the Cape Breton Gaelic Foundation College, St. Ann, Nova Scotia, is being chosen by Mr. Henry D. Hicks, Education Minister for Nova Scotia, as Gaelic Adviser attached to the Adult Education Division of Nova Scotia.

Major MacLeod's task will be to promote Gaelic languages, music, and cultural activities in Nova Scotia, and in general help to preserve the Highland traditions among the people of the province. The aim is to develop Nova Scotia as a centre of Highland culture among the Scottish-minded people of Canada and the U.S.A. Working chiefly with local leaders, his advice will be available to Highland societies and to schools and institutions. His headquarters will be at the Cape Breton Adult Education Office, 336 Charlotte Street, Sydney, but he will help Scottish groups on the Nova Scotia mainland as well.

We cordially congratulate Calum Iain on this new and important appointment, and we are sure that the cause of Gaelic in Nova Scotia and in Canada will benefit considerably from this new educational development.

"Ossian"

SOME seventeen years ago there was published by Glasgow University Ossianic Society an attractive magazine, "Ossian", half in Gaelic and half in English. It was well received by the public, but unfortunately the costs of production forbade continued publication at the time. Publications costs are now higher than ever they were, but, despite that, the Ossianic Society are now preparing to publish a new number of

"Ossian." If it meets with the support hoped for, it is proposed to issue it biennially.

"Ossian" will contain about 32 pages of English and Gaelic material, and the proposed price is 1/6. An appeal is made to groups and societies with Highland and Island connections to support the magazine by ordering copies and by making mention of it at meetings and in publications.

Orders should be sent to Mr. Alex. G. Matheson, Ossianic Editorial Committee, 43 Hyndland Road, Glasgow, W.2. Cheques, postal and money orders should be made payable to "Glasgow University Ossianic Society."

Dr. MacNicol, Taynuilt

TO mark the completion of fifty years in medical practice by Dr. R. R. MacNicol, Taynuilt, a social evening was held recently in the village hall, and the doctor was presented with a wallet of notes subscribed by the people of Taynuilt, Achnacloch, Connel, North Connel, Benderloch, Barcaldine, Aharacle, Bonawe, and Kilchrenan. Captain Robert Campbell-Preston presided, and many tributes were paid to the doctor's long and faithful service in the wide area under his care. We would offer our congratulations and wish for the doctor many more years. He has always been a strong supporter of the local branch of An Comunn.

Dunoon

AT the monthly ceilidh of the A'Dunoon branch of An Comunn, held in the Burgh Hall, on 10th March, Mr. Angus MacTavish, President, occupied the Chair, and the guest speaker was the Rev. T. M. Murchison, Glasgow, in place of Mr. Farquhar MacRae, Vice-President of An Comunn, who was unfortunately unable to be present.

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Far am bi toil, bidh gnìomh.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Teagaisg dhomh do thoil a dheanamh, oir is tu mo Dhia: treòraicheadh do spiorad maith mi gu tìr an ionracais.—
Salm cxliii. 10.

Mr. Murchison congratulated the local branch on the fine work they are doing, and especially the Mod Local Committee on the success which has already attended their hard work in bringing in a considerable sum for the Mod Fund. He also spoke of the position of Gaelic at the present time and its future prospects. He said that one must beware both of pessimism and complacent optimism. There were discouraging features to be noted, but on the other hand there were very encouraging features also.

The ceilidh programme was sustained by Miss Catriona MacLean, Mr. James Mitchell and Mr. Peter McAlpine, with accordion and piano music by Mr. David Hughes and Miss J. Crawford. The accompanist was Mrs. Neil MacLean. Votes of thanks were moved by Mr. Duncan Ferguson, Vice-President.

Fios a Africa

THA sinn toilichte litir-adhair fhaotainn bho ar caraid, Mgr. Graham Croll, á Africa a Deas. Tha e ag ràdh gun d'fhuair e litrichean agus duan bho Mhgr. MacDhùn-léibhe am Pretoria—"ged a tha suas ri leth-cheud bliadhna bho'n dh'fhàg e Tobair-Mhoire far an d'rugadh 's a thogadh e, tha a' Ghàidhlig aige cho math ri duine sam bith a chuir seachd fad a bheatha 'na measg." "Chan feil e coltach," arsa Mgr. Croll, "gu bheil mòran sam bith de Ghaidheil anns a' cheann seo de 'n Union," ach tha e glé thoilichte gun d'fhuair e eòlas air càraid ghlasda a tha fuireach sa' choimhearsnachd. Dòmhnull is Anna Dhòmhnullach, Tirisidh le chèile; agus tha e 'na thlachd mòr dha a bhith cur seachd beagan uairean 'nan cuideachd agus gun fhaicil aca ach a' Ghàidhlig.

San Francisco

THA an t-ochdamh Mòd Bliadhna ri bhith air a' chumail an San Francisco air Di-sathurna, an 29mh de'n Ghiblean. Bithidh na co-fharpaisean àbhaisteach ann—seinn (òrain aon-neach, òrain-càraid, òrain-bhuidhne, puirt-a-beul), aithris, leughadh, còmhraidh, is oidhirpean litreachais. Bidh co-fharpaisean an Gaidhlig na h-Eireann agus anns a' chàinain Chumirich agus canain an Eilein Mhanainnich ann mar an ceudna. Mar anns na bliadhnanachan roimhe, bithidh Seumas Mac-Garaidh air ceann a' ghnòthaich le a shluagh-ghairm, "Na dean dì-chluimhe gur Gaidheil thu!"

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Stirling

I visited the Stirling Branch on 17th February, and presided over a large attendance of members and friends in Millars' Tea Rooms. This Branch has had a most successful session, the monthly meetings being well supported. The Gaelic Class continues to attract many students and good work is being done by Miss Matheson, the teacher. The Gaelic Choir is also doing well under the conductorship of Mrs Tomison. The Branch and Choir have each contributed the splendid sum of £20 towards the Stirling section of the Stirlingshire, Perthshire, and Dundee Stall of the Great Feill. Mr. John MacNicol, President, and Mrs. Scott, Secretary, are worthy of special mention for the splendid work they are doing.

Paisley

I presided over the weekly meeting of the Paisley Highlanders Association on 25th February. There was an attendance of over 200 people and it was encouraging to know that this is a fair average of attendance throughout the session. The Gaelic Class is well supported, and the Rev. A. C. MacGillivray, Gaelic Instructor, informed me that good progress is being made by the students.

Oban and Lorn Association

ON the invitation of Mrs. C.B. Dunlop, President, I attended a Ceilidh of the Oban and Lorn Association in the Highlanders' Institute, on 7th March, and gave a short address during the tea interval. I was glad of the opportunity of conveying to the large company present the thanks of An Comunn for their support of the Mod during many years. I should be glad to attend meetings of the Affiliated Societies from time to time and convey to them our appreciation of their effort and general support.

Largs

THE Largs branch has had a very successful session. I attended a Ceilidh there on 9th March. The Rev. Archd. Beaton was Fear-an-tighe and there was a large attendance of members and friends. Mr. Alasdair Brown is President and Miss Rebecca Bruce, who has been Secretary for many years, continues to give good service to the cause.

Ceilidh nan Gaidheal

ON 11th March I addressed members of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal on my visit to the Cape Breton Mod. I have spoken on this subject in English at a number of places, but this was the first opportunity I had had of relating my experiences entirely in Gaelic. Mr. Hector MacDougall, President, presided over a large attendance. One is glad to find that the Ceilidh is holding its own and providing real Gaelic fare each Saturday evening during a long session.

Arran Festival

I deputised for the President as Gaelic Adjudicator at the Arran Musical Festival on 17th and 18th March. There were seven entries for Scripture reading and five for solo singing, an increase on the previous year. The reading was very well done, and the solo singing carefully prepared and well rendered. Only one Junior Choir entered and they were awarded very good marks for their rendering in unison of "Am falbh thu leam" and puirt-a-beul. Much credit is due Mr. George Falconer, M.A., Headmaster at Whiting Bay, for these Gaelic entries and for the preparation of competitors. He conducts a Gaelic Continuation Class at Lamlash to which students travel from places as far distant as Kildonan and Corrie.

Her Grace The Duchess of Montrose, who was present, is keenly interested in the Gaelic section of the Festival.

Bute

THE Bute Branch of An Comunn at Rothesay is one of the oldest Branches on our list with a continuous record of sessions since 1906. The Branch was originally founded to help with the Great Feill of 1907, to which it gave notable support. The Very Rev. Canon John MacQueen is carrying on the good work of his distinguished predecessors in the office of President, and at a recent meeting Mr. John C. Maclean, Secretary for many years, gave some reminiscences of the good old days. Mr. MacLean and the writer of these notes are among the few remaining original members, and both have held during all these years the respective offices of piper and bard. The Gaelic Evening Continuation Class, which is well supported, has been in operation all winter, and a Ladies Gaelic Choir has been formed.

Marjory Kennedy-Fraser and "Songs of the Hebrides"

By ROSE ETHEL BASSIN

MRS KENNEDY-FRASER'S *Songs of the Hebrides* present a curious problem. In discussing them so much depends upon the point of view. There are the opinions of three different groups to be considered:

- (a) Musically-cultured and concert-going people with no knowledge of Gaelic;
- (b) Gaelic-speaking people with little or no knowledge of the concert-going world;
- (c) Folk-lorists.

From the time the collection first appeared, and throughout the rest of Mrs Kennedy-Fraser's life, her publications and recitals aroused delight in the first group and bewilderment, if not resentment, in the second. The estimate of the third group has yet to be made.

I

MARJORIE KENNEDY was a member of the large family of David Kennedy of Perth, who from the middle of the 'sixties to the middle of the 'eighties of last century gave recitals of Scottish songs literally round the world. As his family grew up they went with him, and the "Singing Kennedys" were known and popular wherever Scottish people were to be found. Marjory was for many years the accompanist on these travels, and was conversant not only with a large body of Lowland Scots song but with her father's vivid methods of interpretation.

In 1887 she married her mother's young cousin, Alec Yule Fraser of Aberdeen, who became headmaster of Allan Glen's Technical School in Glasgow at the early age of thirty-two. He died in 1890, leaving her with two young children, David and Patuffa. For several years she taught singing and pianoforte in Edinburgh. In 1893 the youngest of the six Kennedy sisters, Jessie, married Tobias Matthay. Mrs Kennedy-Fraser early became an exponent of Matthay's principles, helping him in the preparation of his books and in reading the proofs. She was both student and personal friend of Frederic Necks, the biographer of Chopin, at that time Professor of Music in Edinburgh University. For many years, assisted by her brothers Charles and John and her sister Margaret, she gave lecture-recitals on Art Songs and Song Writers of the nineteenth century. These

recitals continued until 1907, when she gave her first Hebridean recital.

It was at the suggestion of John Duncan, the artist, that she first visited Eriskay in 1905.⁽¹⁾ She returned with a large number of unpublished *tunes*, but it was not until later that she secured some Gaelic verses through Alexander Carmichael, of *Carmina Gadelica*. The collaboration with Kenneth MacLeod did not begin until two years later⁽²⁾ For her first recital of Hebridean songs she wrote English words and pianoforte accompaniments.⁽³⁾ Whether authentic or not—and who among her audiences could judge?—the songs and settings were charming and the performances were distinguished by real artistry. In those Edwardian days, when song cycles of fanciful Asiatic origin had had a vogue, these songs echoed real islands which the composer had actually visited. Scholes, Bantock, Newman and Tovey were all enthusiastic. Was it only novelty and skilful presentation that impressed them?

II

SO much for the impression made upon music critics and the concert-going public. What of the Gaelic-speaking world?

It must be remembered that, where in the Highlands and Islands tradition is strongest, there exists least knowledge of sophisticated music. That goes a long way to explain why those from whom the songs were gathered, and those accustomed to hearing them "in the old way," disliked these new versions. Many Highlanders were deeply disappointed on hearing what they had looked forward to as songs of their own island—when they heard a *durchkomponiertes Lied* with only two or three verses instead of the many-versed strophic original; when tiny melodies were stretched on the rack of an elaborate accompaniment that did not make sense to Highland ears, and final phrases were drawn out to produce artificial codas; when the words were re-written or truncated almost

to nothingness or the songs even offered in a romanticised English instead of Gaelic. They were their songs with which these apparent liberties had been taken.

People who, not knowing Gaelic, have attended concerts or *ceilidhs* of the older type have always been struck by the inordinate length of the songs. What they hear is a short tune reiterated almost endlessly, often serving not only as verse but as chorus, in which the audience joins with great enjoyment. The tune to non-Gaelic listeners becomes monotonous, no matter how haunting or beautiful, but the faces of those who understand the language are alert with interest. To the Gael the words *are* the song, the tune being merely the vehicle upon which these words are carried.

III

THESE conflicting claims of tune and language probably explain the different reception given to *Songs of the Hebrides* by Gael and non-Gael. The title obviously led one to expect folk songs, yet Mrs Kennedy-Fraser always emphasised that she was not offering folk-song as such but composed songs based upon folk-melodies.

It was my good fortune to study pianoforte with her at intervals from 1913 onwards. I also had some lessons from her on the singing of her songs and heard several of her recitals, not only in Edinburgh, but in Canada, the last in Alberta and British Columbia as late as 1929. In pianoforte technique, interpretation and general musicianship she was an inspiring and delightful teacher, apart altogether from the enthusiasm she aroused among her students for those wonderful islands where she had gathered her songs.

Her claim that she was 'not a mere folk-song enthusiast' may be taken as a clue to her work. She was not at all pleased about recitalists who presented her songs as "folk-songs." She spoke once of a singer who had sung the whole of *Sea Tangle* unaccompanied. That was not how it was meant to be sung. It was a composition of which the piano accompaniment was an integral part, founded on four songs which she had selected and combined and to which she had given this title.

(1) Descriptions of this visit will be found in the Preface to Volume I of *Songs of the Hebrides* and in her autobiography, *A Life of Song*. Amy T. Murray had been collecting in Eriskay the year before. She writes an impression of the island and gives her notation of several songs in her book, *Father Allan's Island*.

(2) *A Life of Song*, p. 141, footnote.

(3) *Ibid.*, p. 121.

(Continued on page 59)

Bas Chairdean

Dr. Roderick Macleod

THE REV. RODERICK MACLEOD, D.D., Edinburgh, died on 23rd January, in his eightieth year. A native of the Beathly district, he was educated at Rainier's School, Inverness, the Universities of St. Andrews and Glasgow, and the Free (later United Free) Church College, Glasgow. After five years as minister in Clydebank he went to London and founded the large English Presbyterian Church congregation at Froyal. In 1924 he offered his services to the United Free Church, and served it, and from 1929 the re-united Church of Scotland, as Superintendent of Highland Missions for twenty-two years, retiring in 1945.

Dr. Macleod's was an extraordinarily charming and attractive personality, and a large number of people will mourn his death. He was a good friend both to the Highland lay missionaries and to Highland students. A splendid preacher, he was also keenly interested in Gaelic, and possessed a very valuable and extensive Celtic library.

We would express our deep sympathy with his wife and family.

Mr. Donald MacLean

THE death took place at Colyton, Devon, on 22nd February, of Mr. Donald MacLean, a former headmaster of Govan High School. He was 82 years of age. Mr. MacLean was of Hebridean parentage and was a fluent Gaelic speaker. He had a very successful career as a teacher. In 1912 he became headmaster of Church Street School, Glasgow, and in 1919 was promoted to Govan High School headmastership where he remained until his retirement in 1932. During his thirteen years there his pupils won over £9,000 in scholarships and bursaries.

Mr. MacLean was a prominent member of the Executive Council of An Comunn and of the Publication Committee. He was also closely associated with the Clan MacLean Society and the Inverness-shire Association.

Mrs. J. E. Scott

MRS SCOTT, who passed away at her home at Stronachullin, Ardrishaig, on 5th March, after a short illness, was better known throughout Gaeldom as Miss Annetta C.

Whyte, only daughter of Henry Whyte ("Fionn"). She gained the Junior Silver Medal for solo-singing at the Dundee Mod in 1902, and the Gold Medal for Seniors in the following year at Inverness. She also gained many prizes at Mods for collections of unpublished Gaelic songs with music. Many songs from her collections are published in *Còisir a' Mhòid* and *Oraib a' Mhòid*. For a time she taught in the school at Loch Etive. For several sessions she was employed by the Propaganda Committee of An Comunn in conducting singing classes in many parts of the Highlands. Up to the time of her last illness she was preparing competitors for the Dalriada Mod.

We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband, Mr. James E. Scott, who is himself well-known as a contributor to the press and to *An Gaidheal* on Highland subjects.

Mrs. MacIntyre

THE death took place in an Edinburgh nursing home on 15th March of Mrs. Mary MacIntyre, Carrbridge Hotel. She had been a Life Member of An Comunn for many years and was a regular visitor to National Mods. When she and her husband were lessees of the Breadalbane Arms Hotel, Kenmore, they were staunch supporters of the local branch of An Comunn, and Mrs. MacIntyre often took part in Gaelic dialogues. She is survived by an only son to whom we extend our sympathy.

CUIMHNICH NA LAOIGH

AGUS

CUIDICH AN OIGRIDH

(An àireamh a' Ghearrain sgrìobh Iain N. MacLeòid anns a' *Ghaidheal Og* mu'n Urramach Murchadh Mac a' Ghobhann nach maireann, bard Leòdhasach; agus bha òraid aig Seumas MacThòmais —'An Taigh Dubh.' Fuair sinn litir bhuidheachais air son an dà nì sin bhò Choinneach D. Mac a' Ghobhann, mac do'n Urramach Murchadh, agus chuir e chugainn an t-òran seo shuas a rinn athair agus nach robh riann roimhe an clò. Tha ar mór-thaig aige. Chan 'eil an seo ach a h-òchd a mach as na ceithir rannan deug a tha anns an òran.—F-D.)

An t-Seann Dachaidh

Leis an URR. MURCHADH MAC A' GHOBHANN

1. Am bothan beag còir 's na thogadh mi òg
'Na luigh' ann an sgòid Cnoc Shàide,
An diugh air a chlà gun anail
'na chòir,
Gun chathair, gun stòl 'na làraich.
2. Bha m'aigne 's an àm bho smuaintean ro throm
Nuair a chunnaic mi lom do làrach,
Nuair a ghluaiseadh gu léir gach leabaidh is séis
Bu chianail do chéis air fhàgail.
3. Tha t'eachdraidh chaomh an tasgadh 'nam thaobh
Ri labhairt 's cha chaochail bàs,
Chan fhac mi do 'n d'heòin do bhalla gun dòigh
'S do chabair gun chòmhdach blàth orr'.
4. Nuair sgaoilleadh a chèò, bu chaomh leam bhith foidhpe
Cur faoil air gach còis 's an fhàrdaich
Gun éireadh i suas mar neul air a' chuan
Cur sgéith mar an stuadh troimh 'n fhàirleus.
5. Na cearcan cho dlùth air spiris 's an t-sùich
'S an teagannan rùisgt' le blàths oirr',
Bhiodh uibhean gu leòr mu Nollaig air bòrd
Bhiodh bainn' agus feòil 's buntàt' ann.
6. Nuair a thigeadh an oidhch' 's a shuidheadh sinn cruinn
Bhiodh fuaim aig a' chuibhle ghnàth ann,
Chan fhaca mi riann an dachaidh ach dian
Ri cìreadh is snìomh is càrdadh.
7. Chan iongnadh le thùrs ged shìleadh mo shùil
Ri faicinn na lùchairt bhàigheil,
Gun innt' ach a' bhrùid 'nan luighe fo'n t-sùich
Is cuid anns an ùir bha tàmh innt'.
8. Ach teannaigh an aois ri sgaradh gach taobh
Gach ceangal rinn gaol 's an fhàsach
Is tagraidh an uaigh gach nì a tha uairp;
'S e obair gun truas a' bhàis e.

(An còrr sa' chòlhbh roimhe)

"Gaidheal Gu Chul"

Gilleasbuig Mac na Ceardaich

Le NIALL MAC 'ILLE SHEATHANAICH

(Chaidh an òraid seo a liubhart air an ràdio)

CHAN 'EIL neach a leugh a bheag idir de litreachas Gàidhlig nach 'eòlach air na faicil seo aig toiseach a' mhòr-chuid de na leabhraichean, "Clò-bhuaithe Glaschu" Mac na Ceàrdaich, Glaschu." Theag-amh nach tug iad an còrr smuain do'n duine seo, no do'n mhiseach agus do'n chuideachadh a thug e do luchd-sgrìobhaidh Gàidhlig, an dà chuid rosg is bàrdachd.

Bha trì ginealach ann de'n ainm seo, agus nach e còir an t-seanar a bhith air ainmeachadh an toiseach. Rugadh Gilleasbuig Mac na Ceàrdaich a h-Aon ann am Muileandrath an Ile anns a' bhliadhna 1813. Bha e 'na dhuine pòda mun do thòisich e air togail ceàird a' chlà-bhuailidh, agus anns a' bhliadhna 1848 thòisich e air a làimh fhéin an Sràid Earraghaidheal an Glaschu.

Is iomadh Gàidheal ainmeil a rinn bùth Gilleasbuig 'na thaigh-céilidh, agus am measg nam maithnean mòra a bhiodh a' tadhal air bha "Caraid nan Gaidheal" agus a mhac, Tormod—an Tormod Og sin a bha cho ainmeil mar sgrìobhaiche agus mar phearsa eagrais. Is cinnteach gur e an càirdas agus an dlùth-chomhluid a bha eadar an dà shàr-Ghaidheal seo—"Caraid nan Gaidheal" agus Gilleasbuig Mac na Ceàrdaich—a dhùisg spiorad na bàrdachd anns a' chlà-bhuailidh adair an uair a dh'eadar-theangaich e an t-òran, "Fionn-airigh," gu Gàidhlig. Thubhairt mi "spiorad na bàrdachd," oir tha dreach na fìor-bhàrdachd air gach sreath is rann de'n òran a tha nis nas caithreamhaiche an Gàidhlig na tha e mar dhealbhadh air thùs e.

Chaochail an ceud Gilleasbuig anns a' bhliadhna 1870 aig aois leth-cheud 's a seachd. Cha robh an dara Gilleasbuig ach còig bliadhna deug a dh'aois an uair a chaochail 'athair, ach ghabh e air féin cùram na h-obrach agus dh'fhàs e cho soirbheachail is gum b'fheadar cairtealan eile a ghabhail a dheanamh comasach dha an obair a ghiùlan air aghaidh agus gabhail ris na bha e sìor-thighinn 'na rathad. Fhuair e seòmraichean air Sràid Bothwell agus chuir e suas innleachdan ùra mar bha iad sin a' tighinn am follais. Goirid an dèidh sin rinn e imrich eile gu Sràid Waterloo far an do dh'fhuair e àireamh mhór bhliadhnanachan.

A dh'aindeoin gach gairm a bha air, co-cheangailte ri a obair mar chlà-bhuailidh, ghabh e còthrom air bàrdachd Gàidhlig, a dh'fhaodadh dol, no a rachadh, a dhith, a thionail, agus is iomadh cùil is fròg anns an deach e a sholar an ni sin a ghabh e air fhéin mar dhleasdanas sònraichte. Is iomadh sgeul beag éibhinn a bhiodh aige 'gan innseadh do a chàirdean anns a' bhaile an dèidh nan cuairtean. Ged a rugadh 's a thogadh am baile Ghlaschu e, bha e cho comhlionta air bruidhinn is sgrìobhadh na Gàidhlig is ged a bhiodh e air àrach mu'n Leanar Bhuidhe am Muileandrath. Bu bhan-leach a bu mhàthair dha, agus nach blàth anail na màthar, gu h-àraidh ma tha Gàidhlig aice.

DHIOGHLAIM Gilleasbuig á iomadh achadh agus thug e am follais duanagan beaga laghach, a chluinnear gu caithreamach an diugh, a rachadh gu tìr na dì-chuimhne mur b'e a shaothair is a dhealas. Cha b'iad na bàird mhóra a bha fò aice ach iadsan nach d'fhuair de ghìbht bho'n Cheòlraidh ach comas aon duanag a chur ri chèile. Thionail e uile gu léir 290 òran, agus thug e buil a shaothrach do'n t-saoghal Gàidhlig anns an leabhar, "An t-Oranaiche," a chlà-bhuailidh e anns a' bhliadhna 1879.

Nach prìseil, maireannach an cuimhneachan sin—càrn litreachais nach crìon cho fad 's a labhar Gàidhlig, no, mar theiradh Niall MacLeòid, "cho fad 's a bhios sibhan na mara a' bualadh air carraig." Chan 'eil ach aon leabhar eile ri choimeas ris, agus is e sin, "Sar-Obair nam Bàrd Gaidhealach." Chaidh MacCoinnich a dh'ionnsaigh nam bàrd mòra, a' dol air ais na ceudan bliadhna gu "Mordubh" agus "Collath." Chuir esan ri chèile oirbheachan Mhic Mhaighistir Alasdair, Dhonnchaidh Bhàim, 's an leithdhean sin de churaidhean, ach, mar a thubhairt Gilleasbuig Mac na Ceàrdaich anns an roimh-ràdh a sgrìobh e fhéin: "Dhìoghlaim mi ann an iomadh achadh. Thionail mi iomadh dias, seagal, eòrna, coirce is cruithneachd, a riarachadh nan uile a réir an càil. Shaor mi iomadh gineil bhàrdail o a bhith air an adhlacadh ann an uigh na dì-chuimhne. Shàbhaileadh cu'd eile dhiubh a bha air faondradh

ann an duilleachain bheaga, shuarach o bhith 'nam biadh do na leomann."

Am measg nam bàrd do an tug e àite, agus air a bheil sinn uile eòlach, tha Eòghan MacColla, Màiri NicEalair, Niall MacLeòid, Dùghall MacPhàil, Dòmhnall MacEacharn. Thug e dhùinn, ach beag, co-chruinneachadh iomlan de òrain an Lighiche Iain Mhic-Lachainn, Rathuaidh—a dhà air fhichead dhiubh—agus nach bu mhath an cunnradh sin fhéin ann an aon leabhar. Chuir MacCoinnich trì cheud, trì fichead 's a naoi òrain ann an "Sar-Obair nam Bàrd," agus, cho fad 's a chaidh agamsa air an dà leabhar a choimeas ri chèile, chan 'eil ach mu chòig òrain a gheibhear anns gach aon dhiubh.

Nach beairteach ar cànan ann am bàrdachd an uair a gheibh sibh ann an dà leabhar mar seo se' ceud gu leth òran de rogha is taghadh cainnte, grinneas fhacal, is binneas shèistean, a bheir togardh is mìsneach agus a dh'ardaicheas meas air na daoine bho'n tàinig sinn!

IS ann anns an "Oranaiche" a fhuair sinn na h-òrain éibhinn, shunndach sin: "Banais Mòr Chamaraoin," "Am Ministear 's am Bàillidh," "Dòmhnall an Dànnsair," agus "Horò, Dòmhnall Ciomanach." Agus is ann ann a leugh mòran againn "A' Chaille Ghruamach" aig a' Bhàrd MacGilleathain an toiseach, agus a lion e sinn le iongnadh mu cìod an t-àite uamhasach anns an robh a chòmhnuidh. Chan 'eil eilean an Inne-Gall—tuath no deas—nach 'eil air a riochdachadh le òran de sheòrsa air chor-eigin. Is ann an seo a fhuair sinn "An gleann 's an robh mi òg" agus "Fàilte do'n Eilean Sgitheanach" le Niall MacLeòid, oir cha tàinig "Clàrsach an Doire" a mach gu ceann ceithir bliadhna as deidh an "Oranaiche" agus is e Gilleasbuig Mac na Ceàrdaich a chuir an clò e. Tha mòran eile ann a dh'fhaodar ainmeachadh ach is e dleasdanas gach Gaidheal is Bana-Ghaidheal an leabhar a bhith aig làimh agus an t-ionnhas prìseil a tha ann a chnuasachd gu crìnach.

Am measg leabhraichean eile a thug Gilleasbuig Mac na Ceàrdaich a mach bha leabhar laoidhean leis an Ollamh Ceallaigh

(An cùrr air t. d. 54)

MacCalum; "An t-Eileanach" le Iain MacPhàidèin; "Na Bàird Uibhisteach" leis an Urramach Gillesbuig MacDhòmhnaill; "Eachdraidh Beatha Chrosd" leis an Urramach Iain MacRuairidh; an "Celtic Garland" agus "Leabhar na Cèlthidh" le "Fionn"; agus "Laoidhean is Orain Gobha na Hearadh," leis an Ollamh Seòras MacEanraig. Is esan a chlà-bhuail am mìosachan gach a bha Iain MacAoidh ag cur a mach fo'n ainm, "The Celtic Monthly." Bha mòran eile ann, ach fòghnaidh iad sin a leigeil ris an obair ionmholta a rinn an dara Gillesbuig Mac na Ceàrdaidh.

A bharrachd air cùram na h-obrach agus na bha de luchd-dreuchd fo a aire, ghabh e bine air cuid a ghabhail anns na comuinn dhùthchail a dh'èirich suas an Glaschu, agus bha e aig àm 'na Cheann-suidhe air a' Chomunn Ieach agus 'na Fhear-cathrach aig aon de na cuirm bhliadhnaile aca. Bha e mar an ceudna air Comhairle a' Mhòid.

Chaochail e 'na dhuine òg—dà fhichead 's a naoi—agus chaidh a thiodhlacadh an cladh *Southern Necropolis* an Glaschu, agus—rud nach b' iongnadh—bha slugh mòr an lathair.

An dèidh an duine chaoimh sin thàinig a mhac, Gillesbuig, gu bhith a' riaghladh na h-obrach, agus chùm esan a suas deagh chliù athar agus a sheanar agus ri a latha chuireadh a mach mòran eile de leabhraichean Gàidhlig. "Nam measg bha "Am Fear-Ciùil" agus mìosachan a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach. "An Deò Gréine."

Mar mhac an deagh athar cha do rinn e dearmad air a' Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh, agus rachadh aige air a labhairt agus air a' sgrìobhadh. Am measg nam foghlumach a bha ag gabhail Gàidhlig am buidheann-feasgair Ard-Seoil Ghlaschu choisinn e na duaisean a b' àirde. Bha e 'na Iar-Cheann-suidhe air a' Chomunn Ieach agus 'na bhall de Ard-Chomhairle a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach. Aig a' Mhòd a bha an Glaschu an 1907 bha e 'na Ionmhasair Ionadail.

AN dèidh aona bliadhna deug air ceann a' chlà-bhuailidh fhuair e bàs ath-ghoirid agus ghabh Alasdair a bhràthair àite, agus chùm esan an obair air agaidh gus an tug e thairis i do chuideachd eile. Ri a latha-san chuireadh a mach leabhraichean a Gàidhlig 's am Beurla, mar tha "Guthan o na Beanntan," "The Active Gael," "Bàrdachd Eòghain MhicColla," "Crònan nan Tonn."

Tha an uaisle agus an ceanalas a bu dual ann an Alasdair Mac na Ceàrdaidh, mar is math tha fios

agam, oir rinn mi gnòthach ris fad dà bhliadhna dheug ar fheadh.

A thaobh obair clò-bhuailidh, bu mhaith leam a ràdh gu bheil mòran ag gabhail os làimh obair clò-bhuailidh Gàidhlig a dheanamh nach 'eil a' deanamh an obair-chlò iad fhéin ach 'ga thoirt a mach do mhuintir eile. Cha b'e sin e do Gillesbuig Mac na Ceàrdaidh agus a shliochd. Bha beairtean acasan iad fhéin, agus bha gach ni co-cheangailte ris an obair air a dheanamh fo an stiùradh féin. Bu mhór an t-sochair agus an carbsa sin. Bha gach leabhar air

a shàr chlà-bhuailidh ann an dreach a bha taitneach do'n t-sùil agus 'na thoil-inntinn a laimh-seachadh is a leughadh. Bha blàth na làimhe Gàidhlig agus caomhalachd a' chridhe Ghaidhealach air gach duilleig dheadh.

Bha iad ceithir fichead bliadhna 's a seachd-deug air ceann clò-bhuailidh agus, ged tha an t-ainm fathast am bith, tha sinn ag ionndrainn na fàilte Ghaidhealach. Tha sinn ag cur na cloiche seo air an càrn agus ag cur an cèill ar taing dhaibh air son an tiodhlaic huachmhoir a dh'fhàg iad againn.

Am Bochd Ruadh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOD

BHA ann roimhe seo gaisgeach mòr, làidir, cròdha d'am b'ainm Niall Bàn. Phòs e bean a bha cho canranach, gearnach is gum briseadh i cridhe iomadh fir; ach is ann a bha e fhéin suairce agus tlàth 'na nàdur, 's e sìor-fhiachainn ri maith a dheanamh an aghaidh an uilc.

Bha iad ag còmhnuidh ri taobh an rathaid mhòir, dlùth do bhruach aibhne. Cha robh drochaid thairis air an abhainn ach gàradh leathann ris an abradh idir clacharan no crò. Is iomadh beatha a shàbhail Niall air a' chlacharan. An uair a chluinneadh e glaoch na h-èiginn bhiodh e mach, agus spionadh e an neach a bha sa' ghàbhadh a' cunnart. Shnàmhadh e mar an sgarbh, agus bha e làidir mar an t-aibhnean.

Dh'fhàs an duine cho iomraitheach air son a threubhantais is gun do shuidhich uachdaran na sgrìre suim airgid air mar shaor-dhuais bhliadhnaile.

Oidhche bha siud, an dèidh gabhail gu fois, thuirte Niall: "Tha mi ag cluinntinn guth bhronaich air a' chlacharan."

"Tha thu," arsa Gearanach, "ag cluinntinn an rud nach 'eil ann."

"Eisd fhéin is cluinn e, ma tà," "Tha mise ag innsadh dhuit nach toirt thu duine steach an seo an nochd."

"Ach, a bhean, tha am Facal fhéin ag ràdh, 'Na dearmadaibh aoiagheachd a thoirt do choirich.'"

"Gu dearbh is mise a tha sgith de'n fhacal sin! Ach nam b'ann agad a bhiodh biadh is leabaidd a dheanamh dhaibh, cha toireadh tu leat gach siapaire leig a bheir coinneamh riut!"

Gun tuilleadh dàlach bha Niall aig a' chlacharan ag èigheach, "Cò tha sin?"

Fhearraig siud, "Tha déirceach truaigh gu leòir."

Ruith Niall a null is chunnaic e cosla duine 'na laighe. Rug e air làimh air ga thogail, ach dh'èigh an duine, "Fòil, fòil, chan 'eil orm ach leth-chas."

Ghabh Niall 'na achlais e is thug e steach e, agus cha robh Gearanach fada gus an d'fhuair i biadh is leabaidd dhà.

An ath latha is ann a shuidhich Niall gum faigheadh an truaigh seo latha aig a' chlacharan ag iarraidh déirce orra-san a bhiodh ag gabhail an rathaid. Bha deise ruadh, daithe le crotal nan clach air, agus currac de'n dath cheudna le crios anns gach taobh ceangailte fo a smig.

B'ann mar sin a thug an slugh "Am Bochd Ruadh" air. Ach beag no mòr 's a bha e faighinn aig a' chlacharan, chan fhaicheadh neach eile sgillinn deth.

Air oidhche àraidh thubhairt am Bochd Ruadh, "Tha mi ri uchd bàis, oir thàinig a' ghairm." "A dhuine bochd," arsa Niall, "a bheil peighinn idir agad a chodas tu ri léigh fhaotainn air do shon?"

Airgead no airgead cha robh aig a' bhodach, ma b'fhuir dhà fhéin.

Thuirte Niall gun rachadh e dh'iarraidh sagairt.

"Cha téid," arsa am fear eile, "Tha thu ro amnoch air son léigh no sagairt. Cha tig sagart no casbùg an seo; ach tha aon nì bu mhaith leam thu a dheanamh air mo sheon. Is e sin gun cuir thu mise fo'n talamh le mo churrac biorach, ruadh mar a tha mi an seo."

Chosd Niall ri a adhlacadh gu cìreachdail.

Goirid an dèidh sin, dhùsg Niall as a chadal leis an èiginn umhaasaich, uamhasaich, "Am Bochd Ruadh! Am Bochd Ruadh!"

"Cionnas," arsa Gearanach, "tha thu 'ga fhaicinn?"

(An còrr air t.d. 60)

Annas a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

AN FHEILL MHOR

THA sinn an dòchas gu bheil fhios aig gach ball de'n Chomunn gu bheil ullachadh 'ga dhanamh o chionn greis fa chomhair na Fèill Mòire a tha ri bhith an Glaschu anns a' Mhàigh.

Ri linn a' chogaidh mu dheireadh chruinnich An Comunn Gaidhealach còrr is deich mìle pundo Sasannach gus comfhurtan a thoirt do na feachdan-catha agus carbadan-bidhe is carbadan-eiridinn is stuth-leughaidh is goireasan eile fhaotainn dhaibh. Bu mhór an obair sin, agus tha ar taing aca-san uile a thug cuideachadh seachad.

Cha luaithe a thàinig crìoch air a' chogadh na thòisich buidheann —an dearbh bhuidheann a bha air cheann na h-oibre a dh'aicinn mi—le dealas is dùrachd ri fichead mìle no trì chruinneachadh. Agus car son? A chum 's gun tèid againn air ar buidheann do'n mhuinntir a chathair air ar sgàth anns a' chogadh a chur an cèill an dòigh iomchuidh agus cuimhneachan a chur suas dhaibh-san a leig sìos am beatha an seirbhis na riochachd.

Tha iomadh seòrsa cuimhneachain a dh'fhaodamaid a chur air chois—carragh cloiche no togalach air chor-eigin—ach tha An Comunn Gaidhealach a' rùnachadh cuimhneachan a chur suas anns am bi fada barrachd na luach an aird a ghabhas e 'ga chur suas. Tha sinn am beachd an t-airgead a chur gu feum ann a bhith a' solar ionaid no ionadan a chum feum Comunn na h-Oigridh, agus a cheannach dhaibh gach achuinn is goreas a dh'fheumas iad, agus sin a chum 's gun tèid Comunn na h-Oigridh air aghaidh, a' fàs ann an àireamh agus ann am maith a chum leas oigridh na Gaidhealtachd.

CHAN urrainn cànan is cliù nan Gaidheal mairsinn mur gabh gach ginealach ùr a dh'èireas suas speis anns a' chànan agus anns a' chliù sin. Tha iomadh nì eile san t-saoghal a th'ann a' tàladh oigridh na Gaidhealtachd air falbh bhò na nithean prìseil a bhùineas dhaibh mar dhìleab o'n sinnisreachd. Ma tha sinne, mar Chomunn, ri rùintean a' Chomuinn a thoirt gu làn-bhuil, feumaidh sinn taic na h-oigridh a bhosnadh, agus feumaidh sinn a chur cur an tairge dhaibh-san gach còthrom is cobhair as urrainn a chum 's gun ionnsaich iad agus gun gabh iad tlachd anns na

nithean taitneach a bhùineas dhuinn mar shluagh—nithean a bheil dhaibh fhéin mór-chuideachadh agus mór-thoileachadh rè am beatha.

Cha b'urrainn dhuinn cuimhneachan nas fheàrr na sin fhaotainn— a bhith cuimhneachadh nan laoch le bhith ag cuideachadh na h-oigridh.

De'n fhichead mìle pundo Sasannach a chuir sinn romhainn a chruinneachadh cha d'fhuir sinn fhathast ach còig mìle, ach is e

ar dòchas gum bi na còig mìle deug a tha fhathast a dhìth oirnn againn aig deireadh na Fèille.

A chum 's gun soirbheich leis an Fhèill mar is còir feumaidh a h-uile neach aig a bheil ùidh an ann oigridh agus anns a' Ghàidhlig — co-dhiubh is 'e no nach e ball de'n Chomunn a th'ann—cuideachadh a thoirt seachad, agus mar is luaithe 's ann is fheàrr. "Cuimhnic na laoch: cuidich an oigridh."

Feill News

17-20 MAY, 1950

ARRANGEMENTS proceed apace for the Grand Feill to be held in the St. Andrews Halls, Glasgow, on 17-20 May, 1950, in aid of An Comunn Gaidhealach's War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund.

It will be recalled that the purpose of this Fund is to raise the sum of £20,000 to provide a worthy memorial of the service and sacrifice of Highland men and women during the late war.

The memorial will take the form of a large-scale development of the Gaelic Youth Movement (Comunn na h-Oigridh) by providing such buildings, equipment, etc., as may be required for interesting and instructing the children and youth of the Highlands and Islands in activities which will both prepare them for adult life and engender a respect and love for the best traditions of the past, especially Gaelic language, literature, music, and culture.

Already about £5,000 has been raised, and it is hoped to raise the remaining £15,000 at the Grand Feill. Much hard work has already been done, and is now being done, with very many people busy day and night.

We gave information about the various stalls in our February Number (p.23), and we now add some further information.

TO the list of Patrons there have been added the following: Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, Major-General Alexander Telfer-Smollett (Lord Lieutenant of the County of Dunbarton), Dr. John Cameron, LL.B. (Ex-President of An Comunn), Mrs Winston Churchill, Senator and Mrs Ralph Flanders of Vermont, and the Rev.

Kenneth MacLeod, D.D. (formerly of Gigha).

The following additional information about the various stalls is given.

Argyll and the Isles Stall. Patrons: add Mrs Shroeder, Mr and Mrs Harper Nelson, and Captain Dugald MacLachlan.

Comunn na h-Oigridh Stall. The Patrons are Mr and Mrs Cameron-Head and Mrs Marjoriebanks, and the Convener is Mr Hector MacDougall.

Edinburgh and the South-East Stall. The Patrons are: Earl of Eglinton and Winton, Earl of Home, Earl of Haddington, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Earl of Selkirk, Earl Haig of Bemsersyde, The Lady Stratheden and Campbell, The Countess of Ellesmere, and The Countess of Dysart.

Glasgow, Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, and Lanarkshire Stall. The Patron is Sir Ivar Colquhoun, and Lady Colquhoun has been appointed a Convener.

Inverness-shire and Glasgow Skye Association Stall. Conveners: add Miss C. Fraser.

Lewis and Harris and Uist and Barra Stall. Patron: The Duchess of Hamilton. Conveners: Miss Graham, Miss Mackenzie.

Scottish American Stall. Conveners: Marie Mrs MacNeill of Barra, Mrs Kennedy-Fraser.

Stirlingshire, Perthshire and Dundee Stall. Conveners: add Mrs Miller, Mrs Gibson, Mrs MacDonald.

S.W.R.I. (Stirlingshire Federation) Stall. Convener: Mrs Innes.

Ross and Sutherland Stall. Conveners: add Mrs Corbett.

Overseas Stall. Convener: Lord Inverclyde.

(Continued on page 60)

An Ard-Chomhairle

CHUMADH Coinneamh Gháidhlig Ard-Chomhairle a' Chomunn Ghaidhealaich an Aitreibh nan Gaidheal, Glaschu, air Di-haoine, an 24mh lá de'n Mhàrt. Bha an Ceann-suidhe, Mgr. Iain M. MacGhille-na, Brataich, anns a' chathair agus bha seachd ar fhichead de na buill an làthair.

Rinn an Ceann-suidhe iomradh faireachail air bás chàirdean mar a leanas:—"Is ann le duilgheadas mòr a chuala sinn gun do chaochail ar caraid caomh, Dòmhnall Seathach MacFhionghuin. Cha robh e ro mhath 'na shlàinte o cheann greis ach bha sinn an dùil 's an dòchas gu rachadh e na b'fheàrr. Ach cha robh sinn ann an dàn, agus chaill an Comunn deagh charaid agus fear-obriche dileas, dùrachdach. Is fhada a bhios sinn, agus gu sònraichte Gaidheil Dhun-éideann, 'ga ionndrainn. Tha e iomchuidh agus ceart gun cuireamaid a mach bhò'n choinneimh seo ar co-fhàrachdainn dh'ionnsaigh a pheathar 'na h-aonarachd is 'na bròn.

"Chaochail, cuideachd, bean-ualas a bha 'na cul-taibh anns gach obair a tha a' buntainn ri ar dùthaich agus gu sònraichte ri còbl ar dùthcha, a' bhean-ualas A. C. Scott, no, mar a b'fheàrr a b'aithe dhuinne i, Netta Nic 'Ille Bhàin—no Netta Whyte—nigean an t-sàr-Ghaidheil sin, "Fionn." Choinnig i gach duais a b'airde bha aig a' Chomunn ri thoirt seachd ann an seinn agus air son co-chruinneachadh òran nach robh roimhe ann an clòdh. Bha i cuideachd 'na bean-theagaisg fo Chomhairle a' Chraobh-sgaoilidh ag uidheamachadh co-fharpais each air son nam Mòdan Dùitreachail. Bidh sinn 'ga h-ionndrainn mar bhean-ualas chaomh, ro chuibhneil, agus mar cho-obriche ainmichte an cor ar tìr is ar teanga."

Leughadh Gearr-sheanchas na coinneimh roimhe agus chaidh gabhail ris.

Thugadh aithisg bho chomh-choinneimh de Chomhairle an Earail agus an Ionmhais gun deach Mgr. Calum MacLòid a thaghadh mar Iar-Rùnaire agus gu robh e a nis air ceann dleas-danais. Chuir an Ceann-suidhe fàilte chridheil air Mgr. MacLòid agus ghuidh e gach soirbheachadh a bhith leis.

Leughadh Gearr-sheanchas air coinneimh de Chomhairle an Ionmhais. Thug a' Chomhairle aithisg gu robh £1,984 thairis air Mòd Inbhir-Nis, an cèidh gach cosdas is saor-dhuaisean a phaidheadh. Bha seo air a mheas fionn

mhaith agus rinneadh iomradh taingeil air an obair uile, gu h-àraidh an Inbhir-Nis, a thug gu buil cho soirbheachail am Mòd seo. Thug a' Chomhairle aire chùramach ann a bhith a' faighinn neach a ghabhadh àite Mhgr. Greach mar Ionmhasair. Tha a' Chomhairle am beachd gu bheil e ion-fheumach a chum an obair a bhith làn èifeachdach gun bi an Rùnaire agus an t-Ionmhasair air an aon taigheadas agus gu feumar oidhirp shònraichte a dheanamh gu cairtealan ùra fhaighinn. Dh'aontaich Mgr. Greum fuireach ann an dreuchd gus an là mu dheireadh de'n Og-mhios gu còthrom a thoirt do'n Chomhairle ullachadh freagarrach a dheanamh.

Am Miosachan

LEUGHADH Gearr-sheanchas air comh-choinneimh de Chomhairle an Ionmhais agus a' Chlòdh-bhuallaidh. Bheachdaich a' choinneamh seo as ùr air iarrtas na Comhairle Ghnìomhaich mu dheidhinn suidheachadh a' mhìosachain, *An Gaidheal*. Thug iad làn breithe-neachd do'n cheist bho gach aomhadh, air cosdas clòdh-bhuallaidh, reic is tighinn-a-stigh bho fhòillseachaidhean. Tha iad ag clùthachadh mar a leanas:—

- Gum bi *An Gaidheal* air a chur a mach gach mìos mar aig an àm seo.
- Gum bi a' phris sè sgillinn mar aig an àm.
- Gum bi a' phris a bhios aig buill a' Chomuinn ri phàidheadh sè tasdain (6/-) sa' bhliadhna, saor leis a' phosta.
- Gum bi a dhreach mar tha e aig an àm ach (1) gum bi e air a lùghdachadh gu 16 taobh-duilleig (an earrann "An Gaidheal Og" diubbh seo). (2) Gum bi am barrachd taobh-duilleig an clòdh as motha (4 taobh-duilleig a' "Ghaidheil Oig" agus 6 taobh-duilleig an dà cholbh, a' chuid cile an trì cuilbh). (3) Ma gheibhear foillseachaidhean a dhleas e, tha cead aig an Fhear-dheasachaidh am mìosachan a mheudachadh gu 20 taobh-duilleig.
- Gun dean An Comunn gu h-iomlan oidhirp air a' mhìosachan a reic agus gun dean buill na Comhairle Ghnìomhaich, gu h-àraidh, oidhirp air ceathrar an urra fhaighinn a cheannachas am mìosachan, cho math ri iad a

phàidheadh cis bhliadhnaile mar buhail.

- Gum bi cis-bhliadhnaile a' Ghaidheil air a phàidheadh roimh-làimh, bhò'n cheud là de'n Og-mhios gus an là mu dheireadh de'n Ghiblein.

Faodar ath-bheachdachadh air na nithean seo an cèidh sè mìosan a dhòl seachad.

Bheachdaich a' choinneamh air tairgsean bho chlàdh-bhuallairean agus an cèidh na prìsean a sgrùdadh shònraichte clòdh-bhuallaidh a' Ghaidheil a thoirt do'n Chaledonian Press, Glaschu.

Chaidh gabhail ris a' Ghearr-sheanchas seo air iarrtas an Urramaich Tòmas M. MacCalmain, air a chòmhachadh leis a' Cheann-suidhe.

Leughadh Gearr-sheanchas air dà choinneimh de Chomhairle a' Mhòid is a' Chiuil. Leig iad seo ris gu bheil clar-eagair Mòd na h-ath bhliadhna air a shocrachadh agus gu bheil dùil ris na h-òran uile a bhith an clòdh aig toiseach an fhoghair. Thugadh aithisg gun do thairg Mgr. Sutharlan, Baile nam Fìrisalach, Cupan airgid fa chomhar co-fharpais nam fìdhelearan. Ghabh a' Chomhairle ri seo le mòr thuing agus bidh an Cupan 'nan lèimh roimh àm a' Mhòid an Dun-omhainn.

Campa Shuardail

LEUGHADH Gearr-sheanchas air coinneimh de Chomhairle Comunn na h-Oigridh. Thug Fear-deilbhe na h-Airde Tuath aithisg gun do chuireadh 482 ball ri àireamh nam Feachdan ann an Eilean Sgitheanch, Uibhist a Deas, agus Barraich. Bheachdaich a' Chomhairle a rithis air Campa aig Suardail bhò'n 27mh là de'n Iuchar gus an 7mh là de'n Lùnastal. Tha seo air son luchd-ionnsachaidh Gàidhlig a mhàin agus tha dùil ri còig caileagan fichead a bhith ann—deich caileagan a tha ag gabhail Gàidhlig mar chuspair an sgoilean Ghlaschu, agus coig-deug as a' Cheann Tuath. Bidh riaghailtean a' Campa seo co-ionann ri riaghailtean Campa Inbhir-Ailleirt.

Chuir Mgr. Aonghas MacIomhair an Rùn a leanas agus air an tug e rabhadh aig a' choinneimh roimhe:—Gum bi Frith-Lagh 32 air a chur a mach agus na leanas air a chur 'na àite:—"Théid an tuarasdal, na bhios a leithid air a thoirt seachd, a tha ri a phàidheadh dhaibh-san a dhleas e mar dhìolaidh air son seirbheisean sònraichte, a shocrachadh leis a'

(An corr air t.d. 62)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN GIBLEAN, 1950

Aireamh 4

Fo'n Eallach

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“BHA mi anns a' Cheàrdaich an diugh agus chuala mi iad a' bruidheann air eallach.

Thòisich iad air an t-seanchas an uair a leugh fear aca an t-iomradh a bha sa' *Ghaidheal* air Mac an t-Srònaich agus am fear mór a thug am bolla mine á Stèòrnabhagh air a dhruim do'n Scarp. Thuirt fear de na bodaich aca, 'Bha fear am Baile-an-tochair agus thug e fhéin bolla mine dhachaidh á Drochaid a' Bhanna.'

“'Cia lion mìle a bha sin?' ars an treas fear; agus chaidh an cunntas da.

“'An robh an rathad mór aige fo chois?' ars an ath-fhear.

“'Bha,' ars an goistidh, am bodach, 'agus creid mise gu robh e cruaidh gu leòir fo na casan aige.'

“'Agus,' arsa fear òg a bha staigh, agus e togail a chuideam o'n bhalla ris an robh a thaic, 'tha mi cinnteach gun itheadh e a leth an uair a ruigeadh e dhachaidh!'

“'Bhiodh a dhòil ri dheanamh aige,' ars a Blàran; 'dh'fhòghnadh do'' damh fhéin an uibhir sin itheadh còmhla.'"

“'An cuala tu fhéin riamh a cho-maith aig duine 'ga dheanamh le eallach?'' arsa Bus-dubb.

“'An tà, 's mi a chuala. Bha mi latha am Port-nan-long, san Eilean, agus bha bodach feusagach, Hearach a' deanamh naidheachd dhaibh air fear air an robh Dòmhnall Mhurchaidh Dhòmhnail Mhic Iain a bha an eilean beag an Scarpa. Thug e am bocsa mór ghìomach, mar a thàinig e leò as an t-sàl, agus ceithir dusan deug ghìomach ann, air a mhuin, gun aon anail, air rathad cho rèodhta agus nach deanadh each feum air, bòtannan móra mara air de leather, eadar ceidhe an Taoibh Siar agus ceidhe an Taoibh Sear air an Tairbeart anns na Hearadh!'

“'Dé cho trom agus a bha an t-eallach sin?'' arsa Bus-dubb.

“'Bu leòir dhòmhsa am bocsa mór mar a thigeadh e as a' mhuir, ged nach biodh ghìomach idir ann,' ars a Blàran.

“'Dé an cuideam a tha an ghìomach?'' arsa Bus-dubb.

“'Tha cuid aca anns a bheil dà phunnd, agus

(An còrr air l.d. 16)

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aidhne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

12. An t-Urr. Domhnall Uilleam MacCoinnich

G U dearbh, b'e Dòmhnall Uilleam fhéin Gan Leòdhasach caomh, càirdeil, carthan-nach, air am b'fhiach eòlas a chur, agus bu toilichte mi fhéin gach uair a chuirinn greis seachad 'na chuideachd aig iomadh Mòd thall is a bhos.

Is ann a mhuinntir Airigh-bhruthaich, an sgìre nan Loch, a bha an t-Urramach Dòmhnall Uilleam, agus an uair a bha e glé òg chuir e ùidh mhór 'na chànan mhàthaireil agus 'na bàrdachd, agus, o'n bha spiorad na ceòlraidh ann gu nàdurra, rinn e mòran de òrain thaitneach a tha nis an déidh a bhàis 'nan cuimhneachan air a bhuidheann agus air a dhealas anns na raoin sin. Bha alt siùbhlach aige ann a bhith ag eadar-theangachadh bàrdachd Bheurla agus Albannach gu bàrdachd Ghàidhlig, agus am measg a shaothrach anns an raon sin tha eadar-theangachadh eagnaich, siùbhlach air "To a Mountain Daisy" le Burns, "The Brook" le Tennyson, "To the Highland Girl at Inversnaid" le Wordsworth, agus "To a Mouse" le Burns. Chuir e loinn iongantach air gach eadar-theangachadh a rinn e air na h-òrain sin, agus, 'na mo bheachd fhéin, tha seula an deagh bhàird gu h-àraidh air "An Allt" le Tennyson.

Bha e 'na mhinistear an Eaglais Ghàidhlig Baile-Bhòid agus an Cill-Mealaird, agus anns gach àite an robh e rinn e mór shaothair as leth cànan a dhùthcha. Bha e deas, dùrachdach anns a' chùbaid, agus cha robh mòran 'na latha a sgrìobhadh Gàidhlig cho blasda ris. Bha a leithid de shnas sònraichte 'na mhodh-sgrìobhaidh agus gun deanamaid a mach a làmh am measg mhòrain. Fhuair e iomadh duais litreachais aig na Mòid, agus bu ro choamh leam fhéin a bhith leughadh le mór thogradh cunntasan snasaill air iomadh cuspair Gaidhealach o a pheann siùbhlach anns na paipearan-naidheachd, agus is maith a b'fhiach gach oidhirp sin a rinn e a bhith air an cur an clò air son oideachadh do'n linn a tha ag èirigh suas an diugh.

Luinneagan na Cloinne Bige

Le AONGHAS CAIMBEUL

AN TAIGH A THOG SEOC

(The House That Jack Built)

SEOC an taigh bòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Seo an taigh bòidheach, bòidheach, bòidheach,
Seo an taigh bòidheach thogadh le Seoc.

SEOC agad poca leis an t-sìol-choirc'
Bha san taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

SEOC agad rodan cho binneach 's cho gobach,
A tholl am poca 's a ghoid an sìol-choirc'
Bha san taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

SEOC an cat ruadh d'an ainm MacSuain,
A mharbh an rodan cho binneach 's cho gobach
A tholl am poca 's a ghoid an sìol-choirc'
Bha san taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

SEOC Ceann-clò, cù donn Iain Mhóir,
A sgiùrs an cat ruadh d'an ainm MacSuain
A mharbh an rodan cho binneach 's cho gobach
A tholl am poca 's a ghoid an sìol-choirc'
Bha san taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

SEOC bó bhàn nan adhaircean cama,
A ruaig Ceann-clò, cù donn Iain Mhóir,
A sgiùrs an cat ruadh d'an ainm MacSuain
A mharbh an rodan cho binneach 's cho gobach
A tholl am poca 's a ghoid an sìol-choirc'
Bha sin taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

SEOC agad gruagach 's i cho luaineach,
A bhleoghainn bó bhàn nan adhaircean cama
A ruaig Ceann-clò, cù donn Iain Mhóir,
A sgiùrs an cat ruadh d'an ainm MacSuain
A mharbh an rodan cho binneach 's cho gobach
A tholl am poca 's a ghoid an sìol-choirc'
Bha san taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

SEOC agad duine 's deich tuill air a bhriogais,
A phòg a' ghruagach a bha cho luaineach
A bhleoghainn bó bhàn nan adhaircean cama
A ruaig Ceann-clò, cù donn Iain Mhóir,
A sgiùrs an cat ruadh d'an ainm MacSuain
A mharbh an rodan cho binneach 's cho gobach

A tholl am poca 's a ghoid an sìol-choirc'
Bha san taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

SEOC agad sagart 's a cheann air a bhearradh,
A phòs an duine 's deich tuill air a bhriogais
Ris a' ghruagach a bha cho luaineach
A bhleoghainn bó bhàn nan adhaircean cama
A ruaig Ceann-clò, cù donn Iain Mhóir,
A sgiùrs an cat ruadh d'an ainm MacSuain
A mharbh an rodan cho binneach 's cho gobach
A tholl am poca 's a ghoid an sìol-choirc'
A bha san taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

SEOC agad coileach a ghairm sa' mhadainn,
A dhùisg an sagart 's a cheann air a bhearradh
A phòs an duine 's deich tuill air a bhriogais
Ris a' ghruagach a bha cho luaineach
A bhleoghainn bó bhàn nan adhaircean cama
A ruaig Ceann-clò, cù donn Iain Mhóir,
A sgiùrs an cat ruadh d'an ainm MacSuain
A mharbh an rodan cho binneach 's cho gobach
A tholl am poca 's a ghoid an sìol-choirc'
Bha san taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

SEOC agad Seoc 's e cur an t-sìl-choirc';
'S ann leis a tha 'n coileach a ghairm sa' mhadainn
A dhùisg an sagart 's a cheann air a bhearradh
A phòs an duine 's deich tuill air a bhriogais
Ris a' ghruagach a bha cho luaineach
A bhleoghainn bó bhàn nan adhaircean cama
A ruaig Ceann-clò, cù donn Iain Mhóir,
A sgiùrs an cat ruadh d'an ainm MacSuain
A mharbh an rodan cho binneach 's cho gobach
A tholl am poca 's a ghoid an sìol-choirc'
Bha san taigh bhòidheach thogadh le Seoc,
Bha san taigh bhòidheach, *etc.*

CRAOBH BHEAG NAN CNO

(I had a Little Nut Tree)

Craobh nan cnò a bha agamsa
Cha ghiùlaineadh i an còrr
Ach cnò beag airgid
Is peuran beaga òir.
Thàinig nighean rìgh na Spàin
A nall air a' chuan mhór
A chéilidh orm, ach 's ann air sgàth
Craobhan beag nan cnò.

(An còrr air t.d. 16)

Litir Eachainn

IS dòcha, ged is e seo àireamh a' Ghiblein de'n "Ghàidheal," is ged a b'è ar n-iarrtus gum biodh e 'nur làimh air a' cheud latha de'n mhìos, gum bi an latha sin seachd, agus cromadh math de'n mhìos maille ris, mum faic ar sùil e. Tha na clò-bhualadairean an diugh cho riamalach 's nach ruig sinn a leas fìughair a bhith againn ri nì bho an làmhan mar a dh'iarraim e, agus mar a b'abhaist dhuinn fhaotainn. Mar sin, chan 'eil e gu feum sam bith dhomh, ged a b'è sin mo mhiann, feuchainn ris a' char a thoirt asabh-se. Cha bhiodh sin freagarrach an litir duine ghlic sam bith co-dhiubh, oir cha bhiodh ann ach fìor ghogaireachd; agus nach e "Latha na Gogaireachd" a theirear ris an latha seo, co-dhiubh an cuid de àitean.

Tha fios againne an eilean m'arach-sa cìod a tha "Latha na Gogaireachd" ag ciallachadh, ged is e "Latha nan Car" a their sinn ris an coitcheannas daonnan. Theirear mar an ceudna "Latha Gnòthach na Cuthaig" ris, cìod air bith an t-aobhar a chuir gum biodh ainm na cuthaige air a chaigneachadh ris an latha seo. Is iomadh eachdraidh a dh'fhaoidte aithris air caran ràbhartach a bhiodh air an toirt à daoine gun ghò, no a bhiodh leth-char mail 'nan aigne air Latha nan Car, ach chan 'eil mise a' dol a theannadh ri nì sam bith mar sin an dràs; b'fhèarr leam nam biodh an rùm agam beagan seanachais a bhith againn mu Dhi-Dòmhnach Càsg, a bhios againn air an naoitheamh latha, ach tha mi an dùil gun do bhain mi ri sin a' bhliadhna gus an diugh, is chan 'eil aobhar air tilleadh ris an ceartair, nas fhaide na mo dhùrachd a leigeil ris gum bi am pailteas de uibhean agaibh uile, agus bhur càil geur, agus bhur fiacail cho geur ri fiacail an fhìr a bhiodh anns a' chladach gu dol riu, co-dhiubh is ann a stàigh no a muigh, am measg chreagan na tràgha no air monadh an fhraoich, a bhios a' chuirim agaibh. A nis, an do thuig sibh cìod a bha mi ag ciallachadh leis na briathran "cho geur ri fiacail an fhìr a bhiodh anns a' chladach?" Is e sean-fhacal no gnàth-fhacal a bha a' tighinn fainear dhomh, is seo agaibh e,— "S geur fiacail bhò fhraoch, ach seachd faobhair bhò chladach!"

Tha mi féin an dùil—bha mi de'n bheachd sin aon uair co-dhiubh—gum biodh na h-uibhean daonnan na bu bhlasda le am bruich air an teine a thogamaid air a' bhàr a muigh, na am bruich air teine an taighe, gu sònraichte nam biodh an latha grianach, tioram. Is e a bhiodh ann rud eile nam biodh an latha fìuich no gaillinneach. Ach fàgaidh sinn

Latha nan Car is Di-Dòmhnach Càsg mar sin féin an dràs; agus tha mi a nis a' dol a dh'innseadh dhuibh mu leabhran beag cloinne-sgoile a thàinig gu mo làimh an là-roiimhe.

Tha an leabhran seo air a chur a mach le sgoil Bhaile-MacCarra an Sìorramachd Rois; agus a mach bho roimh-ràdh goirid le Ceann na sgoile, is e obair na cloinne a mhàin a tha ann uile gu léir. Tha rosg is bàrdachd ann. Tha cuibhreann chiumseach de Ghàidhlig ann, agus tha cead agam cuid de'n obair sin a thoirt dhuibhse anns an litir seo. Is ann mar a thà nach 'eil lide anns an leabhran seo, bho thùs gu éis, Gàidhlig no Beurla, nach b'fhìach a chur far an ruigeadh iad tuille shùilean na chì an leabhran anns an robh iad an toiseach, a chùim 's gum faicte an obair ghasda a tha air a deanamh anns an sgoil seo. Gu dearbh, ma tha sgoiltean eile ri a leithid seo de obair, bu mhath leam an obair sin fhaicinn; agus nì iad glé mhath ma bheir iad bàrr air sgoil Bhaile-MacCarra.

IS e "Sgeul na h-Aon Oidhche" a tha mi an dùil a thoirt dhuibh: tha sinn bho chionn ghoidir an seo glé eòlach air na sgeòil sin air an fhìrth-theud, agus chan 'eil i seo nì air dheireadh an ionntas air na sgeòil sin. Chan 'eil mise a' deanamh atharrachadh sam bith air a briathrachas ach mar a thàinig sin bho làimh an sgoilear òg a sgrìobh i, ach a mhàin gu bheil mi, far a bheil mi an dùil mearachd beag a bhith, a réir modh-sgrìobhaidh an là-diugh, ag cur an fhacail mar a litrichean féin e, eadar dhà cheanglan an déidh an fhacail mar a tha e anns an leabhran. Seo agaibh, a nis, an sgeul:—

"Bha boireannach ' (ag gabhail còmhnuidh ann an àit àraidh, agus bha trùir (trùir) chloinne aice. Dh'fhalbh i mach latha air lorg a (a') chruidh agus am feadh a bha i 'gan lorg, dh'éirich (dh'éirich) stoirm agus chaidh i air chall. Bha i astar fada bhò'n tigh agus cha robh àite aice anns am faigheadh i fàsghadh. Chunnaic i solus fad (fada) as agus rinn i air. Nuair a ràinig i a (an) solus so, dh'aithnich i gur e sìthean a bh'ann, oir chual' i ceòl bu bhinne a chualas riamh, is i na ('na) seasamh aig an doras, ach cha robh dol as dhith bhon (dhi bhò'n) a bha i air a slighe chall."

"Chaidh i a steach, agus dhùin na sìthean (sithichean) an doras as a déigh (déidh). Thubhairt iad rithe nach fhaidheadh (fhaigheadh) i as a chaoidh gus am fuinneadh i na bha de mhin anns a (a') chisde mhòr (mhóir) ud a bh'aca. Dh'fhalbh iad a mach agus

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

SGEULACHD A UIBHIST

Altachadh A' Bharrach

O chionn bhliadhnaichean bha fear a' fuireach anns a' Bhaile Shear ris an canadh iad "Am Barrach." Bha e fhéin, a bhean is an teaghlach a' fuireach ann an taigh beag tughaidh ann am meadhoin a' bhaile. Chan 'eil cho fada idir o'n a bha e ann, oir tha a' bhàthach is na taighean beaga eile a bha aige suas fathast.

Tha e coltach gu robh iad uile déidheil air buntàta.

Aon latha mu dheireadh an t-samhraidh no mu thoiseach an fhoghair smuainich Dòmhnall—oir is e sin an t-ainm a bha air a' Bharrach—gun rachadh e sìos do'n mhachair feuch am faiceadh e ciamar a bha am buntàta a' fàs. Leis cho math is a bha am buntàta air fàs smuainich e gun togadh e na dheanadh dinneir dhaibh.

Nuair a ràinig e an taigh chuir a bhean am buntàta ann am poit agus chuir i air an teine i. An ceann greise bha am buntàta bruich; thog a bhean air truinnshear e; ach cha robh duine ri meòir a chur air gus an deanadh am Barrach altachadh.

Shuidh a h-uile duine a bha a staigh mu'n bhòrd, dhùin am Barrach a dhà shùil, agus thòisich an t-altachadh, agus tha e coltach gu robh an t-altachadh rud beag na b'fhaide na bu chòir dha a bhith. An uair a dh'fhosgail am Barrach a shùilean cha robh ni sam bith air a' bhòrd ach an truinnshear is na rùisg.

Thòisich an duine bochd air guidheachan do'n mhnaoi is do'n teaghlach. Thubhairt e, mur am bitheadh gu robh e mór leis, gun cuireadh e a mach as an taigh iad.

Riamh an déidh sin, an uair a bhithheadh am Barrach ag altachadh, cha robh e dùnadh ach aon té de a shùilean.

J. M. D.
(Sgoil Phaibil).

Luinneagan (bho t.d. 14)

CO DHETH THA BALAICH BHEAG DEANTA?

(What are Little Boys made of?)

Is có dheth tha balaich bheag deanta?

Sreangannan is tàirnean,
Piosan iarainn 's leathair,
Aran coirc is èorna,
Pròs is lit is feamainn,
Spicean puill is tearr-a'-ghuail,
Luchain agus seileanan,

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 15)

dhàg (dh'fhàg) iad seann bodach (bhodach) na ('na) cùram. Thuairt (Thubhairt) am bodach rithe, 'Tha e ri cur mòran iognadh (iognaidh) oirt (ort) nach 'eil a (a') mhin anns a (a') chisde ri dol a (an) lughad. Na cur (cuir) an fhallaid air ais do'n chiste agus theid a (a') mhin a (an) lughad.' Rinn ise mar a dh'iarra e agus chaidh a (a') mhin a (an) lughad. Thainig na sìthean (sithichean) a steach agus thuairt (thubhairt) i riu. 'Chaidh (chaidh) a (a') mhin, tha mi mise saor.'

"Chan b'ann le do thoil fhéin a chaidh a (chaidh) a (a') mhin,' ars (arsa) iadsan; ach thus' (thusa) a bhròinean (bhròinein) bhochd, ma thainig crìoch a (an) latha so, thainig crìoch do latha sa (latha-sa)!' Mharbhadh esan, agus fhuair ise saor. A (A') chlann a dh'fhàg i aig an tigh, bha iad a nise (nis) nan ('nan) seann daoine, agus cha robh i fhéin dad na b'aosda.'—Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Fo'n Eallach (bho t.d. 13)

cuid anns a bheil sia puinnnd, agus, ma bha iad maith aig na Scarpaich, dheanadh iad eadar dà phuinnnd gu leth is tri puinnnd an ceann.'

"Stad gus an dean mi suas a' chunntas puinnnd," arsa Bus-dubh. "Abair tri puinnnd an fear, agus a dhà-dheug san dusan—sin agad sia puinnnd dheug ar fhichead—agus a cheithir uibhir deug eile: fill iad ceithir uairean deug—is e sin, coig ceud puinnnd agus a ceithir!"

"Agus cuimhnich am bocsa, a chuilein," arsa Blàran.

"Ged nach biodh bocsa mhaidseachan 'nan còir bha eallach aige. An deanadh duine beò a leithid?"

"O dheanadh, is rinn, a chuilein; ach cuimhnich thusa an rud a tha mise ag ràdh riut—na feuch thusa gu bràth ri a leithid a dheanaimh!"

Seilcheagan is smùir is luath,
Eigheach, bragail, 's peileirean—
Is ann dhiubh siud tha balaich bheag deanta.

Is có dheth tha clann-nighean bheag deanta?
Ribeanan is sìoda, grìogagan ioma-dhathach,
Lilidhean is ròsaichean, mil is cnòthan agus bainne,
Orainsearan 's ùbhlann, siùcair is aran-cridhe;
Nach beag a nis an t-iongnadh
Clann-nighean bheag bhith cho milis!
Is ann dhiubh siud tha chlann-nighean bheag deanta.

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

Newtonmore

The Organiser presided at a Ceilidh held under the auspices of the local Branch. Despite wet and stormy weather, there was a very satisfactory attendance and a most enjoyable programme was submitted. It was a delight to hear some of the old ladies of Badenoch taking part in the Ceilidh, notably Miss Annie MacDonald, who has delighted audiences for the past forty years with her true and sweet rendering of Gaelic songs.

Inverness

On the following evening, the February meeting of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal was held at Inverness, with Mr. Farquhar MacLeod, Vice-President, in the Chair. The Town Hall was full to capacity when the Rev. Alexander Boyd addressed the audience in beautiful idiomatic Gaelic. He chose as his subject an old Uist tale. A Ceilidh programme followed in which many of those present took part.

Fort William

MRS. J. A. MACKINTOSH and the Organiser visited Fort William on Tuesday, 21st February. Mrs. Mackintosh is Convener of the Inverness Burgh and County Stall of the Grand Feill, and she made valuable contacts during the visit. Mr. Mackinnon and the Organiser discussed matters in connection with this year's Camp or Camps.

Dingwall

The Organiser was present at the February meeting of the Dingwall Branch and assisted with the programme. This Branch meets monthly, and the attendances are very satisfactory. Mrs. Jean Campbell, the Hon. Secretary, is doing a grand job of work and Gaelic stalwarts in the area have rallied round her.

Glenquhart

The Organiser attended a meeting of the Glenquhart Branch Committee on 28th February, when it was decided to hold a Concert in aid of the Central Fund.

Dochfour

ONE good turn deserves another. On 3rd March the Organiser brought a party to supply the Ceilidh programme

under the auspices of the local Branch of the S.W.R.I. in aid of the Institute for the Blind. The effort was very successful. In return, the local Branch is to sponsor a Ceilidh in aid of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund on Friday, 31st March.

Inverailort

On the following day, Mr. Mackinnon, Convener of Comunn na h-Oigridh, Mr. MacPhail, and Mr. Wilson met Mr. and Mrs. Cameron-Head at Inverailort to examine the buildings recently taken over and to decide as to their suitability for Comunn na h-Oigridh Camp. All details were carefully gone into and the recommendations made will be considered by the standing Committee at their first meeting on 24th March. The party returned to Fort William, and the Organiser then continued on his way to Oban and Barra.

Barra

WE had a good passage to Castlebay on Monday, 6th March, arriving there shortly after 4 p.m. I had several interviews that evening when arrangements were made to visit all the schools on the island. On the following morning I started off at Eoilgarry and had a talk with the children, after which 15 girls and 8 boys were enrolled in the local Feachd. Under the direction of the Headmaster, the children sang several Gaelic songs. The next call was at Northbay where 6 girls and 7 boys were enrolled. From there I went to Grean where 5 girls and 7 boys were added to the Feachd roll. At Craigston 7 girls and 9 boys were enrolled, and at Brevig 5 girls and 5 boys were added.

The following morning being fine, I proceeded to the island of Vatersay and, after a talk in the school, enrolled 7 girls and 5 boys. It was pleasing to see workmen engaged on a new road on Vatersay, and it is to be hoped that austerity measures will not interfere with this very essential work. So far, the island has had no roads at all, and one can imagine how difficult it is for children to travel long distances to school over wet and boggy ground on such an exposed island.

The afternoon was devoted to Castlebay School, with the kind permission of the Headmaster. What a pleasure it was to call in

the Infant Room, with some thirty little ones, all busily engaged in various ways—reading, counting, drawing, and making such queer little figures with plasticine. In the midst of all this was the born teacher, Miss Annie Johnstone—calm, collected, busy, but yet finding time to attend to all the needs of this large family. A little tot would say, "Please, Teacher," and often the answer would be, "Siud, a ghaoil," or "Dé seo a nis, a ghràidh?," "Ud, ud, dé seo?" Questions asked in Gaelic would be answered in English, but not always.

I shall never forget that half-hour spent in Castlebay Infant Room—thirty little ones striving to overcome difficult problems but thoroughly enjoying themselves in the process. It reminded me of a similar experience I had in Kilmuir School, in Skye, with our dear friend and teacher, Miss Annie MacDonald, now departed. We cannot realise how much we owe to this type of teacher. I also addressed other two classes and enrolled 26 girls and 23 boys. There are some thirty boarded-out children in the Barra schools and all of these are acquiring the Gaelic language with ease, thanks to the teachers and guardians.

At a meeting in Castlebay School, a Regional Committee was set up for the purpose of creating further interest in the Gaelic Youth Movement—Comunn na h-Oigridh. Mr. M. A. MacDonald, M.A., is President, Mr. Neil MacNeil, M.A., Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Hugh Smith, M.A., Hon. Treasurer.

The return journey was also via Oban and the weather was all that could be desired.

A SERIES of six Concerts in aid of the Central Fund has been arranged and these will be held at Elgin, Inverness, Glenquhart, Leackin, Culcaeboc and Newtonmore from 20th to 27th March. Thereafter the Organiser is to proceed to Lewis and Harris.

CHAN 'EIL FHIOS CO

Bha Calum, ma b'fhiar e fhéin, an galair a bhàis agus chuireadh fios air Iain is e ag obair an Glaschu. An nair a ràinig Iain an taigh nach ann a bha athair ag itheadh buntàta is rionnach.

"Seo fear a bhàidil agam a bha ris a' bhàs!" ar Iain.
"O," threagair am bodach, "ged a' tha mise ag gabhail seo, chan 'eil fhios có a chnàmhas e!" (Bho "An Cabatneach," 1944 le cead).

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Welsh

THE WELSH, by Wyn Griffith (Penguin Books, 184pp., 1/6).

This little book (in the well-known "Pelican" series) is not a history of the country but a study of the culture and environment of the Welsh people as manifested in their political philosophy, literature, and arts, and in their code of religious and social behaviour.

The author's aim is to explain the Welsh to the non-Welsh, and to do so he traces the growth of the social pattern which is based upon the Welsh language.

Of special interest are the chapters on the Welsh language and the Eisteddfod. The Welsh language today is spoken by less than a half of the population of Wales, but nevertheless "it is relevant to remember that there has never been a period during the last nine centuries when everybody in Wales spoke Welsh, and that there are probably more Welsh-speaking Welshmen now than at any time in its history, half as many again as the total population of Wales 150 years ago." Welsh is now spoken by 1,000,000 people. "To a Welshman this is matter for pride; to England a matter for mild surprise." The author remarks that to the ordinary Englishman the strangest of all strangenesses is a strange language in a familiar country. He expects to hear French spoken in France, but it is always a shock to him, in this his own island (as he would call it), to hear people speaking in a language other than English, they themselves being to outward appearance as British (or as "English") as himself. They read an English newspaper and discuss its contents in Welsh. For these people English is a second language laboriously learned at school.

Mr. Griffith says that the language has given to Wales its sense of unity and its feeling of difference from England, and that is true even of the many Welshmen who cannot speak their native language. "Those who have not the language are living upon accumulated capital; they are sharing a way of life whose fundamentals were established for them. They are drawing upon sources of which they may but dimly be aware, but even they would not be exactly as they are now, were it not for the generations before them who contributed to the fund from which both they and

their Welsh-speaking neighbours draw."

Many people (even Matthew Arnold was among them, despite his appreciation of Celtic literature) have held that Welsh has had its day and ought to be let die out. "The Welsh language is the curse of Wales," declared one of the great national newspapers a few generations ago. "From the time of Henry VII onwards there have been Welshmen of a like mind, unable to see any reason why the language should live. But it *has* lived."

"There are some in Wales who wish to turn the country into one whose only language is Welsh . . . They have little hope of success, and, however much sympathy they may enlist, they do not command much practical support." "What every Welshman feels and thinks is that everyone who lives in Wales and shares in the life of the country should, if Welsh is not his first language, make it his second language."

Of the Eisteddfod the author says that "this great feast of amateurs of the arts" has done more than any other enterprise "to unite North and South Wales, to bring together people of all kinds and occupations and interests in a country where communications are not easy"—miners, quarrymen, farmers, shopkeepers, school teachers, parsons, ministers, clerks, professors. It has helped to keep Wales Welsh. It has encouraged literature and music.

The Gael who reads this book will find on every page a stimulus to hard thinking about our own language and culture and what we in Scotland are doing about it—there are so many points of contrast and comparison with what is here told about the Welsh and their language.

Glencoe

GLENCOE AND DALNESS: Illustrated Guide Book (National Trust for Scotland, 64 pp., 1/-).

The National Trust for Scotland was founded in 1931 "to preserve for all time the beautiful and historic places of our land." Since then it has acquired a remarkable variety of properties, numbering about fifty and including mountainous tracts like Glencoe and Kintail, historic places like Bannockburn, Culloden, Glenfinnan, and Killecrankie, and houses associated with famous men such as Burns, Carlyle, and Barrie.

The Trust also has in its care a large part of the old-world burgh of Culross, the Burg Farm in Mull, Balmacara Estate in Wester Ross, and country houses such as the Binns, Leith Hall, and Culzean Castle. These properties, it is emphasised, are there for the public to visit and enjoy, and it appeals for an increased membership (the annual subscription is 10/-). Apart from one grant, the Trust has received no subsidy from the Government but depends entirely on the subscriptions and donations of members and friends.

All this is by way of introduction to an attractive little brochure published by the Trust, describing the Glencoe and Dalness properties, some 12,000 acres, purchased by the Trust between 1935 and 1937. Information is given about accommodation and hill walks. There is a chapter about the history and traditions of the area. The geology and natural history of the area are also discussed, and there is a useful list of place-names with their meanings and also a list of "some books about the district." A map and beautiful illustrations add to the value of the booklet.

M. Kennedy-Fraser (from p. 51)

What then is there in this collection for folk-lorists? One result has certainly been to focus attention upon the enormous body of traditional song in the Hebrides. Her versions have in many cases sent Gaelic singers and folk-lorists to the more authentic versions which are still to be heard. There is room for much development in this direction.

One collaborator who always received her highest admiration and gratitude was Miss Annie Johnston of Barra, who is herself a keen collector.

The real weakness of the collection has been the noting of the tunes without the language. Had Mrs Kennedy-Fraser only added a deep knowledge of Gaelic to her other gifts she could, with her opportunities and during the period at which she worked, have given the world a body of traditional music of great value. It is just a pity that she presented Hebridean Song in terms of art song instead of in terms of itself.

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Oran Gaoil Finneach

(O eadar-theangachadh Beurla air an Fhinneis)

Le DEORSA CAIMBEUL HAY

Nan tigeadh m'ulaidh òir 's mo ghoalan,
nan gabhadh m'euail an taobh so, na
mhothaichinn d'a cheuman aotrom,
dh'aithnichinn e teachd 'nam ghaioith-sa,
ged robh e mille air mo bheulaibh
no a thri uiread as mo dhéidh-sa.

Rachainn 'na chòir le ruag a' cheathaich,
chliginn 'na dhàil le sguabhadh deataich,
mar shradan 's iomgatho 'gan sadadh,
no fras éibhlean air feadh an adhair,
gus an ruiginn taobh mo leannain,
mo bheul r'a bheul 's mo phògan aigé.

B'ait a ghlacainn làmh an uasail
ged robh an nathair 'na cuach innt';

b'ait a phògann beul an t-suarceis
ged robh am puinnsean geur 'ga thruailleadh;
chuirinn mo dhà làimh mu 'ghuaillean
ged robh am bàs 'na eire shuas orr';
dhruiddinn a staigh ri uchd mo luaidh-sa
ged robh fuil a chridh 'ri 'uachdar.

Dé, chan ann mar sin do m' leannan!
Broilleach nach bi brùchdadh fal' as,
làmhann anns nach lùb an nathair,
bilean nach bi 'n nimh 'ga gaiseadh;
beul cho bog ri im o'n mhaistreadh,
bilean mìir air bhlas meala,
seudan òis a mheibirean geala,
gasan fraoich a mhuineal fallain.

AM BOCHD RUADH (bho t. d. 54)

"Tha, le a dhà làimh an sàs 'na churrag ruadh, mar gum biodh duine 'ga thachdadh."

"An d'fhuasgail thu an t-snaim a bh'air a chrios?"

"Cha d'fhuasgail gu dearbh, oir chuir an truaghan mi air mo mhionnann gum cuirinn anns a' chist e mar a bha e."

"A chladhaire gun tùr, gun tuigse! Nach robh fhios agad nach bu chòir snaim a bhith air còmhdaich duine mhairbh? Cho luath agus a thig camhanaich an latha rach is fuasgail an t-snaim."

Rinn Niall siud, ach anns an iomairt a bh'ann ruidhlig bonn aig a nuas cùl na cluaise aig a' Bhoichd Ruadh. Dh'innis Niall do'n Ghearanach na chunnaic e.

"Bi falbh," ars ise, "agus tog leat an t-airgead. Bha fios nach b'urraing e bhith falalmh!"

Thàinig Niall air ais le boslach maith airgid.

An ath oidhche dhùisg e leis an éigh uamhasaich, uamhasaich. "Am Bochd Ruadh! Am Bochd Ruadh!"

"Ciamar a tha thu 'ga fhaicinn an nochd?"

"Tha, a' falbh is a' tionndadh nan clach aig ceann thall a' chlacharain."

"O, a ghaolaich, tha ulaidh eile aig a' Bhoichd Ruadh. Cho luath 's a chi do shùil an latha, falbh agus tionndaidh fhéin na clachan sin."

Rinn Niall mar a dh'iarraidh air, agus an uair a thill e bha e 'na dhùine saobhir.

An ath oidhche dhùisg Niall leis an éigh, "Am Bochd Ruadh! Am Bochd Ruadh!"

"Ciamar a tha thu 'ga fhaicinn?"
"Nach 'eil thu fhéin aig cluinntinn *stump, stump* na coise maide

slos is suas air feadh an taighe, ag iarraidh an airgid?"

"Bha an truaighe ortsa dol a bheantainn ri a chuid airgid. Cho luath 's a dhearrsas grian na maidne moich cuir air ais e far an d'fhuair thu e."

"Cha dean mi sin nas motha," fheagair Niall. Bha e fàs tuilleadh is eòlach air a canran.

Is ann a ghairm Niall comhairle de phrìomh dhaoine na tìre. Dh'innis e dhaibh smior na firinn mu'n chùis. Chomh-aontaich iad gur e drochaid a chur thairis air an abhainn am feum a b'fhearr a ghabhadh deannach de'n airgead.

Rinneadh seo go dòigheil, ach tha am Bochd Ruadh ri fhaicinn, is an uair nach léir e, cluinnear *stump, stump* na coise maide a null 's a nall an drochaid is e a' sireadh a chuid airgid.

FEILL NEWS (from p. 55)

THERE is also to be a "Friends of Scotland Stall," arranged by members of the various Consulates in Glasgow.

It is proposed to include an Exhibition of Scottish Paintings, especially West Highland pictures, and an Exhibition of Scottish Glass, etc., as well as a Celtic Art Exhibition.

There will be a variety of Side-Shows, under the direction of Mr Kenneth Macdonald, Convener. There will also be a Flower Stall, a Book Stall, Concerts, Ceilidhs, and dramatic entertainments.

We would make a special appeal to members of Comunn na h-Oigridh to help furnish the Comunn na h-Oigridh Stall. Each member of Comunn na h-Oigridh should try to send at least ONE article for it.

These articles should be sent to Mr Donald MacPhail, 92 Academy Street, Inverness, or An Comunn Office, 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow, C. 2.

THERE is also to be a Special Display Stall, and in connection with it there is to be a Comunn na h-Oigridh Competition. Members of Comunn na h-Oigridh are invited to send in articles, all of which will be regarded as contributions to the Feill. The articles contributed will be judged by the Public and a special prize will be awarded for the best entry. The special prize is a FREE TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MOD AT DUNOON IN OCTOBER NEXT. If the entries received do not justify giving the special prize, prizes in kind will be given.

The following are examples of the articles which should be sent in: walking sticks, cromags, wood-work, metal-work, leather-work, knitted articles, embroidered articles, hand-painted china and pottery. The design should be original, if possible, and preferably Celtic or of a Highland character.

Name of sender and name of Feachd to which he or she belongs should be attached securely to each article sent, and the articles should be addressed to Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Old Manse, Balmaha, near Glasgow, by 10th May, 1950.

On the first day—17th May—the Feill will be officially opened by the Marchioness of Londonderry with the Lord Provost of Glasgow as Chairman.

The Feill will open each day at 2.30 p.m. The admission charge on the first day will be 1/- until 5 p.m., and 6d thereafter. On the following days the charge will be 6d.

Ann's A' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

"THE LAND OF DONNACHA BAN"

SIR,
"Creag Mhor" will have learned from his newspaper the reason for my delay in replying to his queries. Now, however, let me say my title for my remarks was an adaptation of the caption of a souvenir programme I received from New Zealand at the time. Its title was "Land of the Lone White Cloud." The quotations given were taken from their original source, viz.: "The Black Book of Taymouth," a rather scarce work, as only a very few copies were privately printed about a century ago. The quotations were given to show the background of the bard's boyhood, and much more might have been quoted with advantage had space allowed.

He was a very young, inexperienced man when the bard was appointed to his post by Campbell of Auch, or (as it was called of old) Auchinniscalaín. The authority for stating that it was at Ashantean, at the head of Auchglen, are natives of the Blackmount. It was his only place under the old regime, and perhaps the happiest period of his life. There is no reason to doubt the testimony of these aged natives, and furthermore, I think, the claim is borne out by internal evidence in his songs; no doubt students will observe how he mentions the localities surrounding it so familiarly.

As far as I know, not a single biographer of the bard has sought his information at first hand from natives of the district. All have been content to take what the compiler of "Sar Obair" says in his sketch, which in its turn is taken from an obituary notice that appeared in the *Scots Magazine* for October, 1912. This notice is rather vague and unsatisfactory, and so is MacKenzie's biographical sketch, which in fact gives us hardly any details of the bard's life at all.

Up to about thirty years ago it was comparatively easy to get particulars of the bard's days on the Blackmount and Glenetive, but since the break-up of the Blackmount and the changing conditions and the passing of the aged it is now rather difficult. In any case the bard must have lived at some precise spot and Ashantean is just as likely a spot as anywhere else; to talk

about Ben Dorain and Corry Cheathaich is loose and meaningless.

There is more than meets the eye in Corry Cheathaich and I suspend judgment on this question meantime and will return to it at some future date.

Keepers received a boll or two of bear meal in addition to their free croft. In those days there was no cash transaction.

In conclusion may I ask "Creag Mhor" (there are two places at least so called within the Blackmount) how it is, if it is the case that the bard could neither read nor write, he had an acquaintance with classical deities? In "Oran d' a cheile nuadh-posda" (line 25) he refers to Cupid, and elsewhere there is a reference to Aeolus. The nautical god Neptune also appears, and he shows expert knowledge of these old gods. Surely this gives rise to thought.

J. E. S.

DANAIR AND DANARRA

A CHAARAD,

Last December a well-known contributor to *An Gaidheal* claimed, in the columns of *The Scotsman*, that the Gaelic word *danarra* was derived from *Danar*, the primary meaning of which is "a Dane." Some correspondents denied this, maintaining that the word was merely a stronger form of *dan* (or *dána*), meaning "bold" or "daring."

Your contributor was right. The word *Danar* or *Danair*, borrowed from Old Norse, was first applied to a Dane, as distinct from a Norseman or *Lochlannach*, the alternative name *Dubhghall* being also found. The adjective *danarda*, *danartha* (pronounced *danarra*) meant "Danish."

In course of time the noun came to be applied to any foreigner, including an Englishman, who was also known as *Gall*, while the adjective *danarra* came to mean "English."

The word *Danar* (or *Danair*) persisted after both Danes and Norsemen quitted our coasts, but it took on an ethical colour, and was used of a fierce or cruel person, the adjective coming into step with this development and standing for "fierce," "merciless," "cruel." Modern Irish shows this change, but some Irish dictionaries (e.g. Dineen's and O'Reilly's) wrongly give *dan-fhear* (i.e. *dán* and *fear*) as an alternative form.

We do not, of course, use *Danair* in modern Scottish Gaelic but its derivative *danarra* is common. Misled by its apparent connection with the adjective *dán*, many of our Scottish Gaelic dictionaries translate the word *danarra* as "bold" or "resolute," as well as "stubborn," etc., although giving the latter first place, and only a secondary (or even lower) place to the former.

I suggest as an English equivalent "self-willed" (so Dineen) or "opinionated" (so O'Reilly). Dr. Alexander Carmichael, whose skill as a translator will not be challenged, renders it "opinionative." "Duine danarra, teangarra, ceannlaidir, a' sprangadh a bharail fein an amhaibh chàich!" (*The Highlander*, Dec.-Jan., 1881-82).

This was said of the Rev. John Macaulay, Lord Macaulay's grandfather, at one time minister of Dr. Carmichael's native island of Lismore. That it is a true portrait is confirmed by the clash that took place between Macaulay and Dr. Johnson at the end of the famous Tour to the Western Islands in the autumn of 1773. By that time the Rev. John had been translated to Inveraray, where he met the distinguished traveller. We do not know what the bone of contention was. We only know that at one point in their conversation Dr. Johnson "hotly challenged" the Inveraray minister, saying, "Mr Macaulay, Mr. Macaulay, don't you know it is very rude to say Eh! Eh! when one is talking?"

I may add that the Gaelic poets, Alexander Macdonald and Duncan Macintyre, both use the word *danarra* at least once, although the precise meaning they attached to it is not clear. In his *Vocabulary*, Alexander Macdonald translates the word as "froward," giving *diorsasach* and *doirbh* as synonyms.—*Mise le spéis*,

A. D.

GAELIC AND THE KILT ABROAD

DEAR SIR,

I have had experiences somewhat similar to those of your correspondent, J. B. Adamson, while wearing the kilt both in Holland and in France. It is true that many recognise the Scot in his national costume, but just as many regard him as an Englishman in the same way as some of us are apt to think of a Breton as a Frenchman.

Most people, I have found, genuinely admire the kilt, but a few laugh, as has been Mr Adamson's experience. Needless to say,

(Continued on next page)

(From previous page)

Scottish Gaelic is unknown to foreigners, but they regard it as proof of nationality, even more so than the kilt, as I shall endeavour to show. That is why I say, "Cùm a' Ghàidhlig beò!"

On this occasion I was in Paris wearing the garb of the Gael when a newspaper vendor tried to sell me the "Manchester Guardian" in the belief that I was an "Englishman." I stopped and said in French: "It is not much use to me: I can't read it. I only speak Gaelic and French."

Obviously I was not an Englishman. I must then be an Irishman. I told him that it was Scottish Gaelic that I spoke.

"But aren't Scots English?" was his next query. When I replied in the negative, I received a low bow in true Gallic fashion.

The moral is that, if we wish to remain a nation, we must keep our language.

IAIN MacKINNON.

TEACHING GAELIC

SIR,

Judging by the fact that their first pamphlet was sold out in a week or so and had to be reprinted, the weekly Gaelic lesson of the B.B.C. is very popular.

Has an Comunn never had the idea of bringing out a Phonograph course of Gaelic on the lines of the one sponsored by the Irish Government for Erse?

I know the 'Gaelic Phonogram' course sold by MacLeod, Oban, but it is not elementary enough. I suggest that what is required is a course on the "Lingua-phone" lines, starting with records of single words and simple sentences.

It might be worth while to find out what sum would be required to bring out such a course, —Yours faithfully,

R. B. LEVACK.

GAIDHLIG UR

A CHARADH CHOIR,

Chuir a' chuid a bha san iris seo mu "Easbhuidh na Gàidhlig" nam chuimhne té a bha trod air son gun do chuireadh "easbhuidh" as a leth, agus thubhairt i, "Chan 'eil dad a dhìth easbhuidh ormsa latha deug sa' bhliadhna!" Cha do dh'fhàg i an "dìth" as! Ach is e an dìth air n-uallach-ne, co-dhiubh. Tha a' chùis a' tighinn gu ceann.

Cia b' e cò a chuir na litrichean sin gu Fear-deasachaidh na 'Ghaidheil', is math gu bheil an nì a' deanamh dragh dha; agus tha mise an dòchas gun dean e cobhair a thoirt duinn a chaoidh tuilleadh. Tha dithis no trìuir againn a cheana deanamh ullachaidh air son

leasachaidh timeil; agus tha sinn an dòchas gun dean gach mac-mathar nì-eigin, beag no mòr, a sholar. Chan 'eil sinn idir an dùil gun e crìoch àraid na h-obrach seo fo-choisde eile a thaghadh de'n Chomunn Ghaidhealach no a' chùis eirbsa ri coisde de na tha ann. Dé a dheanadh sin ach 'fead is eubhach?' Is ann a tha a' chùis ag iarraidh rian eile.

Thig oirnn, gun teagamh, foclair de ur-chainnt a sholar air tús. Ged nach deante mòran a thogail as an toiseach bhiodh dùil gun deanadh facal an déidh faicail àite a thoirt a mach air a shocair fhéin. Is iad na faicail as motha tha dhìth oirnn na gnàth-bhriathran a thig ris an obair làitheil agus ri gnàth-chomhludair a' Ghaidheil san fhicheadamh linn seo.

Ach an déidh sin is eile, is e éis adhbhar nodha leughaidh is éis luchd-leughaidh an ceap-starra as miosa tha romhainn. Tha mi daonnan ag cumail sùil air Gàidhlig na h-Eireann agus a' meas cùrsa a h-ath-neartachaidh mar chaint. Tha na daoine thall air éirigh o bhith sàsta le "buaile nan gobhar" is "crò nam mart" aig baile. Tha iad a' toirt ionnsaigh air roinntean móra an t-saoghail, agus air son an t-siubhal sin tha caisbheart ùr is freagarrach aca 'ga dheanamh, a réir feumalachd gach sliغه. Tha nì agam 'ga fhàicinn. Tha na daoine deanamh an saorsa a chleachdadh. Tha mi an dùil gur e sin an gliocas. An uair a leas-àicheadh a' Bheurla bha daoine aig an saorsa. Rinneadh faicail ùra nach robh buan, ach mhair mòran de na briathran troimh na linn-tean. Tha faicail ùra gu leòir an clò an foclair-ean Eireannach,

An Ard-Chomhairle (bho t.d. 56)

Chomhairle Ghnìomhaich an déidh beachdachadh air an co-bhann ri Comhairle Ionadail a' Mhòid. Chuir Mgr. Coinneach MacDhòmhnaill aonta ri seo agus ghabh a' choinneamh ris.

An Fheil Mhor

EUGHADH Gearr-sheanchas L air coinneimh de Chomhairle a' Chuimhneachain 's a' Bheith-buidheachais. Labhair a' Bhean-Uasal NicGhille-na-Braataich, Bean-Ghairme, agus thug i mion-chunntas air an ullachadh a tha iad a' deanamh fa chomhar na Féille Móire a tha ri bhith air a cumail an Glaschu an mìos a' Chéitein. Théid an Fhéil fhoghladh air a' cheud là le Baintigh-earna Bhaile-Doire. Thug Mgr. Coinneach MacDhòmhnaill taing do'n Bhean-Ghairme air son an iomraidh a thug i seachad.

Thug an Rùnaire aithisg nach robh e comasach do Mgr. Dòmhnall MacThómais a bhith

ach tha cuid aca (mar a mhothaich mo charaid, an t-Ollamh Nils Holmer, e fhéin) 'nan clòistair gun mhaise is gun chuimse, agus tha roinn mhaith aca calg-dhreach an aghaidh càil na teangann seo againn.

Is e an aon nì nach fuiling an Gaidheal idir, idir, cannt nach tuig e. Agus is coma dé cho cudthromach agus a tha na briathran; cha dean iad ach "mort" air Gaidhealtachd mur gabh iad labhairt is tuigsinn. Agus tha mi faicinn gu bheil luchd-sgrìobhaidh a' deanamh an bealach fhéin a rognadh, agus gu bheil iad a togail a canain eile mar is fearr a théid aca air. Tha mi 'gam moladh gu h-àrd air son an díchill. Tha iad ceart. Cha leòir do a h-aon againn bhith deanamh an làire as lugha air ar daoine féin a chanas cainnt bhreac eadar Gaidhlig is Beurla, agus nach deanamaid féin sa' chàs ach a' Bheurla bhuaileach dheth!

Tha mise air fàs iomagaineach anns na làithean deireanach seo. Tha mi air fàs còlach air luchd-treòir ar cùrsa is ar triall, agus tha daoine agam, mar a tha sibhshe, a chumas Gàidhlig rium, ach tha meall mòr eile ann agus cha dàna leotha a ràdh rium, "Let us speak in English; it is easier for me to tell you what I want to say." Is fearr leam fhéin an bodach Aran-nach a bha air son Iain MacGilleathain a chumail aca fhéin, is a thuir: "Tha mise a' movigeadh nach bi Mr. MacLean air a' transjiveadh," na a leithid sin de lagchuis.

Agus, "air tús bha an gnìomh." —Is mise do chompanach,

DONNCHADH RUADH.

an làthair agus gun d'iarr e an Rùn air an tug e rabhadh aig a' choinneimh roimhe a bhith air a chur air clàr-gnòthaich na h-ath choinneimh. Chaidh aontachadh ri seo. Tha an Rùn ag iarraidh atharrachadh a dheanamh air Frith-Lagh 41.

Air iarrrtas Mhgr. Eoghainn Mhic a' Phi chaidh a shònachadh gum bi an ath choinneamh, a' Choinneamh Shònraichte, air a cumail ann an Gearasdan Inbhir-Lòchaidh air a 7mh là de'n 7 Iuchar. Tha cuireadh càirdeil air a thoirt do na buill a bhios an làthair aig a' choinneimh sin iad a thoirt sgrìob gu Campa Inbhir-aileirt. Chi iad air an son féin mar a tha an campa bliadhnail sin air oibreachadh, agus bheir e misneach do'n chloinn òig maithéan a' Chomuinn fhainic.

Thugadh a' choinneamh gu crìch le taing chridheil a thoirt do Fhear-na-cathrach.

BRAIGHE ABHAINN BHARNAIDH

LEIS AN ÙRRAMACH D. B. BLAIR, D.D.

Thig an àird leam gu Bràigh'
Abhainn Bharnaigh do'n choille,
Far am fàs an subh-làir,
Mar a b'abhaist gun ghainne;
Bidh an ruadh-mhadadh baoth,
Ann a shaoabhaidh 's am mathan
'Gan cleith féin fad an là
Air feadh Bràighe na h-abhainn.

Gheibhear fìor-uisg' nach truaille
Anns na fuaranaibh fallain,
Agus àile glan, ùr
Feadh nam fìranan glana.
Ni sinn streap feadh nan staccan,
Feadh nan glac is nan gleannan,
Gus am pill sinn air ais,
Leis na sair theid a theanail.

Gaoth a' gheamhraidh neo-chaomh,
Thig le sraonadh mu'r taighean,
Agus gaoir-fhuaim nan craobh,
Nuair tha gaoth séideadh daingean.
Siud an cèil a bhios binn
Nuair a raiceas an doininn,
'S a bhios smeachda nan speur,
Tigh'nn le geur-chur is cathadh.

Ach thig ám seinn na h-eòin,
Nuair a dh'éireas an t-carrach,
Théid an geamhradh air chùil
Agus dùbhlachd na gaillinn.
Bidh gach ailean is cluain;
Urail, uain-fheurach, maiseach;
Bho'n a chaochail an t-sìd,
Bidh iad grinn agus dreachail.

Thig an samhradh mun cuairt
Chuireas snuadh air an fhearran;
Cinnidh blàthan a' Mhàigh,
Agus neòinean geala.
Aig Loch Bhrùra an àigh
Air gach àird agus bealach,
Bidh sinn aoibhneach gach là
Ann am Bràighe na h-abhainn.

The Rev. Duncan Black Blair, D.D., was born in Strachur, Argyllshire, in 1815, the son of a shepherd. The family lived for some time at Glenaladale in Moidart and at Inverscadle in Ardgour, where Duncan first went to school, and then removed to the parish of Laggan. In 1833 Duncan became assistant teacher at Strontian. Later he was tutor to the children of Malcolm Nicolson, Esq., of Ullinish, Skye. He studied for the ministry in Edinburgh and was licensed to preach in 1844. Having served in Badenoch and Mull for some months, he emigrated to Pictou, Nova Scotia, in 1846, and held preaching appointments at various places in Canada. In 1848 he became minister of Barney's River and Blue Mountain, Pictou County, and continued there until his death at Laggan, Barney's River, in 1893.

Dr. Blair, according to the late Dr. A. Maclean Sinclair, was a first-class Gaelic scholar. He wrote several poems, among them the well-known poem on Niagara Falls (cf. *Bàrdachd Ghàidhlig*, p. 9). "He translated the Psalms of David into Gaelic metre." He also compiled "an excellent Gaelic grammar," which, however, was never published. "He was a scholar, a theologian, and a poet."

The Gaelic and English versions of this poem about "Barney's River" were found among the papers of the late Dr. Maclean Sinclair, and are printed here by courtesy of the Rev. D. Maclean Sinclair.

"Barney's River" was named after Barnabas Magee, an early settler. It is also referred to in John Maclean's poem, "Gu bheil mi am ònrachd sa' choille ghrua-

THE BRAES OF BARNEY'S RIVER

By D. B. BLAIR

To the Braes let us go
Of old Barnabas River,
Where the strawberries grow
In abundance forever;
Where the fox and the bear
In their lair under cover
Hide the long summer day
On the Braes by the River.

There is pure water there
In the clear silver fountains,
And the purest of air
Among herbs on the mountains.
We will range through the steeps
And the deep dells and valleys,
And return with the spoils
Of our toils in our sallies.

The rude, cold, wintry blasts,
Whirling past by our dwelling,
And the roar of the trees
Where the breezes are swelling
Shall be music to charm
While the storm rages madly
With the snow from the clouds
Falling round us so sadly.

But the Spring shall return
And the birds shall be singing,
For the winter is past
With its frost, sharp and stinging;
Then the fields shall look green
At the change of the weather,
In their usual garb
Very charming together.

When the summer comes round
And the ground shall be blooming
With the mayflowers so gay
And the daisies perfuming,
Then around Brora Lake
And its bays without cover
We'll enjoy happy days
On the Braes near the River.

maich" (cf. *Bàrdachd Ghàidhlig*, p. 15):—

'Chan iongnadh dhòmhsa ged
tha mi brònach,
Is ann tha mo chòmhnuidh air cùil
nam beann,
Am meadhan fàsaich air abhainn
Bharnaigh
Gund na às fearr na buntàta lom."

ANNS A' CHAIRT

Bha duine á Beàrnasdal aon
latha ag coiseachd gu Port-
righheadh. A nuas Guala Dhruim-
uidh bha a chasan cho goirt is gun
do shuidh e air bruaich an rathaid.
Cò a chitheadh e a' tighinn as a
dhéidh le each is cairt ach Iain?
'Saoil am faihinn greiseag
anns a' chairt, Iain?' ars esan.
'O,' ars Iain, 'chan 'eil an
t-each donn fhéin a' deanamh cho
dona innte!'
(Bho "An Cabairmeach," 1944,
le cead).

CLIU NAN ATHRAICHEAN

LE EACHANN NOBLE MACGILLEATHAIN

A Chalum a ghaoil, bu chaomh leam pilleadh
 A null gu eilean an àigh,
 Gu cladach nan tonn aig bonn a' bhaile
 Tha buan air m'aire le bàigh:
 Tha dùrachd is miann ag iarraidh sealladh
 Air uair mun dùin mi shùil
 Air adhar tha shuas os cionn na mara,
 Gach bruch is bealach is cùil.

Tha caoban de fhraoch ri taobh a' bhothain
 Ni suas car tamuill a' chùis,
 Cho coltach rium féin air fògradh fada
 O'n tir 's an robh mi air thùs
 Tha lili is ròs is fìrain mhaiseach
 'S an àilleachd uile cho grinn,
 Ag amharc le eud air froach a' mhonaidh
 'S le nàir' ag cromadh an cinn.

Bha sinne le chéile treun sa' charraid
 Nuair chruinnich na balaich san raoin,
 Le caithream is gleus gu blàr nan caman,
 Meas bhuillean air casan ach faoin,
 Ag iomain cho cruaidh le fuaim is farum
 'S cha deanadh a' chòmhrag iad sgith,
 Gun chùram gun ghruaim 's gun smuain air neo-ni
 Ach buaidh a cheannach le strì.

Cha chumhne leam uair a chual mi toibheum
 Tuiteam bho bhilean nan laoch;
 Bha oilean na h-bìge mór an sealladh
 Nam pàrant' measartha caomh;
 Bha seo os cionn luchd rè cuairt an turais
 Air tir 's air tonnaibh a' chuain;
 Tha muinntir mo dhùthcha mór an urram,
 'S tha cliù nan athraichean buan.

Tha mi an smuain air chuart sa' bhaile
 As àille cruth agus dealbh,
 Aig dachaigh nan daoine stuama cubhaidh,
 Na càirdean lurach a' d'fhalbh.
 Tha tiom' air mo chrì' 's air m'inntinn mulad
 Ag caoidh am furan o chian;
 An dùthaich mo ghaoil mar aon air aineol
 Tha bròn cur seal air a' ghrian.

Ach togam mo dhuan le uailh tha dlìgheach
 Is dùineam tobar nan deòir;
 Tha aobhar gu buan air taing is moladh
 A luaidh air athraichean coir'.
 Ruith iadsan an réis am beus ro mheasail
 Is ghléidh an creideamh gun bheud;
 Is lean iad gu dlùth ceann-ùil nam beannachd
 An lorga aithnichte' an treud.

Rinneadh an t-òran seo leis an Urramach Eachann Noble MacGilleathain, a bha 'na mhinistear an Vancouver an Canada, agus a chaochail o chionn ghoirid.

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An 1947 an uair a bha cruinneachadh mòr aig Cloinn MhicLeòid an Ceap Breatainn, aig am Mòd St. Ann's, agus a' Bhean-Uasal Fionnghal NicLeòid, Ceann-cinnidh nan Leòdach, air an ceann, sgrìobh

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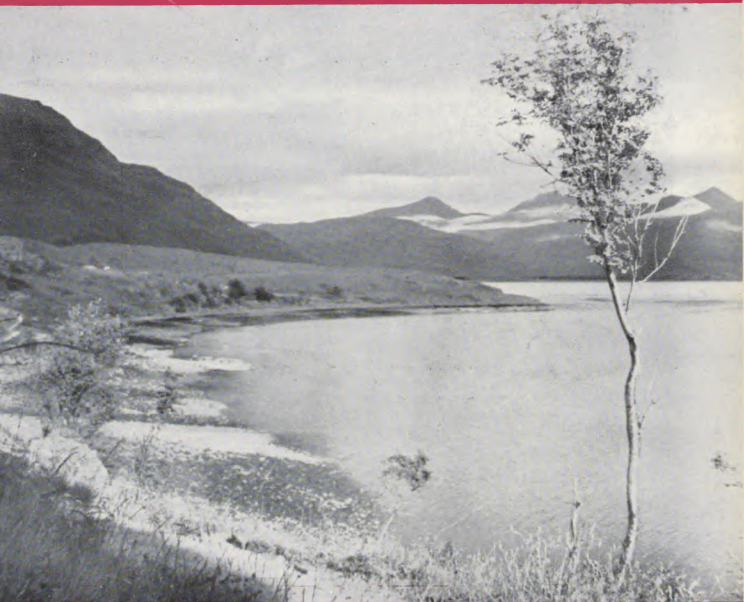
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Strathmore

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DEIREADH LINN

AIR a' chòigeamh latha de'n Mhàrt chaochail Annetta NicGhille-bhàin, nighean an t-sàr-Ghàidheil nach maiream, Eanraig MacGhille-bhàin ("Fionn"). Chaochail ise an 1950. Rugadh esau an 1852. Is iomadh ath-rachadh a thàinig air an t-saoghail agus gu sònraichte air cùisean na Gàidhlighe anns a' cheud bliadhna agus a dhà a tha eadar breith an athar agus bàs na h-ìnghe. Faodar a ràdh le firinn gu robh buaidh aig "Fionn" air cùisean na Gàidhlighe nas motha na bha aig aon sam bith eile. Cha mhise sinne sùil a thoir air ais air na rinn e 'na latha fhéin.

Bhùineadh "Fionn" do Eisdéal an Eanraigaidheal ach rinn e a dhachaidh an Glaschu an uair nach robh e ach 'na dhuine glé òg, agus b'ann am measg Gaidheil Ghlaschu a chuir e seachad a bheatha. Chuidich e le iomadh comunn is aobhar, agus gu sònraichte bha e 'na thaid do'n Chomunn Ghaidhealach agus 'na fhear-cuideachaidh do'n Mhòd.

Bha athair Eanraig MhicGhille-bhàin—Iain—agus bràthair athar—Raibeart—'nan sgrìobhadaircan Gàidhlighe 'nan latha fhéin, agus sgrìobh Raibeart anns "An Teachdairte Gaidhealach" aig "Caraid nan Gaidheal." Bha bràthair Eanraig—Iain MacGhille-bhàin—cha mhòr a cheart cho ainmeil ris fhéin mar sgoilear is mar sgrìobhadair. Chuidich Iain ann an cur a mach an t-seann mhiosachain, "An Gaidheal" (1871-1877), agus paipearan eile. Chuir e fhéin is an t-Ollamh Alasdair MacGhille-bhàin (Macbain), Imbùr-nis, a mach dà leabhran a chuideachadh luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlighe, agus le chèile dh'ath-dheasach is mheudach iad am Faclair Gàidhlig aig MacFachaínn. Bha Iain aige cuideachd ann an deasa-chadh "Comh-chruinneachadh Loidhean Gàidhlig" leis an Ollamh Ceallaidh

MacCalum, agus is esau a rinn mòran de na h-eadar-theangachaidhean a tha san leabhar sin. Chuir e an clò, mar an ceudna, na h-òrain nig Màiri Nic a' Phearsain ("Màiri Mhòr nan Òran").

Ma rinn Iain saothair, rinn Eanraig barrachd, ach tha a mhòr-chuid de na sgrìobh e air dòl a sealladh ann an seann phuipearan-aidheachd agus seann mhiosachain nach fhaighear a nis ach—agus sin le mòran dragh—ann an leabhrann. Bha eòlas anabarrach aige air eacdhraidh is beul-aithris is ceòl is dòigh-beatha nan Gaidheal, agus bha aige air a bhith cur an cèill air paipear agus air òraidean gach eòlas a bha aige a chum oileanachadh nàmuintir eile.

THA àireamh leabhraichean againn a thàinig hho a làimh. Chuir e ri chèile "Naidheachdan Fìrinneach" (sgeulachdan Beurla air an cur an Gàidhlig), "Leabhar na Céilidh," "The Celtic Lyre," agus "The Celtic Garland," agus feadhainn eile.

Anns an "Celtic Garland" tha againn sgeulachdan is òrain, an dà chuid òrain bho'n Bheurla an Gàidhlig agus bho'n Ghàidhlig an Beurla, agus anns an "Celtic Lyre" tha againn comb-chruinneachadh de chòir is leth-cheud òran Gaidhlig, le ceòl, a tha fìor thlachdmhor. Is iomadh òran agus fonn a shàbhail e bho cheò na di-chuimhne. Bha tàlant air leth aige gu bhith a' tionndadh òrain Ghàidhlig gu Beurla ann an ranntachd ceòlmbhor a gabhas seinn—nì nach 'eil idir soirbh a dheanamh. A bharrachd air sin, bha e fhéin 'na bhàrd math. 'S esau a chuir am fonn ri òran-brosnachaidh a' Chomuinn, "Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig."

Chan 'eil neach 'nar measg an diugh a choimeasair ri Eanraig MacGhille-bhàin is Iain a bhàthair, mar luchd-fiosrachaidh air cuspairean Gaidhealach agus ag compàrtachadh an eòlais ri muinntir

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Nithear càrn mòr de chlachan beaga.

Firinn air son a' Mhìos seo

Tha àithne air àithne, àithne air àithne... beagan an seo, beagan an siud.—Isaiah xxviii. 6.

Thall 's a Bhos

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Oban High School

WE congratulate Mr. John MacLean, M.A., H.M.I.S., on his appointment as Rector of Oban High School. A native of Raasay, Skye, Mr. MacLean has had a very distinguished career. Educated first at the local school and at Portree, he graduated with first-class honours in classics both at Edinburgh University and at Cambridge University. He spent some time studying abroad, and has also devoted himself to Gaelic studies. After a period on the staff of the Inverness Royal High School and Inverness Royal Academy, at the latter of which he was classical master, he became an Inspector of Schools in 1944. He is an older brother of Sorley MacLean, the Gaelic bard, and Calum Iain MacLean, of the Irish Folklore Commission, and a nephew of Mr. Alex. Nicolson, Celtic Lecturer at Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow.

Oban High School is fortunate in securing Mr. MacLean as Rector in succession to the retiring Rector, Mr. Angus MacLeod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.L.S., who has held that important appointment with great distinction for many years. It is a case of one great scholar succeeding another, and we Gaels can be proud that we have such men in our midst. Mr. MacLeod's academic record has been brilliant, and, in addition to his successful service as a headmaster, he has enriched Gaelic literature and Gaelic studies, notably by his invaluable text-book, "Sar-Orain" (published by An Comunn Gaidhealach in 1933). He has also prepared what we believe will be the definitive edition of the Works of Duncan Ban MacIntyre. We wish for Mr. MacLeod a long and happy retirement, and we are sure that, given health, he will use his greater leisure to put us further in his debt. Mr. MacLeod has been keenly interested in the Folklore Institute of Scotland since its inception and is a Vice-President of the Institute.

Shinty in Glasgow

AMONG other important matters with which it has concerned itself, the Federation of Highland Associations in Glasgow has been trying to persuade the Glasgow Corporation to provide at least one shinty pitch in the city—a very reasonable request, surely, in view of the fact that there are several shinty clubs in Glasgow. We note that the Camanachd Association has resolved to send a deputation to

the Corporation in support of the request.

We have heard it said that, if the Highlanders of Glasgow showed a greater interest in shinty by attending matches in greater numbers, there would be a much stronger case for demanding a pitch from the Corporation. This is very true. But, on the other hand, one feels obliged to say that, in our experience at least, it is usually very difficult to discover where and when a shinty match is being played in Glasgow, and, while a football match invariably starts at the advertised time, this is not always the case at a shinty match. Even allowing for difficulties about fields and players, people will not be attracted in any large numbers to an event which may or may not start on time.

Scottish Gaelic Texts Society

THE Society announces that the edition of the poems of Duncan Ban MacIntyre, edited by Mr. Angus MacLeod, Rector of Oban High School, is now in the hands of the printer, and should be available by the end of this year or beginning of next year. This new edition will include, in addition to the Gaelic text an English translation, historical and textual notes, and maps. The production costs will be heavy. Everyone who is at all interested in Gaelic should become a member of this Society. The membership subscription is 10s. 6d. per annum. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer is: Hugh Watson, Esq., W.S., 16 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

The Highland Advisory Panel

IT appears that the Panel is still in existence and the latest news of its activities we have had is that at a meeting in Inverness members of the Panel suggested asking the Government to create a Special Road Fund "to improve the condition of roads in the Highlands." We have been keeping press cuttings about Highland matters for the past twenty years, and, looking over them recently, we were appalled to find that we are still, in the year 1950, only at the stage of proposing and suggesting what was being proposed and suggested in 1930 and earlier. There are of course Highland matters which have been mooted for a much longer period and are still being talked about now and again—for example, Portnaguran pier, the Perneira (Lewis) bridge or causeway, the Glenelg and Craignure piers.

"Songs of Craig and Ben"

THERE is announced for publication in the near future a collection of Gaelic songs, with English verse-translations and music, gathered and mainly translated by Dr. Arthur Geddes. The book comprises lays, laments, love-songs, and lilts of mountaineers and cragsmen from ancient times to the present day—fifty songs altogether. The Gaelic songs are old and include some by our best bards. To meet the heavy extra costs of printing the airs (in staff and sol-fa) and the Gaelic, an appeal is made for subscribers. The price will be about 5s. (limp binding), and not exceeding 6s. 6d. Those interested should apply to: The Secretary, The Outlook Tower, Castlehill, Edinburgh.

(Contd. on p. 69)

ISLAY MOD (from p. 70)

Miss MacLean; Port Charlotte. Quartettes—Port Charlotte (1).

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The Margrat Duncan Memorial Challenge Trophy (for the choir gaining the highest aggregate in all senior choral competitions)—Port Charlotte Senior Choir.

DEIREADH LINN

(Bho t.d. 65)

eile. B'ann de'n t-seorsa seo a lha Aonghus MacEnnraig nach mair-eann, agus 's ann de'n chearft sheorsa a tha Eacham MacDhùgh-aill is Iain N. MacLeòid. Le chèile is nòr na sgrìobh an dithis sinn, agus tha sinn taingeil gu bhèil iad fhathast traig a' sgrìobhadh. B'fheàrr leam gu robh Gaidheil ar latha-ne a' toirt fainear nas fheàrr na tha iad cho daòna 's a tha sinn an comain nan daòine sin.

Anus an latha a th'ann, ged a tha feadhainn ann aig a bheil suim do na seann nithèan laachmhor, chan 'eil a leithid de chothrom au diugh 's a b'abhaist air fiosrachadh mu chùspairèan Gaidhealach a thoirt do'n t-sluagh tromh phaipearàn-naidheachd is mhòrsa-chlain. agus cha mhàth a' chùis sin.

The Previous Feills

IN looking forward to the Great Feill, which is to be held in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, on 17-20 May, we may spare a few minutes to recall the two similar efforts organised by An Comunn Gaidhealach. In many respects this forthcoming Feill will follow the lines laid down for the earlier ones.

The first of these Feills or Bazaars was held in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, on Thursday, 31st October, and Friday and Saturday, 1st and 2nd November, 1907, and it was in aid of the funds of An Comunn. The Bazaar Committee consisted of the Executive Council of An Comunn along with representatives of other societies co-operating. The Convener was the late Mrs. Burnley-Campbell of Ormidale, and at an "At Home" in the Grand Hotel, Glasgow, on 3rd April, 1906, she explained to a large gathering the objects of the Bazaar and the general organisation proposed.

There were many Stalls (or "Bùthan"), staffed and furnished by many societies and almost all districts. There was a "Bùth na Cloinne" (Children's Stall). In connection with the Book and Art Stall a book of Gaelic Fairy-Tales was published ("Am Bolg-Solair", "The Pedlar's Pack"), and also a book of favourite quotations and a book of cookery recipes. There was also a Colonial Stall.

On Wednesday, 30th October, 1907, the Lord Provost and Corporation of Glasgow gave a Reception to which 4,000 people were invited. On Thursday the Bazaar was officially opened by H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, who was accompanied by the Duke. The Very Rev. Dr. James Curdie Russell, of Campbeltown, offered the opening prayer in Gaelic. The Lord Provost presided.

On the second day (Friday) the Feill was opened by the Marchioness of Tullibardine, with Principal Sir Donald MacAllister, of Glasgow University, in the Chair. The Dean of Argyll and the Isles offered the opening prayer.

On the third and last day (Saturday) the Bazaar was opened by Lady Marjory Sinclair, deputising for her mother, the Countess of Aberdeen, and she was accompanied by her husband, Captain Sinclair, then Secretary of State for Scotland. The Chairman was Lord Provost Gibson of Edinburgh.

Altogether the 1907 Feill realised the sum of about £8,000

THE 1927 Feill suffered the inconvenience of having to be postponed twice, and eventually was on a much smaller scale than had been originally intended. Nevertheless, it was a very big effort and a very successful one, and many of us still have pleasant memories of it.

The first plan was to have a Great Feill and Highland Gathering in the Kelvin Hall, the programme to include a military display, pipe-band contest, a great rally of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and indeed something of a Highland carnival. In 1924, however, there was widespread distress in the Highlands and Islands, and An Comunn Gaidhealach decided to postpone the Feill and to throw its whole resources into helping the Highland Distress Fund which was then inaugurated. In 1925 the Feill and Gathering had to be postponed a second time because of the complete destruction of the Kelvin Hall by fire. It was hoped to be able to stage the Feill and Gathering in the new Kelvin Hall, but this would involve a third postponement, and at last it was decided to confine the effort to a Bazaar and to hold it in the St. Andrew's Halls.

The Feill was held on 1-4 June, 1927, and the Convener of the Feill Committee was Mrs. Burnley-Campbell of Ormidale, a lady to whom An Comunn owed a great deal. It was in connection with this Feill that that invaluable volume, "Voices from the Hills," edited by Mr. John Macdonald, was published.

On the Monday evening, 30th May, a small-scale Mod was held in the Berkeley Hall, and gold pendants for solo-singing were awarded to Miss Madge Campbell Brown, Lochgilphead, and Mr. Neil A. MacInnes, Dennistoun. Mr. I. M. Moffatt-Pender presided.

On the Tuesday evening, 31st May, the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association gave a concert (Mr. J. N. MacConochie, Conductor), with Colonel MacLean of Ardgour presiding.

On the opening day of the Feill—Wednesday, 1st June—the Duke of Atholl, President of the Feill Executive Committee, presided, and the Feill was officially opened by the Countess of Cassillis (later Marchioness of Ailsa). Mr. Angus Robertson, President of An Comunn, delivered a Gaelic address of welcome, and the Rev. J. M. Munro, of St. Columba Parish, Glasgow, offered the Gaelic prayer.

On Thursday, 2nd June, the Feill was opened by Lady Elspeth Campbell, and the chairman was Sir Alexander Bosville Macdonald of the

Isles. On Friday, 3rd June, the proceedings were opened by the Duchess of Atholl and the Chairman was Sir Iain Colquhoun of Luss.

On the last day, Saturday, the Feill was opened by Lady Hermione Cameron of Lochiel, with Principal Sir Donald MacAllister as Chairman. The attendance on the Saturday afternoon amounted to almost 4,000.

On Sunday, 5th June, a special Gaelic Service was held in Glasgow Cathedral. The Service was conducted by the Rev. Charles Mackinnon, St. Paul's (Outer High) Church, Glasgow, the Rev. J. M. Munro, St. Columba Parish, the Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, John Knox and Tradeston Church, and the Very Rev. Lauchlan Maclean Watt, Glasgow Cathedral. The preacher was the Rev. Dr. Neil Ross, Luggan. The praise was led by the St. Columba Church Gaelic Choir and the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, with Mr. Neil Orr, Edinburgh, as Precentor.

THE 1927 Feill realised over £10,000, which was very satisfactory in view of the fact that it followed closely on other appeals made on behalf of Highland causes which had received generous support. Within the last few years before the 1927 Feill a sum of over £20,000 had been raised for the Highlanders' Institute in Glasgow, and £40,000 for the Highlands and Islands Distress Fund, while over £60,000 had been raised for the extension of the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness. "The generosity of Highlanders and their friends," it was said, "had thus been already severely taxed, but Highland generosity is hard to exhaust."

Of the 1907 Feill it was written: "The stately and spacious St. Andrew's Hall was filled to repletion with a richer store of spoils than ever clan had collected in the palmiest days of raid and foray—given and gathered, not for the enrichment of any one clan, but for behoof of the common heritage of all the clans, their ancient and noble tongue—while the Stalls on which these were displayed were served by representative Highlanders of all ranks, classes, and creeds. Gentle and simple, rich and poor, learned and unlearned, were united in the enterprise, with no less a personage than a Princess of the Royal House taking a leading part in the proceedings."

Many of those who took part in the 1907 Feill were actively engaged in the 1927 effort, and many who took part in the 1927 Feill are busy with the 1950 one. Many of us, however, have grown up and become attached to An Comunn since 1927. We must see to it that the 1950 Feill, so ably organised and so strenuously prepared for by Mrs. J. M.

Bannerman and her many willing helpers, will be an even greater success than the two previous ones. The object of the Feill—to secure the £15,000 needed for the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund—is one which should capture the imagination and enlist the sympathy and open the purse-strings of every Highlander and every Scot.

"Cuimhnich na Laoich : Cuidich an Oigridh."

SEANCHAS

BHA ministear còir an Innse-Gall air an robh reaban (*moustache*) fada, sleòpach ris nach do bhuih ealtainn no siosar riamh. Bha cuid de na h-èildearan aige de'n bheachd gum bu chòir dha an reaban a thoirt dheth, agus oidheche bha siud nach ann a chaidh iad do'n mhansa aige air son combairle a thoirt air a thaobh na cùise sin.

"Bha e glé mhaith dhuibh," arsa am ministear riutha, "sùm cho mór a ghabhail do'n reaban agamsa, ach tha trì aobharan agam air son nach toir mi dhìom e:

(1) Tha e cumail mo bheòil blàth an uair a bhios mi muigh ri fuachd agus gailleann; (2) tha am beul agam cho mór is cho grànda is nach sealladh duine dubh no geal orm nan toirinn dhìom e; agus (3) is ann leam fhéin a tha an reaban, agus mar sin chan 'eil gothach aig duine eile ris, agus cha toir mi dhìom e idir!—Iain N. MacLEOID.

Annas A' Mhaileid (bho t.d. 75)

Gaidhlig anns na Sgoilean Teicnical

A Charaid,—A réir coltais is ann aig aois 12 a tha an t-àl òg gu bhith dol do na sgoilean seo, agus tha ceist air cuid ciamaar a ghleusar àite air elàr nan sgoilean do'n Ghàidhlig. Ma is fìor an aithris is e adhbhar fìor àraidh a tha air feum air Gàidhlig an sgoilean teicnical nach 'eil Gàidhlig a sgrìobhadh mar fhìachaibh air clann-sgoile sa' Ghaidhealtachd nas tràithe na aois 12! Ma is ann mar sin a tha, bidh a' chlànn gun chomas a' chainnt mhàthaireil a sgrìobhadh an uair a ruigeas iad an sgoil theicnical.

Cha bu mhaith leamsa clann a bhith an sgoil air bhith gun beag no mór de oilean sa' Ghàidhlig a bhith innte; ach seo nì as miosa leamsa fada na sin, gum biodh e air a ràdh an 1950 nach 'eil clann Ghaidhealach comasach air Gàidhlig a sgrìobhadh aig aois 12.

Dé a tha fìor?

Mise gu dileas,

CEISTEAR.

Uilleam Ros: A Bheatha Is A Bhardachd

LE TORMOD DOMHNALLACH

CO an duine air an do bhuilicheadh sàr bhuidhnean inntinn maile ri cridhe blàth, mothachail, nach fàirich a spiorad air a dhùsgadh is air àrdachadh agus aigne air a gluasad gu dàin is ranntach nuair a tha e air a chuartachadh le maise is àilleachd a' chruthachaidh? Bhà, agus thà, an dàimh as diomhaire eadar an dà nì, oir fhuair eadhnans gach ceàrn de ar tìr, a tha fìor ainmeil air son obair-nàdur, na bàird bu bhuidhneach agus bu cheòlmoire.

Mar sin, chan iongnadh ged a thigeadh bàrdachd Dhonnachaidh RÈBHIN bho mhònaidhean Dhrum-luaghairt is Dhail-nhàillidh, is bàrdachd Mhic Mhaighistir Alasdair bho na Garbh-chriochan is bho chòrsachan Àillidh Aird-nam-murchan.

Is ann san Eilean Sgitheanach a ghlens Màiri Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh a chàrsach agus oite am measg nam bàrd Gàidhealach air fad am faigh sinn, aon a dheòll bhain a bheir bàrr air a cuid oibre? Bho latha Màiri gu ar linn féin cha do dh'èirich bàrd no banabhàrd anns an Eilean cheudna air an do thuit comasan Uilleim Ros.

Rugadh Uilleam Ros anns an Ath-leathann an spìreachd an t-Sràtha anns a' bhliadhna 1762. Bha a phàrantan, mar a bha a' chuid bu mhotha san àm, leth-char math air an doigh 'nan cranncur. Cha robh an tuidh aon chuid beòhd no beartach.

Anns na làithean ud cha b'ann a' tighinn beò air mìlean agus air bhàdh Gallda eile, anns nach 'eil mòran fàil no taisealadh. a bha an sluaigh ìdir. Cha ghabhadh iad de lòn no de aodach no de chaisbheart ach na bheireadh saothair an fàimh féin d'ann ionnsaigh. Uime sin, ged nach robh iad air am buaireadh le òr is maoin an t-saoghail seo, bha aca na bha 'gan riarachadh gu to mhath gun a bhith ann an eisimeil duine no dàithach sam bith fo'n ghréin. Ma bha am beò-shlaint 'gan cumail saothrachail bho mhoch gu dubh, bha barrachd agus obair an làmh an faotainn an aire.

Cha smaoinicheadh neach air gnìomh no cuirean a dheanamh gun cheòl gun dnanag a dhòl 'na chòmhdhail air gach car tuinn-dhàidh. Faodaidh sinn a ràdh mu'n deidhinn mar linn nach robh greim a' dol 'nam beul no snaim mu'n druim ach na bha air a dheanamh ri ceòl. B'e siud an seòrsa saoghail anns an do rugadh am bàrd.

BHODH Uilleam Ros 'na chnapach beag nuair a chaidh an Sasannach mòr agus an sgrìobhaiche ainmeil, an t-Ollamh

MacIain seachd troimh an Ath-leathann air a thurus do na h-Eileanan a dh'fheòrach mu bhàrdachd Oisein. Foghlumichte is mar a bha an t-Ollamh MacIain cha do dh'fhàg e aon ealaidh 'na dheidhinn anns a bheil uiread de fhìor spiorad na bàrdachd 's a tha anns a' chuid as fear de dhàin Uilleim.

Bha sinsreirich Uilleim Ros air feadh an Eilein Sgitheanaich bho chionn iomadh linn. Bhuineadh e do aon de na teaghlachaich cho sean 's a bha anns an àite. Thàinig a mhàthair á Gearr-loch an Siorrachd Rois. Bu nighean do Iain MacAoidh am Pìobaire Dall a bha nnte. 'S e fear-ciùil ainmeil a bha anns a' Pìobaire Dhall. Thog e foghlum na pìobaireachd bho na pìobairean clùiteach, Clann MhicCrùimein. Nuair a bha e fo an teagasg choisinn e meas agus urram a cho-òileanach leis an alt iongantach a nochd e air cluich na pìoba. Tha MacCoinnich ag innse dhuinn gu robh eadhon port aig aon de Chloinn MhicCrùimein air leth-dheamh, air nach b'urrainn dha crìoch a chur, agus gur e am Pìobaire Dall, nuair a bha e fathast 'na oileanach, a chuir crìoch air. E's sin am "Port Leitheach."

Chan e mhàin gu robh Iain MacAoidh 'na shàr fhear-ciùil, ach thaisbean e fìor chomasan bàrdachd mar an ceudna. Tha an àireamh òran a dh'fhàg e 'na dheidhinn a' dearbhadh sin gu soilleir. Anns na h-èrrannan a leanas, cha b'urrainn ogha, Uilleam Ros féin, bàrr a thoirt air: 'S ann o na cinnidhean nach fann Thàinig an ògh as glaine cré, Gruaidh chorcair agus rosg mall, Mala chool, cham, 's cùl reidh.

Tha li-nodann geal mar a' chailc, 'S a corp sneachdaidh air deagh dhealbh, Mhòth leanabh le giblean saor, Air nach facas fraoch no fearg.

Tha slios mar eala nan sruth, 'S a cruth mar chanach an fheòir, Cùl cleachdach air dreach nan teud, No mar aiteal gréin air òr.

Bu cheòl cadail i gu suain, 'S bu bhuaichail' i air dò-bheus; Coinneal sholuis feadh do theach, A' fìrithleadh gach neach mar fheum.

Gu meal thu féin t'ùr-bhean òg, A Thriath Gheàrr-loch nan còrn fiail, Le toil chàirdèan as gach tìr, Gu meal thu i 's beannachd Dhia.

Puinidh na raim seò do'n òran 'dè Beannachd Bàird do Shìr Alasdair MacCoinnich, Triath Gheàrr-

loch, Air Dha Nighean Tighearna Ghrannnd A Phòsadh.' Tha snas agus grìmeas deilbh an òran a' toirt prìomh àite do'n Pìobaire Dhall am measg nam-fìdh as àirde-chiù. Mar sin, chan 'eil e iongantach ged a bhiodh buadhan a sheanar 'gan nochdadh féin ann Uilleam Ros. Thug e fìor spiorad na bàrdachd, mar a chòir-bhreith, a' steach do'n t-saoghal.

Do bhrìgh 's nach robh sgòil fosgailte anns an dùthaich a bha toirt seachd àrd-foghlum nan cànanèan eile, dh'èunaich pàrantan Uilleim do a dh'fheuraich air son beagan bhliadhinnach do Fharras a chum 's gu faigheadh e féin agus a phìuthar tomhas cuibheasach de foghlum an latha. Am feadh a bha e san sgòil, dh'fhoillsich e toil is toighe mhòr an geall air eòlas agus gach ged theagaisg buannachdail. Leis an adhartas a rinn e san ionnsachadh, tharraing e d'a ionnsaigh gràdh agus meas a' mhaighistir-sgoile, a dh'aidich nach robh ann measg nam oileanach a bha fo a chùram aon aig an robh meomhair agus breitheachadh Uilleim Rois.

R'a Leantainn

NOTES AND COMMENTS

(from p. 66)

An Communn Badges

WE may not all have a figure for the kilt nor the money to buy an outfit—extraordinarily expensive at present, we understand—and in any case the wearing of the kilt is no longer a distinctive mark of the Highlander or Gael. The official badge of An Communn is, however, distinctive and unmistakable, and members are informed that supplies are now available and may be had from the Treasurer, Mr. J. T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1, price 3/6 (or, by post, 3/9).

Culloden Memorials

MR. ALEX. N. NICOLSON, Secretary of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, custodians of the memorials on the battlefield of Culloden, appeals for funds for the upkeep of these memorials. A similar appeal 27 years ago brought in sufficient money to restore these memorials (at that time in a neglected condition) and leave a balance which has been used for upkeep and the payment of a part-time caretaker. Rising costs, however, necessitate an increased income for this purpose. Contributions should be sent to Mr. Nicolson at 28 Queensgate, Inverness.

Islay Provincial Mod

THIS Mod, the first of this year's provincial mods, was held at Bowmore on 31st March. There was a large entry, and the standard was very high, particularly in the choral competitions. The local conductors deserve high praise for the splendid performances of their choirs, the more so in that they have achieved this without the aid of any expert guidance from outside. The language adjudicators were unanimous in their praise of the excellence of the Gaelic. The children in the Oral Section gave unmistakable evidence that Gaelic is the language of the home.

The closing concert in the Main Hall was presided over by Mr. John MacLean, H.M.I.S., while the Rev. Murdo MacRae was chairman of an overflow concert in the Church Hall. The programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners, assisted by gold-medallists Mrs. Jenny M. B. MacLean and Gilbert MacPhail, and Miss Marie Hogg. Mr. Islay MacEachern was official accompanist. The prizes, which included twelve Trophies, were presented by Mrs. Gillespie. The General Secretary conveyed the thanks of An Comunn to all who contributed to the success of the Mod. For this much credit is due the members of the Local Committee for the adequacy of the arrangements. The Convener was Mr. Alexander MacIndeor, Port Charlotte, and the Secretary, Mr. Neil MacKechnie, Port Ellen.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Mrs. A. Mackay, Glasgow; Rev. Donald Budge, Jura; Mr. Donald Jackson, Carradale; Mr. John MacLean, H.M.I.S., Glasgow; and Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary; for Music—Miss Marie Hogg, Clydebank; Mrs. Jenny M. B. MacLean, Dunoon; and Mr. J. N. MacConochie, Glasgow; for Piping—Mr. John MacEachern.

First-Prize Winners

JUNIORS

Piping (open) (Mrs. Clifton of Kildalton's Challenge Cup)—D. Ferguson, Port Ellen. Piping (junior)—D. Ferguson, Port Ellen. Bible Reading (J. T. Christie Memorial Medal)—John Shaw, "Caol Ila. Reciting "A' Ghrian'" (The Texa Challenge Cup)—H. Henderson, Rhinns. Comhradh—Neil MacEachern, Keills. Solo-singing (under 11) (Silver Medal)—Jessie MacDougall, Bridgend. Solo-singing (girls) (Gold Medal)—Peggy Ferguson, Bridgend. Solo-singing (boys) (Gold Medal)—John Shaw, Caol Ila. Junior Canntaireachd—John Shaw, Caol Ila. Duet-singing—M.

Matheson and D. MacCalman, Port Eilen.

Pianoforte—Marjorie MacQueen, Powmore.

Junior choral (two-part harmony) (Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cup)—Ardbeg Junior Choir. Junior choral singing (unison) (Mr. MacIntyre's Challenge Cup)—Port Charlotte Junior Choir.

SENIORS

Reading at sight—M. MacKechnie, Bunnassan. Sgenlachd—D. MacNiven, Kilchoman. Recitation—Robert Shaw, Jura. Original

recitation—D. MacNiven, Kilchoman. Psalm-singing—Robert Shaw, Jura.

Solo-singing (ladies) (Gold Medal)—Isa MacEachern, Keills. Solo-singing (men) (Gold Medal)—D. MacLeod, Portnahaven. Solo-singing (former medallists)—A. Hay, Rhinns. Solo-singing (Duncan Ban songs)—D. MacLeod, Portnahaven. Solo-singing (Duncan Johnston songs)—D. MacLeod, Portnahaven. Unpublished song—D. MacCalman, Port Ellen.

Senior Canntaireachd—D. MacCalman, Port Ellen. Duet-singing—Mrs. MacTaggart and

(Contd. on p. 66)

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dunoon

A MEETING of the Mod Local Executive Committee was held at Dunoon on 2nd April, Mr. Neil MacLean, Convener, presiding. The Mod and Music Committee was represented by the President (Mr. J. M. Bannerman), the Convener (Mr. Hugh MacPhee), the Treasurer (Mr. Jas. T. Graham), and the General Secretary (Mr. Neil Shaw). Before the meeting the various halls were inspected, and the Headquarters representatives are satisfied with the accommodation available. Encouraging reports were given by the Conveners of the various Sub-Committees. A large number of choirs and individuals have booked rooms, but the Local Committee wish to emphasise that there is still ample accommodation available for the Mod week. Mr. Bannerman and Mr. MacPhee conveyed the thanks of the Executive Council to the Local Committee for the excellent arrangements made for Mod patrons and for the splendid success of their many efforts in aid of the Mod Fund.

Mod Prizes

THE Executive Council at the recent meeting approved of a recommendation that the prize offered in the Mod Syllabus for the best original Gaelic One-Act Play should be increased to £10. Conditions regarding royalties that may accrue may be obtained by prospective competitors on application to An Comunn Office.

At the same meeting it was also reported that a Cup for annual competition in the Senior Violin Section was being presented to An Comunn by Mr. Charles Sutherland, Fraserburgh. Mr. Sutherland was present at the recent Mod at Inverness and in the course of conversation recalled incidents of

the olden days when he won first prize for violin-playing at the coming-of-age Mod at Inverness in 1912. Since then he has been playing and judging at musical festivals in the north-east.

Miss Rhoda MacLeod, Inverness, is donating a kilt pin to the boy or girl who wins the Junior Pianoforte Competition.

To Mr. Sutherland and Miss MacLeod we offer sincere thanks.

THE LATE MR. MURDO MACLEOD

WE regret to record the death in Edinburgh on 26th March of Mr. Murdo MacLeod, who won the Gold Medal for solo-singing at the Glasgow Mod of 1907. He was the third member of his family to gain that distinction, the others being Roderick (1894) and John (1904).

This talented family belonged to the little village of Elphin in the County of Sutherland. In his younger days Murdo resided in Stornoway, and while there he conducted the Stornoway Gaelic Choir. On returning to Edinburgh he was appointed Gaelic precentor in St. Columba's Free Church, a position he held for many years.

Even in his declining years it was a delight to listen to Murdo singing a Gaelic song. His interpretation was so perfect that one could aptly apply the musical adjudicators' well-worn phrase, "he lived his song." And that, perhaps more than the actual quality of the voice, is what captivates a real Gaelic audience. He represented the Edinburgh Sutherland Association for a number of years on the Executive Council of An Comunn, but because of the nature of his business he was not able to attend many meetings.

We extend deep sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN CEITEIN, 1950

Aireamh 5

Sgeulachdan A Uibhist

Mharbh E Ceatharnach!

BHO chionn àireamh de bhliadhnaichean air ais bha duine àraidh ag còmhnuidh ann an Cnoc-an-lìn ris an abradh iad "Beisdein Mac Dhòmhnaill."

Aon oidhche bha e féin agus a theaghlach 'nan suidhe ùimheall air an teine ag innseadh sgeul. An uair a bha iad deas ag innseadh an sgeul chuala iad gnogadh aig an doras agus air dhaibh an doras fhosgladh thàinig duine air an robh iad glé eòlach a staigh.

Bha na lànhan agus an t-aodann aige làn fala, agus bha e 'ga dhubh-dhalladh. Sheas e anns an doras agus dh'éigh e: "Mharbh mi an ceatharnach as motha ann an Uibhist!"

"An do mharbh?" arsa Beisdein.

"Mharbh," arsa esan, "agus tha e 'na shineadh air Clachan Aird Heisgeir. Trobhadh còmhla riumsa agus chì thu e."

Chuir Beisdein air a bhrògan agus dh'fhalbh e cuide ris.

An uair a ràinig iad Clachan Aird Heisgeir dh'fhaigeadh Beisdein dha, "Càite a bheil an ceatharnach a mharbh thu?"

"Nach 'eil thu 'ga fhaicinn ann an sin!" arsa esan.

Chomhead Beisdein agus chunnaic e clach-mhìle ri taobh an rathaaid agus bha a' chlach làn fala.

"Nach 'eil thu a' faicinn a' cheatharnaich?" arsa esan ri Beisdein.

"Tha," arsa Beisdein, "agus is e sin an ceatharnach as motha a tha air an t-saoghal!"

Dh'fhalbh an duine gu toilichte dhachaidh an uair sin, an dùil gun do mharbh e an ceatharnach a bu mhotha ann an Uibhist.

Is e sin aon sgeul thaitneach a chuala mi ann an Uibhist.—J. M. D. (*Sgoil Phabil*).

Moch-Eirigh Iain Bhig

BHA siud ann o chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean air ais duine a bha fuireach ann an Uibhist ris an canadh iad "Iain Beag."

Bha e a' frithealadh obair a bha a' dol air n-adhart ann an Loch-nam-madadh a bha mu astar deich mìle bho a dhachaidh. Dh'fheumadh e a bhith muigh aig seachd uairean sa' mhadainn. Cha robh carbadan 'gan cleachdadh

an uair sin ach a' chas, agus is ann mar sin a chaidh iain do Loch-nam-madadh an latha ud.

Dh'fhàg e an taigh mu dhà no trì uairean sa' mhadainn Di-luain, dìreach an uair a leig e an t-Sàbaid seachad. Bha e leis fhéin, ach cha robh e ach air falbh beagan astair bhò'n taigh an uair a chunnaic e duine mòr ciatach a' tighinn 'na aghaidh air an taobh eile de'n rathad. Rud a bu neònaiche dheth, cha robh e 'ga chluinntinn ag coiseachd idir. Bha àirde agus leud uamhasach anns an duine agus bha a ghuaileanan na b' àirde na a cheann.

Bhruidhinn e ris ach cha d'fhuair e freagairt idir, agus nur do ghabh iain eagal nuair a chomhaid e as a dhéidh agus an duine mòr ag coimhead air-san!

Bha e còmhdaichte ann an aodach dubh gu h-ìomlan, agus bha sin fhéin ag cur eagail air.

Uine mhòr an déidh do iain a dhòl seachad air thòisich e air smaoineachadh air an duine àrd ud, agus bha 'fhallus a' tighinn a mach.

Ann an prìoba na sùla nochd an duine mòr a rithist, ach is ann ag coiseachd ri taobh iain a bha e an turus seo.

Air ball chuir mo shiadh na buinn rithe agus cha do stad e agus an do ràinig e an taigh. Agus, a chàirdean, ma dh'fhalbh e aig a dhà no trì uairean air a' mhadainn Di-luain ud, cha do dh'fhalbh e riamh tuilleadh.

K. M. M. D. (*Sgoil Phabil*).

Robairean

AIR oidhche fhuar gheamhraidh agus mi 'na mo chrùban ri taobh an teine, chuala mi Gilleasbuig Ruadh am bodach ag innseadh na sgeulachd seo a leanas.

Bha gille òg a' tighinn à Loch-nam-madadh aon fheasgar agus an ciaradh ann. Bha each agus gige aige agus bha e ag gabhail a ghnothaich air a shocair. Nuair a bha e a staigh a' Mhòinteach Mhòr ciod a leum a mach o thaobh an rathaaid ach dithis dhaoine. Dh'ìarr gach fear aca airgead air, ach fhreagair esan, "Chan 'eil airgead agam."

Bha iad ag cumail an eich air ais agus bha an dorachdas a' tighinn, agus cha robh fios aig a' ghille gu dé a dheadan e, gun taigh na b'fhaigse dha na dhà no trì mhiltean. Cha

robh e a' dol mòran air adhart, agus bha na fir a' sior iarraidh an airgid, ach chumadh esan riutha nach robh airgead aige.

Mu dheireadh, an uair a bha e a' fàs sgith a bhith 'ga chumail air ais, thubhairt e: "Tha dà phaipear deich tasdain agam, agus có agaibh a tha 'gan iarraidh?"

Bha an dara fear cho feumach orra ris an fhear eile, gus cha mhòr nach robh iad 'ga thoirt as àite-suidhe a' feuchainn ri am faighinn. An seo labhair e: "Gheibh gach fear agaibh deich tasdain ma sheasas sibh air beulaibh a' ghìge gus an toir mi as mo phòcaid e."

Sheas gach fear aig deireadh an eich a' feitheamh ris an airgead ach fhad agus a bha iad 'nan seasamh bha e a' faighinn deas na cuipe.

"Seo, ma tà!" ars esan, ach, nuair a shin iad a mach an làmhann, thog e a' chuip agus thug e sgàl do'n each. Mach a ghabh e agus thuit na daoine fo na rothan.

Beagan làithean an dèidh sin chuala esan gun robh dìthis dhaoine air an leòn. Thug e gur h-e an fheadhainn a thachair ris fhéin a bh'ann.

Riamh bho an oidhche sin cha tàinig an gille sin á Loch-nam-madadh leis fhéin.

M. A. M. (*Sgoil Phaibùl*).

Duine Treun

BHO chionn bhliadhnaichean bha duine làidir a' fuireach ann an Uibhist. Bha e cho làidir agus gun deanadh e an gnothach air sianar dhaoine cumanta.

Bha muinntir na tìre ag cantainn ris, nan deanadh e an gnothach air an uiread seo de dhaoine, gum faigheadh e poca mine. Shuidhich iad an latha air son na cuise, an dèidh toirt air an duine mionnachadh gun tigeadh e air an latha sin.

Thàinig an latha àraidh ud, agus chruinnich muinntir a' bhàile a mach chum an raoin, agus iad a' misneachadh an duine thréin.

Chuireadh 'na shineadh air an talamh e agus dìthis dhaoine a'g gach cois agus làimh. Thug e aon spreadhadh as, agus air dòigh air chor-eigin bha na fir air a làimh dheis mu shlat air falbh. Rug e air glùin an fhir a bha aig a chois agus dh'fhàisg e i gus mu dheireadh gum b'fheadar do'n duine through a ghreim a leigeil as.

Fhuair e as co-dhiubh, agus abar thusa gun robh éigheach agus gàireachdaich an measg an luchd-coimhid!

Bha an duine làidir coma bho na fhuair e an poca mine, agus tha mi cinnteach nach deònaicheadh na fir eile a dhol 'na dhàil a rithis.

MINA NIDHUGHAILL (*Sgoil Phaibùl*).

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

13. Domhnall MacDhomhnaill

IS ann am Barabhas, an Leódhas, a rugadh Dòmhnall MacDhòmhnaill, no "Dòmhnall Chràisgein" mar a chanadh iad ris, anns a' bhliadhna 1861, agus is ann anns an sgìre sin a chuir e seachd a bheatha ri goibhneachd.

Thòisich e ri bàrdachd an uair a bha e òg, agus bha meas mòr air na h-òrain aige air feadh an eilein gu léir. Bha spéis iongantach aige do abair nàdur mun cuairt da. Mar a bha Donnchadh Bàn a' deanamh luaidh air àilleachd agus maise Beinn Dòbhrain, mar sin bha Dòmhnall a' seinn mu Mhùirneag a bha gach là a' deanamh freiceadain air a' ionad còmhnuidh. Is e "Eilean mo ghaoil, is caomh leam eilean mo ghràidh" oran cho taitneach agus a rinn e, agus tha a ghràdh do Eilean Leódhais is gach lùb is coire is càrn a tha ann air a aithris am bàrdachd shiùbhlach, thaitnich a tha ag cur seula an deagh bhàird air-san a rinn i. Fhuair an t-òran sin a' cheud duais aig aon de na Mòid a bha an Glaschu, agus is tric e air a sheinn aig cuirmean-ciùil air feadh Leódhais gach bliadhna.

Bha alt iongantach aige air deanamh òrain éibhinn anns nach robh drabastachd no càineadh, agus is e "Dòmhnall an Gille" aon as eirmisiche de'n t-seòrsa sin. Chuir an Dòmhnall a bha sin roimhe gum faigheadh e bean a dheòin no dh'aindeoin, agus cha do stad e gus an d'fhuair e té. Fhuair an t-òran sin cuideachd a' chiad duais aig Mòd a bha an Glaschu. Bha a òrain éibhinn ag call leth an ilachd an uair nach robh iad air an seinn leis fhéin. Cha robh féith 'na chorp nach robh e ag cur an cumadh àraidh an uair a bha e 'gan seinn, agus shaoileadh tu mar sin gu robh a aodann gu léir a' labhairt nam faclan a bha e ri seinn.

Fhuair mise deagh eòlas air Dòmhnall còir an uair a bha mi ag cruinneachadh a bhàrdachd, ach ged a chaidh an cur an clò tha an leabhar sin glé anannam an diugh. Bha eòlas farsaing aige air seann eachdraidh agus seann chleachdaidhean an eilein, agus is bochd nach deachaidh gach fiosrachadh sin a bha aige a chur air mhaireann a chum gum biodh òigridh an là an diugh ag gabhail sùime dhiubh.

Chaochail Dòmhnall MacDhòmhnaill ann am Barabhas anns a' bhliadhna 1916, ach thèid a chuimhne ùrachadh gach uair a sheinnear "Eilean Mo Ghaoil."

Litir Eachainn

THA caraid còir, caraid dhomh féin agus caraid dhuibhse, a chlann, a bhios a' sgrìobhadh chugam bho am gu àm. Chan 'eil mi a' toirt ainme dhuibh an ceartair; chan e gu bheil aobhar sam bith air a chumail an cleith nas mò, ach fàgaidh mi e gun ainm, an dràs d co-dhuibh. Ann an litir a fhuair mi bhuaite bho chionn latha no dhà, thug e dhomh a thighinn is a shloinntearachd, agus ciod a tha agaibh air ach gu bheil sinn càirdeach. Tha an càirdeas fada a mach gun teagamh le a ghabhail a réir beachd fuar an là-diugh, ach am beachd blàth nan seann Ghàidheil, na h-Eileanaich gu sònraichte, chan 'eil e fada a mach idir. Bha na Gàidheil glé chumhneachail air càirdeas fola. Bha sean-fhacal aca air cuideachd, oir ruigeadh càirdeas fola an deicheadh glùn; agus rachadh daltachas eadhon na b'fhaide! Chan 'eil ar càirdeas-ne cho fada a mach ris an deicheadh glùn, ged nach 'eil e fada bhuaite. B'e mo sheanair-sa is athair-san na ciar-oghachan.

Có agaibh, a nis, a dh'inneas dhomh ciod an dlùths càirdeis a tha ann a bhith anns na ciar-oghachan? Teagamh gu bheil cuid agaibh aig a bheil fios air, ach tha mi cinnteach nach 'eil fios agaibh uile air, agus is feàrr dhomh innseadh dhuibh. Seo agaibh mar a bha na Gàidheil ag cùntas a' chàirdeis. Bha clann an dà bhràthar, an dà pheathar, no na peathar 's a' bhràthar, anns na h-oghachan. Bha an ath ghinealach anns na h-iar-oghachan; an ath aon anns na fionn-oghachan; an ath aon anns na dubh-oghachan; agus an ath aon anns na ciar-oghachan. Bha aon eile ann, ach chan 'eil cuimhne agam air an ceartair, ged a tha mi an dùil gu bheil e agam sgrìobhte an àit-eigin. Mar sin, is e "fifth cousins," a réir luchd na Beurla, a bhiodh anns na ciar-oghachan.

Is ann a thaobh nan Leathanach is dream mo mhàthar a thuit an càirdeas seo, agus b'ann ri linn iad a dhol air chuairt do'n Eilean Sgitheanach, is fuireach ann ré dhà no trì ghinealach a thàinig e mun cuairt, ged nach Sgitheanach mo charaid, ach tha fuil Sgitheanach ann, mar a tha annam féin. Nach faodainn, a nis, aon bheul-aithris air mar a chaidh na daoine seo air chuairt do'n Eilean Sgitheanach innseadh dhuibh, agus an t-aobhar a chuir gun do ghabh iad an imrich à Colla gu fada mu thuath. Dh'fhaodainn innseadh gu bheil iomradh eadar-dhealaichte air sin an eachdraidh sgrìobhte, agus iomradh a tha nas coltaiche ris an fhìrinn, ach chan 'eil sinn a' dol a mhilleadh ionntas na beul-aithris.

BHA am baile-fearainn ris an abrar Crosbull aig an t-seann seanair seo bho'n taing sinne le chéile, oir bha e an dlùth dhàimh ri Mac Iain Abraich, triath an eile-n. Tha Crosbull ag crìochnachadh ri Breacachadh, baile Mhic Iain Abraich e féin is air an robh an caisteal 'na sheasamh, ach le tràigh mhór, còrr is mille am fad, eatorra, an Tràigh a Deas, mar is trice a theirear rithe. Ri teas samhraidh bhiodh crodh an dà bhaile a' teàrnadh chon na tràgha, agus latha de na làithean ciod ach gun do shìr tarbh gach treud a mach am fear eile, agus an uair a choinnich iad am meadhan na tràgha bha an tabaid air a bonn!

Is e spòrs ghasda do na buachaillan a bha an seo, oir bha balach buachaile air cheann gach treud; ach an uair a ghabh tarbh Chrosbuill air tarbh Bhreacachaidh, agus a ruaig e air ais e gu dhùnàn fhéin, bha e 'na dhimeas a bha a' tagart aicheamhail am beachd buachaile Mhic Iain Abraich, agus is ann mar a bhà gun deach an dà bhuaichaille an sin an caraibh a chéile. Agus nach ann a ghabh buachaile ar seann seanar-ne mar an 'ceudna air buachaile Mhic Iain Abraich! Agus an uair a thàinig am eadar-dh 's a chaidh an crodh do'n bhuaillidh, bha fothail gu leòr air buachaile Chrosbuill ag innseadh do'n bhana-raich mar a ghabh an tarbh acasan air tarbh Bhreacachaidh, agus mar a ghabh e féin air a' bhuaichaille an uair a dh'fhiaich e ris an aicheamhal a thoirt a mach.

Cha bu lugha fothail na banaraich ag innseadh do bhean-an-taighe mar a thachair, no fothail bean-an-taighe ag innseadh do fhear a' bhaile! Ach cha robh fear a' bhaile idir toilichte. Is coltach aig a' cheart am sin nach robh clùisean cho càirdeil 's a dh'fhaodadh iad a bhì eadar Mac Iain Abraich is Fear Chrosbuill, agus anns na h-amannan a bha ann cha b'ann gun aobhar a ghabh Fear a' Bhaile mì-thapadh an uair a chuala e an sgeul. "Cha gheal do sgeul," arsa esan, "agus ma dh'inneas buachaile Bhreacachaidh do Mhac Iain Abraich mar a thachair, tha mise an dùil gur e 'bogadh nan gad' a bu tèarainte dhuinn na an t-atharrachadh." Agus is e sin a rinneadh.

DH'INNIS am buachaile do Mhac Iain Abraich gun teagamh mar a thachair is an dimeas a chuireadh orra latha na dunaich ud air an Tràigh a Deas! Agus cha bu sgeul seo ach sgeul a bha a' làn-thagar an

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

Uisdean Mac Gilleasbuig Chléirich

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

AN uair a bha Dòmhnall Gorm 'na cheann-feadhna air Cloinn Dòmhnail nan Eileana bha a chòmhnuidh an caisteal Dhun-tuilm, an Trondairnis. B'e Uisdean Mac Gilleasbuig Chléirich an ath fhear a bu dlùithe dha ann an càirdeas—duine cho foghainteach agus a bha an ceann a tuath an eilein aig an àm, ach, a réir coltais, bha e carach, seolta, ceannsgalach. Bha Uisdean 'na bhàillidh ann an Uibhis, ach bha e an còmhnuidh a' feitheamh air son fàth fhaighinn air an oighreachd a thoirt o Dhòmhnall.

Sgrìobh e litir gu Dòmhnall Màrtainn—duine aig an robh mòr ùghdarras air taobh sear Thronairnis—ag ainmeachadh latha àraidh anns an gabhadh e fhéin sealb air caisteal Dhun-tuilm. Aig an aon àm sgrìobh e gu Dòmhnall Gorm ag cur an céill a dhìlseachd agus a chàirdeas dha. Gu h-aimlisgeach fhuair an dara fear litir an fhìr eile, agus bha a bhràth mu na casan.

Chaidh an tóir a chur air Uisdean gun dàil. Chaidh a ghlacadh agus a thoirt fo làimh freiceadain làidir gu Dun-tuilm far an deachaidh a chur gu bàs ann an dòigh anabarrach chruaidh-chridheach.

Chuireadh e ann an seòmar fo'n talamb, agus dh'fhàgadh e gun bhìadh fad dà latha. Chuireadh an sin cuibhreann mhaith de fheòil shàillte a steach do a phrìosan còmhla ri soitheach uisge. Dh'ith Uisdean a leòr de'n fheòil, ach an uair a thug e an ceann as an t-soitheach air son a' phathadh a chasg, cha robh boirenn uisge ann. Ann an ùine gheàrr thòisich piantan uamhasach a' phathaidh ri a chràdh gu a chridhe, agus mun do ruith mòran ùine chaill e a reusan, agus chluinnt e ag éigheach air sheachd bealaichean, ach cha robh duine ann a dheanadh furtachd air. Ach an ùine gheàrr chuir am bàs crìoch air a fhuilangas.

Tha an rann seo a' foillseachadh spiorad dioghaltais a namhdean:

“Uisdean Mhic Ghilleasbuig Chléirich,

Far an laigh thu, slàn nar éirich;

Do mhionach an luib do léine.

'S sgeul do bhàis aig mnathan Shléibhte.”

CEARTACHADH

“Dòmhnall 's an Tannasg”

Anns an sgeulachd seo (*An Gaidheal Og*, An Gearran, 1950, t.d. 8), 's e “Meabhag” a bu chòir a bhith an àite “Mealbhag.”—F.-D.

SOC AIR!

R linn Cogadh a' Cheusair chaidh fear de Rmhuinntir na Hearadh a leòn le peillear an cùl an dùirn. Bha e air an t-slighe air ais leis an làimh leòinte an uair a thachair eòlach ris, agus dh'innis Dòmhnall dha an t-uamhas a bha dol shuas, agus arsa esan, “Mur dean iad air an socair marbhaidh iad a chèile!”

Bha Dòmhnall 'na fhìor dhuine gun mhì-thlachd, agus bha e 'na dhuine anns an robh cridhe curaidh agus dilseachd mhór. An uair a bha e am Breatainn 's gun e ro shlàn, thàinig eubha na h-éiginn air cobhair, agus sheas Dòmhnall a mach aon uair eile. Cha do thill e, ach thill a chliù, agus chan 'eil duine a dh'aithnicheadh e anns na Camshronaich aig nach 'eil cuimhne thaitneach air.—L. P. B.

LITIR EACHAINN (bho t.d. 19)

aicheamhail, is mun tàinig am meadhonoidheche bha Mac Iain Abraich is a cheatharnaich a' brùchdadh sìos Bealach an Fhraoich le an aghaidh air an Tràigh a Deas is Crosbull a shireadh an dioghaltais. Cha robh leadairt a thairbh is a bhuaichille anns an aon latha ri leigeil seachad gun an t-aicheamhal a thoirt a mach gun teagamh! Ach an uair a ràinig iad Crosbull cha robh romhpa ach nead fhalamh.

Bha Fear Chrosbull 's a theaghlach, agus gach ni a 'urrainn dha a thoirt leis 'na chuid bhirlinnean, 's an aghaidhean air a' Chuan Chanach, a' deanamh air an Eilean Sgitheanach, far an robh deagh chàrdean aige. Ràinig iad gu sàbhailte, is cha mhò a bu chéilidh a rinn iad, ach tuineachadh anns an eilean ré dhà ghinealach! Phòs cuid de na fir an sin, aon dhiubh nighean do'n duine ainmeil ud, Taog Mór MacCuinn, fear a réir gach sgeòil a bha cho glic ri Solamh féin; ach is é a tha an sin tionndadh iuchrach eile, agus iuchair a dh'fheumar fhàgail anns a' ghlais an drasd; theagamh gun cuir sinn car innte uair eile.

Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Luinneagan na Cloinne Bige

Le AONGHAS CAIMBEUL

DIOG-DEOG, DIOG-DEOG

(*Hickery Dickery Dock*)

Diog-deog, diog-deog, diog-deog!

Ruith luchag suas air a' chloc.

Bhuail e uair 's abair suirm,

Nuas an luchag le stoirn—

Diog-deog, diog-deog, diog-deog!

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

MEETINGS of the Northern Propaganda and Education Sub-Committees were held at Inverness on Saturday, 18th March. There was a very good attendance, some having travelled long distances. The work of the session was reviewed, and the arrangements made for the seven Provincial Mods to be held in June were approved.

On the same evening the final meeting and ceilidh of the Inverness all-Gaelic Association for session 1949-50 was held. Mr. Farquhar MacLeod was the lecturer for the evening. At the close, the President, Mr. Donald MacPhail, intimated that this would be Mr. MacLeod's last meeting, as he is to retire from the position of headmaster of Clava School and is to reside in Edinburgh. He paid a warm tribute to Fearchar's enthusiasm for the Gaelic Cause, and said that Inverness's loss would be Edinburgh's gain. Mr. MacLeod had been an office-bearer since the formation of the Ceilidh in 1934 and was a regular attendee at the meetings. The President, on behalf of all present, wished him happy days in his well-earned retirement. Mr. MacLeod suitably replied.

Central Fund Concerts

A SERIES of concerts was held recently in aid of An Comunn's Central Fund and, as can be seen from the Treasurer's Notes, a sum of £51 11s. 6d. was handed over to the Fund as a result.

The first of these, held at Elgin, was presided over by the Branch President, Mr. D. C. Cowan, a native of Olan. Mr. Cowan is doing good work in Elgin, and his Gaelic Conversation Class was well attended throughout the session. He appealed for continued support for the work of An Comunn Gaidhealach. The concert was well attended, and the programme submitted was well received. The Northern Organiser expressed the warm thanks of his Committee to Mr. Cowan, his Committee, and all who contributed to the concert programme.

The second concert was held in Inverness with Mr. Donald Graham, M.A., Convener of the Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee, as Chairman. The concert programme was much enjoyed by all present. There was a satisfactory attendance.

Capt. William MacKay presided at the third of the series, at Drumadrochit, and contributed to the programme by narrating several

stories of the '45 in the Urquhart and Strathglass-districts.

The fourth concert fulfilled a dual purpose, that of providing an entertainment for over 300 of the patients in Craig Dunain Hospital and also helping An Comunn Funds. Mr. J. W. McKillop, C.B.E., Chairman of the House Committee, presided and spoke in Gaelic and English. Dr. McWilliam, Medical Superintendent, voiced the thanks of the patients and of the public present. He also thanked the Chairman.

Culcabock School housed the fifth concert of the series, with Capt. William MacKay as Chairman. The schoolroom was filled to capacity, and everyone enjoyed the programme. The Chairman thanked the public for their attendance, the artistes, and Mr. N. J. MacLeod who made all the arrangements.

The concert held at Newtonmore on Monday, 27th March, was the last of the series. The Northern Organiser presided over a fair attendance. A splendid programme was submitted and a number of visitors were present.

Mrs Carol Galbraith and Mr. Iain Douglas were the guest artistes at all of the concerts, and they were ably supported by local singers, dancers, and instrumentalists. Mr. Dugald MacDonald, Stonehaven, was present at three of the concerts and assisted with the programme. Sincere thanks are due to all who assisted in any way, and especially to Dr. and Mrs. McWilliam and Mr. Dugald MacDonald for special services rendered. It was hoped that one of the concerts would be held at Dingwall, where a large audience could be assured, but the hall was not available. In addition to the monetary value of these efforts, it must be remembered that valuable propaganda work was accomplished. People look forward to singers of the calibre of Carol Galbraith and Iain R. Douglas. They gave of their best at all of these concerts, and they will be welcomed back on some other occasion.

THE Organiser attended meetings of Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee, Mod and Music Committee, and the Executive Council at Glasgow, and on Saturday, 25th March, he addressed Ceilidh nan Gaidheal in the Highlanders' Institute.

Feill Efforts

ON Wednesday, 29th March, Mr. MacPhail was in charge of a

Whist Drive and Ceilidh at Inverness, and from this effort, organised by Mrs. H. W. Johnstone and Mrs. Fraser, a sum of £40 was handed over to the Inverness Burgh and County Stall. Sincere thanks are due to these ladies for their practical interest in the Feill. Another effort was that of Mrs. D. H. McNeill, who from a ceilidh in her own home handed over the sum of £10 to the Fund.

On 31st March the Organiser presided at a ceilidh sponsored by the Dochgarroch Branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute in aid of the Feill funds. A very pleasant evening was spent.

Inverness

AT a meeting, presided over by the Northern Organiser, the Inverness Gaelic Musical Association was re-constituted, and it is hoped that this Association will be able to put forward a senior choir to the 1951 National Mod. The President is Miss Zena Peaton and the Secretary Miss E. M. MacLeod, 3 Reay Street, Inverness.

On 30th March the Northern Organiser presided over a meeting under the auspices of the Dingwall Branch, when a talk on "The Development of the Hydro-Electric Power in the Highlands" was given by Mr. Banks, Hydro-Electric Board. The Paper was much enjoyed, and several present commented favourably on the points made, including Dr. D. J. MacLeod, Rev. Donald MacLeod and Mr. Archie MacDonald. The Chairman thanked Mr. Banks very sincerely for coming all the way from Edinburgh to address the Branch.

Comunn na h-Oigridh

A MEETING of the Lochaber Regional Committee was held within the Imperial Hotel, Fort William, on Saturday, 1st April. Mr. L. MacKinnon, M.A., Convener, presided, and the Organiser attended. The position of Gaelic in the area was reviewed, and useful suggestions for the Inverailort Camp were put forward. Four members of the Committee are to attend the Camp. The new Hon. Secretary and Treasurer to the Committee is Mr. Murdo MacKay, Avondale, Fort William.

MR. MacPHAIL, who is a Vice-President of the Schools' Camanachd Association, presided at a meeting held in the Castle, Inverness, on 4th April, to make arrangements for the final stages of the two competitions sponsored by the Association—the MacPherson Cup and the MacKay Cup.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Justice in Argyll

THE JUSTICIARY RECORDS OF ARGYLL AND THE ISLES, 1664-1705: transcribed and edited, with an Introduction, by John Cameron, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D. (Published for the Stair Society by J. Skinner & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh, 1949, xxxi — 240 pp.)

Dr. John Cameron is well-known to all Highlanders as a leader in the Gaelic movement and in many causes for the well-being of Highlanders, not least for his able leadership as President of An Comunn Gaidhealach during the years 1946-49. He has also, however, gained for himself a very high place as a legal scholar, notably by his book on *Celtic Law* (published in 1937) and by his contributions to learned journals.

This new product of Dr. Cameron's scholarly researches will be of interest primarily to lawyers who are interested in the historical development of the law, but it is also of value for all who are interested in Highland history, while for those whose chief interest is in personal names and place-names Dr. Cameron has provided very useful indices.

In the Introduction Dr. Cameron succinctly but fully explains all that needs explaining for the proper understanding of the records here reproduced.

In Scotland from early times the oversight of all disputes was the responsibility of a great magistrate or officer of state called the Justice or Justiciar of the Kingdom, who in the King's name presided over the King's court, which consisted of the barons and other persons of dignity. The Justiciar, later known as Justice-General, had his deputies. At an early period these were two in number, a Justiciar for the North and a Justiciar for the South (the Forth being the dividing line). Later the number was increased to eight (two for each of four divisions of the country), and then again reduced to the original two. At first a personal office, granted to the holder for a lifetime, the office of Justiciar became hereditary in a family. This happened in the case of the Earls (later Dukes) of Argyll. It is not known when the office of Justiciar was first given to the Earl of Argyll, but it was held by the family at least by 1526. In 1628 the Earl of Argyll resigned the office of Justiciar to King Charles I but retained the Sheriffdom of Argyll and the Isles from 1628 to 1748, in which latter year, as a result of the Heritable Jurisdictions Act, 1747 (following on

the "Forty-Five" Rising), the jurisdiction was vested in the King's court and judges and Argyllshire was added to the Western Circuit District with Inveraray as the circuit town.

The jurisdiction of Justiciary was exercised by the Earl of Argyll as Hereditary Justice-General either in person or by his Justice-Substitutes. The jurisdiction was not exercised in the period 1681-91 because of the doom of treason and forfeiture which had been pronounced on the Earl.

These records consist of the indictments against persons tried before the court, with the verdict and sentence, but the evidence of witnesses is not recorded. The court was almost always held at Inveraray (on one or two occasions at Campbeltown and Rothesay). In this connection an interesting point emerges. It appears that the present town of Inveraray is not the original town. The old town of Inveraray, says Dr. Cameron, stood on the banks of the River Aray at its junction with the sea. It was in the court-house of this old town that the trials recorded in this book (with a few exceptions) took place. Inveraray was created a royal burgh by Charles I in 1648, but as long ago as 1474 it had become a burgh of barony in the time of King James III. In 1742 the old buildings (including the court-house of the old town) situated on the north-end of the bay were taken down and new houses were erected on the south end of the bay, where the town now stands. The trial of James Stewart ("James of the Glens") for the "Appin Murder" in 1752 took place in the new Inveraray Court-House (now the Argyll Estate Office). The old Court-House and the old "kirk of the burgh" (to which the jury sometimes retired to consider their verdict) have disappeared. "The gallow tree, perhaps, alone remains." The New Statistical Account (1845) says: "In 1742, the causes which led to the building of the burgh (of Inveraray) so near the castle having ceased to operate, the old buildings were pulled down, and houses were erected by the Duke for the inhabitants . . . on the present site."

In these trials the Jury, invariably fifteen in number, were men of substance resident in the neighbourhood of the scene of the crime. Their foreman was called the Chancellor and he announced their verdict. The sentence of the Court was announced by the Dempster, the pronouncer of doom. The job of the Crowner

or Coroner was to arrest and to secure the body of a person accused or convicted.

The crimes dealt with in these records were mostly thefts and robberies, often with violence and housebreaking, the stealing of cattle and horses being most frequent. There were also murders, especially child-murders. Punishments were severe. The penalty of death was inflicted for robbery, and many of those convicted paid the penalty at the gallow tree at Inveraray. Other punishments included boring the tongue with a hot iron, branding the palms of the hands, and money fines.

The statutes were severe and the criminal law was rigorously administered. So far from the Highlands being "a law unto themselves" until the latter part of the 18th century, justice was administered, in Argyllshire at any rate, as strictly as in Edinburgh.

The only case of witchcraft in these records is that of Janet McNicoll, Rothesay, who was accused of "the abominable crime of witchcraft," "meeting and consulting with the devil" at a certain place "upon the shore of Rothesay" and consorting with other witches, of whom four were executed in 1662. Janet, however, broke out of the tolbooth of Rothesay and fled to the Lowlands where she remained in Kilmarnock and other places for twelve years, "always under an evil fame both at home and abroad." Being re-arrested in 1673 she was found guilty and condemned "to be taken and strangled to the death and her body to be burnt at the gallows of Rothesay."

In 1677 an Archibald Campbell "caused build and erect ane dask and seatt" in the kirk of "Kilvicocharmick in Knapdaill," but on the 3rd of June, being a Sabbath day, Neil Campbell of Knap entered the church and, in presence of the congregation immediately before divine service, "most barbarously, wickedly, and maliciously without any ground or provocation teared and pulled down the most part of the said dask," in spite of the remonstrance of several gentlemen and elders, and further he abused one of the said elders and struck him over the head with a piece of board which he had torn from the said "dask" and also struck him with his hands and feet. Neil was fined and ordered to find caution and "to satisfy the minister and elders of the parish for the scandal on the sabbath day."

On Sunday, 11th July, 1675, in the church of Kilmichael-Glassary ("Glastrie"), after the Rev. Archibald MacCallum had ended his sermons and administration of the sacrament of baptism, Duncan McIlvernock and Archibald Campbell laid hands on the minister "by taking him by the breast, tossing him to and

fro, commanding and forcing him to return to the church to baptise ane child to the said Duncan McIlvernock." Duncan was fined one hundred pounds Scots.

In June, 1675, there is an indictment against a large number of Macleans, of Brolas, Ardgour, Kinlochaline, Ardnacross, Aros, Lochbuie, Torloisk, etc., accusing them of assembling "armed men with swords, haggbutts, pistols, durks and other weapons" in April bypast at Kinlochnakeal, to the number of three or four hundred men, which they summoned by sending through the Isle of Mull, Morven and other places "fyre crosses for convocating of the country people in arms." Other assemblies of armed men gathered in Glenforsa and at Carnbulg. All of these were declared outlaws and fugitives and were "put to the horn."

Dr. Cameron deserves thanks for the labour he has expended on these records and for this further contribution he has made to the materials for the study of Highland history.

Scots Year Book

THE SCOTS YEAR BOOK, 1949-50, edited by T. Atholl Robertson (142 pp., 2s. or, by post, 2s. 3d.).

Mr. Robertson is to be congratulated on the publication of the forty-fourth issue of this indispensable little book, the first issue of which appeared in 1905. Here are lists of the Scottish and Highland and Gaelic societies which are to be found in every part of the world. There are fuller notices of many of these societies, with something about their history and activities. There are also book-reviews and many interesting news paragraphs.

Every Scot interested in Scotland and "the Scots of the dispersion" should have a copy of this book. Any Scot going abroad should regard a copy of it as just as important as his passport.

About the Weather

WEATHER NEWS FRONT is a bi-monthly newsletter on the weather, written by David Bowen and illustrated by Edward Ardizzone. Its aim is "to show how the weather affects our everyday lives, occupations, and sports." The annual subscription is 5s. post free. Application should be made to David Bowen, BCM/Weather, London, W.C.1. The first number — January-February 1950 — includes several interesting features.

Thig do'n Fheill agus
cuimhnich na Laoiach le bhith
cuideachadh na h-Oigridh

Ann's a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

Proposed Linguaphone Course

Dear Sir,—I am an American of Scottish descent, stationed near London with the U.S. Air Force. I have been a member of An Comunn for some months, and am very much interested in the society and its doings.

I should like to take a more active part in the society, but, unfortunately, I live, and work, in a rather remote part of Greater London, which doesn't give me much opportunity, nor do I have much chance to learn Gaelic.

For this latter purpose, I got in touch with the Linguaphone Institute, and inquired about a Gaelic course. They have none, but apparently one is in preparation, and they have promised to notify me when it is ready. I am afraid, though, that this is going to be some time, and I am rather impatient, so I am coming to you with a plan.

I feel sure it would do no harm, and might speed things a bit, if Linguaphone received letters from potential customers.

As you probably know, the Linguaphone method uses gramophone records in connection with printed lessons, and is probably the fastest, easiest and best method of learning a language, aside from a judicious choice of parents!

Could you devote a paragraph in *An Gaidheal* to a suggestion that those interested in such a course write to Linguaphone Institute, 207-209 Regent Street, London, W.1.?

If this course becomes available, I feel sure it will be a great help to others, like me, who can't seem to find the time to get to classes, nor the persistence to learn from books at home. It should also be of great use in schools and clubs.

If the course comes out before I leave the United Kingdom, I will purchase two and present one to An Comunn, to be used where it will do most good.

By the way, if any of your readers might know of any eighteenth century emigrants to America by the name of Buntain (my great-grandfather changed the spelling), I should be most happy to hear from them, and my wife is trying to find out about a Lieutenant Donald MacDonald who served with Montgomery's Regiment about the time of the American Revolution, who may have been an ancestor of hers.

Yours very truly,
ROBERT R. BUNTEN.

"Feasta"

A Charaid,—Bu mhaith leam innseadh dhuibh is do bhrù luchd-leughaidh gu bheil mìosachan fìor mhaith an Gàidhlig air a chlàbhuailadh an Eirinn air a bheil *Feasta*. Is i Gàidhlig a bhios ann air fad, agus gu leòr dhìth. Tha mi an dùil gun deanadh e maitheas nach beag nan teannadh cuid de ar daoine air eòlas a chur air a' mhìosachan Eireannach seo. Anns na mìosan mu dheireadh seo againn tha e air a dhol o'n mhaith chon an ro-mhaith, agus tha toradh is fàs soilleir a' tighinn air buaidh na Gàidhlig Eireannaich mar mheadhon maith sgrìobhaidh, leasachadh mòr 'ga dheanamh air a' chainnt an còmhuidh, mòran de sgoinn ùr agus de chomas air cùrsan an t-saoghail ùir seo a laimhseachadh gu rèidh is gu buileach air tighinn innte gun i bhith ag call càileachd na cainnte. Tha a h-èig air ath-nuadhachadh. Tha nì coltach ri gealladh is tuar dòchasach air cùisean an lùib sin.

Tha àireamh a' mhìos seo air tighinn chugam agus chan aithne dhomh càite idir am faighinn a luach am Beurla air a phrìs (4d.). Seo agaibh an t-àite anns am faighear am mìosachan: "*Feasta*," 14 Cearnag Parnell, Baile Àtha Cliath, An Eirinn. Agus is e a chosgais 5/- sa' bhliadhna eadar cosgais is postachd.

Do dhuine dileas,
SUL THAR LEAR.

[Taing do ar caraaid. Thug sinn féin iomradh air *Feasta* an àireamh an Og-mhìos an uiridh, t.d. 81.—F.-D.]

Miss Lettice Macnaughten

Dear Sir,—I was extremely touched to see the warm tribute to my sister, Lettice Macnaughten, who passed to the Higher Life last June.

I don't think there ever was a greater enthusiast for the Gaelic language, and she never missed an opportunity of talking it.

May I make one correction. Our father was Sir Steuart Macnaughten (not Sir James), and was great-uncle to the present Chief, Sir Francis Macnaughten.

Yours truly,
LAURA CULME-SEYMOUR.

(Contd. on p. 68)

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod - Dunoon, 1950

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Whist Drive, St. Mun's Dunoon, per Mrs. McElholm	42	0	0
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"Cabair Feidh"	0	15	0
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Previously acknowledged	£1114	18	4
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An Comunn Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure

DURING the winter great progress has been made in the recording of stories, traditions, ballads and songs on discs, wire, and ediphone cylinders in Uist and Barra and at various centres on the mainland.

The Linguistic Survey of Scotland, under Professor Angus McIntosh, has made a large number of very interesting disc-recordings in North Uist. Mr. J. L. Campbell, President of the Folklore Institute of Scotland, has recorded on wire over 250 items this winter in Uist, Barra, Benbecula, Canna, Edinburgh, and Glasgow; and the Rev. D. MacKellig and Mr. John McLean (Barra) have made ediphone recordings in Lochaber.

The Barra Folklore Committee (Chairman, Canon E. MacInnes; Secretary, Mr. Neil Sinclair)—as yet the only one of its kind—has also made a number of wire-recordings locally and has been encouraged by a grant of £25 from Inverness County Council for this purpose.

In Benbecula Mr. Calum I. MacLean, of the Irish Folklore Commission, is continuing his invaluable work, and it is understood that Mr. K. C. Craig, of Edinburgh University, is preparing to publish folktales and folksongs he has collected in South Uist.

The American Folklore Society has accepted for publication the songs and folklore collected by Miss Margaret Fay Shaw in South Uist before the war; these are to be illustrated by many photographs illustrating the Hebridean way of life.

Ten old songs (mostly waulking songs), recorded in the Isle of Barra by the President of F.I.O.S. in 1938, are shortly to be published on 12-inch discs by the Linguaphone Institute, together with a book of words and translation.

Interest in the recording of Scotland's folklore is growing, and it is pleasing to see that the Principal of Edinburgh University has supported this work in a letter printed in the *Scotsman*. Great things are expected of the Linguistic Survey of Scotland, which is reasonably well endowed and has now a fine recording laboratory.

Members and supporters of F.I.O.S. will welcome the appointment of Mr. John MacLean (Raasay) to the Rectorship of Oban High School. Both Mr. MacLean and the retiring Rector, Mr. Angus MacLeod, are members of the Council of F.I.O.S., the latter being a Vice-President.

involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.I. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

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AN GAIDHEAL *THE GAEL*

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JUNE, 1950

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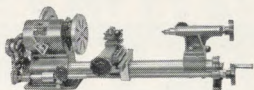
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Anns a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

AN GAI DHEAL THE GAEL

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"AN T-SEACHDAIN SGITHEANACH"

CHA ghabh muinntir chearnan eile de'n Ghaidhealtachd gu h-òle e ma bheir mi iomradh air an oidhirp shònraichte is chliùmhoir a rinn na Sgitheanaich rè aon seachdain o chionn ghoidrid—bho'n 19mh gu 23mh de'n Chèitein. Greis air ais shuidhicheadh comhairle gus beachdachadh air cor an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus air dòighean-leasachaidh, agus is ann an co-cheangal ri obair na comhairle sin agus le taic bho Bòrd an Luchd-Turuis a chuir-eadh mu dheidhinn na h-oidhirp seo.

F'ann chomhair an dràsda tha an leabhran taitneach a chuir-eadh an clò gus innse mu gach cùis is cruinneachadh. Anns an leabhran tha dealbhan ag cur an cèill maise "Eilean a' Cheò," cunntasan mu eachdraidh an eilein, mu na beanntan, 's mu'n t-sluagh, agus mar an ceudna clàr-eagair a' foillseachadh gach ullachaidh a rinneadh a chum feum is toileachadh luchd-tadhaill.

Ri m' àlaimh, mar an ceudna, tha iomraidhean a gheàrr mi as na paipearan-uidheachd ag innse mar a chaidh leis gach gnòthach is rùn. Tha e soilleir gun do sheirbhich gun maith leis an oidhirp seo, agus gu bheil comhairle an Eilein an làn-dhùil a leithid eile a bhith aca gach bliadhna.

Air feasgar Dhi-haoine, an 19mh là de'n Chèitein rinneadh tòiseachadh le cuirm-chiùil aig an Ath-leathann, agus le plob-àrcan Phort-rìghheadh ag cluich air sràidean ceanna-bhaile an eilein. Di-sathurna roimh mheadhon-latha dh'fhosgail Bantighearna Loch-Iall Féill an Phort-rìghheadh, far an d'rinneadh foillseachadh is reic air obair-chò is ealdhain-làimhe eile.

An dèidh mheadhon-latha bha cruinneachadh mòr agus lùth-chleasan air an cumail shuas air

a' Mheall. Chuir Mgr. Iain Hilleary, Ceann-suidhe Comhairle an Eilein, fàilte air a' chuid-eachd, agus labhradh teachdair-eachd deagh-ghean le Probhais-teann Dhuin-èideannu, Ghlaschu, is Inbhir-nis. Am measg na cuideachd a bha làthair bha Loch-Iall agus a' Bhean-uasal NicLeòid (Ceann-feadhna nan Leòdach), Morair Shleibhte (Ceann-feadhna nan Domhnallach), Fear-parlaimaid na Siorrachd, agus Mgr. Tòmas MacIain (Ceann-suidhe Bòrd an Luchd-Turuis agus Bòrd an Dealain-UISge).

R' E nan làithean a lean is gamu ceàrn de'n eilean anns nach robh cruinneachadh no cuirm air chor-eigin—cuirmean-citil is cuirmean-dhealbh is cuirmean-cluich is cèilidhean, am Port-rìghheadh, an Dun-bheagan, an Caol-Acaìn, an Cill-mo-Luaig, an Uige, an Aird-bhàsair, am Bhatairnis, an Eilean Dhiarmain, agus anns an Ath-leathann. Bha lùth-chleasan Gaidhealach aca an Uige a bharrachd air lùth-chleasan Phort-rìghheadh. Gach latha bha cothrom air dol air sgrìob gun iomadh ceàrn de'n Eilean.

Air Di-màirt an 23mh de'n Chèitein, bha latha mòr aca air Dun-bheagan. Air an latha sin dh'fhosgail Ceann-feadhna Cloinn MhicLeòid dorsan an t-seann chaisleil gu farsaing agus thug i fàilte agus falaidheachd do àireamh cheudan de na Leòdach a chruinnich à ceithir ranna ruadha an domhain. Thàinig seann Bhan-Leòdach (aois ceithir-fichead 's a h-aon) à California, astar sia mìle de mhilltean ann an itealan. Thàinig Leòdach eile à New Zealand agus à Astràlia.

Chan e mhàin gun tugadh do'n luchd-tadhaill sealladh air maise an Eilein; agus chan e mhàin gun d'fhuair iad fàilte agus toil-intinn aig na cruinn-

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

Gliocas nan Gaidheil

Togaidh an obair an fhianuis.

Firinn air son a' Mhìos seo

Bheir Dia gach obair chum breitheanais, maìlle ris gach ni diomhair, mas maith no mas olc e. —Ecles. xii. 14.

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

Lewis and Harris

THE Organiser recently made a fortnight's visit to Lewis and Harris. He visited most of Lewis in eight days, mainly in the interests of Comunn na h-Oigrìdh and the Grand Feill. Additional enrolments were made to the Feachdan and the special effort being made by members of Comunn na h-Oigrìdh was fully explained to the children. At each centre members promised to make goods for the Feill.

The following is a list of the enrolments made during the visit:—

Back, 42; North Tolsta, 52; Kershader, 10; Cromore, 4; Marvig or Planascar, 8; Lemraway, 13; Gravir, 15; Bragar, 15; Shawbost, 63; Breaslet, 28; Achmore, 12; Tong, 12; Laxdale, 39; Aird, 24; Bayble, 25; Knock, 13; Sandwick, 16. A new Feachd was formed at Lionel with a roll of 26. Total—417.

The Organiser considered it a great honour and privilege to be present in the Caledonian Hotel on 14th April when Comunn Gaidhealach Leodhais showed their appreciation of the excellent service rendered by Mr. Alasdair Urquhart, M.A., who had been Hon. Secretary of the Branch and of the Lewis Mod for over twenty years. Mr. MacLeod, M.A., President of the Branch, presided, and in the course of the evening Mr. James Thomson, M.A., made the presentation in his own inimitable way. Mr. Urquhart suitably replied. Mr. MacPhail, on behalf of An Comunn and the Northern Committees, thanked Mr. Urquhart for all he had done and is doing for the Gaelic cause. A musical evening followed and the artists included Miss Evelyn Campbell and Mr. Iain MacSween, last year's Mod Gold Medallist.

The Lewis Branch has just completed a most successful session and, although the Town Hall can accommodate over 600 people, many had to be turned away at the closing ceilidhs of the session. There is in Lewis today a fine feeling for all things Gaelic and the Drama has a special appeal for the younger generation.

From Lewis the Organiser proceeded to Harris. As the

first day promised to be fine, he took a boat (of his own) and visited Kyles-Scalpay, Scalpay, and Drinishadder, returning by Miavaig. The new road to Drinishadder is nearing completion and it will prove of great benefit when a service is instituted from Tarbert. The roads generally in Harris are in a very bad state and the same can be said of a large part of Lewis. The Organiser also visited Stockinish, Manish, Finsbay, Leverburgh (or, to use the old name, An t-Ob), Northton, Scarasta, and Tarbert.

The following enrolments were made during the visit:—
Scalpay, 3; Drinishadder, 21; Stockinish, 9; Manish, 20; Finsbay, 13; An t-Ob, 20; Northton, 0; Scarasta, 10; Tarbert, 27. Total—123.

Comunn na h-Oigrìdh Stall

AS these notes are being written, a stream of parcels from the Feachdan for Comunn na h-Oigrìdh Stall of the Grand Feill are coming into the Inverness Office, from the Butt of Lewis to Barra Head, North and South Uist, Skye, Harris, the western seaboard of Ross-shire and the mainland of Inverness-shire. Up to the time of writing over fifty Feachdan have sent goods and donations, and people from the North and West, resident in Glasgow, will have the rare opportunity of purchasing goods made perhaps in their own villages and possibly by their own relations. The names of the children and the name of the Feachd are attached to each article donated.

One little boy of eight years sent six peats in a registered parcel. Possibly this is the first time that peats have been registered with the Post Office. Some of these home-made articles are very ingenious—for example, the boy from Barra who sent a stuffed rabbit or the boy from Skye who made and sent a miniature set of furniture for a drawing-room.

But pride of place must, I think, be given to the Portree Feachd who have published *A' Cabair-veach*, 3 for the Feill. Those who have read the two former issues will look forward to Number 3 and they will not

be disappointed. It is well got up, with a beautiful cover. It contains long stories, short articles and poems, and in the "Letters to the Editor" is displayed a rare choice of Highland wit and pawkiness. It is illustrated with amusing lino-cut drawings and carries several local advertisements, all in Gaelic. The price is "Tasdan co-dhiu, co-dhiu." It is to be hoped that the 3000 copies to be sent to the Feill will all be sold and, if such be the case, it is the intention of the Feachd to print a further 1000 copies. *Cuimhnich na Laoich is cuidich an Oigrìdh*

Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhir-nis

AT the Annual General Meeting of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhir-nis, the President, Mr. Donald MacPhail, was re-elected for a further term. The new Secretary is Mr. Allan Smith, a native of Lewis, and the Minute Secretary is another Lewisman, Mr. A. J. MacAskill, M.A. It was decided to continue affiliation with An Comunn Gaidhealach. Donations were made to the Dunoon Mod and Comunn na h-Oigrìdh Camp. It was also decided to assist the local Feachd of Comunn na h-Oigrìdh in every possible way.

An t-Seachdain Sgitheanach

(Bho t.d. 77)

neachaidhean a dh'ullaicheadh dhaibh; agus chan e mhàin gum faca iad cuimhneachain air seann eachdraidh an Eilein—Caisteal Dhun-bheagan agus a' Bhratach-Shidhe, Dun-thuilim, uaigh na h-ainnir chaoimh, Fionnghal Nic-Dhòmhnaill, agus iomadh àite is làrach eile a tha ag brachadh cuimhne air na linn-tean a dh'òim: ach, nas fheàrr na sin uile, fhuaras comharradh is dearbhadh air spiorad is spionnadh nan Sgitheanach air an latha an diugh. Tha àireamh an t-sluaigh air lùghdachadh gu mòr seach mar a bhà, agus an iomadh dòigh tha cor an Eilein ag aobhrachadh iomagain. A dh'aindeoin sin, tha e soilleir gu bheil na Sgitheanach ag cur romhpa gach dìcheall a dheanamh a chum 's gum seallbhaic iad barrachd soirbheachaidh agus a chum 's nach bi uread leigseil aig an òigrìdh air togail orra a' eilean an àraich a shireadh am bòshlaime.

Gur math a thèid leotha!

The Grand Feill

THE Grand Feill held in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, on 17 - 20 May, 1950, has taken its place with the Feills of 1907 and 1927 as among the most outstanding efforts and achievements of An Comunn Gàidhealach in its fifty-nine years' history. That it was a success is beyond all question. With the final figure still to be adjusted, this great enterprise added at least £3,000 to the Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund, bringing it up to over £13,000, leaving about £7,000 still to be gathered in the next six months if the target figure of £20,000 is to be achieved by the end of the year. Some, no doubt, may think that so great an effort might have brought in more than it actually did. Having regard, however, to present stringencies and living costs and the many other claims upon the public, there is every reason to be satisfied and to be grateful for the generosity of the members and friends of An Comunn and of the general public.

An Comunn Gàidhealach, and the Gaelic and Highland people generally, should be left in no doubt about whose is the chief credit for this great achievement. Mrs. J. M. Bannerman and Mr. John Murray, Convener and Vice-Convener respectively of the Feill Committee, had the vision, the energy, and the faith to initiate, plan, and organise this enterprise and carry it through to success. Many a time they must have felt somewhat doubtful of success, but they carried on and, not sparing themselves, inspired others. No great co-operative effort can be successful without leadership, but good leadership is nothing without willing and enthusiastic workers. These the Feill recruited in abundance, although in some departments too much had to be done by too few. Growing out of the small work-party, who during the war were instrumental in raising over £10,000 for comforts, canteens, and Gaelic literature for the Forces, the Feill effort was carried through by an actual staff of some six hundred helpers, who worked at the stalls, exhibitions, and side-shows, apart from the large number who helped with the various entertainments. In addition, there were the many hundreds up and down the land,

and even furth of Scotland, who so kindly helped in various ways, by their work, their gifts, and their donations.

THE various stalls (over two dozen of them) were attractively arranged in the Main Hall, where, above the platform, the key-note of the Feill was strikingly and appropriately symbolised by large-scale reproductions of the badges of An Comunn, Clann an Fhraoich, and Comunn na h-Oigridh. The stalls represented practically every district—An Comunn Work Party Gift Stall, Argyll and the Isles (Mull and Iona, Coll, Morven, Oban and Lorne, and Islay Sections), Arran, Bute, and Ayr, Edinburgh and South-East, Glasgow, Dunbartonshire and Renfrewshire, Inverness-shire and Glasgow-Skye (Inverness Burgh and County and Skye Association Sections), Outer Hebrides (Lewis and Harris and Uist and Barra Associations), London (supported by some eleven Highland and Gaelic Societies in London), Overseas, Ross and Sutherland (Glasgow Western Ross Association, Ross County and Sutherland Sections), and Stirlingshire, Perthshire, and Dundee. There were also the Scottish-American Stall and the "Other Friends of Scotland Stall," the latter organised by members of various Consulates in Glasgow, with Mrs. Taddei, of the French Consulate, as Convener. Not least important was the Comunn na h-Oigridh Stall, for which the Feachdan had contributed various articles, some made by themselves. There was also a very attractive Flower Stall.

"Tigh Mairi," a full-size old Highland cottage, furnished in the traditional style, even to the extent of red geraniums in the window, proved a great attraction, and Mrs. Barron (as Mairi) and Angus MacDonald (as "Am B'dach") must have had a busy time (they certainly played their parts exceedingly well), as did Mr. Donald Gillies who assisted and Mrs. Macdonald and Mrs. Mackenzie, from Uist, who sat at the cottage door, carding and spinning, while small hand-locks were also in operation.

The Celtic Art Exhibition attracted much interest, and Mr. George Bain's instructive talks

(with blackboard illustrations) on Celtic design drew large groups of interested persons. Mr. Hamish Ballingall, of Buchanan Castle Golf Club, gave ten-minute golf lessons, and there were several maunquin parades. Free film-shows were given in the Berkeley Hall, and there was dancing in the Ballroom Suite on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.

AN Exhibition of Arizona (Indian) Silver attracted much attention, and another very interesting exhibition was that entitled "Interiors Today: The Scottish Way." This was an exhibition "designed to show a happy arrangement of antique and contemporary furniture, furnishings, and craft-work of Scottish origin in various domestic settings." It was designed and presented by three young Scots, Jean Aikman and Lora Miller (Designers) and Jack Notman (Architect).

The Side-Shows in the Lower Hall were also worth a visit, especially as the "Showmen" in charge were astonishingly generous, although some of their "shows" were sore on the pocket.

The Stirling and West Perthshire Federation of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute invited all and sundry to "Guidfarin' Farm". Mr. Farquhar MacRae was in charge of a well-stocked book-stall, while scores of vendors of raffle-tickets lay in wait at every turning.

Each evening there was an attractive programme put on in the Berkeley Hall. On Wednesday evening the programme was provided by three junior Gaelic choirs—Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, Govan, and Knightswood. On Thursday evening the Govan Gaelic Choir and the Margaret Morris Ballet put on a very enjoyable show, advertised as "a new ceilidh." Gaelic songs were accompanied by dances improvised by members of the Ballet and remarkably expressive of the moods of the various pieces.

On the Friday evening a Gaelic Song Competition for boys and girls was held. The competition was arranged in two Classes—Group 1 (under 13 years of age) and Group 2 (13 and over). There were twenty-nine competitors altogether, and the first six in each group, as selected in the Friday evening adjudication, competed in the "Finals" on

(Continued on next page)

Uilleam Ros

LE TORMOD DOMHNALLACH

(air a leantainn bho t.i. 69)

AN ceann beagan bhliadhnachan dh'fhág a phárantan Farrais agus chaidh iad a dh'fhuireach do Ghearr-loch, far an do thóisich 'athair air dol timcheall 'na cheannaíche-siubhail. Anns an ám úd bhá an ohair sin air a meas cho árd agus cho math ris a' mharsantachd eile an diugh.

Do bhrígh 's gu robh jarntas aig Uilleam air eólas na bu mhótha fhaotainn air a' Ghàidhlig, chuir e roimhe gun siùbhladh e an dùthaich maille ri 'athair. Bheireadh sin aithne dha air mar a bhá a' chànain air a labhairt le seann is óg anns gach cearn is siorramachd de'n Ghàidhealtachd. Ged nach robh e fathast ach glé òg, thug e an uiread seo de speis do chànain a dhùthcha. Nach 'eil a' bhuil 's a bhliath sin air a bhàrdachd! Gheibh sin air a bhàrdachd de fhaclan air a feadh nach robh, agus nach 'eil, air an cleachdadh air feadh an Eilein Sgitheanaich no ann an Gearr-loch. Agus nach mór am feum a tha againn an diugh mar Ghàidheil air a bhith dol 'nar faireachadh a chum a bhith a' trusadh agus ag cruinneachadh 'na thràth seann fhaclan agus gnàthasana-cainnt gach sgìreachd, faclan nach 'eil coitcheann, nach deach riann ann am faclair no ann an clò, agus a tha air bheul a dhol a dhìth oirnn a chaoidh, nuair a tha na seann daoine aig a bheil iad a' dol as an t-sealladh gach bliadhna. Bhà ficheadan de na faclan is de na gnàthasana-cainnt seo ann a bhà air an cleachdadh a mhàin ann an co-cheangal ri iomadh seann cheàird is obair nach bi gu bràth tuilleadh, a réir coltais, a' dol air adhart 'nar dùthaich am feadh is a tha innealan, uidheaman, is dòighean àra air an cur a mach a' fasan.

Mar ghille óg anns na bliadhnaich-deug, agus air dha iubhe duine a ruigheachd, cha robh am bàrd ro fhulangach 'na shlàinte. Bhiodh e gu minig a' faotainn a shàrachadh le mùchadh agus, ged a chaidh e mu dheas do bhaile Dhun-éideann agus do Shiorra-machd Pheairt an dùil gun deandh an t-atharrachadh seo a chur am feabhas, cha do dh'fhuirich e ann an àite seach àite dhìmh ach glé ghoidh. Cha robh ionad sam bith 'na shealladh-san coltach ris an tìr a dh'fhág e, mar a thubhairt e féin:

Ciamar dh'fhaodainn bhith subhach, 's mo chridh' an dhè' eile? Gun agam ach páirt dhèth san àit' anns a bheil mi,

Fo dhubhar nam mór-bheann tha 'n còrr dheth 's cha chail mi.

Thachair air oidhche àraidh de a thurus do Leódhas maille ri 'athair gun deach Uilleam a baileireadh gu cuirm-chiùil ann am chaire Steòrnabhagh far an robh mór shluagh cruinn. 'S ann an sin a chòitnich e air son a' cheud uair ri Mór Ros. A réir sgeòil, bhà a' mhaighdean òg, Ghàidhealtach seo air leth dreachmhor 'na

cruithach agus 'na pearsa. Ghabh am bàrd uiread de ghaol orra, co-dhiù, is gu robh sin aig a' cheann thall 'na mheadhon air a latha a ghiorrachadh:

Chaidh mi steach an ceann na còisridh,

An robh òl is ceòl is danns', Ribhinnean is fleasgaich òga, 'S iad an òrdugh grunn gun mbeang;

Dhearcas fa leth air na h-òighean, Le rosg fòil a null 's a nall; 'S ghlacadh mo chridhe, 's mo shùil cò'ladh,

'S rinn an gaol mo leòn air ball.

(R'a Leantainn)

GRAND FEILL (continued)

Saturday afternoon. The prizes were donated by *The Daily Record*, and consisted of a Shield as first prize and a Silver Napkin Ring of Celtic design as second prize, in each of the two Groups. An Comunn donated a third prize to each Group. The prize-winners were: Group I—1, Alastair Gillies, Glasgow; 2, Adrian Mackintosh, Fort William. Group II—1, Rona Macleod, Glasgow; 2, Alastair MacCulloch, Glasgow.

On the Saturday evening a Grand Ceilidh was held, the programme being provided by the Scottish Country Dance Society and a large number of former Med Medallists.

AT the opening ceremony on the first day (Wednesday), in the presence of a very large gathering, the Very Rev. Dr. Alexander Macdonald opened the proceedings with a Gaelic prayer, and Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President of An Comunn, having expressed appreciation of the generous and enthusiastic support given to the Feill in so many quarters, introduced the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Victor D. Warren, Esq., who presided. The Lord Provost spoke highly of the contribution made by Highlanders to the City of Glasgow. He then called on the Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry, D.B.E., to open the Feill. The Marchioness spoke of the importance of knowing and cherishing our country's history and traditions and of imparting to the young a true love of the music, culture, and language of their people.

On Thursday, after a Gaelic prayer by the Rev. T. M. Murchison, the Duke of Montrose opened the Feill and urged the encouragement of the old Scottish national games and dances

and the wearing of the kilt. General Sir Philip Christison, Vice-President of An Comunn, presided.

On Friday, after a Gaelic prayer by the Rev. John Mackay, the Feill was opened by Marie. Mrs. MacNeil of Barra (Convener of the Scottish-American Stall), who described herself as "an ambassadress from the new Scotland to the old Scotland." Mr. Farquhar MacRae, Vice-President of An Comunn, presided.

On Saturday, the opening Gaelic prayer was by the Rev. Alexander Macdonald, Ard-chattan, and Mr. J. M. Bannerman presided. The Feill was opened by Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon MacMillan, G.O.C. Scottish Command. General MacMillan paid tribute to the gallantry of Highlanders in the fighting services.

While the Feill was thronged throughout the whole four days, on the Saturday afternoon the Hall was packed, especially when the time came for various auctions and the free-gift-scheme draws. The beautiful tea-set, kindly gifted by Her Majesty the Queen, was on display throughout the Feill and bids were invited. It went eventually to Sir Donald Skiffington for fifty guineas.

It now remains to say "Thank You" to all who helped in this great work, not least the many who worked behind the scenes and far away, many of them unable to visit the Feill in person.

No effort must be spared in the next six months to reach the target-figure, and thus provide both a worthy memorial for the valiant brave whom we seek to honour and an adequate provision for the cultural and recreational needs of the rising generation.

Norman French in the Channel Islands

By J. L. CAMPBELL

THERE is a remarkably interesting similarity between the linguistic situation in the Channel Islands today and that in the Gaelic-speaking parts of Scotland. These islands, as is well known, represent part of the ancient Duchy of Normandy which conquered England (but not Scotland) in 1066. It is often jokingly said that England belongs to them, and not they to England.

The Channel Islands have retained self-government, not as one "Dominion," but as two "Bailiwicks;" that is, Jersey, on the one hand, and Guernsey with Sark, Alderney, and Herm on the other, are quite independent of each other, and of Whitehall. Their ancient feudal institutions have developed naturally into efficient means of local government whereby decisions affecting the welfare of the Islands can be taken on the spot by people who are acquainted with local conditions. The result has been a remarkable prosperity and well-being, and freedom from the kind of political tension and anxiety that is found in other places. It is also directly apparent in the shape of much lower taxation than elsewhere. Such a system of Government could certainly benefit the Hebrides.

This pleasant state of affairs has led many strangers to settle in the Islands, particularly since 1920 and again since 1945, with unfortunate results as far as the local languages are concerned. In the Channel Islands French is an official language—theoretically, the official language—the language of State and law-court, ritual and record. Apart from this, each island speaks its own dialect of Norman-French, which differs very considerably indeed from the French of Paris.

The influx of strangers has changed all this. In Jersey the use of English in the "States" (the local parliament) has been permitted since 1900 and no *spœches* have been made in French since the early forties*. French was used extensively in Church services before 1914; now only occasionally by the Wesleyans. Worse still, the proportion of the population that can speak the ancient Norman dialect "Jèrriais" is rapidly declining (M. le Maistre estimates about 22,000 bilingual and 100 monoglot Jèrriais speakers out of a total population of 58,000 in Jersey today), and all the factors of social snobbery that work so powerfully against Gaelic in parts of the Scottish mainland are in full play. Only in the extreme north-west corner of Jersey, in the parish of

St. Ouen, is Jèrriais still spoken by any considerable proportion of the children.

Guernsey is even more anglicised, and the evacuation of the Guernsey children to England in 1940 for five years has probably dealt the Guernsey language its death-blow. Some Wesleyan churches still advertise French services, and a local newspaper has a weekly column in "patouais," as do one or two of the Jersey papers. Recently an anthology of poems in Guernsey French, with translations into English, has been published by A. T. Henly, "*Ichin nou pâle l'patouais.*" Many of these poems breath the same nostalgia for the old times that can be often found in Gaelic poetry of the last 200 years.

"Ah! vaisin Jean, quant té et mé
Ètèmes garçons dans not' jane temps,
Dâns not grandes âtres a toubaquié
A faire les contes du bouan vièr temps
En r'pèrnant s'n'haleine nou chaquié
Tout est changi, j'apprends du sens†.

Tout est changi. Anyone who has grown up in a Highland parish can appreciate these sentiments. The visitor to the Channel Islands of today who is sensitive to these things will be tempted to say, "What a charming place this must have been fifty years ago!"

We must regret this passing, for even if Norman French has not the literary status of Gaelic, it is a venerable relic of a great past, and must enshrine many traditions of the islands, as Gaelic does here. The Channel Islands have kept the political independence of which the Lordship of the Isles has been deprived; but, once they lose their languages, they can hardly hope to retain the same individuality, and their very independence of outlook may be threatened once they are completely anglicised. Perish, indeed, the day when it is ever proposed to abolish the States of Guernsey and Jersey and make the islands part of Devonshire or Hampshire, administered from Winchester and Whitehall! But it is ironical that their own charm and freedom has brought on them the influx of strangers that has changed the one and may imperil the other.

* I am obliged to M. F. le Maistre of Viucheletz, St. Ouen, for information on Jersey. His "The Jersey Language in its Present State," a paper read to the Jersey Society in London in 1947, is particularly interesting.

† From "Aut' fais" by Thomas Lanfesty.

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

THE Ayr Branch of An Comunn closed its winter session with a grand concert in the Masonic Hall on Friday, 5th May. Mrs. J. M. Bannerman, Convener of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund Committee, presided and in the course of an interesting address made reference to the Grand Feill to be held in Glasgow on 17th - 20th May. The Ayr Branch has given splendid support to this major effort, and Mrs. Bannerman was handed an envelope containing £2 contributed by members of the Junior Gaelic Choir. This contribution was earmarked for the Comunn na h-Oighridh Stall.

Mrs. Bannerman was introduced by Mr. Alasdair MacKechnie, President, and other speakers included the Rev. Archibald Beaton and Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary.

The programme was of a very high standard and the Ayr Gaelic Choir, conducted by Mr. Donald MacIsaac, gave pleasing renderings of Gaelic songs. Others who contributed were: Miss Chris MacPherson (violinist), and Messrs. Alex. Carmichael, Alex. MacKenzie, Donald MacIsaac, and Angus Whyte. A male voice quartette added to the success of the evening.

EDINBURGH LOCAL MOD

THE Edinburgh Local Mod, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Branch of An Comunn, was held in the Central Halls on Friday, 29th April.

The number of entries was disappointing but the general standard was very satisfactory.

Mr. John MacKay, President of the Branch, was Chairman of the proceedings, and Mr. Donald Cameron, Secretary, was in charge of the arrangements. The General Secretary represented Headquarters.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. Murdo MacLeod, Haddington, and Rev. Angus Duncan, Ladybank; for Music, Mr. J. B. S. Whitfield; for Piping, Messrs. J. Hector Ross, J. A. Gill, and Colin Strelly.

The evening concert was fairly well attended, and, in addition to the first-prize winners, the following guest artistes took part: Miss Ina MacLellan, and Messrs. Archie Grant, Neil MacLean, and Iain Robertson.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Recitation—Adrian Mackintosh, Fort William. Reading at sight—Christine MacBride. Reading at sight (learners)—Margaret Mackinnon.

Solo-singing (girls)—Christine MacBride. Solo-singing (girls, learners)—Jessie Cameron. Solo-singing (boys)—Adrian Mackintosh. Solo-singing (boys, learners)—Adrian Mackintosh.

Piping (March, Strathspey, and Reel)—James Fairley, Edinburgh.

Senior Section

Solo-singing: Ladies. Prescribed solo—Mrs Margaret Boyd, Edinburgh. Solo (own choice)—Nina Robertson, Edinburgh. Solo (unaccompanied)—Oighrig MacNeil. Special prize for highest aggregate—Oighrig MacNeil.

Male and female voices (confined, learners) (Tir nam Beann) Trophy for song of own choice preceded by Gaelic conversation)

—Mrs. Margaret Boyd. Duet (open)—Ann M. Gillies and Mary MacColl, Glasgow. Puir-a-beul—Mary MacColl.

Pianoforte solo (March, Strathspey, and Reel)—Oighrig MacNeil.

Piping — Piobaireachd—John Slattery, Edinburgh.

THE LATE

MRS. A. L. MACDONALD

WE regret to record the death at Firthview, Nairn, on 17th May of Mrs. Catherine MacDonald, wife of Mr. Angus L. MacDonald, late H.M.I.S. Mrs. MacDonald had been a member of An Comunn for many years and, like her husband, was keenly interested in its efforts to preserve the language of her race. Mrs. MacDonald was of a kindly disposition, and a visit to her hospitable home was always a pleasure. In Gaelic conversation she had a fine command of Lewis idiom and she had a wide knowledge of Gaelic lore and literature.

We extend deep sympathy to Mr. MacDonald and his two daughters in their bereavement.

" ARMAGEDDON "

THIS is the title of a newly published book (Albyn Press, Edinburgh, 6/-) by the late Rev. Dr. Neil Ross, formerly minister of Laggan, President of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and for thirteen years Editor of *An Gaidheal*.

The book consists of a long Gaelic poem, running to well over a thousand lines, with an English verse translation opposite the Gaelic text. The theme is the recent war, and the poem is an epic in praise of the valour of our nation against almost overwhelming might. Its first line is reminiscent of Vergil's opening line in the Aeneid—"Mosgail, a chlàrsach nan dàn, gu luaidh air gnìomharan gaisgheil." It is also reminiscent of Vergil and other great epics in that the poet writes in hexameters, which, although foreign to Gaelic poetry, carry their stately, majestic sweep even into the Gaelic. The poem, which is only a fragment of what was meant to be a longer work, describes the events of the early years of the war (Dr. Ross died in 1943)—the events leading up to the Nazi ascendancy in Europe, the outbreak of war, the Graf Spee en-

gagement, the overrunning of the Low Countries and France, and the concentrated air attack on Britain. It is a remarkable piece of work, and, as Dr. D. J. MacLeod says in a Foreword, "It is thoroughly characteristic of Dr. Ross's best work, of his erudition as a Celtic scholar, and of his unrivalled command of his native language." (A Gaelic review of the book will be found on p. 85).

THE MORVEN MEMORIAL

THE cottage with a garden and a boat by the shore," which the Glasgow Morven Association decided upon as their War Memorial, have now been built and equipped for use, and the formal opening of the Holiday Home will take place on 10th June. Mrs. M. L. Cameron, Glasgow, who was mainly responsible for initiating the scheme and carrying it through to success, deserves the highest praise, although she herself would be the first to include in any credit given the many who responded to her enthusiastic leadership.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN T-OG-MHIOS, 1950

Aireamh 6

Feill Mhor Ghlaschu

THA an Fhéill mhór seachad, agus is math a rinn na h-uile aig an robh lámh anns an obair ion-mholta sin. Fad ceithir latha bha Talla an Naoimh Andreas loma-lán de shluagh as gach ceàrn, agus sgaoilte gu dòigheil, tlachdmhor f'an combair bha an lionmhorachd nithean anns na "Bùithean." Thairis air gach "Bùth" bha an t-ainm sgrìobhte, ag innse cìod a' cheàrn de'n dùthaich a dh'ullaich an oisinn ud de'n Fhéill—gach ceàrn de'n Ghaidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan, Taobh Deas is Taobh Sear na h-Albann, Glaschu is Dun-éideann is Lunnainn, is dùthchannan céine.

B'òirdhearc an sealladh a bhith seasamh air an àrd-ùrlar agus ag amharc sìos air na Bùithean air feadh an talla, agus an sluagh 'gan dùmhachadh. Aig deireadh a' cheud latha bha dà mhìle not againn cruinn agus aig deireadh na Féille nach ann a bha còrr is ochd mìle not againn!

Chuir a' Bhan-rìgh uasal fhéin tiodhlac priseil—leth-dusan cupa is leth-dusan sàsair—agus thug duine-usal leth-cheud gini orra! Cha robh leth-cheud gini agam fhéin no rud coltach ris, ach thug mi leam do'n Fhéill suim mhath airgid agus nach ann a theab tighinn orm coiseachd ceithir mìle dhachaigh air cabh-sairean cruaidhe Ghlaschu. Cha do dh'fhàgadh ach gann sgillinn agam air son a' bhus.

Thall ri taobh an àrd-ùrlair bha Bùth Comunn na h-Oigridh agus e làn de na nithean feumail a rinn 's a chruinnich 's a chuir sibhse, muinntir Comunn na h-Oigridh, a dh'ionnsaigh na Féille—chan 'eil ùine agam iomradh a dheanamh air gach nì annasach a bha an sin. Thug mi an aire gun do thadhail mòran sluagh aig a' Bhùth seo, agus chuala mi iomadh neach a' moladh obair na h-òigridh. Foadaidh sibhse, a mhuinntir òga, a bhith moiteil as i a rinn sibh a chuideachadh na Féille.

Chaidh mi a chéilidh air Màiri agus air a' Bhodach anns an taigh aca—"Taigh Màiri"—agus neo-ar-thainig mur an d'fhuair sinn fáilte! Bha dithis no trìur mhnathan còire as na h-Eileanan ag càrdadh agus a' sniomh agus a' fighe aig doras an taighe.

Bha iomadh nì eile an tallachan 's seòm-

raichean is cùltean eile—gach aon a' stri ri airgead a thàladh a' pòcaidean is a' sporain an t-sluaigh—agus tha ar taing aca-san uile a rinn saothair cho mòr anns an oidhirp seo. Tha ar taing gu sònraichte aig a' Bhean-ualas NicGhille-na-brataich agus Mgr. Iain Moireach, oir is iadsan a bha air ceann a' ghnothaich o thùs gu éis.

Mus tig deireadh na bliadhna tha sinn an dòchas gun bi an t-sùim a chuir sinn romhainn gu h-iomlan cruinn—'s e sin fichead mìle-punnd Sasannach. Mar thoradh air an Fhéill agus air gach oidhirp is cobhair a rinneadh cheana tha trì mìle deug againn a nise, agus tha sia mìosan againn a chum na seachd mìle eile a thrusadh. Cumamaid oirnn, ma thà, agus an sin tòisichidh sinn air cur mu dheidhinn an t-airgead seo a chur gu feum a chum maith nan Gaidheal òga agus mar chumhneachan air na laoch a rinn seirbhis cho gaisgeil dileas anns a' chogadh.

"AN CABAIRNEACH"

AIR a' cheud chuairt a thug mi steach do'n Fhéill mhóir an Glaschu thachair balach òg èasgaidh rium, agus pàsgan leabhraichean aige 'na achlais, agus á siud chan fhaighinn gus am pàidhinn "tasdan co-dhiùb, co-dhiùb" air leabhran a bha aige 'na dhòrn. B'e seo *An Cabairneach*, an leabhran a chuireadh a mach le Feachd Phort-rìgheadh de Chomunn na h-Oigridh. Anns na bliadh-nachan a chaidh seachd thàinig dà àireamh de'n *Chabairneach* a mach, agus thug iad mòr-thoileachadh dhuinn uile. Tha fear dhiùb-san aig an robh lámh anns a' cheud dà *Chabairneach* a nis an inneb àrd is urramach aig a' Bh.B.C.—Fionnladh Dòmhnallach—ach tha ginealach ùr air éiridh suas an Sgoil Phort-rìgheadh, agus 's e Murchadh Mac-an-Tuairneir agus Niall Moireasdan a dheasaich an treas *Cabairneach*, agus combhairle-dheasachaidh 'gan cuideachadh, agus air an cùl, mar a bha air cùl a' cheud dà *Chabairneach*, mo sheann charaid, Iain Steele, fear-teagaisg na Gàidhlighe an Sgoil Phort-rìgheadh.

Gu dé a gheibh thu anns a' *Chabairneach*? Gheibh thu rogha na Gàidhlighe—blasta, coimhlionta, nàdurra. Gheibh thu fiosrachadh

An Gaidheal Og

is àbhachdas, rosg is bàrdachd, agus eadhon dealbhan a bheir gàire ort—aonan dhiubh, dithis ag amharc a mach air uinneig an tràna. " 'S e an t-Oban a bhios an seo, Alasdair," arsa a' chailleach. "Tud, a Cheit, 's e iha seo ach OXO!" arsa am bodach.

'S ann an Gàidhlig a tha a h-uile facal anns a' *Chabairneach*, eadhon na sanas-an-malairt.

Tha ar taing aig Feachd Phort-righeadh air son a' *Chabairnich*—agus gu seachd sònraichte gun tug iad a mach am fear seo mar chuideachadh do'n Fhéill mhóir.

Tha mi a' toirt seachad an seo pios bàrdachd as a' *Chabairneach*, agus, mur am faigh mi cothrom air cead iarraidh air Feachd Phort-righeadh, gabhaidh iad mo leisgeul, ach bu mhath leam blas a' *Chabairnich* a thoirt do ar luchd-leughaidh.

TRACTOR A' BHUIRD

Bha Dòmhnall is Uilleam 's MacDhòmhnaill a' Bhùird

A' leughadh nan litir—aon fhichead co-dhiùbh
A sgrìobh gach aon chroiteir bha 'm Baile-an-Dùn

Ag iarraidh an tractor air madainn Dì-ardaoin.
Bha litir bho Chalum 's bha litir-bho'n t-Saor,
Bha dhà ann bho Ragnall—chan fhoghnadh leis aon;

Chuir Uisdean a bhean ann—an duine gun tùr!
'S gach aon fhear ag iarraidh orr' tractor a' Bhùird.

Bha 'm baile am breislich air madainn Dì-ardaoin,

'S gach croiteir a' feitheamh le dòchas is dùil;
Cha mhór nach robh sabaid am measg na bh'ann dhiubh,

Có cheud fhear do'n treabhadh an tractor an raon?

Bha Calum is Uisdean aig Drochaid an Dùin,
Oir reic iad an t-each air deich puinnnd agus crùn,

'S mar sin gheibheadh iadsan an tractor co-dhiùbh

Roimh fhear sam bith eile am Baile-an-Dùin.

Bha Uisdean 's an Saor deanamh ùrnuigh glé thràth

Gun treabhadh an tractor an cuid-san roimh chàch.

Cha deachaidh an dùil sin na b'fhaide na bha;
Dh'eubh Uisdean ri Calum, "Seo agad e 'n dràs'!"

B'e siud àn na connspoid air fuar-mhadainn Mhàrt;

Bha Ragnall ag eughach ri Calum gu h-àrd,
"Ma stadas tu 'n tractor cha bhì cnaimh annad slàn!

Dh'iarr mise 's an Saor e trì latha roimh chàch."

Ach thàinig an tractor—bu mhór a chuid srann,

Le glìngarsaich chuibheall—bha pàilteas dhiubh nan;

'S am fear bha 'ga stiùradh, nuair theann e a nall,

Thuirtean ris fhéin, "'S mi thàinig 'san àm!"

Is stad e an tractor mu choinneamh na bh'ann,
Is sheall e mu'n cuairt air—'s ann dh'fhairich e fann;

Bu mhór a dhà shùil, agus thuirtean e le greann,
"A charaid, a' charaid, nach do chail mi an crann!"

(Bho "An Cabairneach," 1950).

A' Mhuc-Mhara air 'Tir

Le GILLE PADRAIG

A BHEIL cuimhne agad," arsa Bus-dubh ri Blàran, "gur e mial a tha sa' mhuc-mhara?"

"Bu mhial a leth," arsa Blàran, "ach dé idir a chuir a' mhuc-mhara 'na do cheann an diugh?"

"Chuir am paipear-naidheachd air a bheil *The Orcadian* aca. Thuirtean Fearchar gur h-e 'An t-Arcach' a bu chòir a bhith air. Nach ann a thàinig na mucan-mara air tir an eilean Stronsaidh! Shàth iad iad fhéin air tir air an tràigh ann. Gu dé idir a chaidh ceàrr orra? Gòraiche mhór!"

"Cò aige tha fhios? Cha b'ann aon uair 's cha b'ann dà uair a rinn na mucan-mara an dearbh chleas. Bidh iomadh seòrsa éisg a' tighinn air tir uireapnan, ach mar is trice is e dearg eagal am beatha a chuireas air tir iad: ach is ann a bhios na mucan-mara 'gan sàthadh fhéin air na tràghadan gun fhios car son. Obair gun chiall, gun teagamh, ach feumaidh a nis gu bheil adhbhar air chor-eigin aca fhéin air, oir chan 'eil nì gun adhbhar, eadhon sa' chuan mhór eadar Ceann Bharraidh is Hiort."

"An cuala tu fhéin iomradh air iad a theachd air tir an àite air bith eile?"

"Chuala 's cha b'ann aon uair. Thàinig sgaoth aca air tir air tràigh a' Bhaile Tuath turus, agus siud slios am baile 'gam marbhadh. Chaidh aon bhodach an sàs an té aca le sgian mhóir a bha aige le iarann fada agus cas innte de chabar-féidh. Is e 'a' chuir e a bhiodh aige fhéin oirre. Dé ach gur h-ann a thug i leum aiseid gu cùl agus siud air an t-seòladh i a

(An còrr air t. d. 24)

Litir Eachainn

AN uair a tha mise a' sgrìobhadh na litreach seo tha Féill mhór a' Chomuinn fathast cùl nan sgòth am measg nan nithean a tha ri teachd agus anns an dàn; ach mun ruig mo bhriathran sibhse, agus fada roimh sin, bidh i air a cur 'nar déidh am measg nan nithean a bhà is air a h-àireamh an eachdraidh ar daoine. Is e ar dòchas gur e cuid de'n eachdraidh sin a bhios ri aithris gu robh i buadhar agus soirbheachail 's gum bi an sporan mór a bhatar am beachd a lionadh loma-làn is ag cur thairis, gun bonn cam no leòmann-sgiathach a' faotainn fatraidh ann.

Tha mi dìreach an déidh litir fhaotainn bho Dhòmhall MacPhàil as an Airde Tuath an uair a tha mi a' sgrìobhadh, agus nach ann a tha e ag innseadh dhomh gu bheil Feachd Phort-rìghtheadh trang ag cur àireamh a trì de'n *Chabairneach* an uidheam seòlaidh, agus, ma théid gach ni leò mar am miann, gum bi e air Aiseag a' Chaoil a ghabhail gu Tir-mór, agus gum bi e an cùileig-mhalairt Comunn na h-Oigridh aig àn Fhéill! Ni sinn uile sodan ris, agus, ma bhios e cho math 's a bha a' cheud dhà de'n teaghlach, cha bhi cearb air. Cha ghabhadh dearbhadh na b'fheàrr toirt air am feabhas-san na mar a thà, 's a chl mise bitheanta gu leòr, bideagan beaga air an togail asda is air an cur gu feum an sgrìobhadh eile bho àm gu àm. Tha Feachd Phort-rìghtheadh ri am moladh air son an deagh ghniomhachas seo a tha ri chur as an leth: nach bu ghasda nam biodh feachdan eile a' toirt ceuma air a' cheart slighe, eadhon ged nach biodh an oidhirp a dheanadh iad idir cho tomadach ris a' *Chabairneach*, no mar fhaisg dha. Bu dheagh cheum e air an t-slighe a tha againn anns an amharc gu cinnteach! Cò am feachd a tha a' dol a thogail na dàra brataich?

AN litir a' mhios a dh'fhalbh dh'innis Ami dhuibh mar a chaidh aon de na Leathanach bho'n tàinig mi féin air taobh mo mhàthar suas do Eilean a' Cheò, is mar a sgaoil iad as a sin do cheàrn an eile. Mas math mo chumhne, tha mi an dùil gun d'innis mi dhuibh gun do phòs aon dhuibh an sin nighean do Thaog Mór MacCuinn, an Sgrìthanach a bu ghlice air a bheil iomradh againn. Tha mi an dùil gu robh e glé dhùth air a bhith cho glie ri Solamh féin, agus is cinnteach gum fòghnadh sin do Ghàidheal sam bith. Chan 'eil fios agam fhéin nach ann a bha e na bu ghlice eadhon na Solamh,

oir bha Solamh caran aotrom, gòrach a thaobh nan caileagan, agus cho fada 's a tha m'fhiosrach-sa a' dol cha robh tuille na aon bhean aig Taog!

Tha mi a nis a' dol a dh'innseadh dhuibh aon naidheachd a leigeas ris an toinnsig nàdurra a bhuilicheadh air an Taog seo, a bu seann-seanair dhòmhsa. Is coltach gu robh e cho cothromach anns gach beachd a leigeadh e ris 's gur ann air a chuir MacLeòid Dhun-bheagain an t-urram ceist no casaid sam bith a thigeadh air a bheulaibh féin, is nach biodh furasda dha a réiteach, binn chothromach a thòirt a mach. Bha an siud, ma tà, dìthis dhaoine a chaidh gu creag-iasgaich cuideachd feasgar robach, geamhraidh. Bha lunn cunnartach air a' chladach, is ciod a thachair ach gun tàinig ruid throm orra, is thug i a mach thar na creige aon de na daoine; bha e an impis a bhith air a tharraing air falbh agus air a bhàthadh. Rinn a chompanach uile dhicheadh gu gréim a dheanamh air is a theàrnadh, agus mu dheireadh thall le aon de a shiobaidhean a thug e le beairt na slaithe, fhuair e an dubhan a chur an gréim, is le fannadh cùramach chaidh aige air an duine a bha ionnas a bhith bàite a tharraing cho dlùth do'n chreig 's gun d'fhuair e gréim-laimhe air, is mu dheireadh a tharraing gu thr, "a lomadh 's ri éiginn," is shàbhail e a bheatha co-dhuibh. Ach gu mì-fhortanach, càite an deach an dubhan an sàs ach 'na shùil, agus leis a h-uile droghach a bha ann, mhill an dubhan a shùil cho dona 's gun do chail an duine bochd a fhradhar!

IS è a thàinig as a seo gun do thog e casaid ri MacLeòid an aghaidh a chompanaich, a' tagar éirig bhuaith air cheann call a shùla. Is e *compensation* a their muinntir an lagha ri a leithid seo de chùis an diugh, agus gu cinnteach, cha robh e furasda do MhacLeòid réiteach cunbhallach no binn chothromach a thòirt a mach, agus, mar bu nòs, an uair a dh'èireadh ceist chigogailteach mar seo, chuir e a' chùis an làmhann Thaog. Chnuasaich Taog a' chùis 'na intinn féin greis, an déidh dha fhiosrachadh bho na daoine gach ni mar a thachair. Leig e ris an sin, an làthair MhicLeòid is nan daoine, gu robh e deas gu binn a thòirt seachad, agus seo agaibh a' bhinn a liubhair e.

Bha iad ri feitheamh gus an tigeadh oidhche de'n cheart seòrsa ri oidhche na tubaist, le seòl-mara, stoth-cladaich, is gaoth mar a bhà
(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

“Mise agus Pangur Bàn”

AN cuala tu riamh mu Phangur Bàn? Cò bha ann? Cuin is càite an robh e beò?

An téid agad air na ceistean sin a fhreagair? Seo dhuit, ma tha, ionradh air Phangur Bàn.

Is e cat a bha am Phangur Bàn, agus bha e beò còrr math is mìle bliadhna air ais, agus is ann an Eirinn a bha a dhachaidh, no is dòcha an àit-eigin anns an Roinn-Eòrpa. B'fheàrr leam a ràdh gur e a' cheud Phangur Bàn a bha beò còrr is mìle bliadhna air ais, oir bha mise mi-fhèin eòlach mu fhichead bliadhna air ais air cat am baile Ghlaschu, agus 's e Pangur Bàn an t-ainm a bha air.

Bha ar caraid nach maireann, an t-Urramach Calum MacLeòid, a bha fad bhliadhnachan 'na Fhear-deasachaidh air a' Ghaidheal agus 'na Cheann-suidhe air a' Chomunn Ghaidhealach, a' fuireach an Glaschu mus deachaidh e do Bhoth-chuidir, agus b'ann an uair a bha a dhachaidh an Glaschu a chuir mise eòlas air an toiseach, agus mi 'nam oileanach. Bha mi fad dà bhliadhna 'ga chuideachadh anns a' choimhionail a bha aige an Glaschu, agus bhithinn tric a' tadhal anns a' mhansa aige. Bha cat breagha anns a' mhansa—cat de'n t-seòrsa “Siamese”, cat s'iomach, ruadh, le sùilean uaine—agus 's e “Pangur Bàn” an t-ainm a bha air a' chat.

“Cia as a fhuair sibh an t-ainm?” arsa mise ri Mgr. MacLeòid a' cheud uair a chunnaic mi an cat agus a chuala mi an t-ainm a bha air. “Is iomadh ainm a chuala mi air cat, ach cha chuala mi an t-ainm sin riamh.”

Seo, ma thà, mar a fhuair cat a' mhinistear an t-ainm neo-chumanta a bha air.

Ann an seann làmh-sgrìobhainn anns an t-seann chànan bho'n tàinig a' Ghàidhlig Eireannach agus a' Ghàidhlig Albannach tha pios bàrdachd a sgrìobh sgoilear no foghlumaiche air chor-eigin anns an naoidheamh linn an deidh àm Chrìosd. Anns a' bhàrdachd tha am bàrd ag innse mar a tha e fhéin agus an cat aige, “Pangur Bàn,” còmhla leotha fhéin anns an t-seòmar-leabhraichean, gach fear is obair fhéin aige—an cat an tòir air luch agus an sgoilear an tòir air eòlas—agus gach fear a' fàs nas ealanta 'na dhreuchd fhéin gach latha, agus iad le chèile a' faotainn tlachd is toileachais 'nan saothair air leth.

Sin agad, ma thà, “Pangur Bàn”—cat an sgoileir agus cat a' mhinistear—agus an ath-phiseag a gheibh thusa 's dòcha gun toir thu an t-ainm sin air cuideachd.

SGRIBH CHUGAM

Bheir mi leabhar Gàidhlig mar dhuaist do'n neach fo aois sia-deug a sgrìobhas an litir Ghàidhlig as fearr a thaitneas rium nu “Latha anns a' Mhonadh” no “Latha anns an Tràigh.”

Cuir do litir gu Oifis a' Chomuinn roimh 31 de'n Lùnasdal.

—AM FEAR-DEASACHAIDH.

A' MHUC-MHARA (bho t.d. 22)

rithist is a h-aghaidh ri fairge agus cha do thill i tuilleadh. Chaill am bodach a sgian mhór. Bha tè eile aca a bha glé choirbte i fhéin. Thug duine ionnsaigh oirre, agus chaidh i fhéin gu seòladh an darra turus, ach —rud a bha glé neònach—shàth i i fhéin air tìr aon uair eile air an tràigh far as an d'fhalbh i. Chaidh iad an sàs innte an darra cothrom, fear le slacan, fear le làmhag, fear le croman, fear le sphaid, fear le coran, is fear le speal, agus mu dhreireadh bha i marbh aca. An uair a thàinig an oidhche agus bha iad ag innseadh aig baile mar a chaidh dhaibh bha fear òg ag innseadh an taigh a sheanar mar a mharbhadh a' mhuc mhór. Bha a sheanair, Murchadh, e fhéin air an tràigh a thoirt a mach is e 'na sheann duine, agus is e an rud a thuirt am bodach, a sheanair, 'Faodaidh tu bhith sgur; cha do mharbh ise ach a' bhuille a thug mise dhi le sàil no bhòrige eadar an dà shùil.’’

“Feumaidh,” arsa Bus-dubh, “gun tug e buille da-rlribh dhi!”

“Tut!” arsa Blàran; “cha deanadh esan càil ach gun tarraingeadh e an dara cas an dèidh na coise eile.”

LITIR EACHAINN (bho t.d. 23)

iad, no co-dhiubh cho dlùth 's a b'urrainn fiughair a bhith ris. Bha iad uile ri dhol a dh'ionnsaigh na ceart creige. Bha am fear a thug an rùid a mach ri dhol a mach a rithist anns a' cheart bhad, le thoil féin, eadhon mar a chaidh e a mach an aghaidh a thoile an oidhche ud eile. Nan rachadh aige air tighinn gu tìr e féin gun chuideachadh, bha an éirig a bha e a' tagar dligheach dhà, ach mur rachadh cha robh! An uair a chuala an casaidhe binn Thaoig, smuainich e gum b'e an gliocas dha gun a bheatha a chur an cunnart an dara turus, is tharraing e a' chùis air ais. Tha mi an dùil gun aontaich sibh leam gu robh binn Thaoig glé chothromach: cha deanadh Solamh féin na b'fheàrr.

Bhur Caraid Dileas,
EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Ann's a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

The Publication of Gaelic Folksongs

A Charaid Urramaich,—No one could agree more wholeheartedly with Miss Bassin's remark that it was a pity Mrs. Kennedy Fraser "presented Hebridean Song in terms of art song instead of in terms of itself" than the writer of this letter. No one regrets more that her versions are widely accepted as authentic. But, at the same time, it must be admitted that she could not have published our folksongs in their natural form and made a living. The demand existed for sentimental *lieder* reminiscent of the Celtic Twilight, and this she fulfilled; the demand for an objective presentation of our Gaelic folksongs in their austere and natural beauty hardly existed in her time, at any rate in sufficient strength for a singer to base on it a professional career. It might be different now.

The writer can speak with some personal experience on this matter in so far as concerns the difficulty of getting objective versions of Hebridean folksongs into print. There is no Journal in existence in Scotland which will print such things, and it has been impossible so far to find a Scottish publisher who will undertake the enterprise of publishing one, although the very large amount of recorded material now in the possession of the writer, of the Linguistic Survey of Scotland, and of the Irish Folklore Commission, would be sufficient to fill such a journal for years.

The writer has prepared a volume containing twenty seventeenth-century waulking songs, complete with Gaelic texts, translations, notes, and music (often several versions of each tune), on the lines of *Highland Songs of the Forty-five*; no Scottish publisher can be found who is willing to undertake the publication of this, and Miss Margaret F. Shaw, who has prepared a similar but much larger book of South Uist folklore and folksong, is having to have it published by the American Folklore Society. Even the Saltire Society is unable to print a selection of twenty-odd lullabies and children's songs offered by the writer from his collection. A set of Linguaphone records of genuine Hebridean folksongs is being brought out this year, but only after the writer has personally guaranteed the greater part of the expense of production.

Now, collecting folksongs is expensive and difficult enough but, when their publication is as difficult as this, it will discourage anyone. The English Folksong and Dance Society's Journal (formerly the English Folksong

Journal) has done good service for Scottish Gaelic Folksong in the past, particularly in publishing Miss Frances Tolmie's collection. But the writer is emphatically of the opinion that the proper place for Scottish Gaelic folksong is *not* the pages of an English folksong Journal, apart from which we have so many hundreds of songs to print that there would be no chance of finding sufficient space for publication there, however well-disposed the editor might be.

The solution? The publication of a Scottish Gaelic Folksong Journal is the kind of enterprise that ought to be undertaken by one of our University presses, or by some publisher who has sufficient imagination to grasp the great intrinsic interest of the material available and the eagerness with which it will be read in these circles at home and abroad who are interested in an objective presentation of folkmusic in general and Gaelic folkmusic in particular. But I am afraid that, being a Scottish project, it is overwhelmingly likely that it will be considered as not a financially feasible venture, and will remain dependent on private backing and private enterprise, and therefore probably peter out after a few numbers have been printed, as other Gaelic Journals have always done; that is, if anything ever appears at all.—Mise le mór-mheas, J. L. CAMPBELL.

"The Land of Donnacha Ban"

Sir,—I have to thank J. E. S. for replying to my queries.

Extracts from the Black Book of Taymouth should give not only source but also date. The quotations given by J. E. S. (and the late Wm. MacKenzie) apply to an earlier age and supply no information about Duncan Macintyre.

Relying on local tradition, J. E. S. places Duncan's cottage at *Ais an t-Sithein*, as MacKenzie did about fifty years ago. The spot is a convenient centre and was probably the site of a keeper's home, but it is unlikely that the poet remained there for twenty years. The biographical introductions to his poems specify three localities in which he served: *Coire-Cheuthaich*, *Beinn-dourain*, *Buachail Eite*.

The early editions of his poems were published during the poet's lifetime, and the introductions, which presumably had his approval, cannot be lightly brushed aside.

I had hoped that J. E. S. could give some

(Continued on p. 86)

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Leabhar Bardachd

ARMAGEDDON : A Fragment, by Neil Ross, C.B.E., D.D., D.Litt. (Albyn Press, Edinburgh, 147 pp., 6/-.)

Tha an leabhar bàrdachd seo air ùr-thighinn a mach, agus is maith an cuimhneachan e air an ùghdar—an t-Ollamh Urramach Niall Ros nach maireann—agus is mór a luach mar shaothair litreachais. Tha sinn an dòchas gum bi féill mhór luath air mar leabhar, oir is fiù e a cheannach 's a chumail, chan ann a mhàin air son na Gàidhlig a tha ann, ach—a cheart cho fìor—air son na Beurla a tha ann. Tha a' Ghàidhlig air taobh-duilleige agus a' Pheurla d'a rèir, mu choinneamh sin, air taobh eile an leabhair, agus is e dearbh obair a' bhàird a tha annta le chèile.

Tha fhios aig ar luchd-leughaidh nach robh duine 'nar measg 'na latha a bha cho fìlean-a agus cho co-ionnan maith eadar Ghàidhlig is Bheurla ri Niall Ros. Bha ùr-labhra thur an àbhaist aige, agus buaidh bruidhinn a bha air leth òrdhearc. Tha cuimhne agam air a labhairt am Baile Atha Cliath latha aig Còmh-dhàil nan Ceitreach. Bhruidhinn e leis an uchd agus leis a' mhòrdhalachd a bha dualach dha, agus leis an uaisle a bha 'na nàdur. An uair a shuidh e thuirtear fear de na h-ollamhan Eireannach gu simplidh gun do chuir am fear a labhairt mu dheireadh spionnadh nuadh 'na chridhe-san.

Chan 'eil teagamh nach robh làmh mhór aig Niall Ros am feabhas agus am piseach air bith a thàinig air cor na Gàidhlig 'nar linn-ne. Is dòcha, ged a thug e mach inbhe is urram dha fhéin, nach do chuir a luchd-dùthcha riann am meas air a thoill e. Chan e nach robh e measail aig daoine—is e a bha—ach gur e an tuilleadh mór a thoill e. Chuir e, gun bhacadh agus saor, na buadhan agus na gibhteann a bha aige an tairgse a ch-Ghàidheal.

Anns na bliadhnanachan mu dheireadh a bha e beò bha e deannach dànn mu'n chogadh agus e 'na rùn an cogadh uile a chur san dàn. Thàinig am bàs air mun tug e sin gu ceann-fìnid, ach seo againn na chaidh aige air a chur as a dhéidh. Gabhaidh e creidsinn gum biodh a' chuid eile d'a rèir. Ach tha an nì tha deanta agus a tha nis an clò air leth coimhlionta, oir tha e tighinn gu ceann dìreach far an tug am Feachd-Adhair claidh air ionnsaigh Hitler san adhar, agus, ged a bha tuilleadh san t-seanchas, sin gun amharus far an robh am bristeadh a bha an dàn do na Nàsaich air a sheulachadh. Seo an rann anns

a bheil am bàrd ag cur cuid de spreigeadh Churhill :—

“Gealtach cha bhi sinn no lag a' stri an aodann nan cuantan;

Cumaidh sinn gleac nan speur a' fàs an spionnadh 's an earbha;

Cath air gach lamraig bheir sinn is cath air cladaichean còmharr;

Cath anns an achadh, air sràid, 's a' bheinn —is idir cha ghéill sinn.”

Tha an rannaigheachd seo a' tighinn air a h-adhbhar. Is e a tha innte rosg de sheòrsa fìleana, agus e air a thombhas anns gach sreath, nì as eugmhais an rìomhaidh a tha san ghnàth-rann Ghàidhlig. Tha an rann lom dheth fhéin, ach tha e làn de nì eile a tha gleusadh àite na tha dh'a dhith. Tha fhios nach ann gun adhbhar a chaidh aig Niall Ros is aig Somhairle MacGilleathain air rathad ùr a dheanamh air bealach eile am bàrdachd na Gàidhlig! Is e an seagh is an ciall, an seanchas, agus na théid 'na lùib de shaothair aighe is meomhair is cridhe a tha san amharc aca. Chan 'eil an seagh air a chur faoin air sgàth na ranntachd. Tha nì de luchd is de lànachd nan seann-bhàrd aig Niall Ros 'na oidhirp an àite giongarsaich combh-fhuaimean bàrdachd eile. Chan 'eil sin a' dteadh seòrsa eile, oir is e latha bochd a bhios ann ma chuir-ear cùl ri dìleab nan athraichean gu tur. Is e binneas nam briathran an comb-aonadh agus an co-fhreagairt an ciùil, annta fhéin, aon de bharrachdan na bàrdachd Ghàidhlig.

Rinn Niall Ros meadhon maith a sholar dha fhéin air son a sheanchais 's a dhàin, agus rinn e gu deas e gu dearbh.

Is e nì tur ùr a tha seo, agus nì mór. Bha fios againn gum bu bhàrd Niall Ros, agus thàinig e air sliochd dhaoinne anns an robh bàrdachd. Bidh fhios againn tuilleadh gu robh e 'na bhàrd comasach, tarbhadh. Tha àite cinnteach air leabhar seo an litreachas nan Gaidheal. CALUM MACGILLEATHAIN.

The Macleods

In connection with “Skye Week,” a feature of which was the rallying of the Clan Macleod to their chief at Dunvegan, the Rev. Donald Mackinnon, Kennoway, has written an informative little book, “The Macleods,” a short historical and genealogical account of the chiefs and cadets of the clan. The price is 2/6, but the booklet (36 pages) is well worth much more.

Beginning with the origin of the Clan in the 13th century, Mr. Mackinnon briefly

describes the chiefs, one by one, to the present day. Then he gives a brief account of the leading cadets or off-shoots—the Macleods of Bernera, Waternish, Gesto, Tallisker, etc.

This book is not a mere summary of the late Canon Macleod's books about the Clan Macleod or other published works. While using previously published work, Mr. Mackinnon, who is one of our most diligent and accurate students of records and family history, here gives us much new information, the fruit of his own research, sometimes correcting, sometimes amplifying, previously published statements.

Mr. Mackinnon is to be congratulated on a fine piece of work, and we commend this little book to all who are interested in Highland history. Following on the lamented death of Colonel Alasdair Ross, Mr. Mackinnon has been appointed editor of the *Clan Macleod Magazine*.

“Ossian”

The second issue of *Ossian*, published by the Glasgow University Ossianic Society—whose forthcoming publication we announced in our April number (p. 49)—has now appeared and makes an attractive one-and-sixpenceworth. There are contributions in English and Gaelic, with a Foreword by Duncan Macrae, of the Citizens' Theatre.

The previous issue of *Ossian* appeared in 1933, which is a very long time ago—many student-generations ago, in fact—but the Ossianic, for all its hundred-and-eighteen years of life, abides in strength, and its present members are (may a former President say it?) no whit behind their predecessors of seventeen years ago. There is much good and entertaining reading in this issue, both in Gaelic and English. The proof-reading of the Gaelic items might have been done with more care, but, from bitter personal experience, we can sympathise with the Gaelic Editor's vain efforts to turn out an immaculate text. There is a Gaelic cross-word and a cartoon. We hope that for the third issue of *Ossian* we shall not have to wait another seventeen years.

EDITOR'S POSTBAC (from p. 83)

information about the poet's period of service in each of these areas. It would be interesting to know if local tradition of fifty years ago mentioned (a) the name of the poet's father; (b) the maiden surname of the poet's mother; (c) the year of the poet's marriage; (d) the name of the poet's employer in *Buachail Eite*.

J. E. S. states categorically that no cash payment was made to foresters. In that case

an item like the following from a Breadalbane estate book (1743) requires explanation:

“Fee to Bendoran forester £13 6 8d.”

It would not be profitable to discuss J. E. S.'s theory that Duncan Macintyre must have learned to read because he mentions Cupid in one song and Aeolus in another! The biographical sketches which I have mentioned, and on which the article in the *Scotts Magazine* of October, 1812 is based, state that the poet “had received no education.” If Duncan could read he must have been puzzled by this sentence.

Yours, etc.,

CREGA MHOR.

NA CROITEAN

THA talamh-àitich nan croitean a' dol bàn, chan e a mhàin air ùr-mòr ach anns na h-eileanan. Chan 'eil fhios agam an e comharradh a tha sin air adhartas no air dol-air-ais, ach sin mar tha a' chùis.

Anns a' bhaile anns na do rugadh mi tha leith-cheud croit, no lot (mar a their na Leòdhasaich). Is e aon dhiubh sin a chunnaic mi an uiridh fo làn bhàrr bho cheann gu ceann is bho thaobh gu taobh—sealladh bu taìtniche a chunnaic mi rè mo thurus.

Bha uair gu robh iad uile mar sin. Bha fearann priseil. B'e toradh an fhearainn am beòshlainte, agus bha a h-uile slat ag giùlan bàrr—buntata, coirc, is eòrna. Tha na croitean taobh ri taobh, agus cha robh gàradh-criche no callaid eatorra. Aig amannan bhiodh trod mu na crìochan.

“Sin,” thubhairt Pàdraig ris an treabhaiche a thàinig g'a chuideachadh, “a' chrìoch eadar mise agus Tormod Iain—na toir òirleach dha 's na toir òirleach uaithe.”

Gu tric shaothraicheadh iad bho mhoch gu dubh ag cur a h-uile h-òirleach gu feum.

Air feasgar na coinneimh-seachdain bha Pàdraig aon uair cho annoch a' tighinn dhachaigh o'n chroit agus nach robh tide aige air son e fhéin a sgeadachadh cho math 's a b'abhaist dha.

“Mo chreach!” thubhairt a nighean ris nuair a thàinig e dhachaigh as a' choinneamh. “Car son a chaidh thu do'n eaglais leis a' bhriogais sin?”

“A Mhàiri,” arsa Pàdraig, “cha do leugh mi anns an Fhlirinn gun dubhairt Crìosd. ‘Thoir dhomh do bhriogais:’ 's e a thubhairt e, ‘Thoir dhomh do chridhe.’”

A. M.

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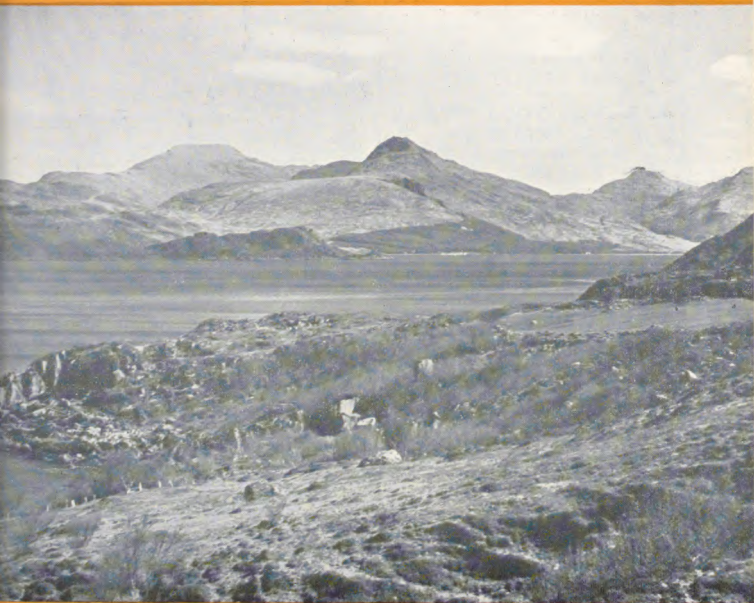
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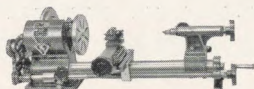


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AN GAIDHEAL THE GAEL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Our Cover Picture

Knoydart from Mallaig Bheag

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WHEN

WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

GED is e sin a' Ghàidhlig a tha air an ainm Bheurla aig a' bhaile mu'm bheila ar seachas, tha na Gàidheil—mar is dualach dhaibh—a' toirt shìl mòran nas fhaide air ais, agus is e "Ceann-Loch-Chille-Chiarain" a tha aca air an àite. Fhuair Marcus Earraghadheil agus na Caimbeulaich seilbh air Cinn-tìre mu thoiseach na seachdamh linn deug, ach ràinig Ciaran Naomh na cladaichean sin mìle bliadhna roimhe sin. Nach math an combarradh air Gàidheil Chinn-tìre gur fheàrr leocha gum biodh ceanna-bhaile na dùthcha aca air a shloinneadh air teachd-air Seisgeul na Sìthe a shaothraich 'nam meag an tùs an eachdraidh seach air fine a thug a mach an dùthaich le foill is le làmhachas-làidir beagan linnlean air ais!

O chionn ghoirid bha muinntir baile Cheann-Loch-Chille-Chiarain ag ùrachadh cuimhne air an eachdraidh agus a' deanamh gairdeachais gu bheil am baile aca a nis an dèidh a bhith 'na bhaile rioghail o chionn dà cheud gu leth bliadhna. B'ann anns a' bhliadhna 1700 a thug an Rìgh Uilleam cead is ùghdarras do mhuinntir Cheann-loch a bhith air an stéidheachadh mar bhaile rioghail, leis gach sochair 's coir a tha sin ag gabhail a st'ach. Cha robh anns a' bhaile seo an toiseach ach baile beag iasgach, agus cha robh e ro mhór ar ùir a dh'ardaicheadh e gu inbhe bhaile rioghail le Pròbhaist is Bàillidhean is Comhairle-riaghlaidh. Is ann anns an dà cheud gu leth bliadhna mu dheireadh a mhaireadh agus a shoirbhich am baile seo, agus tha sinn an dòchas gu bheil tuilleadh soirbheachaidh roimhe.

Le acarsaid mhaith nàdurra a'

toirt fàsaidh is dìon do gach seòrsa luingeis, chan ionghnadh ged is ann ris an iasgach agus ri marseautachd thar sàile a shoirbhich leis a' bhaile seo. Faodaidh nach 'eil deanamh an uisge-bheatha 'na obair cho buannachail 's a bha e aig aon àm ach is coltach gu bheil meinnearachd a' ghual a' dol am feabhas a rithist, agus faodaidh dùil a bhith ri obraichean ùra an comh-cheangal ris a' chumhachd-dealain a thàtar ri cur an taigro os aon àite a dh'aithearr. Os cionn gach ri, tha, anns an sgìre mu'n caith, fearann math air a dheagh chur gu buil le tuathanaich eagnaidh, dhìcheallach.

An meadhan na seachdamh linn deug dh'fhasaich Alasdair Mac Colla Chioataich agus a nàmhaid, an Seanalair Leslie, Cinn-tìre eatorra, agus na dh'fhàg iadsan thug a' phlàigh leatha. B'ann an uair sin a shuidhicheadh mòran theaghlachaichean Gallda a taobh an iar-dheas na h-Albann ann an Ceann-loch, agus riamh bho'n uair sin bha "Eaglais Ghaidhealach" agus "Eaglais Ghallda" anns a' bhaile, ag combarrachadh a mach an dà sheòrsa luchd-còmhnuidh.

Chan 'eil a' Ghàidhlig 'ga searmonachadh an Eaglais Ghaidhealaich Cheann-loch an-diugh, ach tha sluagh an Ceann-loch leis am miann aoradh anns a' Ghàidhlig agus daoine as urrainn searmonachadh anns a' Ghàidhlig. A bharrachd air sin, tha feadhainn an Ceann-loch a dh'ionnsaich a' Ghàidhlig an dèidh dhaibh an òige a chur air an cùl. Tha iad ann a tha deanamh seirbhis mhóir a chum leas na Gàidhlig, agus tha còisridhean-Gàidhlig Cheann-loch ionraideach am fad 's am farsaing.

Gu ma fada a mhaireas a' Ghàidhlig an àrd-chlìt ann an Ceann-loch agus an Cinn-tìre!

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

B'fheàrr gun tòiseachadh na sguir gun chrìochnachadh.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

An ti a bhunaicheas chum na crìche, is e seo a shaorar.

—Marc xiii, 13.

Thall 's a Bhos

NOTES AND COMMENTS

" F.E.I.S."

THESE are folk who gauge a person's academic quality by counting the letters appended to his name. It is not the number of initials but what they stand for that matters, and the Fellowship of the Educational Institute of Scotland is a coveted distinction, and deservedly so. It is conferred only on persons who have "rendered signal service to education."

We cordially congratulate Mr. Donald Thomson, Gaelic Master, Oban High School, and Mr. J. N. McConochie, Headmaster of Kent Road School, Glasgow, on having this degree conferred upon them recently. In addition to their fine record of service in their own profession, both have done excellent work for the Gaelic Cause, the former as a member of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach—a man with ideas and energy—and the latter as the conductor of the "G.G." Choir and as arranger of Gaelic music.

Mr. A. MacCallum, D.O.A.S.

MR. Alexander MacCallum, M.B.E., M.C., who has been factor and land officer of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland in Skye for almost forty years has retired. Mr. MacCallum belongs to the Loch Etive district, and was educated at Oban High School. He served with distinction in the First World War. Many fine tributes have been paid to him, both by officials and by the tenants on the Department's estates. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

R. A. S. Macalister

THE death took place recently of Dr. R. A. S. Macalister, who was Professor of Celtic Archaeology at University College, Dublin, from 1909 to 1943. He was born in Dublin in 1870 and was a brother of Lady Macalister, wife of the late Sir Donald Macalister, formerly Principal and Chancellor of Glasgow University. Dr. Macalister wrote many articles on Celtic and pre-Celtic archaeology and on the archaeology of Palestine. He was an authority on the Celtic languages, on Ogam script, and on Shelta (the language of the tinkers). He was a past president of the Royal Irish Academy.

Self-Help

THERE could be no better reply to those who sneeringly speak of the Highland people as ever begging for outside assistance than the increasingly numerous instances of local people taking in hand the betterment of local conditions.

The islanders of Bernera, Lewis, have for a long time been agitating for a bridge or causeway to link their island (with six hundred inhabitants) with the Lewis mainland 130 yards away. They have now begun to raise funds for this purpose and recently a very successful concert was held in Glasgow in support of this fund.

The people of Kyle of Lochalsh are setting about providing a playing-field, which will cost a considerable amount of money and labour, and, while they may receive some outside help, they intend to do most of the work themselves. The villagers of Avoch in the Black Isle are following a similar policy in constructing a recreational centre. They have already improved the harbour.

In other places a like spirit is manifest, while the local development associations in Lewis and Skye and elsewhere are a further indication that the "stay-at-

home" Highlander can be as enterprising as his brother who journeys afar to seek his fortune.

The most recent instance of the self-help movement was the conference at Gairloch, organised by the Scottish Council of Social Service, to study the problems of Wester Ross and formulate a practical policy for development.

Transport

TRANSPORT remains the crux of the Highland problem. Not only is the cost of living increased, the comfort of living decreased, the pursuit of agriculture and fishing and other occupations rendered more difficult and less profitable, but even the work of the Church, as statements at the recent General Assemblies have shown, suffers many handicaps.

Craignure, for example, has for many years been crying out for a pier, instead of the steamer ferry which must at present suffice for South Mull and Iona. Instead of a pier, however, it seemed recently that even the ferry would be withdrawn. The state of the roads in Lewis has recently caused the withdrawal of bus services to certain villages.

Social amenities also are restricted by inadequate transport. As a Scottish newspaper has been pointing out, young people will not stay in places where they have no chance of meeting others, and in many cases no social life is now possible without transport.

Uilleam Ros

Le TORMOD DOMHNALLACH

(air a leantainn bho t.d. 80)

Dhinehd mar aingeal, mu mo choinneamh,

'N ainneir ag bu ghrinne snuadh;
Seang shlios fallain air bh'ath canaich,

No mar an eal' air a' chuan;
Sùil ghorm, mheallach, fo chaoil mhala

'S caoin' a sheallas 'g amharc uath',

Beul tlà, tairis, gun ghnè smalain,

Dha'n gnàth carthannachd gun uail.

Mar ghath gréin' am madainn Chéitein,

Gun mheadh i mo léirsinn shùil.

'S i ceumadh ùrlair, gu réidh iompaidh,

Do réir punggannan a' chiùil:
Ribhinn mhodhail, 's fìor-ghlan foghlum,

Dh'fhion-fhuil mhòrdhalach mo ruin;

Reul nan òighean, grian gach còisiridh,

'S i 'n chiall chòmhlraidh, cheòl-bhinn, chiùin,

Ann an sealladh, bha am bàrd féin 'na dhuine òg, snasmhòr, tlachdmhòr, gearr air sia troidhean a dh'airde le falt trùine dhonn, agus clàr-agbaidh an fhìor Ghàidheil. Thuilleadh air a sin, fhuair e de riaghailt foghlum, ann an teagasg 's an càinean.

na choisneadh latha-eigin dha dreuchd no inbhe mhath an cùisean tìmeil. Chan 'eil e iongantach ged a thaitinn òighean cho buadhmhòr ris an ribhinn eirochdail, Mór Ros, cho math 's gun do gheall i a phòsadh, a' daingneachadh a bòid le guidhe thoirt a bodhaig a bhith air a losgadh nam b'e agus gum bristeadh i orra. Ach, mar a thairheadh na seann daoine,

(An corr air t.d. 99)

What is a "Gaelic Text"?

A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION

By T. M. MURCHISON

THE Scottish Gaelic Texts Society (Comunn Litreachas na h-Alba) was instituted in 1934 "for the purpose of promoting the publication of Texts in the Scottish Gaelic Language, accompanied by such Introductions, English Translations, Glossaries, and Notes as may be deemed desirable." The brochure issued to the public explaining the aims of the Society included among the material to be published, not only out-of-print poetry, but also manuscript material hitherto unprinted, much of it written down from oral recitation (as, e.g., material in the MacLagan Manuscripts and in J. F. Campbell of Islay's Manuscripts).

The Governors of the Catherine McCaig's Trust are empowered by the Trust Scheme, approved under the Educational Endowments (Scotland) Act, 1928, "to make grants in aid of the publication of Gaelic texts."

But what is a Gaelic "text"? According to a standard dictionary, a "text" is "the original words of an author" (even if the author is anonymous) or "a literary composition" (and such a composition may be transmitted, not on paper, but in human memories).

It is a well-known fact that the bulk of Gaelic literature consists of "oral literature," tales and songs passed on from generation to generation by word of mouth and not written down for many years, and even centuries, after the time of their composition. Indeed, a considerable quantity of this oral literature is still unrecorded. The work of most Gaelic bards (even the major bards whose poetry has achieved the distinction of being prescribed for examination purposes in the Universities) was transmitted orally for some time before being committed to writing. This is so in the case of Mary MacLeod, Ian Lom Macdonald, John MacCodrum, Rob Donn, and William Ross, and probably also in the case of Duncan Ban MacIntyre and Alexander Macdonald, although these two had editions of their poems printed during their own lifetime.

The valuable material contained in J. F. Campbell's "Leabhar na Feinne" and "West Highland Tales" was transmitted orally for centuries before being written down.

It is surely impossible to define a Gaelic "text" only as material previously printed, or material which has been in manuscript for a considerable time, or material by an author who can be named, whether living or dead. Yet, it would seem, these are the definitions

favoured by the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society and the Governors of the Catherine McCaig's Trust.

Recently, the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society decided to exclude Gaelic folktales from the material defined as "texts" and considered suitable for publication in terms of the Society's declared purpose. The Governors of McCaig's Trust have also, quite recently, made a decision which implies that, in their view, the texts of traditional Gaelic songs do not constitute "texts" eligible for grants in aid of publication.

This arbitrary and unjustifiably narrow definition of what is and what is not a "text" is certain to be disputed, and a good deal more is likely to be heard about the matter. It is certainly small encouragement to those working in the field of recording and collecting Gaelic folktales and folksongs to be told that the work which occupied the attention of scholars such as J. F. Campbell of Islay and Frances Tolmie is not considered worthy of publication or of financial assistance by bodies of the status of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society and the McCaig's Trust.

The former body has already published three valuable volumes, all of which consist of texts taken down originally from oral recitation, and one of which ("Heroic Poetry from the Book of the Dean of Lismore") consists of folkballads pure and simple.

The McCaig's Trust has assisted the publication of the works of both living and deceased authors. Apparently the criterion adopted here is that a text is not a "text" unless its author is identifiable. It is doubtful if so slender a distinction can be enforced. The greater part of Gaelic literature is of this nature—oral and traditional and to a large extent anonymous. Is it to be ruled out of consideration by the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society and the Catherine McCaig's Trust on that account?

When "Scottish Gaelic Studies" was founded, the very first of its objectives, as indicated in the first number, was stated to be research and publication in the field of "Literature.—(1). The collection of such oral literature, songs, stories, proverbs and the like, as still survive. . . (2). Publication of literary texts from manuscripts and printed sources."

Since only twelve numbers of this periodical

(Continued on p. 94)

Cape Breton News and Views

At the Annual Meeting of the Gaelic Foundation, St. Ann's, the President of the Foundation, Rev. A. W. R. MacKenzie, presided, and reports were submitted by the President as Executive Director, by Major C. I. N. MacLeod as Gaelic Director, by Mrs. A. A. MacKenzie as Craft-Centre Director, and by Mr. C. W. K. McCurdy as Treasurer.

The reports revealed that 1949 was the Foundation's most successful year since its inception. Craft sales in the last three years amounted to over \$42,000. It was reported that apprentice weavers earn as much as \$110 per month, while home weavers earn \$140. Stress was laid on the urgent need for an endowment fund for the Gaelic College. Two departments were already well established—Highland Folk Art under the supervision of Miss Eveline Dunbar, and Crafts under the supervision of Mrs. A. A. MacKenzie. The Gaelic Department was now the major project demanding development, and its success was assured, said the President, providing Major MacLeod could be given the necessary financial support.

Rev. Father D. J. Rankin, Iona, and Judge G. Morrison, Sydney, paid tribute to Mr. MacKenzie's work for the Foundation since its inception. Lieut.-Colonel Donald Sinclair, New Glasgow, suggested that part of the profits of the Crafts Centre, as well as the Mod, should be allocated to the carrying on of the cultural work of the Foundation.

The Director's report stated that Miss Pauline Forsythe, student-apprentice, had completed the three-year course in hand-weaving and gained the honour of receiving the first certificate awarded by the Gaelic College in the handcraft department for a three-year course.

It was reported that 312 students were enrolled in the Gaelic College Extension Classes, receiving instruction in Gaelic, piping, and Highland Folk Art, at Port Hood, Barra Glen, Gillis Point, Baddeck, St. Ann's, and Sydney, under Major MacLeod, Mrs. R. D. MacLeod, and Rev. A. W. R. MacKenzie.

"Major C. I. N. MacLeod was released from the Gaelic College Staff on 31st December last," states the Director's report, "and Gaels in Nova Scotia

will be happy to learn that a Department of Gaelic, under the Adult Education Division, has been established by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, and that Major MacLeod has been placed in charge as Gaelic Adviser with headquarters at Sydney. Major MacLeod's services will be available to every Gaelic culture organisation seeking his services. The Gaelic Foundation congratulate the

Department of Education on this forward step and whole-heartedly welcome the active participation of Government in the promotion of Celtic culture in the province."

This year's Gaelic Mod at St. Ann's will be held on 9th to 13th August, and Sir Charles Hector Fitzroy MacLean, Bart., Chief of Clan MacLean, Duart Castle, Isle of Mull, will attend as chief guest. 11th August will be "Clan MacLean Day." The Mod will end with the annual outdoor Memorial Service on 13th August.

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

THE Organiser presided at a Ceilidh held under the auspices of the Balmacara Branch on Friday, 12th May, and during the afternoon had interviews with the officials of the South-West Ross Provincial Mod at Kyle. A feature of this Ceilidh was the contributions by the boys from Balmacara Boys' School under their leader, Mr. M. C. MacLeod. It was an innovation to see a choir of boys conducted by one of themselves, and thanks are due to Miss Barry Milner, Itinerant Teacher of Music for the area, who is doing so much for Gaelic music in these parts. Mrs. MacDonald, Branch Secretary, made all the arrangements, and the evening was a thoroughly enjoyable one.

Mr. MacPhail left at five the next morning, and midday found him at Golspie, assisting the local Committee to prepare a programme and time-table for the County of Sutherland Mod. This accomplished, he proceeded to Inverness to pack the goods gathered for the Inverness Burch & County Stall and Comunn na h-Oigridh Stall at the Grand Feil. On Monday, 15th, he travelled to Glasgow, calling at places en route to collect more goods for both stalls. For the remainder of the week he was fully engaged in Glasgow, in charge of Comunn na h-Oigridh Stall and assisting in other ways.

On Friday, 25th May, he presided at a Concert at Kyle of Lochalsh in aid of the local mod funds. There was a good attendance and an excellent programme. He was present at a meeting of the Inverness Feachd of Comunn na h-Oigridh on the following evening and gave a talk on the Gaelic Camp.

The Organiser was present at the South-West Ross Mod on Friday, 2nd June, and adjudicated some of the Junior Oral Competitions.

The Badenoch-Strathspey Mod was held on the same date, and Miss A. R. MacInnes, Assistant, represented the Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee.

THE County of Sutherland Mod was held at Golspie on Friday, 9th June.

Probably there is no Provincial Mod held under the auspices of An Comunn where the children have to travel such long distances. For example, the Durness children left their homes at 4 a.m., and covered the distance of over 80 miles by bus to get to Golspie.

Similarly, the Lochinver children had to be off to the Mod before 5 a.m., and none of these children arrived back home until the early hours of the following morning. Enthusiasm! Yes, and a little more. Despite all these difficulties, Lochinver Junior Choir was placed first for two-part singing and Durness Junior Choir first in the unison and puirt-a-beul competitions.

On his way to the West recently, the Organiser called at a little school in Glenshiel. After a talk with the children (fifteen in all), he offered a small prize for the best idiomatic translation of the following sentence: "The teacher is very nice." Without any hesitation, a little boy cracked his fingers and said, "Tha i snog." As long as you get answers like that there is little danger of the language disappearing.

Mar a Fhuair Sinn ar Riasladh a' Togail nan Cliabh

Le SEONAIDH CAIMBEUL
Am Bard (Nach Maireann)

(Chaidh seo a thoirt am follais an toiseach ann am paipear-naidheachd Comunn Iasgairean na Mara an 1938j).

A ON droch là a' togail nan cliabh, mi fhin agus aon-fhear eite, 's e dithist againn a bha sa' sgothaidh, agus 's e Alasdair Cuirich am fear eile bha còmhla rium; agus dh'fhalbh sinn le madainn uamhasach briagh, là mu dheireadh dh'an gheamhradh, agus thog sinn feodhainn dha na cléibh, 's bha sinn 'gar n-aiseag dh'an àite gu pìos a dh'astar as an àite a thog sinn iad, o'n a bha là cho briagh.

Agus air treis an déidh dhuinn falbh leis na cléibh chunnaic sinn fras ag cruinneachadh as an àird an iar-thuath, agus thàinig i oirnn. Bha dùil againn nach biodh i cho dona, agus thàinig i oirnn 'na fras clacha meallain, agus leag sinn an uair sin an seòl, a' deanamh nach biodh i buan sam bith. Agus chaidh sinn fo'n t-seòl mar a bha an fhraas cho trom, agus ann an deireadh na froiseadh thàinig gaoth làidir, agus bha i slor-thighinn na bu treise, agus chuir sinn an uair sin an seòl air an sgothaidh a rithist. Agus bha an séideadh a' slor-fhàs làidir, agus mu dheireadh bha an muir 'na h-aon sloban gear, agus chan fhaigheamaid an uair sin gréim air clach do thir, agus cha robh againn ach cumail oirre mar a bha sinn, fiach am faigheamaid gu àite bha pìos mòr seachad air an àite bha 'nar beachd an toiseach.

Ach b'fheudar dhuinn an uair sin an sgoth a thilleadh, fiach am faigheamaid gréim air tìr an àit-eigin; agus mar a bha e cho mosach, cha b'urrainn dhuinn na cléibh fhéin a chur aiseid a thog sinn am madainn fhéin innte. Ach thuir sinn, cho goirid do thir 's gu robh sinn, gun iomaireamaid gu tìr i. Agus nuair a leag sinn an seòl 's an crann, bha i an uair sin 'gar siobadh a mach, 's cha b'urrainn dhuinn aona bhuille a chur 'na h-aghaidh 'ga h-iomaireadh. Thuir sinn an uair sin r'a chéile, ge b'e dé dheanadh i leis an t-seòl, nach b'urrainn sinn slon idir a dheanamh 'ga h-iomaireadh. Dh'fhiach sinn an uair sin oirre an seòl a rithist, 's cha robh i an uair sin ag coimhead air aona chladach dh'an fhearran idir dhuinn.

An uair sin thill sinn i, agus bha sinn ag ràdh ri chéile, gu robh sinn an uair sin rud beag na b'fhaide air an fhuaradh na bha sinn an uair a chuir sinn oirre seòl. An sin thill sinn a rithist i 's bha sinn an uair sin ag ràdh ri chéile gu faigheamaid gréim air a'

chladach an turus seo, agus an treas turus a thill sinn i, fhuair sinn an uair sin a staigh do loch, agus bha sinn beagan na bu shoeraiche agus bha sinn co-dhiubh ri taobh a' chladaich.

A GUS sinn nuair a thug sinn aiseid na cléibh a thug sinn innte sa' mhadainn, cha b'urrainn sinn an uair sin ach a bhith 'ga h-iomaireadh air ais 's air aghaidh anns an loch a bha sin fad an latha; agus bha iad 'gar n-iarraidh anns gach àite an saoleadh iad a rachamaid. Agus am bial na h-oidhche (feasgar anmoch) chunnaic dithist a bha ann am beinn ag cromadh chon a' chladaich, chunnaic iad sinn anns an loch bha ann an sin; agus thàinig iad mu chuairt pìos mòr a dh'astar mu chuairt bàigh ris an canadh iad Bàgh Hartabhagh, agus an tàinig iad os ar cionn chon a' chladaich, agus bhuail iad air éigheach dhuinn gum bu mhath gu robh sinn sàbhailte co-dhiubh—fear Dòmhnall Eòghann Dùbhghallach agus fear eile Dòmhnall Iain Caimbeul; agus dh'éibh sinn dhaibh gu robh a h-uile duine sàbhailte. Dh'éibh sinn dhaibh an uair sin an tigeadh iad dh'an sgothaidh còmhla agus thuir iad gun tigeadh, 's bha ar misneach na b'fheàrr an uair sin, nuair a fhuair sinn an toirt innte.

Ach thug sinn ùine mhòr gus an d'fhuair sinn cothrom air an toirt innte leis cho dona 's a bha an fhaige air a' chladach. Nuair a bha an sin an oidhche a' dorchnadh, bha eagal oirnn gum atharraicheadh a' ghaoth agus gun tigeadh i air aghaidh an t-sluic anns an robh sinn. Agus thuir sinn gum b'fheàrr dhuinn fiachainn tarsainn bàigh a bh'ann fad 's a bhiodh an là ann mun tigeadh an oidhche.

Dh'fhiach sinn an uair sin oirre seòl a rithist, o'n a bha an ceathrar againn an dràs bha sinn na b'fheàrr; ach bha eagal mòr oirnn gu falbhadh an seòl oirnn. Ach an deodhaidh sin fhuair sinn tarsainn, ach gum b'fheudar dhuinn an seòl a leagail trì uairean mun d'fhuair sinn tarsainn. Nuair a fhuair sinn an sin chon a' chladaich eile, an taobh eile dh'an bhàigh, bha sinn ag ràdh ri chéile an uair sin gu robh sinn ceart gu leòr, gum biodh fasgadh againn tuilleadh ris a' chladach a' tighinn dhachaidh.

Agus bha sinn a' tighinn seachad air Gob Ruadh, agus mar gun caitheadh sibh clach as 'ur dòrn, dh'atharraich a' ghaoth dìreach 'nar

n-aghaidh. Leag sinn an uair sin an seòl 's an crann a rithist, agus fhuair sinn a h-ìomaireadh a staigh do loch beag bha ann an Gob Ruadh bha ann a shin. Agus bhiodh an uair sin mu dheich uairean a dh'oidhche. Agus bha sinn 'ga h-ìomaireadh air ais 's air aghaidh ann a shin gun an robh e trì uairean sa' mhadaoinn, agus sinn bog fliuch fad na h-ùine.

AN uair sin thuir sinn ruinn fhin gu robh sinn a' smaointinn gu ruitheadh an sgoth dhuinn gu àite ris an canadh iad Bìgh Hartabhagh, agus thill sinn air ais agus mar a bha an gnòthach cho fàbharach dhuinn bha gealach ann 's bha i gu math soilleir. Ach bha feodhainn 'gar n-iarraidh air a shon sin fad na h-oidhche 's gun fios ca a gu faca càch idir sinn, a thaobh gun deach càch dh'an sgoth còmhla ruinn; agus an fheodhainn a bha 'gar n-iarraidh bha iad an uair sin air cnoc agus bha iad a' smaointinn gu rachadh iad gu àite eile suas pìos mòr as a sin gun fhios nach do thuit dhuinn gun deach sinn ann; agus bha bag ca anns an robh aran, agus iad cinnteach gu robh sinn feumach air biadh nam faigheadh iad beò sinn. Agus thachair dhaibh gun do dh'fhàg iad am bag anns a' chnoc far an robh iad 'nan seasamh, agus pìos an déidh dhaibh falbh o'n chnoc chunnaic iad gun do dhiochannich iad am бага.

Thill dithist aca 'ga iarraidh, agus sheas an dithist eile far an robh iad gu an tigeadh iad; agus an uair sin chunnaic fear aca an sgoth a' dol a staigh dh'an bhàgh bha ann a sheo, agus dh'èibh iad a chàch gu robh iad a' faicinn na sgothadh. Agus thill iad an uair sin 'nan ruith agus fios aca fhéin far am fàgamaid an sgoth, fiach am bhiodh iad ann romhainn; agus ràinig sinn an uair sin an t-àite sin, an lamarraig a bha ann a shin; agus thàinig àsan (iadsan), agus bha iad ann romhainn.

Chuala mi fhin agus mi gabhail mi sgothaidh bruidhinn, ach cha robh fios agam cò bha bruidhinn o chionn chan fhaca mi duine aca tighinn. Dh'fhoighneachd mi do dh'Alasdair gu dé bhruidhinn bha siod. Thuir Alasdair, gun fhios aige fhéin air, nach robh fios aige fhéin air. Bha ann aon uair gum biodh e faicinn agus faireachdainn bòcan anns an àite. "Ged a bhiodh a h-uile bòcan a tha anns an dùthaich ann," orsa mi fhin ri Alasdair, "théid sinne gu tìr o'n a fhuair sinn ri seo." An uair sin chaidh mi an uair sin gu tìr, choisich mise suas agus 's e an fheodhainn a bha 'gar n-iarraidh fhin a bha ann a shin.

Agus an uair sin thug iad a mach aran as a' bhaga, agus bha bainne aca còmhla ris; agus thuir Peadar an uair sin, "Gabhaidh

What is a "Gaelic Text" (from p. 91)

have appeared in twenty-four years, it can hardly be said to afford adequate space and opportunity to the collectors of oral Gaelic literature for publishing the material they collect. This fact makes the decisions of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society and the Governors of the Catherine McCaig's Trust the more regrettable.

Neither the Gaelic Texts Society nor the McCaig Trust Governors rejected the volumes submitted to them on the grounds that these lacked merit. They were rejected solely because of the narrow and arbitrary definition of a "text" which both bodies seem to have adopted. Nor did the McCaig Trust Governors refuse a grant in aid of publication on the ground that they have no money to spare for such a purpose or that they receive more applications than they can provide for. Almost invariably for some years past the Governors have not expended all of that portion of each year's income which could be used for the purpose in question, and year after year they have added to their already considerable capital unexpended balances which might well have been used in encouraging Gaelic publications, of which there is a great dearth.

If the Governors of the Catherine McCaig's Trust are taking the line that they are empowered to aid the publication of school and college text-books only, then it must be pointed out that they have already helped to publish more than one book which by no stretch of the imagination could be regarded as such. Indeed, not long ago, the Governors gave little encouragement to a scheme for publishing some half-dozen "texts" of the kind they seem to regard as alone eligible for help from them (that is, school and college "texts").

The whole matter demands clarification. No one who is at all concerned with the present position of Gaelic and Gaelic literature can rest content with the present situation.

iad an toiseach rud dheth seo," agus thug e mach as a phòca botul fiona. Agus thug e oirnn an uair sin deoch agus an uair sin nuair a ghabh sinn sin dh'ith sinn an uair sin mu dhà ghréim no trì dh'an aran; agus bha sinn an uair sin a cheart cho math, aotrom 's a bha sinn nuair a dh'fhalbh sinn as an taigh, ged a bha sinn gun bhìadh fad an latha roimhe sin, bha sin mu cheithir uairean sa' mhadaoinn air làrna-mhaireach. Agus choisich s'n an uair sin dhachaidh tarsainn mòintich suas ri cóig mìle a dh'astar, agus bha sinn toilichte gu leòr an uair sin mar a bha sinn fhin 's a h-uile slon sàbhailte.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN T-IUCHAR, 1950

Aireamh 7

Sgeoil Bho Dhail-a-Brog

DOMHNALL AGUS AN CU

BHA siud ann cìobair a' fuireach an taobh Ba deas Alba. Bha e 'na dhuine bochd agus cha robh an tuarasdail aige ach beag.

B'e Dòmhnall an t-ainm a bha air, agus mar dheagh chìobair bha cù math aige. Air aon bhliadhna thàinig Sasannach beairteach do'n àite agus chunnaic e cho math is a bha cù Dhòmhnail. Thairig e mòran airgid air, agus thug Dòmhnall dha an cù.

An déidh sin smaointich Dòmhnall gun deanadh e deagh airgead nan reiceadh e coin ris na Sasannaich a h-uile bliadhna aig àm na féille.

Mar a bha na bliadhnanach a' dol seachd bha cliù Dhòmhnail air son ionnsachadh chon ag éirigh agus bha e na b'fheàrr dheth na bha e riamh.

Air aon bhliadhna fhuair Dòmhnall cuilean beag. Bu mhath a b'aithne do Dhòmhnall coin ionnsachadh, ach cho math is gu robh e dh'fhairtich am fear seo air. An uair a leigeadh e an cuilean dheanadh e air meadhon nan caorach agus sgapadh e iad. Bha droch cleachdadh aige cuideachd a bhith a' fuadach aon chaorach agus a' spionadh na clòimhe aside.

A nis bha àm na féille a' tarraing dlùth, ach bha an cù cho dona is a bha e riamh. Dh'iarr a bhean air gun idir a reic no nach reiceadh e an còrr. Ach cha robh bliadhna riamh ann aig an robh feum cho mòr aig Dòmhnall air an airgead, agus rinn e suas inntinn gun reiceadh e an cù, biodh e math no dona!

Dh'fhalbh Dòmhnall chun na féille agus ròpa laidir aige mu amhach a' chòin. Thàinig Sasannach far an robh e. Thairig Dòmhnall dha an cù, ach bha droch amharus aige air agus dh'iarr e air Dòmhnall a shealltainn dha ag obair. Chaidh iad far an robh pàirc làn chaorach agus leig Dòmhnall as an cù.

Dh'aithnich Dòmhnall gu robh e a' deanamh air meadhon nan caorach air son an sgapadh, agus dh'éigh e "*Divide!*" Sgap an cù na caoraich 'nan dà leth agus chuir seo

iongantas mòr air an t-Sasannach, ach cha robh e toilichte as a' chù fhathast agus dh'iarr e fhaicinn ag obair a rithist.

Rug Dòmhnall air a' chù agus leig e as e. Dh'aithnich e gu robh an cù a' dol a dh'fhuadach aon chaorach, agus dh'éigh e, "*Subtract one!*" Sgap na caoraich air fad ach an aon té agus thionndaidh Dòmhnall air an t-Sasannach:

"Faic a nis cho math 's a tha an cù agam," arsa esan. "Ni e *division* agus *subtraction*, agus ni e *addition* cuideachd."

Cheannaich an Sasannach an cù agus ghabh Dòmhnall a rathad leis an airgead. Cha chuala e dad tuille mu dhéidhinn a' choin, ach tha e coltach gun do ghabh an Sasannach a leithid de eagal roimh an chù is nach do thill e do Alba tuille.

RUAIRIDH IAIN CAIMBEUL.

(Sgeoil Dhail-a-brog)

CAILLEACH AN SGATHAIN

BHA siud ann aon uair a' fuireach ann an Uibhist a Tuath bodach agus cailleach a bha—feumaidh mi ràdh—glé ghrànda, agus chan fhaca a h-aon aca riamh a leithid a rud ri sgàthan. Mar as tric a thachras, bhris air slàinte a' bhodaich agus dh'fhalbh e a Ghlaschu a chum a shlàinte fhaighinn air ais.

Nuair a fhuair am bodach na b'fheàrr thubhairt e ris fhéin gun gabhadh e sgrìob a mach chum na sràide. Air dha dhol a mach chaidh e steach do bhùth agus chunnaic e a fhaileas fhéin ann an sgàthan.

"Nach seall thu m'athair!" arsa esan, agus dh'fhaighnich e pris an sgàthan.

Dh'innseadh dha gum b'e seachd is sia sgillinn pris an sgàthan. Thòisich am bodach air rùdhrach a phòcannan agus thug e mach seachd tasdain is sia sgillinn agus cheannaich e "*dealbh athar!*"

Nuair a chaidh am bodach dhachaidh a dh'Uibhist a Tuath thubhairt e ri a mhnaoi gu robh rud-eigin aige nach innseadh e dhi-se.

“Och, a thràill, innis dhomh!” arsa ise.

“Ma tà, innsidh mi dhuit dé a th'ann,” arsa esan; “tha dealbh m'athar, ach cha sheall mi idir dhuit e.”

Ach, mar a bhios boireannaich co-dhiubh, dh'éirich a' chailleach feadh na h-oidhche agus chaidh i do phòcannan a' bhodaich agus thug i mach an sgàthan agus choimhead i ann.

“Gu dearbh,” arsa ise, “mas e dealbh athar a tha seo, cha robh e briagha!”

ÀLASDAIR CAIMBEUL.
(Sgoil Dhail-a-brog).

SGEULACHD

BHÀ siud ann aon uair a' fuireach an Bhaite aonaranach duine bochd agus a bhean. Bha an duine ag obair aige an rathad.

Aon latha an uair a bha an duine a' tighinn dhachaidh chunnaic e poca a bha air tuiteam as fear de na carbadan-ola. Thug e dhachaidh am poca gun fhosgladh agus dh'fhàg e air cùl an doruis e.

An ath latha, an dèidh do'n duine falbh gu obair, chunnaic a bhean am poca agus dh'fheumadh i fhaicinn gu dé bha 'na bhroinn. Dh'fhosgail i e agus gu dé an sealladh a chunnaic i ach mòran òir! Dhùin i am poca agus chuir i air ais far an d'fhuair i e.

Nuair a thàinig an duine dhachaidh dh'fhebraich a bhean dha an robh fios aige ciod a bha sa' phoca. Thubhairt esan nach robh agus gu robh e a' dol 'ga thoirt do'n mhaor-sithe am màireach.

“Cha dean thu dad dh'a leithid, ach théid thu do'n sgoil,” arsa ise.

Thubhairt an duine gu robh esan ro shean air son dol do'n sgoil, ach mu dheireadh dh'aontaich e rithe.

An ath latha chuir e air a dheise ùr agus chaidh e do'n sgoil.

Thòisich na balaich air magadh air, agus mu fhichead latha an dèidh sin thubhairt e ri a mhnaoi gu robh e seachd sgith dh'an sgoil agus gu robh e dol 'ga fàgail.

An ath latha thàinig maor-sithe chun an taighe agus dh'fhebraich e dheth an d'fhuair e poca air an rathad. Thubhairt esan gun d'fhuair.

“Cuin a fhuair thu e?” arsa an maor-sithe

“An latha mun deach mi do'n sgoil”

“Ma tà, faodaidh tu e chumail, mas ann an uair sin a fhuair thu e!”

Agus leis an sin dh'fhàs an duine beairteach.

GILLEASBUIG MACGHILLINNEIN.
(Sgoil Dhail-a-brog)

Na h-Uain

Le GILLE PADRAIG

THA mi eadar dà bharail,” arsa Bus-dubh ri Blàran.

“Na cuireadh sin maoin ort,” arsa Blàran; “is iomadh sin beathach a bha cadar dà bharail, is eadar dà chomhairle còmhla ris.” “Chan 'eil mise eadar dà chomhairle ann,” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Mur 'eil is e as fheàrr, a bhròinein, ach dé an dà bharail a tha ann?”

“Is e na h-uain a' cheist,” arsa an cuilean. “Bha mi air fàs sgith de ruith nan cat o theab Spuir-Ghlas an t-sùil a chur asam, agus mi gun cur-scachad agam gus an tàinig na h-uain. Cha robh fhios agam dé chanainn an uair a ràinig mi Buaile an t-Sidhein agus a chunnaic mi iad a' ruith 's a' leum mar nach biodh an saoghal ag cur uallach air bith orra. Chaidh mi an taobh a bha iad, agus seòrsa de eagal agam romhpa, gun fhios nach ann de na cat a bha iad, ach cha b'eagal dhomh, agus thòisich sinn air cleasachd sios is suas, thall 's a bhos, ach gun teagamh cha robh na caoraich air an dòigh, ge b'e car son nach bitheadh. Cha robh sinn air a dhol 'nar teas ceart an uair a nochd Fionnladh Buachaille, agus a leithid sin de eubha—cha mhór nach deachaidh mi glan fo'n talamh leis an dearg eagal a ghabh mi—agus, gu bràth, ach a' chainnt! Mo chluas riamh cha chuala a leithid de ghlòir shearbh, gharbh, sgaiteach, chrosda!”

“Dé a thuir e riut?” arsa Blàran.

“Thuir e gu leòir rium,” arsa Bus-dubh. “Ach thug e comhairle orm gun amharus—‘Seachainn na h-uain.’”

“Bhuil, sin agad comhairle mhaith,” arsa an tarbh.

“Tha a' chomhairle maith gu leòir, ach chan 'eil mise a' faicinn lochd idir ann a bhith am measg nan uan. Cha mhise a' cheud chù a chaidh ris na caoraich.”

“Cha tu. Ach tha rud eadar chù is cù. Chan 'eil annad-sa ach abhag, cù-seilge—ma théid thu ri do sheòrsa, is ' théid dualchas an aghaidh nan creag'. Chan 'eil nàdur nan caorach 'na do sheòrsa ann, agus is feàrr duit gu mòr an seachnadh mar a chaidh iarraidh ort.”

“A bheil thu an dùil?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Tha mi cinnteach as,” arsa Blàran.

“Dé a dh'éireas dhomh ma théid mi air ais an taobh a tha na h-uain am màireach?”

“Bìdh truas aig coin a' bhaile riut!” arsa Blàran.

Litir Eachainn

THA mi cinnteach, a mach bho na Mòdan Dùthchail, gur e an Camp as motha a bhios a' tighinn fainear dhuibh uile an ceartair, agus sin co-dhùibh a tha sibh an dùil a bhith ann no nach 'eil. An uair a tha mise a' sgrìobhadh, tràth anns an Og-mhios, tha an t-sìd cho uile gu léir brèagh 's gur ann a dhùraichdinn féin togail orm gu camp an àit-eigin, no camp a dheanamh dhomh fhin air aodann a' chnuic ud thall far a bheil an t-iomaire buntàta agam; agus nach ann a dh'fhaodainn feum dùbailte a dheanamh dheth, toileachadh a thoirt dhomh fhin agus aig a' cheart am cothrom a thoirt dhomh air sùil a chumail air droch ghàrlaich chloinne a bhios a' deanamh nìillidh air turadh mo shaothrach an sin. Nach ann a splon iad cuid de na cuiseagan buntàta orm ré an deireadh seachd-anach seo chaidh. An uair a chaidh mi suas an rathad an dé, nach ann a bha na cuiseagan a splon iad an siud seargte air an talamh lom! Tha dòchas agam nach bi sibhse, a chlann laghach, a' deanamh uilc mar sin; ach tha fios agam nach bi, oir chan e sin gnè na cloinne Gàidhealaich idir.

Thug mi iomradh air a' champ, agus is cinnteach gum bi e air ghleus fada mun ruig na briathran seo sibhse. Bidh a' chlann-nighean ag gluasad a staigh ann air Di-ardaoin, an 29mh de'n Og-mhios seo féin, agus na balaich dà sheachdain 'nan déidh, seadh, air an 13mh de'n Iuchar. A nis, ged nach iarrainn le cinnt gun leanadh an turadh is an t-sìd ghriannach seo fad an t-samhraidh, oir théid bàrr a dholaidh mur tig taisealachd an ùine ghoirid, tha dòchas agam gum bi breac-shld againn, grian ré an latha, le beagan taisealachd, ach gun droch dhòrtaidhean uisge a bheil an t-snighe oirbhse, ré na h-oidhche; seadh, an samhradh a bhith breac-riabhach, le foghar geal, griannach 'na dhéidh, oir is i sin sìd a réir an t-sean-duine nach "d'fhàg gort riann an Albainn."

Tha an ath choinneamh chomhairle aig a' Chomunn ri bhith air a gleidheadh anns a' Ghearasdan (Inbhir-Lòchaidh) ré na h-ùine a bhios sibhse anns a' champ, agus is cinnteach gum bi cuid againn, sinne aig am bi an ùine, a' toirt leum bheag a nunn g'ur faicinn an latha sin. Cha deanadh cuairt mar sin coire aon cheid dhuinne no dhuibhse. Theagamh, ma tà, gum faic sibh Eachann anns a' champ, eadhon mun leugh sibh a bhriathran a tha air an cur sìos an dràs.

THA mi nis a' dol a dh'inneadh dhuibh mu smuaintean a bhuail a staigh air m'intinn an diugh féin, cuimhne, ged nach 'eil i uair sam bith fada air falbh bho m'intinn, a bhuail a staigh gu ro-chomharr-aichte air mo mheanma anns na làithean seo. Theagamh gun sìubhail sibhse sibh féin, ri ùine, air car de'n cheart seòrs' ceuma; agus tha mi an dòchas gum bi sibh uile 'nur slàinte gu sealltainn air ais air bhur triall féin, eadhon mar a tha mise a' deanamh an diugh.

An diugh, Di-màirt, an latha a tha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo, tha mo chuimhne a' toirt leum air a h-ais gu Di-màirt eile, leth-cheud bliadhna air ais, an uair a dh'fhàg mi an t-seann dachaidh an Eillearaig, agus m' aghaidh air an tobh deas. Cha d'fhàg mi eilean m'arach riann gu sin, agus bho'n latha sin ach a mhàin air chuaritean, cha do thill mi ann tuille. B'i an obair mu dheireadh a rinn mi mun d'fhàg mi a' mhòine a bhuain, agus rinn mi sin, sgaolteach mhath mhòna fhàgail, gu a togail an uair a bhiodh i sùghte gu leòr air a cheann sin.

Thàinig an latha à bha mi ri triall. Is e a' choiseachd a bha ann; ach bu shuarach leamsa an uair sin na sia mìle no còrr a bha romham mun ruiginn Airigh-nan-Gobhar far am faighinn am bàta, seann *Chaistéal Arais*, gu ruig an t-Oban. Tha iomadh taobh de fhàgail na dachaidh an latha ud air nach 'eil cuimhne agam an diugh, ged a tha taobhan eile air a bheil mo chuimhne glé bheò; agus dhuibh-san a dh'fhàg mi 'nam dhéidh, mo mhàthair chaomh agus an còrr dhuibh, cha mhaireann aon dhuibh an diugh: tha mise 'nam aonar air m'fhàgail, mar Oisean an déidh na Fèinne, gun nì ach mo chuimhne air a luigheasachadh dhomh. Tha na cuimhneachain sin ro dhlùth do m' chridhe an diugh gu an cur am briathraibh fuara clòdh; ach seo aon chuimhne a tha glé bheò 'nam chridhe fhathast, agus a dh'fhaodainn inneadh dhuibh.

Bha cuilean coin againn an Eillearaig an uair ud, galla bheag, creutair laghach, do'n tug sinn an t-ainm "Conaidh." An uair a dh'fhàg mise an taigh glé thràth anns a' mhadainn, tuaiream air sia uairean, dh'fhalbh Conaidh leam pios de'n rathad. Bha an taigh againne suas ri ceathramh a' mhìle bho'n rathad mhór. Tha beachd agam gu robh bàrr anns an léanaidh troimh am bitheamaid am bitheantas ag coiseachd mar

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 27)

aithghearr, agus ged a bha frith-rathad troimhe, bha an drùchd cho trom a' mhadainn seo 's gun do ghabh mi an rathad fada mun cuairt is rinn mi air Cachaileith Eillearaig. Lean Conaidh rium, is leanadh i rium na b'fhaide, gus an d'fhuair mi mo chas air an rathad mhór, agus an sin thubhairt mi rithe gum feumadh ise a nis tilleadh dhachaidh. Agus ma bha mise brònach, is bhà mi sin, 'ga fàgail-se is a' fàgail na seann dachaidh, tha mi dearbhte gu robh ise i fèin glé bhrònach, oir bha i mar gum biodh fios aice gur e falbh gun dùil ri tilleadh a dh'aithghearr a bha an seo.

Chan fhaca mise Conaidh bhochd tuille, oir glé ghoirid 'na dhéidh sin bhuail galar no treambla air chor-eigin i is fhuair i am bàs. Tha mi ag creidsinn nach robh mi fada bho dhol a chaoineadh an uair a chuala mi mar a dh'éirich dhi. An ath uair a thill mi cha robh i romham; ach bha cuilean beag eile aca air fhaotainn 'na h-àite, cuilean an uair a thàinig e gu ire a bha anabarrach glic. Bha e aig a làn fhàs an ath bhliadhna a rithist a chaidh mi dhachaidh, is an toiseach cha robh e ro chinnteach asam idir, is e ag cur coinneicheadas orm. Ach an uair a shuidh mi aig a' bhòrd is a thòisich sinn air ar biadh, thàinig e nall air an taobh de'n bhòrd air an robh mi 'nam shuidhe is chuir e suas a shròn an osan na briogais agam cho fada 's a leigeadh a cheann leis, is chrath e a earball.

"Sin thu, a nis," arsa mo mhàthair, "tha e a' faotainn fàile nan daoine dhìot!"

Anns a' mhadainn an làrna-mhàireach, an uair a dh'fhosgadh doras a' "chinn-shìos," far an robh mise ag eadail, bu siud a staigh an cù ruadil, agus a dh'aon leum bha e air mo chùlaibh anns an leabaidh is e a' deanamh a leòr sodain rium. Bha a nis, a réir coltais, làn dearbhadh aige a chionn gun d'fhuair mi cead 'cadaill' ann gum buinninn do'n taigh, is leanadh e mi an sin taobh sam bith a rachainn. An aon rud a dheanadh e nach robh ag còrdadh rium, is a dh'aobharaich rud beag de iomagain dhaibh aig an taigh an toiseach. B'e gum fàgadh e mi 's gum falbhadh e dhachaidh an uair a rachainn 'gam fhaicheadh is air snàmh; agus bha seo iongantach leam, oir bha e fèin fìor mhath mar chù-uisge gu sealg sam bith a dheanteadh a thoirt gu tìr.

Tha na coin laghach ud, mar a tha na daoine, an diugh 'gam dhìth, agus is ann le tìrsa is smuaintean brònach a chumhnicheas mi orra uile.—Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

14. Iain MacPhaidein

DUINE beag sunndach, innsgeineach, le fiamh a' ghàire air an còmhaidh a bha an Iain MacPhàidein a' Muile, air an robh mise glé èolach 'nam òige an Glaschu, agus, gu dearbh, bu laghach, càirdeil e fhéin gach uair a thachrainn ris. Cha robh Gaidheal an Glaschu 'na latha fhéin nach robh èolach air MacPhàidein, oir cha robh féis no còineamh Ghaidhealach ceart gun Iain le a òrain fhéin agus a sheanchasan àbhachdach éibhinn.

Cha robh duine 'na latha a sgrìobh barrachd de rosg is de bhàrdachd Ghàidhlig na Iain MacPhàidein, agus cha robh bliadhna nach biodh a ainm air clàr nan duaisean aig gach Mòd. Bha alt iongantach aige ann a bhith sgrìobhadh sheanchasan, agus chithear mórán diubh sin anns a' *Ghaidheal* agus anns *An Sgiolaidhe* agus *An t-Eileanach*, an dà leabhar thaitneach a chuir e ri chéile agus a tha glé annamh an diugh.

Is ann an ceann nan òran éibhinn a bhiodh e an còmhaidh. Gun teagamh, chan 'eil rogha na bàrdachd no sàr-bhriathran am mórán aca, agus cha mhòtha tha na cuspairean éibhinn eachd a tha annta cho measarra, baintè ri fearas-chuideachd nan òran éibhinn a rinn Niall MacLeòid agus Dòmhnall MacEacharna, ach tha iad a' samhlachadh cuid de na creutairean duaichnidh á Eirinn agus á àitean eile a bhiodh aig Margadh an t-Salainn agus na cuilean dorcha sin 'na latha fhéin.

Is ann mar ùghdar "Oidhche mhath leibh 's beannachd leibh" 's as fhèarr a bhios cuimhne air Iain MacPhàidein, oir tha an t-òran sin air àite bunaitheach fhaighinn a nis mar òran-dealachaidh aig cuirmean Gaidhealach anns gach àite thall is a bhos. Is ann an uair a bha cuirm-chiùil oidhche Di-haoine aig Mòd Ghlaschu anns a' bhliadhna 1907 a rinn MacPhàidein an t-òran taitneach sin. Bha e 'ga chur ri a chéile is e 'na shuidhe ann an talla a' Mhòid, agus thachair mise ris an measg a' chòmhlain mhóir a bha ri sgoileadh an oidhche sin. Thug e a thaobh mi is chuir e a làmh 'nam achlais is shein e "Oidhche mhath leibh" dhomh o a thùs gu éis, agus bu mhise, mar sin, a fhuair a' chiad sheirm de'n òran sin a mhaireas beò fad iomadh latha.

Local Mod Reports

BADENOCH-STRATHSPEY

THE Badenoch - Strathspey Provincial Mod was held at Kingussie on 2nd June. Under the able guidance of Mr. John MacKinnon, Hon. Secretary, this was a very successful mod. Provost John Campbell, speaking in Gaelic and English, officially opened the Mod, and Dr. J. A. MacLean, Director of Education for Inverness-shire, presided at the evening concert and gave a stimulating address in Gaelic and English. The Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee was represented by Miss A. R. MacLunn, Assistant to the Northern Organiser.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. J. N. MacLeod, Beauly, and Mr. J. M. Mathieson, Nethy Bridge; for Music, Mr. John A. MacRae, Glasgow.

The following were the first-prize winners :-

Junior Section

Recitation (Learners)—Zena Mackintosh, Newtonmore.

Solo-singing: girls under 12—Fiona Mathieson, Nethy Bridge. Boys under 12—Robert Fraser, Aviemore. Boys 12-16—Evan Cattanach, Kingussie. Girls 12-16—Lorna MacLeod, Newtonmore. Solo-singing (boys and girls)—Margaret Barnett, Newtonmore. Duet-singing—Elizabeth Macpherson and Wilma Johnstone, Kingussie.

Choral singing—Nethy Bridge Junior Choir. Unison singing—Aviemore Junior Choir.

Senior Section

Reading at sight: native speakers—Mrs. L. Mackintosh, Drumquish. Learners—Mrs. Guthrie, Newtonmore. Recitation: native speakers—D. Beaton, Kingussie. Learners—Margot Campbell, Newtonmore. Conversation: native speakers—D. Beaton, Kingussie. Learners—Mrs. Guthrie, Newtonmore.

Solo-singing: ladies—Sheila Macpherson, Dalwhinnie. Male and female voices (former first-prize winners)—Mrs. MacKerral, Nethy Bridge. Singing song by local bard—Peter MacKerral, Nethy Bridge. Duet singing—A. Carmichael and Mona Fraser, Kingussie.

Choral singing—Newtonmore Gaelic Choir.

Violin-playing: under 12 years—W. Lambie, Laggan. 12-16 years—Ian Dingwall, Kingussie. Pianoforte—Joyce Cattanach, Kingussie.

SOUTH-WEST ROSS AND GLENELG

THIS mod was held at Kyle of Lochalsh on 2nd June.

There was a very large entry, especially in the oral competitions, and the local committee deserves congratulations on having sponsored such a successful mod. The mod was officially opened by Mr. Donald Nicolson, Convener, and Mr. Seton Gordon presided at the evening concert. The guest artiste was Mr. Iain A. MacSween. Mrs. Douglas of Kilillan presented the prizes.

The adjudicators were:—for Gaelic, Rev. Malcolm Maclean, Conon Bridge; Mr. John MacGillivray, Maryburgh; Rev. George Mackenzie; Mr. John Mackinnon, Broadford; and Mr. Donald MacPhail, Northern Organiser; for Music, Mrs. M. Tomison, Linlithgow, and Mr. Eric Watt, Portree; for Piping, Mr. Norman MacRae, Inverness.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Essay—Angus Morrison (B), Balmacara House Boys' School. Dictation—Angus Morrison (B), ditto. Translation into Gaelic—Angus Morrison (B), ditto. Translation into English—Ann MacKenzie, Duncraig Castle Girls' School. Silver Medal for best competitor in Junior Literature (presented by Mrs. J. MacDougall)—Angus Morrison.

Reading from Bible—Joan MacSween, Duncraig C.G. School. Reciting—Catherine A. MacDonald, ditto. Conversation—Lachlan MacGillivray, Lochcarron J. S. School. Sgeulachd—Catherine A. MacDonald, Duncraig C. G. School. Reciting (beginners)—Iain MacKerlich, Plockton School.

Solo-singing: girls under 12—Sandra Mackenzie, Plockton School. Boys under 12—Billy Fisher, Kyle School. Girls over 12 (Kyle S.C.W.S. Medal)—Margaret Finlayson, Plockton School. Boys over 12 (Kyle S.C.W.S. Medal)—John Matheson, Plockton School. Traditional solo-singing—Sheila Mackenzie, Duncraig C. G. School. Duet-singing—Iain MacLennan and John Matheson, Plockton School.

Special Prize from Mrs. Tomison for highest music mark—Billy Fisher.

Unison singing and Puirt-a-

Beul (Dalby Peters Rose Bowl)—Kyle School Choir.
Pianoforte—Violet Stewart, Kyle.

Senior Section

Gaelic poem—Rev. Duncan MacAulay, Kintail. Essay—Marion Maclean, Duncraig Castle Girls' School.

Sgeulachd—Malcolm MacInnes, Balmacara House Boys' School.

Recitation—Christina MacGregor, Kyle. Reading—M. K. MacLeod, Balmacara H. B. School. Dialogue—James Beaton and Malcolm MacInnes, Balmacara H. B. School. Reading (beginners)—Jean Matheson, Kyle.

Solo-singing: ladies (own choice)—Ina MacGregor, Kyle. Men (own choice)—John Gillies, Kyle. Ladies (prescribed song), (Margaret MacDonald Medal)—Jean Matheson, Kyle. Men (prescribed song), (Douglas Memorial Medal)—John Gillies, Kyle. Song by local bard—Hectorina MacLeod, Duncraig Castle. Duet-singing—Jean Matheson and Ina Matheson, Kyle. Kyle Medal for solo-singing—Christina MacGregor, Kyle.

Unison singing—Kyle Gaelic Choir.

Piping—Samuel Stewart, Plockton.

MOD DHAILRIADA

THE Mid-Argyll Provincial Mod was held at Lochgilphead on 6th and 7th June in ideal summer weather. There were over 200 entries in the junior section but the senior competitions were still disappointingly small.

The adjudicators were: for Music, Mr. J. Gilmour Barr, Glasgow; for Gaelic, Rev. Alex. MacDonald, Ardchattan, and Messrs. D. Morrison, Oban, and Neil Shaw, Glasgow; for Piping, Major W. Gordon, Kilmartin.

The chairman at the junior concert was Mr. John MacKellar, while Rev. Alex. MacDonald presided at the senior concert. The guest artists were Madge Campbell Brown, Ann MacLean and Iain A. MacSween (last year's Mod Gold medallists). The prizes were presented to the juniors by Mrs. Donald Ross, Inverarv, and to the seniors by Mrs. Neil Shaw.

The Mod was a very successful

(contd on p. 98)

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Highland Development

HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE: REPORT BY COUNCIL, 1936-48 (24 pp.).

We are once again being encouraged to expect any day the publication of a "White Paper" setting forth the Government's "Plan for the Highlands," the fruit, we take it, of the investigations and discussions of the Highland Advisory Panel.

Meantime, while we await this authoritative pronouncement, here is a modest little document, which briefly but usefully surveys the various elements that together constitute the "Highland problem." Here, too, are the main points of policy for Highland reconstruction, hammered out in discussion by a group of people gravely concerned about the economic and social state of the Highlands and Islands.

The Highland Development League was founded in 1935, and its first report (covering the years from 1935 to 1938) diagnosed the Highland problem. This second report, covering ten years, offers suggestions towards

improvement. Beginning with the Hilleary Report in 1938, agriculture and fishing, afforestation and hydro-electric development, transport and freights, national parks and tourism, mineral development, housing and health—all these are dealt with and proposals made concerning them.

The plea is renewed for a Highland Development Authority, with adequate powers and resources.

In a "Postscript", dated 1950, the President of the League writes that "in the last two years the features of greatest interest and importance for the state of the Highlands are these:

"(1) The striking evidence provided by the West Highland Survey, showing how depopulation has continued and even accelerated.

"(2) The rapid progress made by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board in bringing power and light to isolated areas...

"(3) The 'Knoydart Incident'...

"(4) The general disappointment at the inability of the Highland Advisory Panel to do anything really effective—a disappointment apparently shared by members of the Panel."

Annas a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

Danarra

A Charaid Uasail,—The meaning of *danarra* can be better understood if it is realised that "froward" in Macdonald's Vocabulary is not a translation of "*dannarrdha*, *diorrasach*, *doirbh*," but that both the Gaelic and the English words alike are the translation of the Latin word "contumax"—the preceding word "*eafachdach*" being for the Latin "efficax" and the following "*sona*" for the Latin "felix."

It was specifically stated in the S.P.C.K. Committee's Minutes (25/6/1725) that this Vocabulary should be constructed on the basis of taking the fifth edition of James M'Ewing's Latin "*Vocabularie*" (published in 1720) and substituting "Irish" for the Latin words therein. This explains the nature of the Vocabulary, its omissions, repetitions, and strained meanings. It is not a Gaelic-English vocabulary at all, but a Latin-Gaelic-English vocabulary in fact.

"*Danarra*" occurs in the Glossary to Macdonald's own poems (1st ed.) with the meaning "bold, resolute, undaunted," which

will be the meaning the bard attached to the word himself. Mise le mór-mheas,

J. L. CAMPBELL.

Gaidhlig Ur

A Charaid,—Móran taing air son na litreach aig "Donnchadh Ruadh" anns a' *Ghaidheal*. Tha e 'na thoileachadh gu bheil ri fhaicinn gu bheil na h-uiread ann fhathast nach do lùb an glùn do Bhaal.

Chan 'eil feum sam bith a bhith bruidhinn mu leasachadh ainmeannan Gàidhliche. Cha chruthaich sin aon ainm. 'S e an rud a tha mise a' faicinn coltach—na tha againn dhiubh-san a tha a mach air son na Gàidhliche mar chànan air gaoil a thiginn an ceann a chèile gun tuilleadh dàlach. Tha mi toirt faineair coinneamh ann an Glaschu no ann an Srughlea no an àite goireasach sam bith, cho luath is a ghabhas e deanamh. Chl is cluinneidh sinn ciod a tha ri ràdh aig gach aon air leth

(an còrr air t.d. 100)

one, thanks to the excellent work of Mr. Duncan Hunter, Hon. Secretary, and his Committee.

The following were the first-prize winners :-

Junior Section

Dictation—Mairi MacCallum, Lochgilphead. Translation from Gaelic—Susan MacArthur, Lochgilphead. Reciting Psalm (under 10 years)—D. MacLarty, Ardrishaig. Reading poem—Iain Elliot, Inveraray. Reciting poem—Iain Elliot. Reciting prescribed poem—James C. Burnett, Ardrishaig. Reciting poem (own choice)—Mairi MacCallum. Conversation—Morag MacLugash, Kilmichael.

Solo-singing (girls under 16)—Margaret Darroch, Cairnbaan. Boys under 16—James C. Burnett. Prescribed song—Margaret Darroch. Under 8 (own choice)—Sheena MacKay, Craignish. Own choice (8-12)—John Smith, Ardrishaig. Prescribed song (Scott Prize)—Isobel MacSporran, Tarbert. Singing psalm—Fiona MacKenzie, Craignish. Puirt-a-beul—James C. Burnett. Duet—James C. Burnett and James R. Gillies.

Ross Cup for Gaelic—Mairi MacCallum.

Gold Pendant (for singing)—Margaret Darroch.

Choral singing, Harmony (Ex-Provost Brown Silver Cup)—Tarbert Junior Secondary Gaelic Choir. Unison (Strang Shield)—Tarbert J.S.G. Choir.

Piping—Charles Ferguson.

Piano-forte (confined and open)—Vireon Black, Tarbert.

Senior Section

Reading unseen prose—Mrs N. Turner, Furnace. Reciting prescribed poem—Aunice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead. Sgeulachd—Mrs N. Turner. Dialogue—Mrs Campbell and Mrs. Stewart, Lochgilphead.

Solo-singing : ladies (own choice)—Elizabeth C. MacPhail, Lochgilphead. Men (own choice)—John Leitch, Lochgilphead. Own choice (16-18)—Catriona Leitch, Lochgilphead. Singing Psalm—Eliz. C. MacPhail. Prescribed song—Eliz. C. MacPhail. Puirt-a-beul—Eliz. C. MacPhail. Oran-mor—Eliz. C. MacPhail. Open competition—Aunice M. Gillies.

Winner of Gold Pendant for singing—Elizabeth C. MacPhail

LORN, MORVEN, AND MULL

THIS Provincial Mod, held at Oban on 9th June, attracted over 150 entries from all parts of the Mod area. The results achieved were very encouraging from both the language and musical aspects. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. Neil Shaw and Rev. T. M. Murchison, Glasgow; for Music, Mr. John A. MacRae, Glasgow. For the evening concert the Argyllshire Gathering Hall was packed to overflowing. The chairman was the Rev. T. M. Murchison, and the prizes were presented by Mrs. MacLeod, wife of Mr. Angus MacLeod, Rector of Oban High School. The guest artistes were Mrs. Petrine Stewart, Carol Galbraith and Alex. J. MacDonald, with Alistair Hunter and Charlie MacLean (instrumentalists).

The following were the first-prize winners :-

Junior Section

Reading at sight—Margaret MacDonald, Oban High School. Reciting poetry—Nancy Campbell, Oban H.S. Reading poetry (learners under 14)—Catriona Thomson, Oban. Reading prescribed prose—Cathie Brown, Oban. Reading—Cathie Brown, Oban. Reciting prescribed poem—Cathie Brown, Oban. Verse-speaking—Oban High School "A."

Solo-singing (boys and girls under 12)—Ann Connel, Lochaline. Under 9—Christine Ferguson, Easdale. Own choice : boys—John A. MacLean, Knochoch. Girls—Ann MacKenzie, Oban. Singing prescribed songs (boys and girls)—Isobel Gillies, Lochaline.

Choral singing : unison—Oban High School "B". Harmony—Oban High School "B".

Senior Section

Solo singing : ladies (own choice)—Sheena B. Campbell, Benderloch. Men—Donald Ritchie, Bunessan. Prescribed songs (male and female voices)—Nancy Campbell, Oban. Prescribed songs (confined to former pendant-winners—Neil Campbell, Luing. Duet-singing—Isa MacIntyre and Isobel Stewart, Oban. Puirt-a-beul—Captain Macdonald, Lismore.

Winners of Pendants for solo-singing : ladies (equal)—Sheena Campbell, Benderloch, and Nan MacKenzie, Taynult. Men—Ian Cameron, Lochaline.

THE County of Sutherland Mod was held at Golspie on 9th June, and was one of the most successful mods held in the county for many years. The local committee worked hard to make it a success, and to the Convener, Major Donald MacLeod, and the Secretary, Mr. H. G. MacDonald, in particular, warm thanks are due. The ladies' committee organised a sale of work some time ago, which was very successful and thus relieved the committee of any financial worries.

Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President of An Comunn Gaidhealach, presided at the evening concert, when the hall was packed with over 700 enthusiasts. The mod trophies were presented by Mrs. MacLeod, wife of the Mod Convener.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Glasgow, Rev. Malcolm Maclean, Conon, and Rev. M. MacSween, Rogart; for Music, Mr. James Curr, Conon, and Mr. J. A. Mallinson, Inverness; for Piping, R.S.M. Tait.

The first-prize winners were as follows :-

Junior Section

Reading—Peggy Macleod, Dornoch. Reading at sight—Murdoch Mackay, Dornoch. Reciting—William T. Ross, Lochinver. Conversation—Jessie J. Grant, Embo. Conversation (learners)—Peggy Macleod, Dornoch. Repeating Psalm—Jessie J. Grant, Embo. Comunn na h-Oigridh competition—Anna Mackay, Embo.

Solo-singing : girls under 12—Mairi Mackenzie, Lochinver. Boys under 12—William R. Morrison, Durness. Girls 12-16—Patricia Macdonald, Dornoch. Boys, 12-16—William T. Ross, Lochinver. Singing song by Sutherland bard—William R. Morrison, Durness. Duet-singing—Wilma MacLeod and Jeanette Macdonald, Lairg.

Choral singing—Lochinver School Choir.

Senior Section

Poem—Jessie Macdonald, Brora. Place-names—Jessie Macdonald, Brora.

Recitation—Anthony Mackay, Invershin. Reading at sight—Mrs. MacRae, Golspie. Sgeulachd—Anthony Mackay, Invershin.

(contd on p. 99)

Solo-singing : ladies—Mrs Mary Macleod, Scourie. Men—John Mackenzie, Lochinver. Song by Sutherland bard—Mrs. Fraser, Dornoch. Former prize-winners—W. A. Calder, Dornoch. Puirt-a-beul—John Mackay, Halladale. Duet-singing—Mrs. A. Macleod and J. P. Mackay, Golspie. Quartette—Messrs. G. K. Mackay, D. Murray, W. A. Calder, and I. M. Murray, Dornoch.

Choral singing—Dornoch Choir, Ladies' choir—Brora Ladies' Choir.

Piping—B. Manson, Brora. Violin—Harry More, Skibo. Pianoforte—Miss M. Rapson, Helmsdale. Chanter-playing—Innes MacDonald, Lairg. Writing bagpipe music—Kenneth Ross, Golspie.

LONDON MOD

ON 10th June the Gaelic Society of London held their first mod since 1938, and there was a record entry of about 130 competitors. The adjudicators were : for Gaelic, Mr. Hamish Graham, Miss Iseabail Murray, and Miss Anne Morrison ; for Music, Miss Evelyn Campbell, and Mr. Lewis J. Vincent ; for Dancing, Mr. John Armstrong and Miss Elma Taylor ; for Art, Mr. William M. Gillies and Mr. John Laver. The Convener of the Mod Committee was Mr. Walter Ross.

Lieut-Colonel Donald H. Cameron, Yr. of Lochiel, presided at the evening concert, which attracted a crowded audience. The programme was sustained by the chief prize-winners, along with Miss Evelyn Campbell, Mr. James C. MacPhee, and the London Gaelic Choir (conductor, Dr. Iain A. MacDonald).

The first-prize winners were :—

Junior Section

Solo-singing (own choice)—Margaret A. Butterworth. Dancing Highland Fling—Sylvia Luckett. Sword Dance—Sylvia Luckett.

Art Section : Landscapes (over 12)—Jean Campbell, Tarbert J. S. School. Illustrations (over 12)—Michael J. Bryan, London. Illustrations (under 12)—George Geddes, Dingwall Academy.

Senior Section

Essay—Mrs. D. Bristow-Stagg. Arrangement for duet—Isobel Mackay, Dingwall Academy. Prose reading (learners)—Iain G. Kerr. Prose reading (open)—Flora M. Boyd. Recitation (open)—Donald MacQuarrie. Conversation (learners)—Iain G. Kerr. Acted dialogue—Miss M.

MacAffer and Miss W. I. Gray.

Solo-singing (ladies)—Miss E. Murray. Men—Ralph Climie. Singing Duncan Ban song—Donald MacQuarrie. Singing Kennedy-Fraser's song—Ralph Climie. Duet—Miss Lena Calf and Mrs. E. Murray. Quartette—Miss Calf, Miss Flora Craig-

head, Mr. W. Ross, and Mr. J. Laver.

Silver Quach for Highest Marks in Gaelic—Donald MacQuarrie.

Waulking—London Lewis Society.

Pianoforte (March, Strathspey, and Reel)—Sheila Gayer.

UILLEAM ROS (bho i.d. 90)

"Ged a dhi-chuimhnic he a gealladh, cha do dhi-chuimhnic Dia."

An ceann ùine gheàrr, fhuair Mór colas air sgiobair soithich ann am baile Steòrnabhaigh ris an d' rinn i taobh na bu mhòtha, Bhuin a' chùis cho goirt ri Uilleam Ros is gu bheil a bhàrdachd bho'n uair sin a mach ag cur an cèill dhuinn gun do dh'fhàilnich gu tur a chridhe 's a shlàinte. Gheibh sinn a chor trom, muladach, a' bheisteadh a mach anns an òran, "Feasgar Luain."

Dh'fhalbh a leannan, gun uiread agus fios a leigeil d'a ionnsaigh, gu baile mòr Liverpool an Sasainn, far an do fhòs i an sgiobair. Nuair a chuala Uilleam Ros an naidheachd, luchdaich bròn agus trioblaid air aigne nach do dhealach ris. Cha dean briathran eile ach a chainnt féin a shuidheachadh innse :

Ort tha mo gheall, chail mi mo chonn,
Tha mi fo throm chreuchdan.
Dh'aisigeadh d'fhonn slàinte do m'chom,
Dh'chuidadh air lom m'èibhneas;
Thiginn ad dhàil, chuirinn ort failt,
Bhithinn, a ghràidh, réidh riut;
M'ulaidh 's mo mhiann,
'S m'aignear 's mo chiall,
'S annir air fiamh gréin thu.

Thuit mi le d' ghat, mhill thu mo rath,
Strìochd mi le neart dòrainn;
Saighnach do ghaoil sàit' anns gach taobh,
Thug dhomh gach caoin cò'ladh;
Mhill thu mo mhais', ghoid thu mo dhreach,
'S mheudaich thu gal bròin dhomh;
'S mur fuasgail thu tràth le d' fhuaran 's le d' fhàilt'
'S cuideachd am bàs dhòmhsa!

Cluinnidh an leughadair gach trom osna ag éirigh bho chràdh-lot a chridhe anns gach dàn a rinn e bho siud a mach; an dòrainn bho nach robh fuasgladh no leigheas a chuir gu laighe na leapa e.

NUAIR a thàinig mar gun biodh beagan de neart air ais 'ga ionnsaigh thug Cléir Gheàrr-loch dha dreuchd mar mhaighistir-sgoile na sgiore agus mar fhear-seinn anns an eaglais. Aon sam bith a rachadh do eaglais Gheàrr-loch san àm, chitheadh e an t-òganach deas, sgiobalta seo, le guth binn, iosal, a' togail nam fonn.

Bu ùine Uilleam Ros anns an robh tarraing gu nàdurra, nì a dh'obraich gu robh aghaidh an t-sluaigh gu mòr air. Rachadh aige air iomadh inneal-ciùil a chluich le alt is fonn a dh'fhàg uaislean agus islean déidheil air a bhith 'na chomunn. Rinn a nàdur aoigheil, toilichte cuideachadh nach bu ghann leis ann an teagasg na cloinne air an tàinig adhartas sònraichte ri linn a shaothrach 'nam measg, ged nach do mhead e oifig ach air son ùine gheàrr.

Tha e coltach nach do sheall bhaich Mór an sonas ris an robh i an dùil 'na pòsadh. An àite toileachadh agus soirbheachadh a thiginn d'a b-ionnsaigh, 's ann a chaidh cùisean 'na h-aghaidh a lion a làithean le an-fhois agus mulad. Uime sin sgrìobh i gu Uilleam a' tagradh ris tighinn 'ga h-iarraidh 's a toirt air falbh leis a chum na Gàidhealtachd. Gun dad de smuain mu'n ghnòthach dh'fhalbh Uilleam Ros air a thurus do Shasainn, gun nì sam bith air aire ach aon sealladh eile fhaicinn de Mhòr.

Air dha Srughlea a ruigh-eachd, agus meadrachd na bu mhòtha mu nithib, thuig e gu dé an ceum a bha e gabhail, agus cha deach e na b'fhaide. Mean air mhean, theann a bhodhaig air cnàmh 's air sioladh as, gu fa-dheòidh na chuir mùchadh agus laige gu laighe na leapa gu tur e. Bu tearc latha, ach latha blàth, grìanach, a dh'èirich e bho'n uair ud, is chan 'eil iomradh gu do chuir e dàin eile ri cheile ach "Cnachag nan Craobh" a mhàin.

(R'a Leantainn)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AT a special meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gàidhealach held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 2nd June, 1950, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President, occupied the Chair.

The Council approved the purchase of more commodious office premises at 65 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

The Council also unanimously approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee that Miss Mary Young, assistant to Mr. James T. Graham, should succeed Mr. Graham as Treasurer of An Comunn Gàidhealach, her appointment to be a full-time one.

THE LATE MISS INA MACCALLUM

THERE passed away recently Miss Ina MacCallum, whose chief pleasure it was to frequent and support Highland gatherings of all kinds in Glasgow. One was sure to meet her at almost every meeting in and around the Highlanders' Institute. Friendly and popular, her death has left a blank in Gaelic circles, and we would express our deep sympathy with her relatives.

SCOTTISH GAELIC TEXTS SOCIETY

AT the annual general meeting of the Society Dr. John Cameron, LL.B. presided in the absence of the President, Lord Mackay. It was reported that the edition of the poems of Duncan Ban MacIntyre, edited by Mr. Angus MacLeod, Oban, was in the hands of the printer. An appeal was made for new members.

The following office-bearers were elected :—
Hon. President : Rev. Donald Lamont, D.D.
President : The Hon. Lord Mackay. Vice-Presidents : The Right Hon. Lord MacMillan, Mr. John MacDonald (Aberdeen University), Dr. D. J. MacLeod, Dr. John Cameron, Sir Francis Grant, Mr. Angus Matheson, Professor Kenneth Jackson. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer is Mr. Hugh Watson, W.S., 16 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

Annas a' Mhaileid (bho t.d. 97)

agus ciod na dòighean as èifeachdaiche a gabhar ris an obair. Aon rud a chanas mi umam fhìh gu pearsanta : chan aon mi mì-fhìh no mo chuideachd ri aon sam bith aig a bheil nì a nuas bho a' Ghàidhlig a chur anns an t-sreath cho maith ri gin de na cànanear beòtha eile. Nuair a thòisicheas sinn an obair gheibh sinn gu leòir a dhearbhadh is a sgrùdadh na h-oibreach.

Thigeamaid a nise cruinn. Sgrìobh thugam fhìn no gu mo charaid, am Fear-deasachaidh.
MURCHADH RUADH.

De is Fiach do Dhurachd?

Uasail 's a Charaid,—Tha fhios aig cuid air an obair mhòir a rinn Ruairidh Arascainn is Mhàirr air son na Gàidhlig. Tha fhios aca air gu bheil a làrach gu buan air eachdraidh ar cànan mar nì sgrìobhte. Is ann ri a linn a chuireadh paipear-naidheachd Gàidhlig gach seachdain an clò, agus is e *Alba* a bha air. Cha robh e mór agus cha robh e buan. Is e a chuir crìoch air nach faighte daoine a cheannaicheadh e! 'Na latha, mar phaiper, bha an sàr-sgrìobhadair agus an sàr-Albannach, Niall Mac-an-Rothaich á Gleann Aora, agus seo an nì a thuir Niall mu'n thùis an cainnt eile :

"Thèid na Gàidheal 'nam feachdan 's 'nam breacain gu bhith seinn *Uas leis a' Ghàidhlig*, agus cha toir iad sgillinn san 't-seachdain seachad a chumas paiper Gàidhlig beò."

Cha robh Niall còir searbh—is e nach robh—ach bha sin 'na thàmailt nach bu bheag leis mar fhear.

Gu dlèas,

R. P.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(1st May, 1949, to 30th April, 1950)

Miss R. K. Aspin, Dulnain Bridge; Mrs. Margaret C. Bell, Kìrn; T. C. Brodie Esq., Bo'ness; Professor A. H. Campbell, Edinburgh; Wm. Campbell, Esq., Portobello; Angus Carmichael, Esq., Cruden Bay; Dr. B. J. McD. Duxbury, London; Miss Jean B. Fletcher, Ardour; Miss Mary C. E. Graham, Bridge of Allan; P. Douglas Kelley, Esq., Cirencester; Ewen Lamont, Esq., Scotstoun.

Alex. MacArthur, Esq., Oban; Miss Mary MacConnachie, Campbelltown; Mrs. A. MacDonald, Glasgow; Angus MacDonald, Esq., Nairn; D. B. Macdonald, Esq., Woolhampton; Wm. MacDonald, Esq., Edinburgh; Mrs. Wm. MacDonald, Edinburgh; Mrs. Iseabal MacInnes, Tayvallich; Miss Morag MacInnes, Inverness; Donald Wm. Mackay, Esq., Edinburgh; Alasdair MacKenzie, Esq., Joppa; Miss J. E. MacKenzie, Inverness; A. H. MacKinnon, Esq., Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Mrs. C. C. MacLachlan, Ballachulish; Ronald MacLellan, Esq., Morar; Mrs. Donald MacLeod, Broadford; Rev. John Macleod, Barvas; Malcolm Macleod, Esq., Glasgow; Alex. C. M. MacNeill, Esq., Glasgow; Mrs. Jeannie McG. MacRae, Clarkston; Miss Lillie MacRae, Glasgow; Miss Catherine M. MacVicar, Localine.

Mrs. Menzies, Galston, Avyshire; Rt. Rev. P. J. Nicholson, Antigonish, Nova Scotia; Patrick Shuldum-Shaw, Esq., London; W. Cairns Sutherland, Esq., Brora; Mrs. Elizabeth McN. Thomson, Culter, Aberdeenshire; Miss Maltt Williams, Cymru, South Wales.

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AN GAIDHEAL *THE GAEL*

VOL. XLV

AUGUST, 1950

No. 8



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AN GAIDHEAL THE GAEL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Our Cover Picture

Dun Add, Mid Argyll

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WHEN
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COR NA GAIDHEALTACHD

THA an Riaghaltas an dèidh leabhran a chur a mach ag cur an cèill gu dòigheil na tha iad a' deanamh cheana agus na tha iad an rùn a dheanamh san àm ri teachd a chum cor na Gaidhealtachd ath-leasachadh.

Am feadh 's a tha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo, chi mi a null f'am chomhair thar a' chaoilais am baile beag anns an d'fhuair mi m'arach. Tha dusan neach a' fuireach an sin an diugh far an robh corr is ceud beagan is leth-cheud bliadhna air ais. Chan 'eil ach trì de na croitean 'gan obreachadh a nise. Tha an sgoil dùinte o chionn corr is dusan bliadhna.

Mo thruaighe! chan e an t-àite sin an aon àite fhlamh, fàs a gheibhear anns a' Ghaidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan an diugh. Tha àireamh mhath sluaigh fhathast anns na h-eileanan a muigh: ach anns na h-eileanan a staigh tha an sluaigh air dol as gu mòr. Ach is ann air an oirthir an iar de thir-mòr is mise an suidheachadh buileach.

Ciod is leigheas do'n ghalar? Faodar a chur an dà fhacal—"cosnadh" is "goireasan." Tha leabhar an Riaghaltais ag innse mu ìomadh nì a thàtar a' deanamh agus a thàtar an dùil a dheanamh gus cothroman-cosnaidh, beòshlaint, obair de gach seòrsa, taighean comh-fhurtail, goireasan-siubhail, agus gach nì feumail eile a chur an tairgse muinntir na Gaidhealtachd.

Tha trì ceistean mòra ag èirigh.

(1) Cuin a chuirear an gnìomh agus a bheirear gu buil na tha air a ghealltainn? Chan aithne dhuinn is chan 'eil sin air innse, ach a mhàin "cho luath" 's

is urrainn." Bithidh na rèir na bhios an Riaghaltas air chomas a chosg de airgead, agus chan e mogan gun bhuan a tha aig Ionmhaisir na Stàite idir.

(2) Ma nithear na thàtar ag gealltainn, an toir sin làn-shoirbheachadh do shluaigh na Gaidhealtachd, agus am brosaich e iad gu an dachaigh a dheanamh agus an teaghlaichean a thogail an tìr nam beann 's nan eilean? Tha mi glé chinnteach gu bheil mòran a' fàgail na Gaidhealtachd leis am b'fhearr fuireach. 'S e an dearg eiginne a tha toirt orra dol air irrich. Fanaidh iad sin, no tillidh iad. Ach feumar aitheachadh gu bheil mòran Gaidheal ann leis an fheàrr cabhsairean cruaidhe a' bhàile-mhòir seach na srathan mu thùath.

(3) Ciod a tha aig seo uile ri dheanamh ri cor na Gàidhlig? Ma dh'fhaibhas an sluaigh fàlbhaidh a' Ghàidhlig còmhla riutha. Ach ged a dh'fhanadh an sluaigh ann an ìomhorachd cha dh'fhaic sinn gun tig piseach air a' Ghàidhlig. Ciod air bith a thachras anns na bliadhnan a tha romhainn, chan ann idir nas furasda a bhitheas e bratach na Gàidhlig a chumail an àirde.

Tha, agus bithidh, barrachd feum air snathair a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich na bha riamh.

Tha sabhar uail againn gu bheil chan e a mhàin am mòd mòr a' dol o neart gu neart gach bliadhna, ach, nas fheàrr na sin, gu bheil mòdan dùthchail 'gan cumail thall 's a bhios. Is math agus is misneachail na comh-arraidhean sin.

Feumar an dicheall sin agus an dlùseachd sin do'n t-seann chànan a chur am meud, agus ri tìde chithear Gaidhealtachd a bhitheas da-rireach Ghaidhealach, agus chan ann Gallda.

Glocas nan Gaidheal

Chan 'eil fealladh ann cho mòr ris a' ghealladh gun choimhlionadh.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Is firinneach an tì a gheall.—Eabh. x, 23.

Executive Council

THE Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Town Hall, Fort William, on Friday, 7th July, 1950. The President, Mr. John M. Bannerman, was in the Chair, and 19 members were present.

The President expressed pleasure that this meeting was being held in Lochaber. He referred to the Comunn na h-Oigridh Camp at Inverailort and expressed cordial thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Cameron-Head of Inverailort for their kind invitation to members of the Executive Council, who wished to visit the Camp, to lunch with them at the Castle the following day.

The President referred in sympathetic terms to the passing of Miss Ina MacCallum, who had been a zealous member of An Comunn for many years, and who was most regular in her attendance at Gaelic functions in Glasgow. He also referred to the death of Archbishop Macdonald of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, who had presided at the Mod Grand Concert on the last occasion the National Mod was held at Fort William. The late Archbishop was a brother of Mrs. Ryan, Roy Bridge, a loyal supporter of An Comunn. He expressed sympathy with the relatives of those mentioned.

The President referred to the new premises acquired by An Comunn at 65 West Regent Street, Glasgow, and to the presentation to be made to Mr. Alasdair Matheson, lately Assistant Secretary. A small committee was appointed to arrange for the presentation, the members of which are the President, the Convener of the Finance Committee, Mrs. Barron, Mrs. Edgar, and the Secretary and Treasurer.

The President expressed gratitude to Mr. Graham for further extending the period of his position as Treasurer until the new premises were occupied, when Miss Mary S. Young would take over the duties of full-time Treasurer. The Executive thanked Mr. Graham very sincerely.

The Treasurer's Financial Statement was considered. The Balance Sheet as at 30th April, 1950, showed a deficit on the year's working of £1250. Gratification was expressed at the splendid surplus (£2010) accruing from the Inverness Mod. The Treasurer having answered several questions, the Financial Statement as presented was unanimously approved.

The President referred to the satisfactory result of the Feill. The amount received to date was in the region of a gross sum of £10,000 and it was confidently expected that

the target of £20,000 aimed at would be reached by the end of the year, when the Fund closed.

It was agreed to reconstitute the Copyright Special Committee as follows:— Hugh MacPhee (Convener), Dr. John Cameron, Rev. T. M. Murchison and Captain William MacKay.

MINUTE of meeting of Education Committee was read, and was adopted on the motion of the Convener, Mr. Farquhar MacRae, Mr. Macrae referred to Gaelic in Glasgow Day Schools, and said that they were doing all they possibly could to bring the facilities offered by the Glasgow Education Committee to the notice of parents. The Committee recommended that the press be excluded from Executive Council meetings, but this was negated without a division.

Dr. Maclean expressed dissatisfaction with certain statements which appeared in the press referring to educational matters following the Executive Council meeting of 13th January. The President said that any expressions of opinion at that meeting with reference to the appointment of Gaelic teachers in the Highlands were made in general terms and no reflection was cast on any particular Education Authority.

Minute of meeting of the Propaganda Committee was read and adopted on the motion of Mr. Donald Thomson. Mr. Thomson referred to Gaelic in the schools, and suggested that the fact that book-prizes were available to all schools where Gaelic is taught should be made widely known.

Mr. Thomson having to leave the meeting to catch a steamer connection, it was agreed that the Motion which stood in his name on the Agenda should be considered before his departure. The Motion was unanimously approved, with the substitution of the word "done" in place of "obtained".

Minute of meeting of Publication Committee was read and adopted on the motion of the Convener, Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon.

The Convener referred to the publication of five One-Act Plays and to the recommendation that the Dictaphone in possession of An Comunn be loaned to the Folklore Institute of Scotland. The Committee also agreed to grant permission to the Folklore Institute to include the tales collected for An Comunn by Mr. Donald MacDonald, Eriskay, in their proposed volume of Folk-Tales, subject to An Comunn's rights being acknowledged in the volume.

(Continued on p. 104)

The Mixture as Before

THE WHITE PAPER ON HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT

By THE EDITOR

THE long-awaited full-orbed statement of Government policy for the Highlands and Islands has now made its appearance in the White Paper entitled, *A Programme of Highland Development* (H.M. Stationery Office, 34 pp., 1/-).

Quite frankly, this is a disappointing document. If it is the product of the labours and investigations and hard thinking of the Highland Advisory Panel during the three years of their activity, then they have been wasting their time. We refuse to believe, however, that the Panel should be held responsible for this document. We believe rather that, had the Panel had greater authority and a more effective function, the outlook would be much brighter and the "castles in the air" of the White Paper might have a better chance of taking shape in the form of thriving Highland communities.

Nevertheless, the White Paper is a useful document. There is nothing in it with which those who take a keen interest in Highland affairs are not already familiar. It is helpful, however, to have all the various plans and proposals set forth in relation to one another. It is an encouraging sign that the "powers-that-be" are beginning to look upon the many Highland problems as aspects of one big problem. Some of us for years past have been pleading for just this—"a comprehensive plan." But we have been pleading for more than "a plan." We have urged the necessity of investing a competent body with the necessary authority to initiate and carry-through a comprehensive programme of Highland reconstruction and development.

It is in regard to this last point that the White Paper is particularly disappointing. What it amounts to is this. Existing schemes are to be continued and vague new schemes will be embarked on at some unspecified date in the future. All this is to be done by the local authorities and the various State departments, as at present, with the Highland Advisory Panel as a sort of liaison between the various parties concerned. Most significant of all, the continuation of present schemes and the initiation of new ones is—not once but many times—stated to be subject to the economic and financial condition of the country as a whole. In other words, the Treasury has "the last word."

THE Secretary of State for Scotland has declared that this is "a programme which will be implemented as rapidly as the economic situation will allow." The White Paper describes itself as a programme of plans which the Government considers can be put in hand over a number of years. On another page it is called "work which may be carried out during the next few years." The over-riding consideration is plainly stated to be "the necessary reservation that all planning can be implemented only to the extent that the general financial and economic condition of the country allows."

One is not so foolish or so unpatriotic or so selfish as to suppose that the country's money must be poured out in the Highlands, without regard to the state of the country generally. Nevertheless the situation in the Highlands and Islands is so clamant and urgent that a policy for rehabilitation and development there demands the highest possible priority.

Peopled by less than 6 per cent. of the total population, the crofting counties cover almost one-half of the land-surface of Scotland. Today there are less than 300,000 people in the Highlands and Islands. A century ago there were more than 400,000.

"On balance," says the White Paper, "the Highland counties produce more food than they consume."

At the present time the Highlands produce £9 millions' worth of agricultural products, £2 millions' worth of fish, and millions more from textiles (£1½ millions from Harris tweed alone), whisky, hotel and catering services, and sporting facilities. The aluminium industry in the Highlands is the only source of aluminium in this country. The annual output of electricity will in due course reach over 4,006 million units, equivalent to almost three million tons of coal. The development of other natural resources (such as certain minerals, seaweed, and peat) is still at the exploratory and experimental stage, but there are indications that some of these can become valuable assets.

THE "general policy" by which it is proposed to develop the resources and potentialities of the Highlands and meet the needs of the people is set forth under four heads.

The first essential is to continue and expand
(Continued on next page)

the "basic services," including transport, housing and water supplies, electricity, health services, and education. Transport is recognised as "the crucial problem of the Highlands," and, apart from what is being done and planned in the way of roads, piers and ferries, it is good to know that a special committee is at present examining the effect of transport charges on Highland development.

The second aim is to develop the principal industries—agriculture and forestry, fisheries, and tourism. "It is proposed to carry out a systematic survey to determine the best use of the land in each area of the Highlands and to follow up this survey as it proceeds by such action as is competent within existing powers to secure that the land is put to the best use." Such a survey is long overdue, and still longer overdue is "competent action" to deal with the "land question," the basic Highland question. The promise is made that "land settlement will be resumed under suitable conditions," while there are somewhat vague references to "reorganisation by agreement" in the case of "decaying communities."

The third aim is to develop such natural resources as minerals, seaweed, and peat. Investigations into the use of peat in gas turbines to generate electricity are said to be "progressing satisfactorily."

Fourthly, encouragement will be given to existing manufacturing industries (such as textiles) and to new industries, especially those making use of local resources.

That, then, is the "systematic programme designed to promote conditions of economic growth in the Highlands." Such a programme, says the White Paper, "should enlist the co-operation of the Highland people." Such a programme, we make bold to say, cannot come to full fruition unless there is some body, with adequate powers, to supply the necessary initiative, direction, and drive.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (from p. 102)

MINUTE of two meetings of the Mod and Music Committee were read and adopted on the motion of the Convener, Mr. Hugh MacPhee. Mr. MacPhee asked that the paragraph referring to the Memorial Trophies donated by the Glasgow Islay Association be remitted back for further consideration by the members. This was approved.

Nominations were received for the offices of President, Vice-President, and ten members of Executive Council.

Notices of proposed alteration of the Constitution and Rules of the Association were received from Major Alasdair MacLachlainn,

Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon, Mr. Donald MacLean, Mr. Farquhar MacRae, and Mr. Donald Thomson.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Oireachtas, inviting a delegate from An Comunn to the Oireachtas, which is to be held in Dublin from 15th to 22nd October. On the motion of Mrs. Edgar, Mr. Farquhar MacRae was unanimously appointed. Mr. MacRae intimated his acceptance.

A circular letter from the Celtic Congress was read. It was agreed that the Secretary should write and ask if they wished to invite the Association to send a delegate to the Congress specifically authorised to deliver a lecture on some particular aspect of Gaelic in Scotland.

Mr. Donald MacPhail referred to the Festival of Britain 1951 and to Inverness Highland Festival. Inverness will be having various meetings, including Gaelic singing. It was decided that Inverness do this on their own with Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, and that An Comunn, in its association with the Arts Council, should keep Inverness in mind.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

NATIONAL MOD, 1950

MOD ENTRIES

	Junior	
Literary	...	26
Oral	...	187
Duet and Solo-Singing	...	244
Choral Singing	...	50
		... 507
	Senior	
Literary	...	32
Oral	...	85
Duet and Solo-Singing	...	714
Choral Singing	...	97
Instrumental	...	46
Musical Compilation	...	5
Celtic Art	...	10
Clarsach-Playing	...	6
		... 995
		1502

The grand total of entries is almost the same as last year's at Inverness (1507) but is higher than the Glasgow 1948 figure (1407). There has, nevertheless, been a drop in Junior entries (507 against 539), particularly in the literary and oral competitions.

Eight junior choirs have entered for the Oban Times Trophy, 10 for the Miller Trophy,

(Continued on p. 112)

Uilleam Ros

Le TORMOD DOMHNALLACH

(air a leantainn bho t. d. 99)

SEALLAMAID a nis ciamar a dh'éirich do Mhór Ros. Chunnac sinn nach robh i ro riarachtaichte le suidheachadh a crannchuir. Chaill i còmhla a sòlas 's a gearn. Am feasgar a bha a seann leanman shuas anns a' Ghàidhealtachd ag gleachd ris a' bhàs, bha ise shios an Sasainn 'ga deasachadh 's 'ga h-èideadh féin ann an trusan fada, geal, air son dol a mach gu dannsa. Ged a bha gu leòir aice de chomh-fhurtaich 's de bheartas saoghalta, cha toireadh siud sìth is fois do a spiorad iargainneach. Bha i 'na seasamh fa chomhair an sgàthain agus seirbhiseach 'ga cur an uidheam air son talla na h-aighir, nuair a chual iad le chèile neach a' bualadh san doras. Bha ni-eigin anns a' bhualadh a bhui ri aire Mòir.

"Falbh," arsa ise ris an nighinn, "agus seall cò tha siud. Nam biodh Uilleam Ros anns a' bhaile, theirinn gur e am bualadh aige a tha ann."

Chaidh a' chaileag a chum an doruis mar a dh'ìarradh oirre, agus ghrad phill i a dh'innse d'a bana-mhaighstir gu robh duine òg, àrd, ann an deise Ghàidhealach anns an doras ag iarraidh a faicinn. Thug Mòr cò bha ann. Thàinig nàdur de chlisgeadh oirre agus chual an nighnean i ag ràdh os cionn a h-anail, "Uilleam Ros!" Leis na faicil dh'fhalbh i 'na cabhatg thun an doruis ag giùlan coinneal 'na làimh, ach, nuair a ràinig i e, cha robh duine ri fhaicinn. Chaidh an spiorad as an t-sealladh. Gu mì-fhortanach, leis mar a bha i ag gluasad na coinneal a null 's a nall 'na boil 's 'na cabhaig, nach ann a ghreimich an lasair air a h-aodach geal, pailt, agus am pròba na sùla bha i 'na teine. An ceann beagan mhionaidean thug i suas an deò.

ARER eachdraidh nan seann daoine an Eilean a' Cheò, b'è sin an dearbh fheasgar anns an do chrìochnach Uilleam Ros a bheatha san t-saoghal seo ann am Bad a' Chròtha, an Gearrloch. Chàireadh a dhuslach an cladh Clachan Ghearrloch 'sa' bhliadhna 1790 :

Carair gu réidh clach agus cré Mu m'leabaidh-s' a bhri 'uaisle-'S fada mi 'n éis a' feitheamh ort féin

'S nach togair thu, gheug, suas leam;

Nam bu tus' a bhiodh tiun,
dheanainn-sa luim,
Mus biodh tu fo chuing truaighe;
Ach 's goirid an dàil gu faicear an là
'M bi praegan a' tràl' m'uaigh-sa!

Chan 'eil againn ach ro bheag de na h-òrain a rinn Uilleam Ros. Thòisich e ri bàrdachd glé thràth 'na bheatha agus, ged nach robh e ach mu ochd bliadhna fichead nuair a chaocail e, nam biodh na h-òrain uile againn a rinn e anns na bliadhnanachan mu dheireadh, ònadh iad cnapach mòr leabhair, Ghabh e mar chleachdadh a bhith a' sgrìobhadh 'obair. Fhuair e uiread de sgoil 's de eòlas air a' Ghàidhlig 's gu robh sin furasda.

Air feasgar àraidh chruinnich an còmhlan abhaisteach de

ghillean na dùthcha air chéilidh an taigh 'athar. Thàinig Uilleam a nuas far an robh iad le pasg math de phaipèaran aige 'na làimh, Nuair a mhothaich 'athair dé bha dol a ghabhail àite, dh'éirich e agus thug e achmhasan agus àithne theann do a mhac ann pasg uile a thigheil san teine, air neo gun cuireadh e an darna leth de òigridh na tìr ceàrr 'nan intinn. Atr comhairle 'athar thilg an bàrd a sgrìobhadhach san teine, ach mun do rinn an lasair grem orra uile, leum fear de na gillean a null agus spion e as a' ghriosaich làn a dhùirn de na duilleagan. Bhiodh na seann daoine ag ràdh gur ann orra sin a fhuair eadhn an roinn de dhàin a chaidh a ritist a chlàid-bhualadh. Ach loisgeadh a' chuid bu mhòtha dhiubh.

Chuala mi dà sheòrsa innse 'ga dheanamh air an naidheachd seo, ni a tha ag cur dhachaidh oirnn gu bheil e glé flior gun deach a' gu robh mhòr de òrain Rois a losgadh.

(An corr air t. d. 111)

GRAPLADH THOBAR-MHOIRE

1. Poca dubh an sàs
Agus làthach bhog air;
Buicean as an t-sàl
Chaidh an àird a thogail.
Grapladh Thobar-Mhoire.
2. E cho dubh ri ceàrd
Ann am bàthadh tomaidh,
Sruthan as a mhàs,
A chumadh slàn gun tolladh.
Fait' an Tobar-Mhoire.
3. Caithream air an t-sluagh,
Basan buailt' ag obair,
Eilteachadh na duais
Ri an smuain eur connaidh,
Uair an Tobar-Mhoire.
4. Mile 's leth-mhìl' sùil
Dol an taobh an robh e
Fodachd air an dùil
Ris an sgoileadh gnothaich
Smaointean Thobar-Mhoire.
5. Bàtaichean a' Chrùn
Thar an taosg le tomaidh.
De gach seòrsa dhaoin'
Bho zach taobh a thogair.
Sgaorr an Tobar-Mhoire.
6. Seùdair is fear-iùil,
Cùbair agus gobha,
Clàre is gille-bàth.
Bàillidh, Diùc, is Ollamh—
Daoine Thobar-Mhoire!
7. As a h-uile ceàrn,
As gach bàgh is geodha,
A h-uile seòrsa bàt'
A chunnac sal nan tonnan,
Snámh an Tobar-Mhoire.
8. Eithrichean nan ràmh
'S bodaich dhàna leotha,
Bonaid orr' gu h-àrd
'S deise bhàn mu'm bodhaig
Sàir an Tobar-Mhoire.
9. Toitlinnich na smùid
Coitean stùir is stotha;
Eachtraichean nan siùil,
Iùbhraichean is sgothan,
Dh'mhhaich Tobar-Mhoire.
10. Tuba uibhir chóg
A' tigh'nn fo sheòl is cop rith'
Ceathrar balach òg'
A dh'fhaicinn òr a' phoca.
Nòisdean Thobar-Mhoire.
11. Tunnagan an t-sàil
Leis a' "ghàg" san othail;
Faoileagan a' bhàigh
Ag iarraidh àit' san total
A'reamh Thobar-Mhoire.
12. Dh'ìarradh air an Diùc
'S thug e gnùis do'n
chomhairl',
An poca fhagail dhùint'
Ach aig taigh-cùirt Dhun-
omhainn
'S cùl ri Tobar-Mhoire.
(An corr air t. d. 106)

Local Mod Reports

GLASGOW MOD

THE eighth local mod sponsored by Glasgow (Central) and Govan branches, was held in the Highlanders' Institute on 25th, 26th and 27th May. There was quite a large entry for some of the competitions, but the choral competitions received very poor support from the many choirs in the Glasgow area. The public attended in large numbers, especially on the Saturday.

The High School was crowded for the evening concert on Saturday evening, when the Chairman was Mr. Alasdair Matheson, former Assistant Secretary of An Comunn Gàidhealach. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Matheson. Carol Galbraith and Angus MacLeod were the guest artists.

The mod adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Messrs. Murdo MacLeod, Sam MacLean, and George Thomson; for music, Messrs. Purcell J. Mansfield, J. Gilmour Barr, and James Paton, and Miss Mary C. MacColl; for Piping, Pipe-Major Hector MacLean.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Sgeulachd—Mona MacDonald. Reading—Mona MacDonald. Reciting poem—Mona MacDonald and Anne MacLeod (equal).

Solo-singing (boys, 11-16)—Alasdair M. MacCulloch. Girls, 11-16 (Uist and Barra Association Cup)—Mona MacDonald.

Solo-singing (boys and girls under 11)—John C. MacSween.

Duet—Alasdair M. MacCulloch and Anne MacLeod.

Choral singing (unison)—Govan Junior Gaelic Choir.

Senior Section

Reciting prose—Christina C. Dick. Reciting poem—Christina C. Dick.

Solo-singing (men)—Malcolm Kennedy. Ladies—Mary M. W. McCall. Singing of song by Neil MacLean ("Govan Bard")—Anne Gillies.

Duet—Donald MacSporrnan and Margaret C. MacCallum.

Quartette—Clydebank Quartette.

Choral singing: Ladies voices—Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir. Mixed voices—Uist and Barra Association Gaelic Choir.

Instrumental

Piping: March—Daniel MacDonald. Strathspey and Reel—Iain MacFadyen.

Pianoforte: March, Strathspey and Reel—Norma Campbell.

Violin: Slow Gaelic Air, Strathspey, and Reel—Ian Rafferty. March, Strathspey, and Reel—Charles Cowie.

SOUTH UIST AND BENBECULA

A VERY successful Junior Mod was held at Daliburgh, South Uist, on 15th June. There was a large number of entries, particularly in the oral competitions which occupied most of the day, and the standards attained were very high, especially in language. An adjudicator remarked: "The Gaelic of each competitor is as near perfection as it can be."

Competitors came from all districts within the Mod area and, in addition, a choir from Paibil Junior Secondary School, North Uist, competed and was placed second. This choir is to be congratulated on having travelled such a long way, including crossing the North Ford on a rather blustery day. Seven primary school choirs competed, and several local teachers conducted their own choirs.

At the evening concert the programme was sustained by the first-prize winners, assisted by Miss Mary MacAulay, Cregorry, and Messrs. John MacInnes and John MacLeod. Rev. Fr. Neil MacKellaig, Daliburgh, presided.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Messrs. Angus Macdonald, Tarbert (Harris), Malcolm MacLeod, Lochmaddy, and Donald Macdonald, Eriskay, and Miss Annie Johnstone, Castlebay; for Music, Mr. J. A. Mallinson, Inverness.

The following were the first-prize winners:—

Reciting poem (boys and girls under 9)—Roderick Campbell, Locheynort. Boys and girls 9-12—Sarah Mackinnon, Torlum. Boys, 12-16—Angus Mackinnon, Torlum. Girls 12-16—Neilina Ralston, Howmore.

Reading at sight: under 12—George Maclellan, Garrynamonie. 12-16—Peter Campbell, Daliburgh.

Sgeulachd—Ronald Johnstone, Lochearnan. Dialogue—Nan

Maacehern and Chrissie Macdonald, Eochar.

Verse-speaking (by groups of 8)—Daliburgh Junior Group.

Solo-singing: boys and girls under 9—Catherine Macdonald, Daliburgh. Boys, 9-12—Iain Macleannan, Lochboisdale. Girls, 9-12—Rachel Johnstone, Daliburgh.

(contd. on p. 107)

(Bho t. d. 105)

13. Labhair fear a' Chrùin
'S rinn e chùis a thogail
Fhosglaigh do gach sùil
Am baile dùil a' phobuill
'S cliù do Thobar-Mhoire.
14. Ghabhadh leis gu tìr
'S air a' cheadh' bha fothrom;
Danns' orr' leis an nì
'S ruidhlichean a' dol ac'.
Inns' an Tobar-Mhoire.
15. Ceòl-dheanamh gun dìth
Agus spid air bonnaibh;
Fidheall agus piob,
'S port air cir' s air clobha.
Ruidheil Thobar-Mhoire.
16. Taigh-a'-bhaill' air bruaich,
Sheas an sluagh f'a chomhair,
'N déidh ann poe' thoirt suas
Gus a luach a thomhas.
Duais do Thobar-Mhoire.
17. Dh'fhosglaigh e gun mhoill;
Nochd na bh'ann am follais;
CAT a bha 'na bhroinn,
'S e 'na shabhs air lothadh.
Roan an Tobar-Mhoire.
18. E 'na spuiseis bhàin,
E cho bàith' 's a ghobhadh*
Bho chionn iomadh ràith,
'S e air fàs 'na thobhar.
Gràin an Tobar-Mhoire.
19. H-uille aghaidh ann
Frille greann 'na combarr;
Chaidh an ceòl 's an danns'
Do an ghrunn do domhain
Ann an Tobar-Mhoire.
20. Aona chailleach liath
Thuirit i: "Ghiamh?" 's "Mo
Thogair!"
'N sin gu leamh bho bial:
'"Fìach an gabh e sgoltadh?"
'"Iasgach Thobar-Mhoire!"
21. Cha duit duine càil,
Cha robh gair' s a' gob ann.
Aca tuiteam làir
'N déidh bhith àrd air togail
Bàs an Tobar-Mhoir' orr'.
22. Iad fo chudthrom càis,
Iad le tàmailt odhar;
'S murraicair na Spàinnt
Anns an àit' s an robh i.
Dh'fhàgadh Thobar-Mhoire.
M. M.
* "ghobhadh" — Gàidhlig
Leòdhais air "ghabhadh".



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN LUNASDAL, 1950

Aireamh 8

Sgial nan Cat

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

BHA siud ann roimhe Rìgh agus Ban-rìgh. Bha aon nighean aca agus bha i cho àlainn ris a' ghrèin ghil shamhraidh. An uair a bha iad am mire shòlais thàinig tinneas air a' Bhan-rìgh agus dh'eug i. An ceann ùine an dèidh sin phòs an Rìgh Ban-rìgh eile, agus bha aon nighean aca, ach bha i seo maol, carrach. Cha robh seo gun eud do'n Bhan-rìgh. Mar a bha an nighean aice fein a' fàs suas is ann is grànnda a bha i dol.

Latha bha siud bha a' Bhan-rìgh 'na seòmar agus i a' fiachainn ach ciamar a chuireadh i as do'n nighinn bhòidhich. Stùil gun tug i cò a thàinig a steach ach an eachlach-ùrlair, agus rinn i guraban aig an dorus is i ag ràdh:

"Tha thusa sin, a chreutair bhochd, is gun mhóran toileachaidh agad, agus cha bhi toileachadh agad gu sìorruidh gus am faigh thu air cur as do'n nighinn bhòidhich ud."

"Theirg thusa do'n t-seòmar," ars ise, "agus theirg 'nad leabaidh, agus an uair a chluinneas tu an Rìgh a' tighinn dachaidh cuir balgam fiona 'nad bhial. Foighnichidh e ciod a tha ceàrr ort, agus canaidh tusa gu bheil thu ag cur a mach fuil do chridhe leis an arraban, agus nach 'eil comas aig duine air furtachd a thoirt dhuit ach aige-san. Canaidh esan an uair sin, 'Ciod a bhiodh aig Rìgh nach fhaigheadh Ban-rìgh?' agus their thusa ris gur h-e an aon rud a leighisear tusa, ma chuireas e an nighean bhòidheach ud air falbh fad bliadhna do'n eilean ud a tha an iomall a' chuain far nach bi duine beò ach air son aon oidhche, gum bi thu sona."

"Fiach nach toir thu do'n nighinn bhòidhich ud ach dìreach lòn oidhche, agus mo làmh-sa dhuit an uair sin gum bi thu sona."

Sin mar a bha. Cha b'fhada gus an cuala i coiseachd an Rìgh a' tighinn am fagus, agus rinn i na h-uile ni a dh'iarr an eachlach-ùrlair oirre. Dh'innis i dha mar a bha i ag cur a mach fuil a cridhe leis an arraban agus nach robh duine ann a dheanadh leigheas oirre ach e fhéin.

"Beannachd dhuit-sa," ars esan, "ach mallachd do bhial t'ionnsachaidh. Ged is

cruidh ormsa mo nighean a chur air falbh, ni mi mar a tha thusa ag iarraidh gus do riarachadh."

Air an larna-mhàireach fhuair e sgoth is sgioba agus chàirich iad orra. Chuir an Rìgh lòn oidhche agus earradh bliadhna do'n sgothaidh. Ràinig iad an t-eilean agus dh'fhàg iad an nighean bhòidheach an sin.

Ghabh i suas gu meadhan an eilein agus chunnaic i bothan beag, briagha ann, a bha air a sgeadachadh leis na h-uile goireas. An ceann tacain thàinig i a mach gu bial an doruis agus ciod a thàinig a steach ach piseag.

Thòisich a' paiseag 'ga slobadh féin ri a glùn agus coltas an acrais oirre. Rinn an nighean bhòidheach toileachadh mór ris a' paiseig, agus thuirt i rithe: "O chreutair bhig, nach tu tha laghach!" Thog i 'na h-uchd i agus thuirt i rithe: "Ged nach 'eil agamsa ach tràth na h-aon oidhche, gheibh thusa do chuid deth." Dh'éirich i agus thug i cha mhór na h-uile mir a bha aice do'n paiseig.

An ceann beagan ùine ghabh i mu thàmh agus leum a' paiseag 'na leabaidh air bialaibh na h-inghine. Bha an nighean gu tuiteam 'na cadal an uair a chuala i sporghail aig an uinneig agus guth ag éibheach, "Bheil thu staigh, a churra-mhìgios?"

"Tha, a churra-mhàgais," ars a' paiseag.

"Am blais mi na bheil air do chùlaibh?"

"Cha bhlaib, cha bhlaib," ars a' paiseag, agus cha chualas sporghail tuilleadh an oidhche sin.

Chaidil i gu sunndach, agus an uair a dhùisg i anns a' mhadainn cha robh sgial air a' paiseig, ach an ceann tacain thàinig i agus coinean mór 'na bial agus dh'fhàg i e aig casan na h-inghine. Chuir an nighean air dòigh e air son am bidhe agus ghabh iad gréim le chèile.

Cha robh latha fad na bliadhna nach robh a' paiseag a' tighinn dachaidh le lòn an latha — is dòcha maigheach no ian no coinean.

AN uair a ruith an ùine thàinig a h-athair leis an sgothaidh agus an sgiobaidh, agus, ma bha an nighean briagha mun deachaidh i

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

Ann an Traigh

Le GILLE PADRAIG

A BHEIL fhios agad," arsa Bus-dubh ri Blàran, "cà bheil Cost a' Mhìlcein?"

"An ann san Eilean Sgitheanach a tha e, timcheall air Rubha an Dùnain?"

"Chan ann, chan ann!"

"Is ann am Barraidh a dh'fheumas e bhith?"

"BhUIL, a Bhàrain, is ann a tha thu cur 'nam chuimhne an naidheachd a bha aig Fearchar air an fhreagairt a thug am bodach air a' cheistear. 'Cò,' arsa an ceistear còir, 'a thuirrt a leithid seo?' 'Mur e Pòl, 's e Habacu,' arsa am bodach! Abair thusa cruinn-leum agad eadar Rubha an Dùnain is Bàgh a' Chaisteil! Tha mi cinnteach nach 'eil càil a dh'fhios agad agus, o nach 'eil, b'fhèarr dhuit gu mòr a bhith ceart onarach agus sin a' dèanamh na bhith cumail a mach gur h-aithe dhuit rud air nach 'eil fhios agad idir."

"Dean thusa, a mhic, air do shocair, agus innsidh mise dhuit an dearbh àite ann a bheil e. Tha e dìreach air taobh rias Leòdhais. Agus dé, a nis, a tha agad ri ràdh?"

"Car son nach tug thu Leòdhas ort an toiseach, ma thà?"

"Tha fhios sin agad fhéin. Ach na bi thusa cur an aineolas air creutair as fhèarr eòlas na thu fhéin. Cuiridh mise nise ceist ort fhéin. Cia lion seòrsa feamann a tha ann? Tha fhios agad gur h-ann de thoradh a' chladaich a tha am mìlcean, nach 'eil?"

"Tha, gu dearbh."

"Ma thà, fiach gun dean thu feum dheth. Rud fallain a tha sa' mhìlcean, a chuilein, agus is fhèarrid do chiall na dh'itheas tu dheth."

"A bheil an duileasg maith?"

"Is esan a tha ann sin maith. Ith thusa do leòir de'n duileasg agus òl do leòir de uisge fìor an fhuarain an uair a chuireas an duileasg am pathadh ort, agus cha mhór a bhios de dhragh agad de'n dotair eadar seo is Samhainn. Nach e sin, a bhobag, a' chomhairle a bhiodh aig an Dotair Bhàn dhaibh 'na latha, eadar an t-Eilean Sgitheanach is Uibhist: 'Càl eanntag agus duileasg a' chladaich, 's chan 'eil an còrr air do shon, 's ma théid agad fhéin air am buain is ann as luaithe bhios luaidh air do chor.'?"

"An e dotair maith a bha san Dotair Bhàn?"

"Bha e cho maith cha mhór ris na h-Ollamhan Muileach, agus fòghnaidh sin."

"An cuala tu riamh an rud a thuirrt

SGIAL NAN CAT (bho t.d. 29)

do'n eilean, bha i nis a sheachd briaghad, agus gu dearbh bha a h-athair gu maith sundach a' dol dachaidh leatha.

An uair a chunnaic a' Bhan-rìgh cho àlainn agus a bha an nighean is ann a shaoil i gum b'fhèarr dhi an nighean aice féin a chàradh do'n eilean cuideachd. Chuir a' Bhan-rìgh a' comhairle ris an Rìgh mu dheidhinn na cùise agus bha esan deònach gu leòir an nighean mhaol, charrach a chur do'n eilean an iomall a' chuain.

Fhuaras sgioba is sgoth agus chaidh an nighean mhaol charrach do'n eilean.

Chunnaic i an taigh mar a chunnaic an t-éile e. Co-dhiubbh, thàinig a' phiseag a steach, ach cha b'è àilte chridheil a thug i dhi.

"A bheathaich ghàrrnda," ars ise, "cha ruig thu a leas a bhith a' smaoinichadh gu faigh thu sgath dhìom-sa. Chan 'eil agam ach biadh aon oidhche—beag gu leòir dhomh féin—agus chan 'eil fhios agam có as a tha an ath thràth dol a thighinn."

Cha robh aig a' phiseag air ach i féin a chur am falach an àite air chor-eigin gus an deachadh an nighean mhaol, charrach a laighe, agus an uair sin chaidh a' phiseag a steach fo na plaideachan a rithist.

An uair a bha ise gu tuiteam 'na cadal chuala i sporghail mu'n uinnic agus chuala i guth ag éibheadh, "Bheil thu staigh, a churra-mhigios?"

"Tha, a churra-mhàgais," ars a' phiseag.

"Am blais mi na bheil air do chùlaibh?"

"Blaisidh, blaisidh," ars a' phiseag.

Agus leum cat mòr fadhaich a steach nach fhacas riamh a leithid, agus ciadan eile as a dhéidh, agus chaidh iad am bad na h-inghine maòile, carraiche agus shin iad air a riasladh as a chèile.

An ceann na bliadhna thàinig an Rìgh le sgothaidh is le sgiobaidh, ach, ma thàinig, cha robh sgial air an nighinn mhaol charrach ach na cnàmhan.

Tèrlach Beag a bha os cionn a' Chlachain, an Sgìre Far an Dùthaich MhicAoidh, ris an dotair an uair a chuir e fios air? "Dé," arsa an lighiche, "tha ceàrr ort?" "Is ann fiach an innsadh tu sin domh a chuir mi fios ort," arsa Tèrlach. "Tha thu glé isosal," arsa am fear eile. "Cha robh mi riamh glé àrd," arsa Tèrlach."

"Dé cho àrd is a bha e?" arsa Blàran.

"Tha mi deanamh dheth gu robh e mu chóig troighean uile gu léir. Ach bha e cho cruaidh ris na daragan," arsa Bus-dubh.

Litir Eachainn

CHAN 'eil mi uile gu léir làn-chinnteach cia mhead tarrang air an do bhuail mi ord anns an litir mu dheireadh: tha fios agam gun tug mo cuimhne leum air a h-ais gus a' mhadainn ud, caogad bliadhna air ais, an uair a dh'fhàg mi eilean m' àrach, agus tha mi an dùil gun tug mi tarrang bheag air Camp na h-Oigrìdh, nach robh fhathast ach anns an "tarraigeanachd," mar a theireadh na sean-achaidhean. Mun ruig na briathran seo sibhse, bidh dorsan a' Chaìmp dùinte, is gach ni a bha toirt toileachaidh dhuibhse ré na h-ùine a bha sibh ann, seadh sibhse a bhà, ach bhur cuimhne a mhàin, air a phasgadh seachad am measg nan nithean a bhà. Tha mi an dùil an uair a tha mise a' sgrìobhadh gu bheil na caileagan air falbh mar thà, agus am màireach féin Di-ardaoin—bidh na balaich ag gabhail seilbh 'nan àite. Tha mi an dùil gun dubhairt mi gu dòcha gum biodh cuid de bhuilt na Comhairle, a bha ri bhith aig coinneamh an Gearasdan Inbhir-Lòchaidh Di-haoine seo chaidh, a' toirt sgrìob suas gu ruig an Camp, agus mi aig a' cheart àm 'gam chùinntas féin air an àireamh, agus tha e coltach leam gu robh iad ann gun teagamh, ged nach robh mise, gu mì-fhortanach, 'nam measg, oir cha d'fhuair mi suas chon na coinneimh idir.

Dhuibhse, a chaileagan, a bha anns a' Champ, cha sgeul-rùn no sgeul-ùr, ach sgeul mu a bheil fios agaibh mar thà, gun do ràinig cuid dhuibh an Camp an Inbhir-aileart; ach is sgeul-ùr i dhuibhse nach robh ann, agus do na balaich nach do ràinig gu seachdain 'na dhéidh, gu robh iad ann idir. Co-dhiubh, bha iad ann gun teagamh, agus 'nam measg an Ceann-suidhe, Iain Og, agus an Rùnaire, Niall, cho math ri feadhainn eile, agus is coltach gun do chòrd an cuairt gu ro-mhath riu. Is dòcha leam gum bi an Ceann-suidhe no Niall a' toirt iomradh air an cuairt anns an àireamh seo féin de'n *Ghàidheal*; ach is cinnteach nach e a' mhèirle a tha ann dhòmhsa facal no dhà de na chuala mi a chur slos an seo.

Chaidh sùrd a chur air céilidh-meadhon-là leis na caileagan. Chan e annas a bha ann an céilidh-meadhon-là anns a' Ghàidhealtachd uile gu léir anns na seann làithean, ged is annamh a dh'fhiosraichear e an diugh. Tha céilidh math 'na thoil-inntinn aig àm sam bith 'gam faighear e, agus is cinnteach 'na leithid de dhuthaich ri Inbhir-aileart (bha ainm eile* aig na seann daoine air an fhearann seo, ach chan

'eil cuimhne agam air an ceartair) is an t-sid cho taitneach, feumaidh gu robh e uile gu léir ciatach; agus tha mise cinnteach gur mi féin a chail air nach robh mi ann, oir tha mi a' tuigsinn gu robh an sògh a fhuair an sionnach an uair a bha e ag itheadh màla na pioba—biadh is ceòl—air a chur 'nan tairgsean a bha leibh. Thug Fear Inbhir-aileart is a chéile caomh làn di-beatha dhaibh uile, agus Ministear Aird-Chatain, an t-Urramach Alasdair MacDhòmhnaill, romhpa gu am fàilteachadh 'na nàdur de eadar-mheadhonar, eadar a' chlann is na h-aoidhean, oir tha e féin air aon de'n Chomhairle is maile ri sin crìde na h-òige 'na chom. Is coltach gun tug an Ceann-suidhe agus an Rùnaire òraid do'n chloinn, agus is mise a tha cinnteach, ged nach d'innseadh dhomh cìod a thubhairt iad, gum b'fhiach iad le chéile éisdeachd a thoirt dhaibh, agus gabhail ri an earail anns gach ni a thuir iad ris na caileagan mu chumail suas na Gàidhlig is leantainn gu dlùth ri cliù an sinnsear. Tha sinn uile an dòchas gum bi an t-sid cho fàbharach do na balaich, a tha an ruigheachd a' Chaìmp am màireach, 's a bha i do na caileagan.

THA mi a nis a' dol a dh'innseadh dhuibh gearr-sgeul a tha mi am beachd a chòrdas ruibh. Bha mi an dùil a h-innseadh dhuibh co-dhiubh, ach leis gur iad na faicil mu dheireadh a thàinig bho bhilean an fhir ris a bheil an sgeul gu h-àraidh an crochadh an uair a bha e 'gam fhàgail,— "Fiach a nis gun cuir thu seo ann an 'Litir Eachainn' cho luath 's is urrainn dhuith," feumaidh mi a h-innseadh dìreach an dràs d'innseadh.

Is e smior na cùise uile an dòigh neònach ann an tachair daoine, cho math ri gun tachair iad idir, oir "tachraidh na daoine ged nach tachair na cnuc."

Chaidh mi a staigh do bhùth-leabhraichean MhicLabhrainn a thogail mo phàipearan seachdanach an là-roimhe. Thàinig fear a staigh is sheas e làimh rium. Dh'iarr e paiper sònraichte nach ruig mi leas a bhualadh air ainm an ceartair, ach paiper a bhios a' mhòr-chuid de Ghàidheil ag ceannach. Cha robh eòlas agam air an duine nas mò na tha agam air an fhear a tha air cùl na galeaich. Thug mi fainear nach robh cùl colair a' chòta aige a' laighe mar bu mheadh leam, agus leis gur dòcha gu robh sin gun fhios dha fhéin, cheartaich mi e, aig a' cheart àm ag ràdh, "fear sam bith a bhiodh ag ceannach is a'

(An còrr air an ath-dhùilleig)

* Ceann a' chreagáin. —F.D.

Litir Eachainn (lho t.d. 31)

leughadh a' phaipeir ud (is mi 'ga ainmeachadh) gum bu mhath a b'fhiach e colair a chòta a chur mar bu chòir dha bhith." Thionndaidh e mun cuairt is sheall e orm, agus rinn e gàire. Is ann mar a bhà gun deach sinn gu seanachas. Is ann á Uibhist a' Chinn-a-Deas a bha esan, is dh'innis e ainm dhomh agus am baile as an robh e, ach leis nach d'farr mi a' chead, chan 'eil mi a' dol 'ga chur slos an seo.

"Agus cia as a tha sibh féin?" arsa esan.

"Tha mise á Colla," fhreagair mi féin, "agus b'iad Beinn Mhór a' Chinn-a-Deas le a companaich air an dàra taobh, is Cana air an taobh eile, le amharc a mach Bàgh Eillearaig bho bheulaibh an taighe againn, a' cheud fhonn air an do dhearc mo shùil taobh a mach de'n eileann anns an d'fhuair mi m'arach."

"Àgus ciod is ainm dhuibh?" arsa esan.

"Is e Eachann MacDhùghaill is ainm dhomh," arsa mi féin.

"O," arsa esan, "fear-sgrìobhaidh na Gàidhlig 's a bhios a' sgrìobhadh 'Litir: Eachainn' anns a' Ghàidheal!"

Ghabh mise ri m' chionta, is fhreagair mi gum bu mhise a' cheart duine. Chan 'eil abhar agam air a' chòrr de na bha againn de sheanachas a chur slos an seo; ach feumaidh mi innseadh dhuibh an t-abhar a chuir gun do rinn mi sgeul de seo idir. Bha agam ri trèan a bha ri tighinn a staigh aig ionad-stad Sràid Bhochanan a choinneachadh.

Air dhomh a bhith a' dol seachad air ionad-stad nam busaichean air an t-sràid cheudna, agus air dhomh a bhith a' dol seachad air aon a bha ulla ri falbh, chuala mi glaoch a' tighinn orm bho'n taobh a staigh dhibh. Sheas mi is sheall mi a staigh. Saoil sibh có a thug an glaoch? Có ach an t-Uibhisteach còir ris an do thachair mi is air an do chuir mi eòlas dà no trì uairean roimh sin, am fear air nach do dhearc mo shùil riamh ri m'fhiosrachadh gu sin!

Rinn sinn uiread de fhuighair ri chèile 's ged a bhitheamaid air tighinn bho thaobh eile an t-saoghail! Gu dearbh, thubhairt sinn á beòil a chèile, nach e an saoghal a tha beag an déidh na h-uile rud, agus nach neònach mar a thachras na daoine! Leum rianadair a' bhuis suas air a spiris stiùraidh, is chuir e car anns a' chuibhill gu bhith air shiubhal. B'ann an uair sin a ghlaodh mo charaid air an d'fhuair mi eòlas an dòigh cho annasach, "Nis, a charaid, fiach gum bi siud agad an 'Litir Eachainn' cho luath 's is urrainn dhuit!"

—Bhur Caraid Dileas,
EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

An Gille Marsanta agus am Fomhair

Le DOMHNALL IAIN MACPHAIL

BHO chionn fhada nan cian, sgrìob air falbh bho'n dùthaich anns a bheil sinn ag còmhnuidh, bha ann am bothan beag biodach gille de aois ochd bliadhna agus a sheanair a' fuireach. Bha iad a' toirt éisg as an t-sruth a bha faisg orra agus 'ga reic. Mar sin bha iad a' faighinn beagan de bhìadh agus goireasan eile a bhithheadh iad a' feumachadh.

Bha rìgh na dùthcha aon latha agus a nighean a' dol troimh an bhaile, agus bha gach neach a' réiteachadh mar a b'fheàrr a b'urrainn gach àite gu bhith snasail an uair a thigeadh an rìgh troimhe.

Thàinig an latha agus, an déidh gach neach an rìgh fhacinn, chaidh iad dhachaidh. Anns a' mhadainn glé thràth thàinig teachdaire bho'n rìgh a dh'innseadh do'n t-sluagh gun do chaill an rìgh fàinne anns an robh clach phrìseil, agus do'n neach a lorgadh i bheireadh e mìle not.

Bha an gille aon latha a' dol dhachaidh an déidh an t-iasg a reic an uair a fhuair e an fhàinne. Thug e do a sheanair an t-airgead a fhuair e air an iasg agus dh'fhalbh e gu pàlais an rìgh leis an fhàinne.

Bha e dol a ghabhail frith-rathaid troimh choille mhòir agus chunnaic e duine a' tighinn 'na choinneamh. Cha b'aithne dha an duine agus dh'fheabraich e dheth càite an robh e a' dol. Thubhairt an gille gu robh e a' dol gu pàlais an rìgh.

"'S ann an sin a tha mise a' dol cuideachd," arsa an coigreach.

"Mas ann, tha thu a' dol ceàrr," arsa an gille.

"An cuir thu fhéin ceart mi, ma thà?"

"Cuiridh," arsa an gille; "lean mise."

Nuair a bha iad gus nochdadh ri pàlais an rìgh mhothaich an gille gu robh casan air an duine mar chasan coarach.

"An tusa am fomhair a bhios ag ithe dhaone eile?" arsa an gille.

"'S mise," arsa am fomhair; "agus ithidh mi thusa cuideachd."

"Leig leam an fhàinne seo a thoirt chun an rìgh, ma thà," arsa an gille, agus e toirt na fàinne a mach as a phòcadh.

Ach saoil gu dé a thachair! Ruith am fomhair air falbh 'na luathaidh! Rinn an t-airgead a bha anns an fhàinne an gnothach air!

Thug an gille an fhàinne chun an rìgh agus fhuair e a dhuais—an t-airgead, dachaidh ùr agus comhfhurtaid, gun neach a chuireadh dragh air.

LOCAL MOD REPORTS (continued from p. 106)

burgh. Boys, 12-16 — Ronald Morrison, Daliburgh. Girls, 12-16 — Annie C. Macleod, Torlum. Former first-prize winners only — Donald Campbell, Daliburgh.

Singing unpublished local song — Chrissie Macdonald, Eochar. Duet — Nan Macdonald and Chrissie Macdonald, Eochar.

Choral singing. Two-part harmony — Daliburgh Higher Grade School. Unison (higher grade school choirs) — Daliburgh Boys' Choir. Unison (primary school choirs) — Garrynamonie "A" and Kildonan (equal).

Chanter-playing (under 15) — Rona Macdonald, Daliburgh. Bagpipe playing (under 18) — Rona Macdonald, Daliburgh.

MOD CHINTIRE

THE 22nd Kintyre Provincial Mod was held at Campbelltown on 15th and 16th June, during the town's "Civic Week" celebrating the 250th anniversary of its erection as a royal burgh.

There was a record entry, the junior section attracting over 800. The Chairman at the Junior Concert was Mr. Hugh MacPhee, B.B.C., and the prizes were presented by the Civic Queen (Miss Catherine Watterson), Brigadier Sir Bruce A. Campbell of Ardvaire, Lord Lieutenant of Argyll, presided at the Senior Concert, and the prizes were presented by Mrs. MacIntyre. Votes of thanks were proposed by the Rev. J. MacIntyre, Convener of the Mod Committee, and by Mr. Neil Shaw. The guest artists were Miss Jean Day and Mr. Neil MacLean.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Messrs. Neil Macleod, Tighnabruich, Hugh MacPhee, Glasgow, and Donald Thomson. Oban: for Music, Messrs. Ian Whyte, Glasgow, John MacRae, Glasgow, and Neil Maclean, Dunoon.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Reading poetry—Janice McKinven, Campbelltown. Reading prose—Fay Snowden, Whitehouse. Reciting poem—James C. Burnett, Ardrishaig. Reciting Scripture — Isobel Bunting, Whitehouse, and James C. Burnett (equal). Conversation

(based on B.B.C. Gaelic lessons) — James C. Burnett. Verse-speaking — Southend School Group. Special prize by Gaelic Section of local branch of E.I.S. for highest aggregate in oral section — James C. Burnett.

Solo-singing—Civic Anniversary Medals: girls — Mary Graham and boys—Rodger Gillespie. Boys and girls under 12—Mary Graham. Girls (own choice)—Isobel Campbell, Tarbert. Boys 12-16—James C. Burnett. Boys and girls under 16 (Psalm tune) — James C. Burnett. Boys and girls, 12-14—James C. Burnett. Boys and girls, 14-16—James R. Gillies, Lochgilphead. Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Medals: girls—Barbara MacArthur, Campbelltown. Boys—James R. Gillies. Duet—Helen Martin and Mary McSparran.

Choral. Unison and puirt-a-beul—Dalintober Junior Gaelic Choir. Two-part harmony (Tangy Shield)—Tarbert Junior Secondary School Junior Gaelic Choir. R. A. Wallace Memorial Prize for conductor of choir winning Tangy Shield—Mrs P. McSparran, Tarbert.

Pianoforte — Helen Black, Tarbert.

Senior Section

Reciting poem—Mary MacKellar. Reading Scripture—Elizabeth C. MacPhail, Ardrishaig.

Solo-singing, Civic Anniversary Medals: Ladies—Morag Mitchell, Muasdale: men — Duncan MacPhee, Carradale. T. S. Macpherson Memorial Medals; ladies—Mary McShannon: men — Donald McSparran, Cardross. Own choice: ladies—Mary McShannon: men—Duncan MacPhee. Girls, 16-18—Catherine Brownie, Carradale. Prescribed songs: ladies — Mrs. Ishbel Campbell, Lochgilphead: men — Donald McSparran. Puirt-a-beul — Mrs. Ishbel Campbell. Duet—Mrs. Ella Forrest and Mrs. Robinson. Quartette—Kinloch "B".

Choral. Gaelic ensemble—Kinloch Gaelic Choir. Puirt-a-beul — Drumsemble School Gaelic Choir. Prescribed pieces (Campbeltown Gaelic Choir Silver Cuach)—Kinloch Gaelic Choir.

Pianoforte—Helen Mitchell.

PERTHSHIRE

THE third Perthshire Provincial Mod was held at Aberfeldy on 16th June. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. Alasdair Matheson, Glasgow. Rev. D. W. Mackenzie, Inveraray, and Mr. R. Mackinnon, Perth; for Music, Mr. J. N. McConochie, Glasgow, Mr. J. Gilmour Barr, Glasgow, and Mrs. Neill MacLean, Dunoon. At the evening concert the chairman was Mr. A. Dunlop Millar, M.C., of Remoy, Aberfeldy, and the prizes were presented by Mrs. D. Thomson, Killin Manse.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Reading — Louise Shearer, Weem. Reciting—Mary Rankin, Kinloch Rannoch.

Solo-singing (girls under 12)—Christine MacDiarmid, Kenmore. Boys under 12—Henry Murdoch, Weem. Girls, 12-16 — Louise Shearer, Weem. Boys, 12-16 — David Watt, Rannoch. Duets (learners) — Margaret Douglas and Marion Morgan, Aberfeldy.

Choral singing: unison — Monzievaired School Choir.

Senior Section

Reciting—Miss Elizabeth C. MacDiarmid.

Solo-singing — Miss Catherine Fraser, Fortingall. Men—Wm. MacDonald, Glenfinlas. Ladies — Mrs. J. Morris, Aberfeldy. Men—Mr. J. Stewart Cunningham, Killin. Solo-singing (Iain M. Stewart, Aberfeldy, Memorial Prize) — Miss Janet Fisher, Weem. Solo-singing (former first-prize winners only)—Mr. J. Morris, Aberfeldy. Solo-singing — Mr. J. Stewart Cunningham, Killin. Duet-singing—Mrs. R. M. Gilmour and Mrs. J. MacArthur, Logierait.

Choral singing—Weem Ladies' Choir.

Instrumental

Violin: Juniors—Donald Hepworth, Rannoch. Pianoforte: Juniors—Dennis MacEwan. Senior—Mr. J. Stewart Cunningham.

"MOD AN EILEIN"

THE Skye Provincial Mod was held at Portree on 20th and 21st June. Apart from choirs, there were over 300 entries in the Junior Section. The reciting of "Loch Dubhthach" attracted an entry of 67 competitors from all over the island, while the junior sreunachd competition attracted 47. The Chairman at the Junior

(contd. on p. 111)

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*Thug mi 'n oidhche, ge b'fhad i.
A Mhic a' Mhaoir.*

ANNA NIC IAIN :—

Is muladach mi o chionn seachdain.

ANNA RAGHNAILL EACHAINN nach
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Leabhraichean Ura

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Prince's Country

MOIDART AND MORAR : Wanderings in the West Highlands, by Wendy Wood (Moray Press, Edinburgh, 216 pp., 26 photographic illustrations and end-map, 10/-).

Wendy Wood knows this region well. For years past she has lived and worked there, a crofter among crofters. She knows and likes the local people. She is steeped in the history and lore of the district. She has traversed all the hill-paths. What more could be asked of an author, except "the pen of a ready writer," and she has that too—a deft and nimble pen.

The book starts at Glenfinnan and ends on the southern shore of Loch Nevis. The itinerary takes in the whole stretch of Loch Shiel, past Glenaladale and Dalelea and Eilean Fhianain to Acharacle; Eilean Shona, Castle Tioram, and Glen Moidart; Lochailort, Glenuig, Arisaig, and Morar. And every place has its story and its memory.

"The Prince" haunts this book as he does this district. It was here he first landed: it was from here he finally escaped. There are times when one feels that "Bonnie Prince Charlie" is in grave danger of sharing the fate of "Rabbie Burns," and becoming a fetish of sentimental hero-worship and the object of an indiscriminating adulation which the facts of history scarcely justify. Granted the "romance" of lost causes, the undoubted perils and thrills of a royal fugitive on the run, the unequalled loyalty (misplaced, if you like) of those who were induced (often against their better judgment) to share in this precarious enterprise—granted all that, the fact remains that the Prince largely owed his escape to people who shared neither his politics nor his religion nor his aspirations after a "Stuart restoration."

It was the incredibly stupid and cruel policy of revenge and repression—applied against rebel and "loyalist" alike—that has made "Jacobites" of so many of us who would say to both Stuarts and anti-Stuarts, "a plague on both your houses!"

There is no evidence whatever that, had Charles Edward Stuart recovered the throne of his fathers, the later history of the Highland people would have been much different from what it has actually been. The economic factors that led eventually to evictions, clearances, emigration, and desolation, had begun to operate long before Culloden, and

the relations between the Stuarts, reigning in London, and their Scottish subjects during the 17th century offer little encouragement to the supposition that, if Charles had won, things would have been much different.

Be that as it may, and even if Wendy Wood's book without the Prince would have been like "Hamlet" without its Prince, "Moidart and Morar" is a book that both delights and informs.

For Learners

AN APPROACH TO GAELIC, PART I, by A. N. Maclean, M.A., (An Comunn Gaidhealach, 92 pp., 1/6).

This booklet, along with Parts II and III (still to be published), is designed to provide a three-year course for pupils who begin to learn Gaelic at the post-qualifying stage. The author taught Gaelic in Tobermory Junior Secondary School and tried out his material on his classes there.

Part I confines itself mainly to masculine nouns (along with the article), the verb "To be" (both "Tha" and "Is"), and personal and possessive pronouns. Irregular verbs (which are much used) are given. There are many simple but commonly-used idioms. Inflectional subtleties are avoided. The material is arranged in twelve lessons, each with new words and idioms and Gaelic and English sentences, followed by several "duain" (simple songs and rhymes), and a glossary (Gaelic-English and English-Gaelic). The booklet is printed in large, clear type, and its value and interest are much enhanced by some twenty line-illustrations by L. R. Annand.

In his Preface, Mr. Maclean remarks that "the number of children and adults with a genuine desire to acquire Gaelic is greater now than it has ever been in this country," and he believes that, "if a practical course were provided and demonstrated with success, Gaelic would become as popular as other modern languages in Scottish schools."

Mr. Maclean's course (to judge from Part I) will, in the hands of teachers and pupils at the junior secondary stage, be of very great value in providing an easy "approach" to Gaelic for those with no previous acquaintance with the language.

The course will also be of use to adult learners, but it must be pointed out that, as the book is meant to be used in classes under the direction of teachers, no guidance is given on the vexing problems of Gaelic pronunciation.

LOCAL MOD REPORTS (Continued from p. 107)

Concert was the Rev. Alex. Macdonald, Archdattan, while the two Senior concerts were presided over by Colonel John Macdonald (Convener of the Mod Committee) and Mr. I. M. Murray, Rector of Portree Secondary School. The guest artistes were Miss Carol Galbraith and Mr. Donald MacVicar. Votes of thanks were proposed by Colonel Macdonald and the Rev. T. M. Murchison.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Messrs. John Macdonald, Hugh Mackenzie, John Mackinnon, Alex. Fraser, and Donald MacPhail, Miss Chris. MacMillan, and Rev. Alex. Macdonald and Rev. T. M. Murchison: for Music, Dr. Herbert Wiseman, Mr. J. A. Mallinson, Dr. Allan Macdonald, and Colonel J. Macdonald.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Reproduction of story and translation from Gaelic (1st year post-qualifying) — John Mackenzie, Portree. Essay and Translation (2nd and 3rd year post-qualifying)—Duncan Mackay, Portree.

Reading poetry (under 14)—Ann Macdonald, Struan. Reading unseen prose (elementary schools) — Lena F. Martin, Struan. Reading unseen prose (junior secondary) — Anna J. Campbell, Portree. Reciting poem—Mary Campbell, Struan. Narrating sgeulachd — Mary Campbell, Struan. Pendants for highest aggregate in oral section—Mary Campbell, Struan, and Kenneth Macdonald, Dunvegan. Original Gaelic talk—Kenneth Macdonald, Dunvegan. Gaelic Play—Broadford School "A".

Solo-singing. Own choice: girls under 12—Betty Robertson, Ferrindonald. Boys under 12—Donald A. Campbell, Ardsavar. Prescribed songs: girls, 12-16 (Silver Pendant from Mr. D. S. MacMillan) — Kennetha Campbell, Vatten. Boys, 12-16 (Silver Pendant from Mr. J. MacIntyre)—Ronald Macdonald, Portree. Duet—Joan Bain and Catriona MacPhee, Dunvegan.

Choral singing. Two-part harmony — Portree Secondary School Junior Choir. Unison—Portree Secondary School Junior Choir. Macleod of Skeabost Targe (for highest aggregate)—Portree S. S. Junior Choir. Unison (Miss Macdonald of Viewfield Cup, for choirs

trained by local teachers)—Sleat Junior Choir.

Pianoforte—Jimmy Macintosh, Portree. Piping (march)—John Mackenzie. Chantor-playing (beginners)—Ronald Macdonald.

Senior Section

Original Gaelic poem—Alex. M. Macdonald, Portree. Essay on historical local incident—Kenneth Macpherson, Kilmuir. Collection of unpublished Skye songs—Mrs. Douglas, Kilmuir. Essay (post-schools)—Kenneth Macpherson. Original Gaelic play—Mrs. Douglas. Essay—Rhoda Macdonald, Portree. Skye place-names, with notes — Kenneth Macpherson.

Reading unseen prose—Donald N. Macleod, Portree. Reciting poem — Donald N. Macleod. Narrating local sgeulachd — William N. Macleod, Portree. Pendants from Mrs. D. Ross for highest aggregate in oral section — Johan Mackinnon, Portree, and Alexander M. Macdonald, Portree. Acted dialogue — Johan Mackinnon and Donald Maclean, Portree.

Solo-singing. Own choice: girls under 18—Catriona Macdonald, Portree. Ladies—Mrs. Campbell, Roag. Men—Ian Macdonald, Broadford. Prescribed songs: ladies (Gold Pendant)—Iona Mackechnie, Portree. Men (Gold Pendant)—Ian Macdonald, Broadford. Singing Skye song—Catriona Macdonald, Portree. Traditional singing (Prize by Miss Macdonald of Viewfield)—Robert Ross, Uig. Duet—Mrs. Campbell and Ann Campbell, Roag.

Quartette—Portree Secondary School "A".

Choral singing. Unison and part-a-beul — Portree Gaelic Choir. Ladies' voices—Portree Secondary School Girls' Choir. Harmony (Targe by Miss Macdonald, Viewfield) — Portree Gaelic Choir.

Pianoforte (March, Strathspey and Reel)—Ewen Sutherland, Portree.

LEWIS

THE Lewis Provincial Mod was held at Stornoway on 22nd and 23rd June, 1950.

The Junior competitions on the Thursday attracted a very large number of entries, some competitions averaging thirty, and one attracting no less than 44 entrants. On the following day, however, disappointingly few competitors came forward for the Senior competitions. Juniors

from Shawbost figured prominently in the prize-list. The adjudicators expressed themselves highly satisfied with the standards attained in language and music.

The Mod Committee, and especially the joint-secretaries, Messrs. John Murdo Macmillan and Roderick Morrison, and Mr. Alex. Urquhart, deserve much credit for the excellent arrangements.

The Junior concert on Thursday evening was a delightful one, and Mr. Donald Macleod, President of the local branch of An Comunn, gave a stirring address. At the Senior concert on Friday, Mr. Neil Shaw, Secretary of An Comunn, delivered a rousing speech.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Messrs. John N. Macleod, Beately, and Angus Macdonald, Tarbert (Harris); for music, Mr. David T. Yacimini, Perth, and Miss Mary Pate, Glasgow.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Oral. Under 12 years: reading from Scriptures — Catherine MacIver, Sandwick. Recitation and Conversation — Norman Gillies, Shawbost. Dialogue or Sketch—Bragar School. Unpublished Sgeulachd—John N. Campbell, Laxdale.

12-16 years: reading from Gaelic Reader—Marion Morrison, Shawbost. Reading at sight—Mary Murray, Lionel. Recitation and Conversation—Catherine Stewart, Laxdale.

Orals (Nicolson Institute pupils). First Year: Reading—Catherine MacLean, Callanish. Recitation — John Murray, Barvas. Conversation—Catherine MacLean, Callanish.

Second Year: Reading — Chirsty A. Macdonald, Shader, Barvas. Recitation—Chirsty A. Macdonald, Shader.

Third Year: Reading—Mary A. Campbell, Stornoway. Recitation — Christina MacAskill, Garyvard.

Solo-singing. Under 12 years: girls (prescribed song)—Rachel Gunn, Cross. Boys (prescribed song)—Donald Murray, Laxdale. Girls (own choice)—Catherine MacIver, Sandwick. Boys (own choice)—Donald Murray, Laxdale.

12-16 years: girls (prescribed song)—Lois Mackenzie, Nicolson Institute. Boys (prescribed song)—Peter John MacKay, Shawbost. Girls (own choice)—

(Continued on next page)

Mina Matheson, Back. Boys (own choice)—Peter MacLeod, Tong. Boys and Girls (unpublished song)—Annie MacRitchie, Lionel.

Choral singing. Under 12 years: unison (prescribed) — Breascleite. Unison (own choice) — Nicolson Institute.

12-16 years: two-part harmony (prescribed) — Shawbost. Unison (prescribed) — Aird. Unison (own choice) — Laxdale. Action Song — Laxdale (only entry).

Senior Section

Oral. Reading at sight—Christina MacIver (Breascleite). Nicolson Institute. Reciting verse or prose—Euphemia MacLeod (Carloway), Nicolson Institute.

Solo-singing. Ladies (prescribed song)—Flora MacLeod. Ladies (own choice) — Kenina MacAskill (only entry). Men (prescribed song)—Angus MacLeod. Men (own choice) — Angus MacLeod. Duet (own choice) — Flora Macleod and Margaret E. Macleod.

Quartette singing—Stornoway Choir Quartette "A".

Choral singing — Stornoway Gaelic Choir (only entry).

Instrumental: Piano solo (under 16 years)—Alasdair MacLean, Breascleite. Violin—Alda MacDonald (only entry).

LOCHABER MOD

THE Lochaber Provincial Mod was held at Fort William on 23rd June and attracted some 300 competitors. The evening concert was presided over by Rev. Alex. Macdonald, Ardhattan, and Mrs. J. A. Maclean, Inverness, presented the prizes. Lord Aberdeen, a life member of AnComunn, also addressed the audience, and votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. Donald MacPhail. After the concert Mr. and Mrs. Angus White hospitably entertained the Mod Committee, adjudicators, and friends in the Imperial Hotel, and were cordially thanked by Dr. J. A. Maclean, Director of Education for Inverness-shire.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Rev. Alex. Macdonald, Ardhattan; Messrs. John Mackinnon, Kingussie; John Maclean, Mallaig; Donald MacPhail, Inverness; and Donald Macdonald, Fort William, and Rev. A. J. Maclean, Fort William: for Music, Mr. J. Gilmour Barr, Glasgow, and Mr. James Curr, Dingwall.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Reciting poetry — Christine Macleod, Kinlochell. Reading prose—George H. Smith, Kinlochell. Reciting poetry (12-16) — Adrian Mackintosh, Corpach.

Reading unseen prose (12-16) — Catherine Campbell, Fort William.

Reading prose — Catherine Campbell. Reciting poetry — Mary Hutchison, Fort William.

Conversation — Hectorina MacMillan, Spean Bridge.

Verse-speaking (one-teacher schools) (trophy presented by Mrs Cameron-Head) — Onich School.

Verse-speaking (4th year groups) — Fort William Secondary School.

Kilmallie Cuach (for oral competitions) — Catherine Campbell, Fort William.

Solo-singing. Girls under 12 — Ena Macdonald, Banavie. Boys under 12 — James C. Mackinnon, Fort William.

Girls (12-16) — Jessie Maclean, Mallaig. Boys 12-16 — Adrian Mackintosh, Corpach.

Boys and girls, 12-16 (Arisaig Trophy) — Adrian Mackintosh. Duet — Joan Macpherson and Helen Burgin, Fort William.

Choral. Lochaber Co-operative

Society Shield—Mallaig Junior Secondary School Choir. Mrs. MacGregor Cup (unison) — Mallaig and Spean Bridge School Choirs (equal).

Senior Section

Reading unseen prose—William Innes, Fort William. Arranged competition — William Innes.

Dialogue—Mary Alex. MacPhee and Katie Ann Haggerty. Narrating folk-tale—Katie Ann Haggerty.

Reciting prose — Jean Lindsay, Fort William. Original Gaelic speech—Kate Sarah MacInnes, Fort William.

Reciting poetry—Katie Ann Haggerty.

Solo-singing. Ladies (Lochaber Cuach)—Freda Raitton, Onich.

Men (Glengarry Cup) — D. MacDougall, Glenurquhart.

Ladies—Freda Raitton, Men—Ronald MacKellaig, Glenfmann. Own choice—Mrs. Hamilton, Corpach.

Boys and girls, 16-18 — Isa Macdonald, Fort William.

Former Trophy-winners only—Ronald MacLellan, Morar.

Special solo competition—Thomas MacKenna, Kinlochell. Duet—Corrine O'Donnell and Iseabail Macdonald, Fort William.

Choral. Challenge Shield—Glenurquhart Gaelic Choir. Ladies' voices — Fort William Secondary School Senior Choir.

UILLEAM ROS (bho t.d. 105)

A réir na sgeul eile, tha e air a ràdh gu robh Ros air leabaidh a bhàis agus anns na seachdainean mu dheireadh de a thinneas, nuair a thachair siud. Fann is lapach mar a bha e, dh'èirich e an latha seo co-dhù, is chaidh e gu cabhagach 'na aodach. Thug e nua ann t-ultach tomadach de phaipèaran air an robh a bhàrdachd sgrìobhte aige is thilg e a' chuid 's a' chuid e air mullach brathadair mòr teine, agus, a réir nam briathran a chleachd e aig a' cheart àm, ghabh Uilleam aithreachas gun do leig e ruith le fhàireachd-ainnean is le a bhron cho mòr 'na dhàin agus cha robh e faicinn gu robh luach sam bith 'na shaothair no, a bhàrr, gun cuirte luach orra anns na làithen ri teachd.

Chan 'eil duine sam bith a leugh na h-òrain a tha làthair againn nach faod briathran an t-seann duine mu'n deidhinn a thuigsinn ann an tomas. O chionn cìad gu leth bliadhna air ais, bha fada barrachd de ghreim aig bàrdachd air inntinn

an t-sluaigh na tha aice an diugh, agus bha buaidh na bu mhòtha aig bàrdachd Uilleim Rois, seach obair ainm sam bith eile de na bàird Ghàidhealach, air a bhith tàladh air falbh co-fhàireachdainn an leughadair maille riutha.

CHAN eòl dhomh an measg bàird air tìr ain eile a fhuair a lethid seo de chomas air doimhneachdan fhulangais a thòmhais agus fhàireachdainn a dhòrtadh a mach ain an ainnt cho drùidhteach. 'S e Burns an t-aon a b'fhàisge thàimig uha, agus tha an dithis glé choltach ri chèile, chan ann a mhàin 'nan nàdur. Choinnich na h-aon fhreasdalan searbhà riutha le chèile. Ach feumaidh an coimeas stad ann an sin féin. Chan urrainn dhuinn a chreidsinn gu robh nì de bhuaidh aig bàrdachd Burns air ceòlraidh Uilleim Rois nas motha na bha aig bàrdachd Rois air ceòlraidh Burns.

(A' CHRIOCH)

Iomhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod—Dunoon, 1950

Received at Dunoon—

Previously acknowledged	£1,530	9	2
Rothsay Branch of An Comunn ...	10	10	0
Dunoon Hotel & Boarding House Association	20	0	0
Tain Branch of An Comunn	5	0	0
Mull & Iona Association, Glasgow ...	5	0	0
Concert (Greenock Male Voice Choir) ...	18	10	0
A. Marshall, Esq., Ayr	0	5	0
Mrs. Bergius, Kilmacoll	1	0	0
Gaelic Society of Perth	7	7	0
Flag Day (Dunoon & District) ...	119	7	4
Miss A. Noble, Ardkinlas	7	10	0
Paisley Highlanders Association ...	25	0	0

£1,750 6 6

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	£75	16	0
Andrew Torrance, Esq., Johnstone	2	0	0
Capt. D. MacCormick, Oban	5	0	0
	82	16	0
Total to date	£1,833	2	6

War Memorial & Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged	£2	8	0
Alastair MacK. MacLachlain, Esq., Mull	4	14	0
Net proceeds of Whist Drive & Dance (incl. Donation £14 0) per M. A. Macleod, Esq., Lochmaddy ...	16	0	2
Alex. Macrae, Esq., J.P., Balmacara ...	0	10	0
Mrs. A. M. MacLeod, Mull	0	19	0
Dr. T. K. Monro, Glasgow	3	3	0
Proceeds of Flag Day Collections at following Centres in Inverness-shire :—			
Abriachan	£1	6	6
Banavie	3	3	2
Beauly	4	8	0
Broadford	4	3	9
Cairnish	1	11	0
Clava	2	8	0
Dulnain Bridge	2	8	0
Eoligarry	2	9	0
Fort William	18	16	9
Garrynamonie	2	15	0
Glenfunan	1	14	6
Invermoriston	5	8	0
Glenurquhart	8	8	6
Laggan District	3	7	0
Lochbay	1	17	0
Mallaig & Morar	4	18	6
Nethy Bridge	3	18	5
Newtonmore	6	7	5
Portree	7	2	5
Spean Bridge	2	18	0
Torlum	5	6	10
Kinlochlaggan	2	18	8
	97	14	5

Total since 1st May, 1950, exclusive of specific donations to Feill which will be separately acknowledged later £125 8 7

Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaibhealach."

Previously acknowledged	£14	14	0
D. G. W. Todd, Esq., Kilmacoll ...	2	0	0
Kingussie Branch	2	2	0
Cruchan Branch	6	6	0
Miss Rhoda M. Dingwall, Hamilton ...	0	4	0
Mrs. Violet Brodie of Brodie, Forres ...	0	7	6

Total since 1st May, 1950 £25 13 6

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£2	16	3
D. MacNiven, Esq., Pitlochry	0	4	0
Miss I. MacArthur, Abertfeldy	0	4	0
Arthur W. Miller, Esq., Pitlochry ...	0	4	0
Andrew Torrance, Esq., Johnstone ...	0	1	6
H. S. Shield, Esq., Edinburgh	0	4	0
Miss M. F. MacArthur, Glasgow	1	0	0
W. B. Burnett, Esq., Edinburgh	0	4	6
Anonymous, Edinburgh	0	18	0
Anonymous, Glasgow	0	4	0
Miss E. L. Ogilvie Taylor, Morven ...	0	10	0
John A. Macrae, Esq., Glasgow	0	10	0
A. A. Ross, Esq., Lochinver	1	0	0
Sir Michael Peto of Dundonnell, Bt., Wester Ross	0	6	0
Lady Peto, Wester Ross	0	6	0
Hugh D. Welsh, Esq., Aberdeen	0	16	0
Donald Davidson, Esq., Grantown-on-Spey	0	4	0
Miss M. Falconer, Bellochinty	0	4	0
Anonymous, Co. Durham	0	11	3
Miss Anne Scott Rae, Argyll	0	4	0
Mrs. Jane Robertson, Vancouver, Canada	0	10	0
John McGregor, Esq., Edinburgh ...	0	4	0
Francis B. Perry, Esq., San Francisco, California	0	2	9
Charles W. Lock, Esq., St. Albans ...	0	6	0
Mrs. Margaret E. Matheson, Kyle of Lochalsh	0	9	0
Miss Fruda Railton, Onich	0	10	0

Total since 1st May, 1950 £12 13 3

NATIONAL MOD ENTRIES (from p. 104)

19 for the Campbell Blair Trophy (unison), and 5 for the Shiant Shield (action songs).

Eighty-four (47 men, 37 ladies) have entered for the oran-mor, 87 (49 and 38) for the James Grant Prizes, 88 (46 and 42) for the Oban and Lorn Medais, and 61 for the Uist Song competition.

Twelve choirs are preparing for the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield competition. Ten rural choirs have entered for the Macmaster Campbell Cuach and 8 for the Lorn Shield.

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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

VOL. XLV

SEPTEMBER, 1950

No. 9



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AN GAIDHEAL THE GAEL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

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Leabhar XLV Aireamh 9
AN T-SULTUIN, 1950

Clar-Innsidh

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Our Cover Picture

R.A.F. 45 M.U. Badge
(See page 116)

PLEASE MENTION OUR NAME
WHEN
WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

"NULL THAR AN AISEIG"

BHA a' mhuir riamh an dà cheud 'na comhnaidh agus 'na cnap-starra do 'na Gaidheil. Air an aon làimh, bha slighean-mara fosgaitte dhaibh 's a' deanamh furasda dhaibh turas a ghabhail do gach ceàrn is cladaich a bu mhiannach leò—eadhon gu tìrean cèine. Air an làimh eile, cha b'urrainn, agus chan urrainn, do'n fhear-shinbhaill d'ad fad san bith air rathad Gaidhealach mun tig e gu loch no caolas far am feum e an t-aiseig a ghabhail.

'S e an t-ann mór a thug saorsa is farsaingeachd do'n Ghaidheal mar fhear-turuis. 'S iad na caolais mu a dhorus fhéin a bha 's a tha 'nam bacadh. Mar sin, tha soirbheachadh is comhfhurtachd nan Gaidheal, gu sònraichte air an taobh an iar agus anns na h-eileanan, gu mór an eisimeil nan goireasan-aiseig a tha 'nam tairgse.

Faodar a ràdh gu bheil trì seòrsachan aiseig ann.

Anns a' cheud àite, tha aiseigan ann a tha mar ath-ghoirid. Faodaidh tu do cheann-uidhe a ruigheachd gun doil a null air an aiseig, oir tha rathad eile ann—timcheall ceann an locha, 's dòcha. Ach tha an t-aiseig ag giorrachadh do thuruis. Tha aiseig Bhaile-chaolais ag caomh-nadh dhuit astar fichead mìle timcheall Ceann Loch Lìobhainn. Tha aiseig a' Chorrain, a null gu Àird-ghobhar, ag gearradh dhìot dà fhichead mìle timcheall Ceann Loch Linnne is Ceann Loch Iall. Tha an t-aiseig thairis air a' Cholas Chumhann an Cataibh a' toirt cend mìle dhìot. Tha na h-aiseigan sin ro-fheumail ach chan 'eil iad do-sheachanta feumail. Dheanamaid a' chùis as an aonais, ged nach bu mhaith leinn gun sguireadh aon seach aon dhiubh.

Anns an dara h-àite, tha aiseigan ann a tha ceangal ri chèile cinn-rathaidean—co-dhiubh 's e caolas eadar eilean is tìr-mór no eilean is eilean no eadar dà thaobh locha a tha deanamh an sgaraidh. Tha na h-aiseigan sin a' deanamh gnìomh dhrochdaidean, agus gu dearbh tha drochdaidean a nis air àite feadhainn de na h-aiseigan sin a ghabhail—mar a tha Drochaid na Dòrnaidh eadar Cinn-tàile is Sgìr Loch-Aillse agus an Drochaid Mhór eadar Uibhist a Deas is Brinn-a'-bhaogha. Tha feadhainn eile dhiubh seo air am faod drochdaidean a bhith air an tozail fhathast, mar an t-aiseig eadar Beinn-a'-bhaogha is Uibhist a Tuath agus (còig aig tha fios?) thairis air Chol-Acainn eadar tìr-mór is an t-Eilean Sgitheanach.

Chan 'eil e idir 'na shalann saor carbadan fhaotainn a null air na h-aiseigan Gaidhealach, agus chan 'eil sinn idir ag coireachadh na muinntir a tha air ceann nam bàtaichean-aiseig, oir tha fhios gu bheil coisgais mhòr orra ann a bhith cumail suas nam bàtaichean agus gach afeuhinn eile agus a' nàidheadh an luchd-oibre. Bha e riamh 'na cheist orra car son nach robh na h-aiseigan air an ghabhail fo chùram luchd-riaghlaidh nan rathaidean-móra, dìreach mar a tha na drochdaidean, agus air an deanamh saor agus an asgaidh do'n fhear-thuruis mar a tha na drochdaidean (a mach bho Dhrochaid Iarainn na Coingheall!).

AREIR lugh is riaghailtean na rioghadh a nis tha cead is ùghdarras aig na comhairleach-siorrachd na h-aiseigan a ghabhail fo an cùram agus an oibreachadh mar phàirt de ghoireasan-sinbhaill na siòrachd, agus, mar is luaithe a

(An còrr air t d. 114)

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Am fear a bhios modhail, bidh e modhail ris a h-uile duine.

Fìrinn air son a' Mhìos seo

Gach uile ni bu mhiann leibh daoine a dheanamh dhuibh-se, deanaibh-se a leithid dhaibh-san mar an ceudna.

—Mata vii, 12.

Learners' School at Swordale

A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT

THE pioneer effort of Comunn na h-Oigridh to hold a "School for Learners" was made this year at Swordale, Evanton, from 27th July to 7th August.

The intention was to have the Camp composed of girl learners from the Glasgow area along with a number from the Northern counties. It was found, however, that in the time available for making arrangements it was not possible to have representation from the North. Seventeen girls attended from Glasgow schools, ten from Bellahouston Academy (taught by Mrs. MacKay) and seven from Woodside Secondary School (taught by Mr. John MacKay). There were also two local girls.

The Daily Time-Table was as follows:—

8.00 a.m. Called	1.00 p.m. Lunch
8.30 a.m. Breakfast.	Recreation
9.00 a.m. Bed-making.	4.00 p.m. Tea
9.30 a.m. Prayers.	4.45 p.m. Handicrafts.
9.45 a.m. Talk.	6.30 p.m. Supper.
10.20 a.m. Gaelic Lesson.	Thereafter Music, etc., till bedtime.
11.20 a.m. Break.	9.15 p.m. Tea (out of doors).
11.45 a.m. Nature Talk (out of doors).	or Cocoa.

The talks were on the following themes:— (1) Reason for the Camp. (2) Historical review of Highlands. (3) Economic review. (4) Cultural review. (5) Place handicrafts can play in economic recovery. (6) Necessity of repopulating the Highlands with people of Highland extraction who desire to return there. (7) Young people's part in this. (8) Celtic Art. (9) History of the Highland Churches. (10) Summarising of Course.

Talks were given by the President, Mr. L. MacKinnon (Convener of Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee), and the Rev. Donald MacLeod, Dingwall. Mr. George Bain conducted Celtic Art classes throughout the period. Mr. Donald MacPhail gave several talks on the aims and objects of the School. He also gave daily Gaelic lessons, ably assisted by Miss Jean MacDonald of Benbecula and Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow. A rule of the School was that

Gaelic was to be spoken at two meals daily.

It can be said that, as an experiment, this School was highly successful, giving not only enjoyment to the girls who attended but an opportunity to live an entirely Gaelic life, albeit for a short period.

Two services were held at Swordale by the Rev. A. Campbell of Kiltearn Church, to whom we are very much indebted for his kindness and counsel. A part of each Service was conducted in Gaelic.

Visitors to the School included Mr. Cameron-Head of Inverallort and Colonel and Mrs. Macleod, Strathpeffer.

A recording van from the B.B.C., Glasgow, under the direction of Mr. F. J. MacDonald and Mr. David Adamson, recorded a News Talk in which several of the girls took part. This talk was broadcast in the

"NULL THAR AN AISEIG" (bho t.d. 113)

nithear sin, 's ann is fhèarr a bhios cùis-an.

O chionn ghoird an seo chaidh aiseig ùr fhosgladh, eadar Earra-bhaidheal is Eilean Bhòid, a null bho Chual an t-sàimh gus an Rùbha Bhòdach. Bha feadhainn cuideachd a' bruidhinn air aiseig a shuidheachadh eadar tìr-mòr is Dùraidh agus eadar Dùraidh is Ile a chum 's gum biodh e comasach carbadan làn bathair a' thoirt fad an rathaid à Glaschu gu Ile gun an luchd a chur asda; ach tha e coltach gu robh seo uile duil a chosg eus—còrr mòr is muilean not.

Tha non seòrsa aiseig eile ann a dh'fheumar ainmeachadh. Tha àireamh àitean air an taobh a' iar far a bheil bàtaichean-smùide a' tadhal le litrichean, bathair, is luchd-turuis, agus gun cheidhe freagarrach aca. Mar sin, 's ann an bàta-aiseig a thàtar a frithealadh air a' bhàta-smùide. Is ann mar seo a tha anns a' Chonraich, an Glinn-Eilge, an Eige, an Rùm, an Colla, agus an Creag-an-iubhair (am Muile), agus an àite no dhà eile. Air an t-samhradh seo fhéin fhuair mi fhin fiosrachadh as ùr air cho draghail, cho mì-chomhfhurtail, cho mì-chiumteach, agus eadhon cho cumartach 's a tha na h-aiseagan sin. Tha ar taing aig na fir chalma a tha ag obreacadh nan aiseagan sin: chan e cosnadh seocar a tha

Gaelic news on Friday evening, 4th August. A recording was also made of the programme outlining the activities of the School. We understand that this programme will be on the air in "Children's Hour" early in September.

A very happy day was spent at Dornoch. The School was welcomed by Mr. John MacLean of the Bank of Scotland and President of the local Branch of An Comunn, who kindly gave ices to all. After picknicking on the sands, the girls held an open-air ceilidh and delighted all in the vicinity with their rendering of Gaelic songs. Dingwall Highland Games were also visited and much enjoyed.

On Saturday evening, before the close of the School, a ceilidh was held.

Sincere thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Bannerman for placing such a lovely house at the disposal of Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee and for all their kindnesses to the children during their stay.

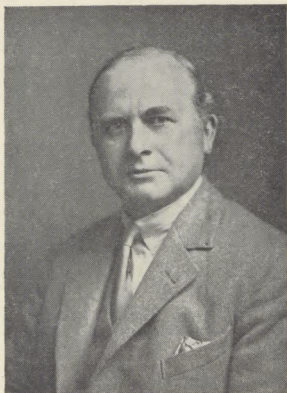
D. McP.

aca-san. Bha còir air ceidhe ceart a bhith anns gach àite-tadhal far a bheil eilean no sìre-an eisimeil bhàtaichean-smùide.

Is math dhuinne a tha anns a' bhaile-mhòr a bhith fòtainn cothrom gach samhradh an t-aiseig a' thabhail à Mallaig no as an Oban no as a' Chual. Chan e an turus-cuain am bàtaichean Mhìc a' Bhriuthainn as dorra leinn, ach na tha feitheamh oirnn aig ceann na slighe cum faigh sinn asda, agus againn ri leum a steach gu bàta-aiseig beag—fir is mnathan is clann bheaga is coin, bocsaichean arain is drum-aichean ola, bollachan mìnne is rotharan is peccann litrichean is leabaidh ùr do Chalum Eachainn Bhàin is uircean nuice do Sheòras Cìobair—gach nì is neach am measg a chéile agus a' mhùir a' stealladh a steach air a' chliathaich.

Is ann uair no dhà 's a' bhliadhna a bhios mo sheòrsa-sa—Gaidheil a' bhaile-mhòir—a' fiosrachadh éiginnean is uirceabhuidhean nan àitean Gaidhealach d'am buin sinn, ach tha muinntir nan àitean sin ag gleachd ris na h-anshocairean sin fad na bliadhna. Is còir dhuinn taic a chur riutha anns gach oidhirp a ni ad a chum cuisean a dheanamh nas goireasaiche dhaibh fhéin agus dhuinne.

The Late Dr. John Cameron



IT is with great regret that we record the death of Dr. John Cameron, J.P., LL.B., on 11th August. His passing has left a blank in many spheres of public service.

John Cameron was born in the Isle of Mull 67 years ago, and Mull and Iona held his affection all his life, his last visit being paid shortly before his death. His ancestors, however, had come from Lochaber, and that district also held his regard. He was educated at Hutcheson's Grammar School and Glasgow University, where he graduated M.A. and LL.B. As a Solicitor in Glasgow he built up an extensive legal practice and was senior partner in the firm of Kennedy, Cameron and Allan.

Dr. Cameron's interests and activities were manifold and various. He was President of the Clan Cameron Association (1928-32) and the Glasgow Highland Society; Hon. Secretary of the Highlanders' Institute, the Glasgow Celtic Society, the Glasgow Lochaber Society, and the Scottish Section of the Pan-Celtic Congress. For many years he was Hon. Secretary (and also a term as President) of the Glasgow University Ossianic Club, and was particularly concerned with the efforts of that Club to have a Chair of Celtic established at Glasgow University. For many years also he had been Clerk to the Governors of the

Catherine McCaig Trust and Clerk to the Governors of the Murchison of Taradale Trust.

For a long period a member of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach, Dr. Cameron was Convener of the Finance Committee and Vice-President (1943-46). From 1946 to 1949 he held the office of President with distinction, and his Gaelic and English orations at the National Mods during his term of office were marked by felicity of language, knowledge of history, and a thorough appreciation of the difficulties and opportunities of An Comunn in these days.

As a lawyer and leading citizen of Glasgow Dr. Cameron served on many committees and public bodies. As representative of the Glasgow Faculty of Procurators he was a Governor of St. Mungo's College. He was a member of council of the Glasgow Art Club, the Scottish Artists' Benevolent Association, the Royal Art Institute, and the Stair Society, and was also Vice-Chairman of Committee of the Agricultural Wages Board for Lanark, Renfrew, Bute, Perth, etc., and held other appointments as well.

Onerous and varied though his activities were, future generations will remember him especially as a scholar whose researches and writings have enriched and enlarged his chosen field of study—Scots and Celtic law. His publications include a contribution on Celtic Law to "An Introductory Survey of the Sources and Literature of Scots Law" (the first publication of the Stair Society, 1936), "Law in the Glens" in "The Highlands and the Highlanders" (1938), and "The Gaelic *Notitiae* in the Book of Deer" in the *Juridical Review*, Vol. LI, No. 2 (1939).

His most important work, however, was "Celtic Law: the 'Senchus Mor' and 'The Book of Aicill,' and the Traces of an Early Gaelic System of Law in Scotland" (1937). This notable book, for which he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Glasgow University, won high commendation from authoritative reviewers, one of whom wrote: "It is notorious that the Law of Scotland has not yet found its historian; but Dr. Cameron, in elucidating one of the most obscure and difficult parts of that history, has laid under a deep debt of gratitude all who are interested in Scottish legal history."

Only last year the Stair Society published "The Judiciary Records of Argyll and the Isles 1864-1705," transcribed and edited, with an introduction, by Dr. Cameron. This book

is of great value, not only to legal historians, but also to all interested in Highland history.

Dr. Cameron was a member of St. Columba Parish Church, Glasgow, where he was for some time Chairman of Managers.

Active in many spheres, wise in counsel, full of enthusiasm for the culture, traditions, and well-being of the Gaelic people, Dr. John Cameron will best be remembered by many for those qualities of heart and mind which, during years of friendship, they learned to appreciate.

We express our deep sympathy with his daughter, Anne—bereft of both her parents in so short a time—and his sister and other relatives.

At the funeral, which took place to Dumbarton on 15th August, there was a large attendance of friends and representatives of the numerous societies and activities in which Dr. Cameron was interested. The Services were conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. Alexander Macdonald and the Rev. T. M. Murchison. A lament on the bag-pipes was played at the graveside.

AN T-OLLAMH IAIN CAMSHRON

AIG amannan chan 'eil ann am briathran beòil ach meadhanan truagha gu bhith cur an cèill doimhneachd ar faireachdainnean. Is ann mar sin a tha a' chùis an dràsda, agus mi a' feuchainn ri bhith foillsachadh na tha 'nam chridhe agus an cridheachan a chàirdean Ìonmhor mu bhàs an Ollaimh Iain Camshron air Di-haoine, an t-aon-là-deug de'n Lùnasdal. Chaidh a thiodhlacadh air a' chòigeamh là deug ann an Cladh Dhùn-Bhreatainn làimh ri a mhnaoi chaoimh a shiubhail ach gann bliadhna roimhe. Tha a chàirdean de'n bheachd gun do dh'aoibharaich bàs a chéile ghràdhach an tinneas a thàinig air. Ged a chaidh e beagan am feabhas, cha robh a shlàinte air aiseag air ais dha gu h-uile each bho'n uair ud. Bha àireamh mhór an làthair aig an adhlacadh, a' riochdachadh nan comunn—agus b'iomadh iad—anns an robh an t-Ollamh nach maireann 'na fhear-iùil.

Chan ann a mhàin mar sgoilear ro-fhoghlum-achite anns na seann laghannan Ceittech no mar fhear-lagha fiosraichte a bhitheas cuimhne ghràdhach againn air Iain Camshron, ged a fhuair sinn còmhnaidh agus stiùradh an iomadh dòigh hho a chuid sgoilearachd agus a chuid eòlais. Fad a bheatha bho a bige rinn e obair chruaidh ag adhartachadh cor a chinnich agus a dhùthcha, agus tha na rinn e aithnichte agus prìseil leinn. Ach 's e tha fàgail ar bròin cho mòr gu robh meas agus miùin againn air mar dhuine a bha coibhneil, iriosal,

ceart anns gach ceum a ghabh e. Duine socair sèimh, ach duine aig an robh buadhan inntinne is cridhe a bha follaiseach agus luachmhor do na h-uile a chuir eòlas air. Chan aithne dhòmhsa duine as urrainn an t-àite sònraichte a bha aige-san a lìonadh anns gach seòrsa seirbhis anns an robh làmh aige. Mar Cheann-suidhe a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach rinn e seirbhis shònraichte, agus cha robh duine anns an dreuchd sin riamh a bu dilse no a hu chomasaiche na e.

Bidh cuimhne chùbhraidh againn uile air Iain Camshron, agus tha ar co-fhaireachdainn aig a' nighinn, Anna, agus a phiuthar 'nan dubh-bhròn. 'S e dùrachd ar cridhe gum bi iad air am misneachadh agus air an comhfhurtachadh 'nan call deuchainneach.

Iain MacGille-na-Brataich.

R.A.F. UNIT'S GAELIC MOTTO

ONE of the units of the R.A.F. Station, Kinloss, Morayshire, has adopted a badge having a sporrán as the dominant symbol and with a Gaelic motto—"Deas Daonnan Deas" ("Ready Aye Ready"). The motto and the sporrán symbolise both the Scottish descent of the 45th Maintenance Unit and its function as a custodian of the wealth of the R.A.F., namely, aircraft.

A Yorkshireman by birth, Wing-Commander G. L. Lister, Officer Commanding 45 M.U., has long cherished a deep affection for Scotland, ever since in his younger days he spent many holidays in mountain-climbing and cycling in the Highlands. It is not surprising, therefore, that he should be the creator of a badge so strongly redolent of the Highlands.

There were difficulties to be overcome, however, and, to begin with, the heraldic experts were not exactly enthusiastic about the proposed badge, but now at last the new badge has been finally approved by H.M. the King.

In seeking an appropriate Gaelic motto Wg.-Cdr. Lister was provided with a number of possible ones by Mr. D. Campbell Cowan, J.P., President of the Elgin Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and it was one of those submitted by Mr. Cowan that was finally chosen. Mr. Donald MacPhail, Northern Organiser of An Comunn, provided the official verification of the authenticity of the phrase, which was essential to acceptance of the badge.

We congratulate 45 M.U. and their C.O. on their achievement, and also Mr. Cowan and Mr. MacPhail on their share in the matter.

(See Cover Picture)

Suil Air Ais

Le NIALL MAC-AN-TUAIRNEIR

IS iomadh agus is lionmhor gach smuain a dh'éireas an inntinn luaineach mhic an duine. Có againn nach toir súil air ais thar nan láithean is nam bliadhnaichean a chaidh thairis le luaths tim? Chan 'eil mi de'n bheachd gu bheil Gaidheal, agus gu h-araidh luchd ar n-Eilean, nach bi cuimhneachadh air na láithean ud a dh'aom nuair bha sinn aotrom óg agus, mar a thubhairt am bárd, "gun dragh, gun leòn, gun uallach oirnn."

Cáite bheil iad siud, companaich ar n-bíge? Cáite bheil iadsan còmhla ris an do chuir sinn iomadh cluich, iadsan a bha tric a mach 's a steach maile ruin san sgòil? Gu dé an ceárna 's a bheil an còmhnuidh, a' chuid dhiubh 's a tha beò, no ciamar tha iad ag cur seachad an saoghail?

Tha fios againn gu bheil móran dhiubh an tìrean céine, cuid a fhuair air adhart gu math agus cuid a rinn deagh fheum de na cothroman a fhuair iad. Tha fios gum bi iad ag cuimhneachadh oirne. Mo chreach! tha cuid mhór nach till—chaidh sinn còmhla gu aghaidh nam blár agus chunnaic sinn cuid dhiubh a' tuiteam san àr, iadsan a thug iad féin suas mar iobairt chum cách a bhith beò.

Car son a chaidh sinn as? Gu dé a choisinn sinn ri linn ar fuil a dhòrtadh 's ar feòil a reubadh?

Bha sinn uile de'n bheachd, nuair a chuir sinn na blàir ud thairis agus sin le buaidh, gun do choisinn sin slth mhaireannach dhaibhsan a bha gu tighinn as ar déidh 's nach robh an còrr de chasgairt-fala gu breith oirnn—ach, mo thruaighe, mun do dhùin an fhichead bliadhna bha ar cuid mhac ag cur an dearbh chath chum saorsa a chosnadh do'n t-saoghal. Gnothach bochd agus ro dhuilich, nach do sheall ar luchd-riaghlaidh rompha na bu gheurshuileach na rinn iad an ám dhaibh a bhith ag altrum na sìthe. Is mór an dolaidh a théid a dheanadh le cion faicill agus le bhith mairnealach!

An tachair a leithid dhuinn tuilleadh? Sin ceist nach 'eil ro fharasda a freagairt agus a tha aig an ám 'na ceist chruaidh air ar linn.

Ach, co-dhiubh—gu tilleadh gu brìgh mo chòmhradh agus iomradh goirid air na láithean a dh'aom—faodaidh mi ainmeachadh gu robh mu shia fichead againn eadar bhalach is nigheanan san sgòil 's an d'fhuair mise a' cheud eòlas air an aibidil. 'S iomadh latha toilichte, sunndach, mireagach a chluich sinn an cuideachd a chéile. 'S lionmhor àbhachdas a bha againn!

Bu chleachdach leinn a bhith an tim an t-samhradh a' snàmh air tràigh bhriagha de ghainnean-ghil a bha faisg air an taigh-sgoile. 'S iomadh latha tha eagal orm a fhuair sinn an "strap" air son a bhith fadalach. Tha cuimhne agam aon latha aig ám na dinneir bha sinn uile air an tràigh 's gach aon ri co-fharpais có a bu luaithe air an t-snàmh, có a b'fhaid a shnámhadh, agus gu h-araidh có a b'fhaid a dh'fhuiricheadh fo'n uisge. Cha robh guth gu robh an tim ri ruith thairis agus gu robh uair a bhith san sgòil air dol seachad. Tha mi creidsinn nach robh a bheag de chuimhne aig a' mhór-chuid againn gu robh sgòil idir ann!

Co-dhiubh, an meadhan gach cluich is fearas-chuideachd a bha ann, có a nochd os ar cionn ach esan a bha air ar ceann mar mhaighistir-sgoile. Tha mi cinnteach gu robh an duine còir air dùil a thoirt thairis gu faiceadh e idir san sgòil sinn am feasgar ud. Ach co-dhiubh a bha 's nach robh, bha an fhearg 'ga dhalladh.

Rinn e ball-dreach air an fhear a b'fhaisge air 's an t-strap 'ga thoirt as a phòcaid. Ma rinn esan oirne, rinn sinne air falbh, 's gach fear is gun air ach "deise Adhaimh"—sinn mar a thàinig sinn do'n t-saoghal! Bha grunnan a fhuair an aodach a thoirt leotha 's a fhuair gu cùl cnuc 'ga chur orra. Chùm iadsan air an taigh-sgoile 's thug sinn cothrom dhuinne, nach robh faisg air ar n-aodach an ám teicheadh, tilleadh agus cur oirnn.

NUAIR a ràinig sinn gu bog balbh, 's gach fear ri cuimhneachadh na bha feitheamh air, bha ar n-oid-fhoghlum 's e an impis toirt thairis a' stràdach iadsan a ràinig air toiseach, 's nuair a thàinig e thugainn cha robh an sgiùrsair ach a' tuiteam gun mhóran cl. Chaidh an latha ud thairis mar aon eile ach cha do dhi-chuimhnich mi riann an àbhachdas 's an spòrs' a dh'aobharaich an latha grianach samhradh ud 'nar measg.

Bha mi an raoir fhéin a' fiachainn ri cuimhneachadh càite an robh iad siud, na gillean sunndach lùthmhor a bha leam an latha ud air tràigh na mara, 's a bheil fios agaibh gur e mu thuiream trìuir, á còrr is trì fichead, as urrainn an tràigh ud fhaicinn gach là. Tha móran dhiubh air dhol dachaidh a dh'ionnsaigh na tìre bho nach till sgeulaiche, agus sin gun móran láithean a mhealtainn. Tha a' chuid as motha sgaoilte feadh an t-saoghail mhóir eadar Machair nan Gall, Sasainn, agus tìrean

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

Litir Alasdair

A CHAIRDEAN,

Ma dh'éisdeas sibh tamull,
Gun toir mi dhuibh sgeul
Air margadh nan gamhna
San tir agam féin.

"'S mise," thubhairt am Baker beag a bha ann an Ath-Tharracail, "'a bha thall 's a chunnaic e," 's e ag innse d'a choimhearsnaich mu thimcheall Astráilia, "agus a tháinig a nall 's a dh'innis e."

"Ann! ann!" fhreagair a h-aon dhuibh, Tearlach Iain Bhàin; "'s tusa a bha thall 's a chunnaic e, 's a tháinig a nall 's gun sgillinn agad!"

Ach cha b'ann mar sin a dh'éirich dhómhsa aig féill nan gamhna san t-Sàilean Shuaineartach. Tháinig mi dhachaidh is deagh sgillinn agam ged nach robh a' phris cho math aig toiseach an latha.

Bha an aimsir da-rìreadh déistinneach is tuar a' gheamhraidh air gach fonn. Cha b'é idir currac geal a bha air Beinn Reiseabol ach léine bhàn gu bonn, agus Creach-bheinn is Garbh-bheinn anns a' chòmhach cheudna.

Shaoil leam, nuair chaidh mi staigh leis a' ghamhainn dhubh, gu robh

An cadal air dròbhairean an Obain
'S na fir tháinig a' Sliabh Manann;
Ged b'árd rinn e éigheach,
Mac Sheoc anns a' chrannaig,
Bha na Dòideagan fo chùram
'S Clann na Dreòllainn gun ghean orr',
Ach bha esan 'na dhùsgadh
Anns a' Chùil Druim-na-sàile
'S a Briathrach glé dh'lùth dha
Air son crùn chur air pocan.

Co-dhuibh, nuair theòthaich an latha, gun do bheòthaich na feara, 's chaidh mórán gu gogadh nan ceann—Muilich, Liosaich, Uibhistich, agus Sgitheanaich—agus thug Baile Mac-Cathain 's am Frisealach o'n Chárnaich shuas smùid orra air son tacain. Thog MacGhille-dhuibh fhéin am bata uair no dha. "Nach fhad o'n latha sin, a Dhòmhnail!" ach—

"Old drovers never die;
They simply fade away!"

Tháinig crìoch air a' chreic tràth feasgar, agus thòisich iad air cur an òrdugh an spréidh a bha ri falbh leis an "*Loch Seile*."

Nuair fhuair iad a mach as na cròdhan thug mart MhicAidh am fireach oirre 's idir cha tilleadh i, 's a dh'aindeoin a h-aoise bha i glé luath san imeachd. Co-dhuibh eadar na bha sin ann ag is an cù riabhach aig Éoghann 's e glé fhialaidh uime, fhuair sinn iad a dh'ionnsaigh a' cheidhe far an deach iad air bòrd an dòigh a riarach Seumas Mac-

Gilleathain, maor na h-an-dochann, agus a chompanach á lle.

Chaidh na ruip an sin fhuasgladh 's thug i a cuinnean leathann ri Caolas Charna, agus ma thug, thug cuid againne ar n-aghaidh ris an taigh-thàirne bràigh a' bhruthaich far an robh grunnan de luchd-èolais le car a' mhuiltein de'n leanna. Slàn leibh an dráda,

Is mise,

TAOBH-TUATH FARRAGHAIDHEAL.

SUIL AIR AIS (bho t.d. 117)

céine. Tha gu leòir dhuibh an dreuchdan inbheach, clùiteach, measail, mar is dual do chlann nan Eileanan 's na Gaidhealtachd a bhith.

'S mór am beud e gu bheil cuid mhór de chlachain Innse-Gall air fàs falamh de'n òigridh—sgoiltean 's am b'abhaist suas ri ceud pearsa cloinne a bhith, chan fhaic thu an diugh barrachd air dusan no cóig-deug ag gabhail an rathaid thun an taigh-sgoile. Gu dé is coireach? Tha dreach gu bheil an òigridh a' togail air falbh as na h-Eileanan 's ag cur suas dachaidhean dhaibh féin an ceàrnaibh eile, 's mur tig a' chuid as fhaigse dhuibh air chuart an dráda 's a rithist a choimhead air na dàimhich, cha leig sinn a leas an còrr dùil a bhith riutha. Chan 'eil an teagamh as lugha nach ann san t-seann àite 's an measg luchd-èolais an òige a bu mhath leotha feasgar an latha a chur seachad, ach ciamar a ghabhas siud deanamh 's an dachaidhean mu dheas?

Ciamar is urrainn do'n òigridh an dachaidhean a dheanamh anns na h-Eileanan 's gun obair dhaibh annta? Cha chùim croit no beagan iasgaich an teaghlach gu léir nuair a ruigeas iad aois cosnaidh, 's mar sin 's fheudar dhaibh togail rithe. Air dòigh, 's ann a tha siud gu buannachd Alba is Shasainn agus gu h-àraidh tìrean ceine, oir glé thrìc is iad eileanaich is Gaidheil nan àrd-bheann a gheibhear anns na puist as inbheic 's as cunn-tachail. Mar sin tha sinn a' faicinn ma tha tir an àraich a' dùiltadh lòn dhaibh gu bheil làmhán sgaoilte rompha an tìrean coimheach.

Nam biodh ar Pàrlamaid agus luchd-riaghlaidh ar siorramachdan cho dheasdanach 's cho eumdhor mu thaobh cor ar n-Eileanan 's ar Gaidhealtachd 's a tha iad mu chùisean eile, chan 'eil teagamh nach biodh ar daoine na bu riarachais is fada na b'fheàrr dheth na tha iad.

Chan 'eil eileanach sam bith leis nach bu mhath gach piseach a thighinn air an àite sin bho'n do thriall e agus a bhith ag cluinntinn gum biodh iad ri bhith faotainn co-roinn de gach sochair a chum am feuma. Nach bi sinn beò an dòchas gun tig na làithean sin orra agus gum bi gach sonas is àgh aig muinntir nan Eilean eadar sean agus òg.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN T-SULTUIN, 1950

Aireamh 9

Campa Comunn na h-Oigridh, 1950

CHUMADH Campa na bliadhna seo aig Inbhir Ailleart. Is e seo an ceathramh Campa a chumadh san ionad sin. Bidh cuimhne agaibh gu robh side an àigh againn an uiridh. Cha robh sinn cho fortanach am bliadhna—co-dhiubh anns an dol a mach. Bha an Cuan Sgìth borb ach, a dh'aindeoin sin, thug gach caileag a mach an ceann-uidhe gu sunndach. Ràinig iadsan, ochd-ar-fhichead, air Di-ardaoin, an 29mh là de'n Og-mhios, agus chuir iad seachad aon-là-deug a chòrd riutha. Chuir iad cuairt air a' Ghearasdan, Mòrar, Ceann-Loch-Mùideart, agus àitean eile. Seo mar a chuir caileag e a thaobh turuis a thug iad aon latha briagh, grianach, samhraidh :—

“Latha briagh a bha an siud. Dh'fhalbh sinn air turus a chòrd ruinn uile anabarrach math. Bha a' ghrian a' soillseadh agus cha robh deò ghaoithe ann—fìor latha samhraidh. Chaidh sinn air bòrd bàta aig Loch Ailleart agus thog sinn oirnn sìos an loch. Thadhail sinn aig Gleann Uige air son mionaid no dhà. An dèidh sin, chùm sinn oirnn timcheall air Rubha a' Phuill Bhig agus Eilean Shona. An sin, bha sinn aig Loch Mùideart agus chaidh sinn air tìr aig Caisteal Tioram.

“Air an rathad sìos, chunnaic sinn coaraidh Hìortach air Eilean nan Gobhar, pìos math air falbh uainn Rubha Aird-nam-Murchann agus air an taobh eile Rubha Àrasaig. Chunna sinn cuideachd Eilean Eige agus Eilean nam Muc. B'e fìor shealladh eireachdail a bha ann. Bha deagh chuirm-chnuic againn agus fhad is a bha an coire ag goil, chaidh sinn a steach a choinhead air a' chaisteal. Dh'ìric sinn suas gu a mhullach, chunnaic sinn an toll far am biodh na seòid o chionn fada a dortadh uisge goileach air an naimhdean, nan tigeadh iad chun an doruis. B'abhast tobar a bhith am broinn a' chaisteil agus mar sin cha robh cion uisge orra nuair a bha an làn a staigh agus a bha an t-eilean air a chuartachadh.

“Chan 'eil teagamh nach b'e latha glé thlachdmhor a bha againn, agus tha mi an dòchas gum bi a leithid eile aig caileagan agus balaich a' Champa gach bliadhna.”

AIR fheasgar àlainn, thug mi leam còighear a' chaileag suas taobh Loch Eilt agus leig mi ris dhaibh an càrn mòr a chuireadh suas an latha a thiodhlaicadh seanair an uachdarain—Donnchadh Camshron, Inbhir Ailleart. Tha leacan cloiche ag cuartachadh a' chùirn agus craobhan daraich ag cumail fasgadh air. Mhìnich mi do na caileagan an seann cleachdadh a bha aig ar sinnsrean—ag cur cloiche air a' chàrn agus aig an àm cheudna ag ràdh, “Cuiridh mi clach air do chàrn.” Gun dàil rinn na caileagan air allt a bha sruthadh seachad ri làimh agus gu dùrachdach ghiùlain iad clach an urra agus chuir iad siud air a' chàrn, ag ràdh, “Cuiridh mi clach air 'ur càrn.” Is e rudan beag simplidh mar sin a' ghluaiseas aigne na cloinne agus bidh cuimhne chùbhraidh aca air an fheasgar ud fad iomadh latha.

Air Di-satharna, ràinig Ceann-suidhe a' Chomuinn agus buidheann de'n Ard-chomhairle an Campa. Chuir an t-Urramach Alasdair MacDhòmhnaill, as leth na cloinne, fàilte chridheil orra. Bho'n a bha an latha fliuch, b'fheudar na cluichean is cleasan a chur air chùl ach leig na caileagan ris, le òrain, ceòl-pioba, is dannsadh, gu robh iad a' leantainn gu dlùth ri clù an sinnsre. Thug an Ceann-suidhe taing dhaibh is do Ceannard a' Champa air son na h-oibre ionmholta a bha iad a' deanamh agus chuir an Rùnaire aonta ri sin, a bharrachd air deagh chomhairle a thoirt orra. Thug an Ceannard taing do'n Ceann-suidhe is a' chuideachd a bha leis air son an làthaireachd agus am brosnachadh.

Air an fheasgar sin chumadh céilidh nan caileag an talla mòr a' Chaisteil. Bha Ceannard a' Champa 'na Fhear-taighe agus, fo stiùradh-san, sheinn a' chòisir grunn òran a bharrachd air òrain-aon-neach, òrain-càraid, ceòl-pioba agus dannsadh. Bha sinn uile duilich nach robh e comasach do Eilidh a' bhith cuide ruinn am bliadhna, ach tha na caileagan is na h-inbhich ag cur bheannachdan thuice.

Chumadh seirbhis Ghàidhlig air latha na

Sàbaid agus moch Di-luain thug na caileagan na buinn as. Tha mi toilichte a ràdh gun d'fhuair iad latha àlainn a' dol dhachaidh agus mo bheannachdan aca.

Campa nam Balach

THAINIG na gillean air Di-ardaoin an 24mh là de'n Iuchar, agus cha robh an t-side idir coibhneil fad a' cheud cheithir làithean. Coma, chuir iad cuairt air a' Ghearasdan, Gleann Fhionghuin is àitean eile. Ach bha aon latha mòr aca—'s e sin an latha bha iad mar aoidhean aig a' bhean-uasal Croll agus a mac, Greum. Thread iadsan bàta a thug na balaich bho Loch Ailleart gu Gleann Uige. Bha an latha seo briagh agus gun bheag gaoithe ann. Chòrd an turus mara ris na h-uile. Air dhaibh an ceann-uidhe a thoirt a mach bha a' bhean-uasal is a mac is càirdean eile a' feitheamh riutha agus truinnsaran móra loma-làn de lus-an-làir (*strawberries*) agus uachdar (no cé) mu choinneamh gach gille. Chumadh cleasan air lianaig bhòidheach taobh an taighe agus bha strì nach bu bheag am measg nam balach. Thog sinn an sin oirnn gus an talla agus chumadh céilidh laghach.

An déidh na céilidh, fhuair sinn gabhail ruinn gu math le biadh blasda, agus cha robh air fhàgail ach tàinig nam balach a chur an céill do na h-uaislean a nochd a leithid de choibhneas ruinn. Air an t-slighe dhachaidh chluinn-eadh neach a dh'fhaodadh a bhith taobh an loch "Seblaidh mise null gu tìr chaomh mo rùn" 'ga sheinn le gillean nan eilean. Dh' fhiach sinn uair no dhà air an rionnach ach cha d'fhuair sinn ceann. Is dòcha gu robh a' ghrian ro àrd auns an speur, co-dhiubh is e sin a thuirf an sgiobair.

Air feasgar briagh chumadh cleasan nan gillean aig a' Champa. Chumadh céilidh nam balach ann an talla mòr a' Chaisteil air oidhche Shatharna, agus moch Di-luain thug iad an aghaidhean air an dachaidhean féin aon uair eile.

Bu toigh leam taing chridheil a thabhairt do'n uachdaran, Mgr. Camshron-Head, is a chéile chaomh air son gach coibhneis a nochd iad ris a' chloinn is ris na h-inbhich rè side a' Champa agus mar an ceudna do na h-inbhich a chaidh gu uèhd an dichill gus an Campa a' dheanamh soirbheachail agus toilichte.

DOMHNALL MACPHAIL.
(Ceannard a' Champa).



AIG CAMPA NAN CAILEAG

Litir Eachainn

THA an clò-bhualadair an ulla ri falbh air a làithean féille an ùine ghoirid, agus is coltach gu bheil e air mhianan an *Gàidheal* a bhith aige, co-dhiubh, air na stocan mum falbh e. Thàinig gairm ormsa “Litir Eachainn” a bhith air aghaidh chuipe cho luath 's a tha e 'nam chomas. Eadar sin agus gu bheil céis nan sgeul ùra, mar a bha sarrag Dhòmhnaill, dlùth air a bhith falamb, tha mi an dùil nach bi litir a' mhios seo ach goirid. “Mur a bi, mo thogair!” tha mi an dùil gu bheil mi ag cluinntinn aon no aon-eigin agaibh ag ràdh.

A nis, is cinnteach, ged nach d'fhuair mi uile gu léir dearbhadh air, gu bheil Camp Comunn na h-Oigridh le a chòmhlanan dùinte a rithist, is sibhse, a chlann, a bha ann gun air fhàgail agaibh ach bhur cuimhne air na seachdainean caidreach a bha agaibh. Tha mise an dòchas gur e cuimhne thaitneach a bhios agaibh uile air sin. Chan 'eil a' chuihne fhéin agamsa air, oir, an déidh gach fhughair a bha agam ris, cha d'fhuair mi a' chuairt ud a bha 'nam rùn a thoirt ann an déidh na h-uile rud. Cha mhò a fhuair mi fios sam bith bho aon de na bha ann no a' bheag de chùntas air ciamar a chaidh dhuibh; seadh, cha d'fhuair mi fios no crois air ciod a bha a' dol air aghaidh, ach a mhàin na dh'innseadh dhomh le Niall (mar a thug mi dhuibh mar thà) mu'n chuairt a thug buill na Comhairle gu'r n-amharc air Di-sathuirne an déidh na coinneimh-ghnothaich a bha aca anns a' Ghearasdan. Cha d'fhuair mise chon na coinneimh sin mar a bha sùil agam, oir thàinig cnap-starra anns an rathad nach 'eil aobhar air a ainmeachadh an seo. Mar sin, an rud nach d'fhuair mi chan urrainn dhomh a thoirt dhuibh.

A nis, bha mi ag innseadh dhuibh an litir an Iuchair mu'n chuillean bheag choin, Conaidh, a chaidh ceum de'n rathad leam a' mhadainn a dh'fhàg mi an t-seann dachaidh an Eilearaig an toiseach. Leugh mo charaid, Iain MacCalum, mar a tha e a' leughadh gach aon dhuibh, an litir ud, agus air dhà a bhith a' bruidhinn rium oirre, is air gliocas nan con an cumantas, nach ann a dh'innis e rò-sgeul anabarrach dhomh mu chuillean coin a bha aca fhéin aon uair. Ma chreideas sibhse an sgeul seo a bha aig Iain, chaidh tuille de bhuidhean a' chreideimh a luigheasachadh dhuibh na dh'fhiosraich mise.

“Cho luath 's a dh'èirighinn anns a' mhadainn,” arsa esan, “bha e 'na chleachdadh

agam an dorus-cùil fhosgladh 's an cù a leigeil a mach; agus is ann air-san a bhiodh an sodan an uair a gheibheadh e cead leum a mach. Ach cha bu toigh leis an t-uisge, agus, nam biodh sìleadh ann, is ann air èiginn a rachadh e a mach idir. A' mhadainn seo, bha an dile uisge ann; agus an uair a dh'fhosgail mise an dorus cha do rinn an cù ach dùr amharc orm anns an dà shùil, agus thar na stairsnich cha rachadh e.”

“Rinn mi an sin air an dorus-bheòil gum am bainne a' thoirt a staigh,” arsa Iain, “agus lean an cù mi, mar gum biodh e ag ràdh ris fhéin, ‘Chan fhaod nach bi gnothaichean nas fheàrr an seo’; ach, an uair a dh'fhosgail mise an dorus-beòil bha an dile a muigh dìreach mar a bha i aig an dorus-chùil. Thug an cù an sin sùil mhì-chiatach orm, is arsa esan, ‘Leth na truaighe, Iain, tha an dòrtadh uisge a tha air an taobh seo cho dona ris an taobh-chùil fhéin!’”

SIN agaibh an naidheachd a dh'fhiach Iain Sri thoirt ormsa a chreidsinn. Tha mise cinnteach, mar a bha mi fhéin, gur e a' chuid ud dhith far an do bhruidhinn an cù is a thug e a bheachd air an aimsir nach 'eil sibhse ag creidsinn; creididh mi fhéin an còrr dhith, oir dh'fhiosraich mi rud-eigin coltach ris mi fhéin; agus, an déidh na h-uile ni, nach bi còmhradh glé eirmseach aig Bus-dubh is Blàran air na duilleagan seo féin mìos an déidh mìos; agus chan e mhàin coin is ainmhidhean eile do an robh na Gàidheil a' toirt comas-labhairt. Bu mbath na freagairtean a bha “Struilleag” (bàta bàn a' chùbair) a' toirt air a fear-seilbh, mar gum b'e i fhéin a bha a' bruidhinn. Agus co-cheangailte ri seo, dh'fhaodainn innseadh dhuibh gu bheil sgeul againn an seann beul-aithris na h-Eireann mu chlàrsach air an do bhuilicheadh comas labhairt. Rinneadh a' chlàrsach seo de fhiodh craoibhe shònraichte do'n d'innseadh diùbhrais is i fathast a' fàs anns a' choille le gille òg a fhuair fiosrachadh a bha e ri a chleith; ach bha an fiosrachadh seo ag cur a leithid de dhragh air 's gum feumadh e an sgeul aithris, no nach seasadh a inntinn ris an imeist a dh'aobharaich i dha. Chan 'eil mi a' dol a dh'innseadh a' chorra de'n rò-sgeul neònach seo dhuibh an seo, oir tha i uile agaibh anns an leabhar-sgoile ghasda, “*An Approach to Gaelic*,” a tha an ceartair air a chur a mach leis a' Chomunn Ghàidhealach, obair an deagh sgoileir, Ailean Mac-Gilleathain, an Tobar-Mhoire. Gheibh sibh

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 35)

an rò-sgeul seo, "Labhraidh Loingseach" air taobh-duilleig 44 de'n leabhar seo, le iomadh rud math eile air feadh an leabhair uile.

Agus a nis, bidh Mòd againn mun bi an ath sheanachas againn. Tha mi an dòchas gum bi na h-uiread agaibh aig a' Mhòd sin, agus gun téid dhuibh gu math an nì sam bith ris an tionndaidh sibh bhur guth no bhur làmh.

Bhur Caraid Dileas,
EACHANN MACDRUGHAILL.

AN T-ASTAR A THEID RON

Le DONNCHADH DOMHNALLACH
(Peighinn Aoirinn, Uibhist a Deas)

BHA peata ròin aig Mac Mhic Ailein ann an Ormicleit an Uibhist a' Chinn a Deas uair-eigin de'n t-saoghal, agus bhiodh an ròn a' falbh a h-uile là a dh'ionnsaigh a' chladaich a dh'iasgach, agus cha robh feasgar sam bith nach robh e tilleadh dhachaidh, agus cha saoilleadh duine sam bith gun deach e na b'fhaide na an cladach a bha m'a choinneamh agus a bu ghiorra dha.

Ach feasgar de na feasgair an seo cha do thill an ròn dhachaidh idir mar a b'abhaist dha, agus chuir sin cùram air Mac Mhic Ailein. Ghabh e amharus gu robh rud-eigin ceàrr o nach do thill an ròn mar a b'abhaist dha. Agus uair-eigin an làrna-mhàireach thill an ròn, agus bha gath 'na chliathaich. Agus thug Mac Mhic Ailein an gath as an ròn, agus bha ceann airgid air a' ghath agus litrichean sgriobhte ann, agus chroch Mac Mhic Ailein an gath air staing anns an rùm agus chailleadh an ròn ri linn an leòin a chaidh a dheanamh air.

Ach uair air chor-eigin treis de dh'ùine an déidh sin thàinig soitheach do thé de na lochannan a bh'air an oighreachd, agus thàinig am maighistir agus duine no dithis de na bha air bòrd còmhla ris a choinhead air Mac Mhic Ailein, agus chaidh an cur g'an rùm agus, mar a bha nàdurra, chaidh biadh is deoch a thoirt dhaibh ann.

Agus gu dé a thug maighistir an t-soithich an aire dha ach dh'an ghat, agus dh'fhaigheach e de Mhac Mhic Ailein ciamar a thachair dha tighinn 'na lùib-san, agus dh'innis Mac Mhic Ailein dha, facal air an fhacal, mar a bha mu dheidhinn an ròin agus mar a thàinig e dhachaidh agus an gath 'na chliathaich; agus dh'fhalbh e agus leig e far an staing an gath agus shin e do mhaighistir an t-soithich e.

"Ma tà," arsa maighistir an t-soithich ris an uair sin, "'s e an t-ainm agamsa a tha an seo anns a' ghat, agus 's ann air uisge na Bainne ann an Eirinn a loisg mi air an ròn."

Agus tha sin, a nis, a' toirt fradhairc dhuinn air dé cho fada 's a théid ròn ann an ùine ghoird.

SGEULACHD

BHA siud ann aon uair ann an Uibhist a Deas seann duine aig an robh trìuir mhac. Bha an dithis bu shine glé mhath air piobaireachd, ach am fear a b'òige cha robh e ro mhath idir.

A nis an uair a bha Clann Mhic Cruimein ann an Dun-bheagan chuala iad mu na gillean a bha seo. Mu dheireadh smaointich iad tighinn do Uibhist fìach am faiceadh iad có a b'fheàrr air piobaireachd, iad fhéin no na gillean aig a' bhodach.

Nuair a ràinig iad cha robh gillean a' bhodaich a staigh agus dh'innis e dhaibh nach biodh iad air ais gu ceann latha no dhà.

Aig an àm seo bha an gille òg a muigh a' buachailleachd air cnoc uaine nuair a chuala e an ceòl bu bhinne a chuala e riann. Ann an tiotan smaointich e gur e sidhean a bha anns a' chnoc. Chaidh e chun an doruis agus mun deachaidh e staigh chuir e bior anns an dorus a chionn, nan deanadh e sin, gheibheadh e mach a rithist. Chaidh e a staigh agus dh'iarr e air a' bhodach a bha ag cluich na pioba am port ionnsachadh dha. Dh'iarr am bodach air a theanga a chur 'na bheul. Rinn esan sin agus dh'ionnsaich e am port. Nuair a ràinig e an taigh bha Clann Mhic Cruimein a staigh roimhe agus dh'iarr iad air a' phlob a chluich fìach có dhiubh a b'fheàrr, esan no iad féin. Thubhairt am bodach nach robh slon a dh'fheum anns a' ghille ud.

"Chan 'eil sin gu deifir," arsa iadsan. "Fiachadh e co-dhiubh, bitheadh e math no dona."

Chuir an gille suas a' phlob agus chluich e am port a dh'ionnsaich an sidhiche dha.

Nuair a chuala Clann Mhic Cruimein an ceòl briagha seo thubhairt iad, "Mas e sin am fear as miosa, chan 'eil e gu slon a dh'fheum dhuinne fiachainn ris an fheadhainn as fearr!"

Agus leis an sin thill iad air ais do Dhun-bheagan.

IAIN MACRUAIRIDH.
(Sgoil Dhail-a-brog).

Thall 's a Bhos

NOTES AND COMMENTS

"Iain an Fhèilidh"

IT is always a pleasure to hear from or of our good friend, Mr. I. M. Moffatt-Pender. Our most recent communication from him is an interesting little leaflet about the Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria, Australia. Mr. Moffatt-Pender is the chief of the Society, which was founded in 1906. The Society's aim is to promote the study and cultivation of the Gaelic language and literature, and this it seeks to do by organising meetings, ceilidhs, social gatherings, religious services, lectures and language-classes.

Among the leaders of the Society have been Mr. Donald Campbell (from Lochbroom), Mr. Charles Mackinnon (of Skve descent), Mr. Malcolm Mackenzie Smith (from Leurbost, Lewis), Mr. William MacRaid (from Arisaig), Mr. Alexander Macdonald (from Boreraig, North Uist), Dr. Donald Stewart MacColl (from Lochaber), and last but not least, the Rev. James Noble Mackenzie, veteran missionary to the lepers.

Skye Eventide Home

HERE could be no more fitting form of memorial to the late Mr. Duncan Macleod of Skocabost than that which the Glasgow Skye Association propose, namely, a Home for Old Folks in the Isle of Skye. In recent years many such "Eventide Homes" have been established, and we hope that Skye people, at home and abroad, will with speed and generosity provide the necessary funds, and so perpetuate the memory of a man whose generosity was unstinted.

Pen-Pal Wanted

MR. Uilleam R. Bennett, 2510 Monterey Street, Bakersfield, California, U.S.A., has written to say that he has just become a subscriber to "An Gaidheal" and enjoys it very much (we thank him for the compliment), and that he has begun to study Gaelic but has no one to help him with his studies, especially the "peculiar pronunciations". He will be glad to enter into correspondence with "a Scottish lad or lass who is also a student of the language." Will anyone inter-

ested please write to Mr. Bennett?

Mr. Bennett seems to think he is "the only one south of the Canadian Border" learning

Gaelic. "There are many Scots here," he adds, "but none of them are Highlandmen." There are, however, quite a number of enthusiastic Gaelic folk in California, and if our good friend, Seumas MacGairaidh, or any other Gael in California reads this, will they please communicate with Mr. Bennett?

LOCAL MODS

ARDNAMURCHAN

THE Ardnamurchan Provincial Mod was held at Strontian on 27th June. The standards attained in Gaelic and music both by seniors and juniors was very high, although the number of entries, particularly in the senior competitions, showed a slight decrease from last year.

The evening concert was presided over by the Hon. Mrs. Maclean of Ardgour, Convener of the Local Mod Committee. Mr. John MacNaughton, Oban, Convener of Argyll County Education Committee, and Mr. Neil Shaw, Secretary of An Comunn, both addressed the audience in Gaelic and English.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Rev. A. D. Maclean, Ardgour, Rev. A. J. Maclean, Fort William, Rev. M. A. MacCorquodale, Kinlochleven, and Mr. Neil Shaw; for Music, Mr. D. Yacamini, Perth, and Mr. M. G. MacCallum, Campbeltown.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Reading at sight—Mary MacNaughton, Newton. Recitation—Ann Connel, Lochaline. Recitation (learners)—Jessie Graham, Achale. Conversation—Marjory MacPherson, Shielfoot.

Solo-singing: girls—Isobel Gillies, Lochaline. Boys—Alasdair Maclean, Strontian. Learners—Janet Henry, Claggan. Duet—Morag Brown and Neileen Munro, Strontian.

Choral singing—Lochaline Junior Choir.

Special prize presented by Mr. Alasdair Cameron, Bunalteachain, for junior choir with highest marks in Gaelic—Acharacle School Choir.

Senior Section

Reading at sight—Donald Cameron, Ardtornish.

Solo-singing (own choice): ladies—Sheila F. Dewar, Acharacle. Men—James Scoular,

Lochaline. Singing a Morven song (prizes presented by the Glasgow Morven Association)—Jean Brown, Lochaline. Silver Pendants (for solo-singing): ladies—Sheila F. Dewar. Men—Ian Cameron, Lochaline. Learners—Jessie Stewart, Killohan. Former prize-winners only—Sheila F. Dewar.

Handicraft prize—Donald Cameron.

VANCOUVER

THE 16th annual mod of An Comunn Gaidhealach in Vancouver was held on 20, 21, and 22 April, and concluded with a Grand Concert.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Rev. Murdo Nicholson; for Music, Mr. Ifor Roberts.

The first-prize winners were:—Gaelic letter—J. C. Macdonald Hay, California. Original poem—Donald Macdonald, Vancouver. Translation to Gaelic—Malcolm Campbell, California. Christmas Carol in Gaelic—Malcolm Campbell, California. Translation to English—J. R. Macdonald, Nevada, U.S.A. Double translation—Malcolm Campbell, California. Championship Cup—Malcolm Campbell, California.

Prepared reading—Catherine Murray. Recitation (elementary)—Dr. Bradley. Unprepared reading—John Macdonald. Gaelic speech—John Macdonald. Recitation (advanced)—Dr. Bradley. Dialogue—Malcolm Campbell and John Nicolson.

Solo-singing. Boys and girls under 8—Joey Ann Macleod. Over 8—Anne Finlayson. Boys, 10-12—Johnny Macdonald. Girls, 10-12—Margaret MacAskill. Boys, 12-15—Kenneth Warwick. Juvenile Duet—Catherine and Johnny Macdonald.

Solo-singing. Men (open)—Archie MacVicar. Hebridean songs—Kathleen MacKillop. Ladies (open)—Mrs. R. A. Macdonald. Men (traditional)—Donald Mackay. Duet—Jean and Mairi MacLennan. Puirt-a-beul—A. Finlayson. Seattle Cup—Myrtle Gillies.

The SCOTTISH CENTRE

HISTORY OF ARGYLL (Up to the Sixteenth Century). Colin M. MacDonald	15/-
DAYS WITH THE GOLDEN EAGLE. David Stephen	3/6
TALES OF DUNVEGAN. Brenda MacLeod	6/-
THE PIPER'S TUNE (A New Novel). George Blake	10/6
SELECTED POEMS OF MARION ANGUS.	8/6
MOIDART AND MORAR. Wendy Wood	10/-
GALIC IN SCOTTISH EDUCATION AND LIFE. J. L. Campbell	3/6
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Ged a tha àireamh dhealbh-chluichean againn anns a' Ghàidhlig cheana, tha iarraidh air mòran a bharrachd, oir tha ùidh mhór anns an dràma a nis, an dà chuid anns a' Ghaidhealtachd agus air a' Ghalldachd. Bu mhaith nan sgrìobhadh daoine comasach dealbh-chluichean ùra dhuinn anns a' Ghàidhlig, agus tha sinn taingeil gu bheil iad ann a rinn 's a tha deanamh sin. Ach, gus cur ris an àireamh a tha dhìth air luchd-dràma, feumar feadhainn eadar-theangachadh as a' Bheurla, agus tha Comhairle Chlò-bhualaidh a' Chom-uinn Ghaidhealaich, fo stiùradh an Fhìrghairme, Mgr. Lachlann MacFhionghuin, air dol an sàs anns an obair sin gu h-ealamh. Cheana chuir iad an clò dà dhealbh-chluich le Iain MacMhathainn agus Ragnall Dòmhnallach. F'am chomhair an dràsda tha ceithir eile, air ùr-thighinn as a' chlò-bheairt.

CAIMBEULACH NA CILLE MOIRE, air eadar-theangachadh le Dòmhnall MacDhòmhnaill (Eirisgeidh), bho "*Campbell of Kilmhor*," le I. A. Feargustan. An seo tha gnòthaichean smaointinneil a' tachairt am broinn bothain ònachdail air an rathad eadar an Sruthan agus Raithneach greiseag an déidh Bliadhna Thairlaich. Tha am fear-lagha, Gilleasbuig Caimbeul (Fear na Cille Móire), agus Caitean Sandeman agus na saighdearan dearga air tòir nam fògarach ('s nach fhaod, 's dòcha, am Prionnsa fhéin bhith 'nam measg?), 's tha iad a' tighinn do'n bhothan 's a' deanamh gréim air Dùghall Stiùbhart, gille òg, an làthair a mhàthar. Chan 'eil math dhomh an còrr innse. 'S e dealbh-chluich glé chomasach a tha an seo anns a' Bheurla, agus tha e a cheart cho math anns a' Ghàidhlig.

AN T-SUIRGHE FHADALACH, eadar-theangachadh a rinn Fionnlagh I. MacDhòmhnaill air "*Love Lingers On*," le Gordon Wright. 'S e dealbh-chluich àbhachdach a tha an seo, agus thug e iomadh gàire orm fhéin eadhon 'ga leughadh. Bu mhath leam fhàicinn 'ga chluich air an àrd-ùrlar. Tha Somhairle Iain Ruaidh a' suirghe o chionn dusan bliadhna air Annag, nighean Sheòrais Chalum Mhóir agus Sìne, a bhean. Le còmhnaidh bho Raonaid, piuthar Sìne (boireannach mór foghainteach air bheag mhaise) agus Peigi (caileag òg—"a' bhòidheadh nach do bhualicheadh oirre, cheannaich i"), rinn Annag 's a h-athair an gnòthach air Somhairle bochd agus chaidh an là a shuidheachadh, agus dhìol Somhairle air

son na dh'ith e de dh'uinneanan is sausages an taigh Sheòrais!

AN T-AIRGIOD-CINN, eadar-theangachadh a rinn Lachlann MacFhionghuin air "*The Rising of the Moon*" le Lady Gregory.

MUINNTRÌ A' CHUAIN, eadar-theangachadh a rinn Ailean MacGilleathain air "*Riders to the Sea*," le J. M. Synge.

Choisinn an dà chluich Eireannach seo cliù o chionn iomadh bliadhna, agus tha iad a nis air an tionndadh gu Gàidhlig fhallainn, nàdurra, agus bitheadh iad gu mór-fheum do luchd-dràma.

Tha na leabhraichean seo air an cur a mach anns a' Ghàidhlig leis a' Chomunn Ghaidhealach, agus air an reic air dà thasdan an urra. Ma tha buidheann-dràma air son gin dhiubh a chur an gleus, feumar cead iarraidh orra-san d'am buin na còirichean agus clis a phàidheadh dhaibh.

Irish Folklore

BEALOIDEAS: The Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society, Vol. XVIII (Educational Company of Ireland, Dublin, 200 pp., 10s.).

This invaluable publication, edited by Professor Delargy, has reached its 18th annual volume, and the 18th provides as rich and varied material as any of the previous ones. One very interesting contribution is "Seanchas O Mhanainn," which consists of several Manx tales, with English translation. The material was selected from a compilation made by a Manxman, Edward Faragher (1831-1908). He spent a large part of his life fishing off the Irish coast. He had a very retentive memory and a unique knowledge of old Manx lore. He translated 313 of Aesop's fables into Manx in four months. In twenty years he composed over a thousand songs.

Professor Delargy contributes two Irish versions of the old tale "Prince Alexander." A Scottish Gaelic version, which came from the MacMhuirichs and was written down from Janet Currie, South Uist, ninety years ago, was printed by the late J. G. MacKay in *Scottish Gaelic Studies*, Vol. III, (1931), p.161 ("Cànain nan Eun"). Recently I heard a much fuller version from Mr. Duncan MacDonald, Peninerine, South Uist.

A lengthy article deals with "Traditions about Donn," an old Celtic God who figures under different aspects both in ancient literary texts and in current tradition. Are there

traces of "Donn" in our Scottish Gaelic traditions?

Tadhg O Murchadha writes interestingly about "Sealaithe dob aithnid dom"—story-tellers whom he knew. He pays tribute to the fine work done by Professor Delargy ("fear a mhosgail sùim air seanchas nan daoine agus am fear a b'fheàrr thuig a thàbhachd"), and closes on a note of regret, which we in Scotland also share: "Tha na seann daoine ag imeachd bhuainn, agus chan fhada bhuainn a nis an là nuair a thig deireadh air luchd an t-seanchais" (Seo mo chuid Ghàidhlig-sa air na sgrìobh esan an Gàidhlig na h-Eireann).

There are other useful articles also, and altogether this new volume is full of interest from cover to cover.

New Gaelic Songs

CUAIRTEAR NAN GAIDHEAL, by Donald Maclean (Alex. MacLaren & Sons, Glasgow, 3/6).

Mr. Maclean, who is of Skye and Harris parentage, has his home in England but, like many other exiled Gaels, he often thinks of "An t-Eilean Lurach." He also has both the poet's eye and the poet's facility to express the vision of the "inward eye."

In this modestly got-up little booklet, Mr. Maclean gives us nine Gaelic songs—all his own composition—with melodies and pianoforte accompaniments by Mr. Andrew J. Orr (the music is in both staff and sol-fa).

There are love-songs and patriotic songs (with one beautiful little hymn in English—"Angel of Peace"). Mr. Hector MacDougall provides Gaelic and English Prefaces, in which he commends the simple but fitting language of these songs. "His love lyrics are particularly pleasing, smooth-flowing, and rhythmic. They are here set to music by a competent hand, and they should prove popular at concerts and ceilidhs."

We cordially commend this addition to the library of Gaelic music, and we hope that it will meet with such a welcome from the public as will encourage the author to publish more of his work.

Map na h-Eireann

LEAR-SGAIL NA H-EIREANN.

O chionn ghoirid thàinig chugam bho arcaid, "An Seabhadh," leth-bhreac de'n Léar-Sgáil, no map, a tha an seo. Tha e air a chur a mach le Comhluchd Oideachais na h-Eireann. Chan i seo a' cheud uair a chuir-eadh an léar-sgáil seo an clò. Tha agam cheana leth-bhreac de'n mhap seo a thàinig a mach àireamh bhliadhnachan air ais. B'e Tomás O hAodha a rinn a' cheud mhap, agus 's e

"An Seabhadh" e fhéin a rinn ath-leasachadh agus ceartachadh air an fhear ùr seo.

Tha an léar-sgáil trì òirlich dheug air àirde agus deich òirlich air leud. Tha na conntaidhean (no na siorrachdan) air an comharrachadh a mach le caochladh dhathan, agus tha na bailtean beaga agus móra, seann bhàran-catha, àitean sònraichte eile, na rathaidean-iarainn, na rathaidean-móra agus na slighean-mara uile air an taisbeanadh gu soilleir.

Is ann an Gàidhlig na h-Eireann a tha ainmean nan àitean uile air an cur sìos, agus tha e 'na fhosgladh-sùla do neach dearbh ainm Eireannach fhaotainn do na h-àitean as aithne dhuinn fo ainmean coirbte am Beurla Shasainn. A bheil fhios agad air an ainm cheart Eireannach air *Donegal*? Sin agad "Dùn nan Gall." *Tyrone*—"Tìr Eoghain." *Sligo*—"Sligeach." *Tipperary*—"Tìobraid Arann."

Càite a bheil am "Muir Meann"? Sin agad ainm glé aosda air a' chuan eadar Èire is Sasann. "Sruth na Maoile"? Sin agad an caolas eadar Maol Chinntire agus Antruim.

Ann a bhith coimeas an dà mhap ri chèile—an seann fhear agus am fear ùr—chì mi àireamh atharrachaidhean. 'S e "An Fhairge Mhór" a tha air *Atlantic Ocean* anns a' cheud mhap. 'S e "An Aigéan Atlantach" a tha air a nis.

Chan aithne dhomh pris a' mhap seo, ach cha chreid mi gu bheil e daor idir.

B'fheàrr gu robh a leithid againn fhéin air son na h-Albann. Chan aithne dhomh ach dà oidhirp cheana air map Gàidhlig na h-Albann a dheanamh, ach, math 's gu robh iad 'nan dòigh fhéin, cha leòr a h-aon seach aon dhiubh. Tha mi tuigsinn gu bheil aon de na sgoilearan Gàidhlig againn ag ullachadh map an ceartair, ach cuin no ciamar a chuirear an clò e, chan aithne dhomh. 'S e obair chosgail a bhios ann, agus—mo thruaighe!—chan 'eil e idir soirbh airgead fhaotainn an Albainn air son ghnòthaichean de'n t-seòrsa sin.

A Clan Magazine

THE CLAN MACLEOD MAGAZINE, No.15 (1950), edited by the Rev. Donald Mackinnon, has recently appeared. In addition to the Chief's letter and news about clan activities, there are interesting articles on "The MacQueens of Skye," "The Martins of Skye," "The Early History of Glengarry (Canada)," "MacLeods in France," "Murdo MacLeod, the Lewis Bard," and "The MacLeods of Colbeck, Jamaica." This magazine has much of interest for many who do not happen to be MacLeods. There are several good photographs, including one of Murdo MacLeod, author of "Eilean an Fhraoich."

Ann's a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

"The Land of Donnacha Ban"

Sir,—By the year 1760 Ben Dorain, Corry Cheathaich, the "Corrigeig" of the charter, and the whole surrounding tract of country which had been strictly reserved by our kings, far beyond the period of records, as a hunting-ground was under sheep. Less than fourteen years after Culloden the regime that had lasted for ages was swept away. The stock of deer had never been heavy, and it was an easy matter to place the sheep on the hills. Donnacha Ban, not being of the stuff of which shepherds are made, removed from Badour (Corry Cheathaich) to Dalness, where he appears to have found employment with the tenant-farmer, and he remained there for about three years. There are various places in the vicinity associated with him, such as Tom-na-Gunnarach, where he tried his skill with his gun against his neighbours, and Coinleiter where he spent convivial evenings in the change-house. From this it can be gathered that the Bard's service as an assistant to the forester was a short one, and nothing like twenty years. As the sheep reached Ben Dorain he removed to Corry Cheathaich where the sheep quickly followed him.

It was usual for the forester to receive a small fee in addition to his holding and meal, but, as he had to pay his assistants, all he gave them was a free croft and meal, mostly bear. Even large tenant-farmers paid their rent partly in bear-meal, as old leases clearly show. The Bard was never the forester, neither was he ever the official fox-hunter (as is sometimes said).

It may interest "Creag Mhor" to know that I can remember Ewen Campbell, who was born before the Bard died and spent a very long life on the Blackmount. He was locally known as "Eoghann Beag". He was a mine of information about local history and people, and to those willing to listen he would sit by his fireside with his snuff-box and talk about the old days for long enough. I remember him as a very frail old man, often at loggerheads with his housekeeper, who however bore patiently with him. He died at Torr Uaine far past the Psalmist's allotted span just after the turn of the century.

The court held at Finlarig in 1621 passed many acts which had all the force of an Act of Parliament. But they were not new; rather it was a case of codifying and consolidating the many rules and regulations governing the tenants, cottars, and other dwellers on the laird

of Glenorchy's properties that had been in force for generations, and they continued in force down to the period of the "45," and certainly affected the youthful days of the Bard. The acts of the court touched the people's lives at many points, such as peat-cutting, muir-burn, poaching, gardens, fences, houses, cutting broom, middens, shielings, wolves, crows, etc., quarrels, straying animals, pounds, stealing, women drinking, beggars, and many other things; even a constable was appointed to test the strength of the ale the brewer sold, and so on. There was a pound at Badour and it was enacted that each cow found within the bounds of Corry Cheathaich cost the owner 40/- and each mare five marks of unlaw. Patrick Campbell, ancestor of Donnacha Ban's employer, was then forester.

The first printing of the Bard's poems had no biographical sketch; the second had one page; which was gradually extended in succeeding issues to six pages.

Questions (a), (b), (c) are perhaps best left alone, as no definite information is known to me, but the Bard's wife's maiden name was Macintyre, and I rather think that a family of Macintyres who at one time lived in Glenorchy was of the same race.—J. E. S.

THE LATE FATHER DIECKHOFF

WE regret to record the death of the Rev. Father Henry Cyril Dieckhoff, O.S.B., which took place at the Benedictine Abbey, Fort Augustus, on 5th August.

Father Dieckhoff, who was in his 82nd year, entered the Abbey in 1891, was ordained priest in 1897, and ministered in several Highland parishes.

With a command of several other languages, he began to learn Gaelic after he became a priest, and in course of time came to have considerable mastery of the language.

In 1932—having spent fourteen years on it—he published the book which will long secure for him a high place among Gaelic scholars—"A Pronouncing Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic." This work was "based on the Glegarry dialect according to oral information obtained from natives born before the middle of last century." A Comunn Gaidhealach gave a grant towards the cost of publishing this book.

Fr. Dieckhoff also made valuable contributions to the *Revue Celtique*, *Scottish Gaelic Studies*, and the *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness*.

Iomhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod—Dunoon, 1950

Received at Dunoon—

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D. A. MacLachlan, Esq., Ballachulish, Argyll	0	8	0

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NATIONAL MOD, DUNOON, 1950

The Mod arrangements are as follows:—

OFFICIAL OPENING

All members are invited to attend the Official Opening on Monday, 2nd October, in the Pavilion, Dunoon, at 7.45 p.m. Admission card will be sent out with the notices for the Annual General Meeting.

CIVIC RECEPTION

A limited number of invitations were made available to members for the Civic Reception in the Pavilion, Dunoon, on the Wednesday evening, 4th October.

CEILIDH

On the Wednesday evening in "The Cosy Corner" a Ceilidh will be provided for members and friends not attending the Civic Reception. Free tickets may be had from the Secretary's office at the Mod.

CONCERTS

Junior Concert on Tuesday, 3rd October, at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion. Admission:— 3/- (Reserved) and 2/- (Unreserved).

Rural Choir Concerts on Thursday, 5th October— in the Pavilion at 7 p.m. and in "The Cosy Corner" at 7.30 p.m. Admission:— 3/6 (Reserved) and 2/6 (Unreserved).

Grand Concerts on Friday, 6th October, in the Pavilion—the First Concert at 6.30 p.m. and the Second Concert at 8.45 p.m. Admission:— 5/- (Reserved) and 3/6 (Unreserved).

Application for tickets for any of the above Concerts should be made to Mr. J. N. Shankland, at the Catherine Mary Home, Argyll Road, Dunoon (and not at his home address as inadvertently directed in the circular posted to members). Mr. Shankland may not have tickets to offer for reserved seats at the Grand Concerts, but anyone procuring a ticket at the lower price will be sure of a seat.

Everything is being done in Dunoon to ensure the smooth running of the Mod, and we appeal to competitors to co-operate with the Chairmen and Stewards.

—N. S.

Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

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Farquhar MacRae, Esq., M.A., B.Sc., Glasgow	2	12	7
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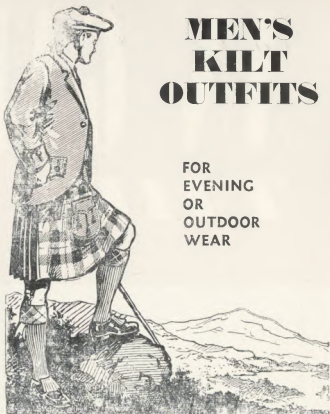
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OBAIR A' CHOMUINN

AIG àm a bhith sgrìobhadh na cuibhriinn seo tha am Mòd Mòr an Dun-Obhainn a' tarraing glé dhùth, agus bithidh na co-fharpaisich is na còisirean trang 'gan ullachadh féin fa' chomhair na strì. An uair a ruigeas iad Dun-Obhainn chì iad toradh dìcheall càirdean na Gàidhlig anns a' chearn sin. agus iad a nis air oidhirpean mòra a dheanamh a chum 's gum bi gach neach a ruigeas Dun-Obhainn cho comhfhurtail toilichte 's is urrainn.

Mòr is buannachdail 's gu bheil am Mòd Mòr. chan 'eil ann ach aon chomharradh follaiseach air obair a' Chomuinn. Air a' bhliadhna seo cheana bha àireamh mhór de Mhòdan Dùtcheail againn thall 's a bhos. Tha iad sin a' deanamh do na ceàrnan aca fhéin mar a tha am Mòd Nàiseanta a' deanamh air son na dùthcha gu h-iomlan—'s e sin, a bhith cumail ri crann bratach na Gàidhlig.

Tha a nis faisg air trì fichead bliadhna bho chruinnich còmhlan beag de dhaoine dileas fad-sheallach anns an Oban gu bhith suidheachadh bunaitèan a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich. agus 's e am Mòd seo a tha romhainn an seachdamh mòd thar an dà fhichead a chumadh.

Is anabarrach an t-saothair agus an oidhirp rè nam bliadhnaich na tha sin uile ag gabhail a' stèach. Agus ciod a' bhannachd a lean, no an do lean maith sam bith? Sin ceist nach còir dhuinn seachnadh.

Ciod iad na nithean mu'm bn chòir dhuinn a bhith glé thaing-eil? 'S e a' cheud ni, a rèir mo bheachd, gun do mhair an Comunn cho fada, gun bhriseadh

sam bith a thiginn air, agus gun lasachadh 'na saothair, ach, an àite sin, a' sìor dhol o neart gu neart.

Faodar a ràdh le firinn nach robh riamh linn ann cho buair-easach, mi-chinnteach, luasgach ris na trì fichead bliadhna bho shuidheachadh an Comunn, agus gu sònraichte na bliadhnaich bho 1914. Chan e mhàin dà chogadh mòr sgriosail a thig mórán dhùtcheannan is mórán ùghdarrasan bun os cionn, ach tha nithean cumhachdach eile ag greimeachadh air iuntinnean dhaoine, a' toirt dhaibh leis an aon làimh agus a' toirt bhnapa leis an làimh eile.

Tha mòran de chomhfhurtan is ghoireasan againn an digh air nach cuala ar n-athraichean iomradh. Tha mòran de innealan is innealachdan ùra iongantach againn. Air an làimh eile, tha cunnartan a' bagradh nas uamhasaiche na chuir sgàile riamh roimhe air cloinn nan daoine. Ach—saoilidh mi—'s e an ni as miosa buileach gu bheil beachdan is dòighean-smaoineachaidh a' sgaoleadh air feadh an t-saoghail agus a' mùchadh mòran de sheann nithean nasal.

Chan ann a mhàin ann an Albainn a tha daoine an cunnart gum bi seann chànanan is sinnearan agus seann litreachas na dùthcha a' dol à cleachdadh is á cuimhne. Bha iomadh ni am beatha is beusan ar n-athraichean a bha còir an leigil seachad, ach bha iomadh ni eile aca a dh'fhàg iad againne mar dhileab phrìseil, agus can airdh sinn tuilleadh gun goirteadh "Gaidheil" dhinn ma thréigeas sinn iad sin.

(An còrr air t. d. 126)

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Lean gu dlùth ri cliù do shìnnse.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Cuimhnichibh seo, agus bithibh fearail... Cuimhnichibh na ceud nithean a bha ann o shear. —*Isa. xlvii, 8, 9.*

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

ARRANGEMENTS are now proceeding for the work of the new session. On Saturday, 9th September, the Organiser attended the Annual General Meeting of the County of Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee, which was held at Lairg. The report and balance sheet for the 1950 Mod were approved and the local Committee at Golspie were heartily thanked for a job of work well done. After a full and frank discussion, it was unanimously decided to hold next year's Mod at Dornoch. Mr. John MacLean, President of the Dornoch Branch, which, by the way, is a very live Branch with a membership of over 150, thanked the Committee for deciding unanimously on Dornoch as the venue and assured the Committee that every effort would be made to promote a very successful Mod in the capital of Sutherland. The date is Friday, 8th June, 1951. The Mod syllabus was prepared and adjudicators recommended. The following donations were made :

Central Fund of An Comunn £5
National Mod, Edinburgh £5
War Memorial & Thanksgiving Fund £5

AT the request of the B.B.C. and with the approval of the Convener, the Northern Organiser has undertaken to write a News Letter in Gaelic for the Children's Hour programme monthly. The first of these was on the air on 22nd September. Mr. MacPhail will be glad to have any news items from Feachdan in the Northern and Southern Areas. These should be addressed to him at 92, Academy Street, Inverness. It is sincerely hoped that Feachdan will send what news they can so that their activities may be reported from time to time. This is a fine opportunity for Gaelic Youth, and we are indebted to the B.B.C. for affording us these special facilities. While on Comunn na h-Oigrìdh matters, readers will be glad to know that practically all of the 3,000 copies of "An Cabairneach" have been sold. The Ceannard, or Leader, of the Portree Feachd, on leaving for

North Uist at the end of the school term took 100 copies with him to sell in his Native Isle. When he arrived at Lochmaddy he had not one copy. He had sold the lot on board the steamer "Lochmor." Who said that the Highland boy had no initiative? Nach math a rinn Dòmhnall MacGilleathain no "Dòmhnall Ruadh", mar a chanas iad ris.

OBAIR A' CHOMUINN (bho t.d. 125)

Tha mise gu làidir de'n bheachd gum biodh cor is spuidheachadh na Gàidhlig air diugh mòran nas miosa na tha e mura b'e obair a' Chomuinn, agus tha mi a' faotainn deagh mhìnich bhò seo, gum deach aig càirdean na Gàidhlig air cnuil air adhart fad trì fichead bliadhna, am meadhan buaircasan ar linn 's ar saoghal, agus gu bheil an Comunn Gàidhealach an diugh nas treasa agus nas uidheamaichte na bha e riamh roimhe.

Ma tha barrachd spéis do'n Ghàidhlig an meneg sluaigh na h-Albann an diugh; ma tha barrachd cothrom air a' chàin a theagasg anns na sgoilean agus na h-àrd-sgoilean; ma tha cuid mhath de shàr-litreachas Gàidhlig an tairgse gach neach nach gearan beagan thasdan a bhàidheadh a mach; ma tha barrachd aithne air ceòl nan Gàidheal air feadh an t-saoghail —'s e an Comunn Gàidhealach a thoill a' mhòr-chuid de'n mhòladh is de'n taing air son sin uile. Chan e nach robh is nach 'eil buidhean is daoine eile ag obair anns an Aobhar seo cuideachd, ach, nan toireadh tu air falbh na rinn an Comunn Gàidhealach agus na bhrosnach e daoine eile a dheanamh, anns na trì fichead bliadhna mu dheireadh, dheanadh tu beàrn glé mhór.

"O, nach esan a tha math air an trompaid a shéideadh!" their feadhainn; "ciod mu dheidhinn seo 's mu dheidhinn siud . . . ?," agus iad ag iomradh air nìlean nach d'rinneadh mar bu chòir. Nochd dhòmhsa

SKYE will be represented by a Senior and Junior choir at the Dunoon Mod and, when it is realised that a sum of about £500 will be required to cover their expenses, they must be congratulated on their initiative.

Highlanders in the North welcome the news that Mr. Hume D. Robertson, M.A., has been appointed to the staff of Beaulieu Junior Secondary School. He will be assured of a warm welcome in the North. Mr. Robertson commenced his teaching career in Inverness-shire. He is a native of Breakish, Skye.

comunn sam bith nach d'riun mearachd riamh, agus éisidh mi ri d' ghearan mu theachd-gèarr a' Chomuinn seo againn. Tha sinn ag aideachadh gu bheil mòran chùisean anns an do dh'fhàilnich oirnn an nì ion-chuid a dheanamh aig an àm ion-chuidh, ach tha sinn ag ionnsachadh bhò na mearachdan a rinn sinn, agus, nan feigheamaid barrachd cuidreachaidh bhò na daoine as trice a bhios a' faotainn coire, cha b'fhada agus an ruigeamaid mullach a' bhruthaich.

Tha ceist mhór mhór a' feitheamh ri fuasgladh an ceart-uair, agus tha dlùth bhuitiu-eas aice ri obair is soirbheachadh a' Chomuinn anns an àm ri teachd 'S e sin an dòigh as eifeachdaiche agus as luannachd-aille air feum a dheanamh de'n airgeid sin a thrusadh mar chumhneachan air na laoch agus mar chuideachadh do'n òigridh. Feumaidh gach comunn is buidheann a tha ag amharc fada rompa an taic a chur anns an òigridh, a chum 's gum leau ginealach an dèidh ginealach ann an seirbhis an Aobhair. Is fìor sin mu'n Chomunn seo againn mar an cèudna..

Chan ann an cloich no an aol, an iarann no an umha, a tha againn ri subhailean nan laoch a ghearradh no a dbealbh, ach an cridheachan taise agus an intinnean tuigseach na cloime a chum 's nach searg cliù nan Gàidheal bharr aghaidh na talmhainn.

Cowal and its Capital

“COWAL” is one of the oldest place-names in Scotland, and is apparently derived from Comgall, one of the earliest kings of Dalriada, grandson of Fergus MacErc, the first known king of Dalriada. Fergus's possessions included Kintyre, Knapdale, and Mid Argyll, as well as Cowal.

Cowal is “a heart-shaped land,” bounded by Loch Fyne, the Kyles of Bute, the Clyde, and Loch Long, while the northern limits at one time reached round to Furnace, so that Cowal included the parish of Inveraray, as well as Kilfinan, Kilmodan, Inverchaolain, Dunoon and Kilmun, Strachur and Strathlachlan (formerly Kilmaghlis), and Lochgoilhead and Kilmorich.

Sea-loch and mountain and glen—all the variety of Highland scenery—go to make the district of Cowal attractive to tourists, while its nearness to Glasgow and the more populous areas of Scotland has for generations made it a favourite holiday district, with Dunoon as the centre.

Travelling to Dunoon is a safe and speedy business now, but it was not always so. At the beginning of the 19th century a voyage from Rothesay to Dunoon might take three days, while a Glasgow gentleman, “desiring to convey his family for a summer residence to the village of Gourrock,” two years before the Battle of Waterloo, “set out from Glasgow in the morning in one of the passage-boats at that time plying on the river, and denominated (not very appropriately) ‘Flies.’” They spent the whole of the first day getting to Bowling, where they anchored for the night. The next day was spent in being buffeted by a contrary wind so that they had to return to Bowling for a second night. “The third day they made the next attempt and succeeded in making Port Glasgow in the afternoon, where he took post-horses, leaving the ‘Fly’ in disgust; and, having seen his family housed in Gourrock, he returned by land on the fourth day to Glasgow, weary, sick, and exhausted; the voyage and journey, he added, costing him £7 14/-.” By 1845, however, we read, “any modern steamer” made the passage from Glasgow to Gourrock in 2½ hours, “in any weather not absolutely tempestuous,” and the expense of the passage (in 1845) was “not more than one shilling”!

It was the coming of the steam-boat that led to the rise of Dunoon to the importance and prosperity it now enjoys. Up to the latter half of the 18th century the “ancient ferry”

which plied between Dunoon and the Cloch kept up the importance of the former place, but, when the new road was made round the end of Loch Long, the ferry traffic declined and Dunoon became only “a Highland clachan on the shore,” and for a time notorious as a haunt of smugglers (in a scuffle on the rocks near the Castle in 1787 a young exciseman from Greenock shot dead the Dunoon ferryman, Dugald Ferguson, a reputed smuggler.)

In 1792 there were only about thirty families in Dunoon and peat was the common fuel, although some of the gentry had begun to get coals from Glasgow. “The people of the parish,” says a writer in 1792, “are justly accounted sober, inoffensive, and discreet, respectful to their superiors, and the young remarkably attentive to their parents, who often stand in need of their assistance when they grow old.” Their “fireside language” then, and “the language of their devotions,” was Gaelic, although English was steadily gaining ground, so that the people were beginning to attend public worship in English as well as in Gaelic.

IT was in 1812 that steam-boats first plied on the Clyde and Dunoon soon began to reap the benefit, although a pier was not built there until 1835. Up to this latter date passengers were conveyed from Inverkip or the Cloch by ferryboat or landed in a small boat at Dunoon, the landing charge being 2d. In 1822, besides the church and manse, there were only three or four slated houses in Dunoon, the rest being thatched “black-houses” with clay floors having the fire in the centre. In that year, however, James Ewing, Lord Provost of Glasgow and M.P. for that city, built a villa (“Castle House”) in Dunoon as a summer residence, and so became “the founder of modern Dunoon.” Others soon followed his example, but Mr. Ewing didn't have it all his own way. In 1835 he tried to enclose the whole Castle-hill with a railing or wall but met with strong local opposition. “Headed by women with shovels and fire-irons,” the villagers “sallied forth each night” and destroyed what had been built during the day. Some of the women were arrested and tried at Inveraray but were acquitted and, returning home in triumph, were hailed as “liberators of the Castle-hill” and entertained at a victory-soiree in “Mr. Fletcher's school-room.”

Now a world-famous resort and county

administrative headquarters, Dunoon with its neighbourhood is the most populous district in Argyll and has the highest valuation in the county. At one time, however, it appeared as if Kilmun would outstrip it. Until the development of modern Dunoon the largest population in Cowal was to be found in Kilmun and beside the Holy Loch. In 1490 Colin, Earl of Argyll, got a charter from the king erecting the village of Kilmun into a free burgh of barony, the first burgh to be established in Cowal, but Kilmun never effectively functioned as a complete burgh.

The history of Dunoon and neighbourhood begins early. Above Ardnadam (at Sandbank) stands a "cromlech" (*crom-leac*), or pagan altar—two standing-stones with a third on top like a lintel. Until well on in the last century it was a favourite spot for betrothals, and marriage contracts made there were regarded as sacred and binding, apparently a survival of pre-historic betrothals.

Across the Holy Loch (*Loch Seanta*) is Ardentinny (*Aird an teine*—the height of the fire—sacrificial fire or beacon-fire?) The Holy Loch itself is said to have derived its name thus: many centuries ago a ship, laden with consecrated earth from the Holy land, was stranded in the loch and the cargo was discharged, and the Church of Kilmun was later erected upon the sacred soil.

It is said that Agricola crossed the Clyde in 81 A.D. and at Ardenslate there are traces of what has been regarded as a Roman fort. Dr. Colin M. Macdonald (in his *History of Argyll*) is not disposed without proper excavation to regard this as a Roman site, but he thinks it may have been a temporary Roman outpost.

THERE must have been a stronghold on the Castle-hill from very early times, and the castle itself existed as early as the 12th century. For centuries it belonged to the kings of Scotland who appointed Constables or Governors over it—Bishop Turnbull of Glasgow, founder of Glasgow University, being one. From the 15th century onwards the Earls of Argyll were hereditary Keepers of the Castle. Robert Bruce and Edward Baliol and the Royal Stewarts figure in the story of the castle, and Mary Queen of Scots spent two days there in 1563.

The possession of Dunoon Castle was the key to control over the district of Cowal, although there were twelve other castles in the area, as, e.g., Carrick, Toward, Achnambreck, Ascaig, Castle Lachlan, Dundarave, and Inveraray (the latter being the only one still

inhabited). All that remains of Dunoon Castle now is part of an ancient door-way, but the Castle-hill perpetuates its memory, while *Tom a' Mhòid* (behind Castle-hill)—the ancient moot-hill, where justice was dispensed—and the Gallow-hill (covered by Royal Crescent) are other links with ancient times. West Bay Terrace stands on the site of the ancient "Cuspars" or Butts, where archery was practised. The ancient castle bowling-green is now covered by Avenue House and buildings at the junction of Agnes Street and Victoria Road.

Most of Cowal belonged to the Lamonts from time immemorial. Other long established families were the MacNaughtans, the MacLachlans, and the MacEwans. The Lamonts held Cowal till the middle of the 17th century, but for over two centuries there had been a bitter feud between them and the Campbells, who were gradually gaining possession of the whole district.

THE Campbells have been both cursed and praised. Skene thought their policy was "characterised by perfidy and cunning," while Alexander MacBain declared that they nearly always "trod the path of level-headed common sense." There is, however, one very dark page associated with Dunoon in the story of the long and bitter feud between the Campbells and the Lamonts. In June, 1646, after the defeat of Montrose, the Marquis of Argyll besieged the Lamont Castles of Toward and Ascaig, and, when the defenders surrendered, 200 of them were conveyed to Dunoon, where thirty-six Lamont gentlemen were hanged on an ash-tree near the kirkyard and the rest were slaughtered and cast into pits in the ground, some of them being buried alive. A monument on "Tom a' Mhòid" commemorates the Lamonts slain in this massacre.

The Lamonts of Knockdow were among the few Lamont families that survived, and they survived because an English officer carried the infant son and heir of Knockdow to a hiding-place in a cave near Ormidale.

A more pleasant episode in the relations of the Lamonts and Campbells is the granting by the former to the latter of the right of burial in Kilmun, which since 1453 has been the family burying-ground of the House of Argyll.

In 1685 the Atholl men raided Cowal, burning houses and driving away cattle. They executed seventeen Campbell gentlemen, without trial, and burnt the Dunoon Castle, which has been a ruin ever since until hardly a trace now remains.

(Continued on p. 135)

"Bard Tighearna Cholla"

JOHN MACLEAN: A CENTENARY

By DONALD MACLEAN SINCLAIR*

CLOSE by the highway, in a little, well-kept cemetery that slopes towards the great hill behind the church in Glenbard, in the County of Antigonish, is the grave of John Maclean. On the headstone is a Gaelic inscription which, being translated, reads:

The Poet Maclean
1787-1848

Whoever goes about this cemetery, stop and listen to a voice from the grave. Keep up the Gaelic as long as you live, its poetry and its high position. Pay heed to everything that is good and live to God every day.

The Poet's Wife
1786-1877

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart."

It is thus one hundred years since John Maclean the poet died, and it is fitting on this anniversary of his death that his life and works should be recalled to this generation. As a worthy representative of the early Scottish pioneers and as the finest Gaelic poet to live and write in Canada, his memory deserves to be preserved. That his poetry is still read and appreciated is a tribute to his worth and ability. As Judge Doull wrote of him, "A Nova Scotian poet whose works have gone through three editions has left a monument more enduring than have most modern writers of poems."

Early Days in Scotland

BORN at Caolas, in the island of Tiree, on 8th January, 1787, John Maclean traced his ancestry back through the Treisinnis branch of the Ardgour family, and through them to Lachlan Bronnach Maclean of Duart, son of Red Hector of the Battles, sixth Chief of the Macleans, who was killed at the battle of Harlaw in 1411. He was the third son of Allan and his wife Margaret MacFadyen. He received a fair

education in Gaelic and in English. As a young man he served a three year apprenticeship as a shoemaker with Neil Sinclair and worked at his trade in Glasgow for about a year. He then returned to Tiree. In Glasgow he had met Isabella Black, daughter of Duncan Black of Lismore, whom he married on 19th July, 1808.

In 1810 he was drafted into the militia. The Laird of Coll offered to secure his release, but he determined to try a soldier's life. He soon grew tired of it, however, and was glad to accept a letter from the Laird to his Colonel, Lord John Campbell of the Argyllshire Regiment, suggesting a substitute. Becoming impatient at the delay in getting out of the army, Maclean remarked that if he were a Campbell there would be no trouble in securing someone to take his place. This produced immediate action; a substitute was secured for £40, and John Maclean returned to Tiree. He was discharged on 17th January, 1811.

Being unable to make a living at his trade as shoemaker, he also carried on merchandising on a small scale. A friend of his, Hugh MacFadyen, with whom he had served his apprenticeship, said of him: "John Maclean was not at all a good shoemaker. He used to compose verses frequently." In 1818 he gathered together some of his verses and published his first volume. It contained twenty-two poems by himself and thirty-four by others. He had hoped to receive help from the Highland Society of Edinburgh, but on approaching them he got little encouragement. He also expected to see the Laird of Coll in Edinburgh, but in that, too, he was disappointed. Not to be discouraged, he secured the services of R. Menzies, Edinburgh, to print his book. It was dedicated to Alexander Maclean, Esq., Laird of Coll. Among the thirty-four poems by others are songs by Alexander Mackinnon and Mary Macleod that are not to be found elsewhere. The poet returned to Tiree and his shoemaking, but he never attended regularly to his work; his mind was on other

things. As is said of him in his memoir in "Clarsach na Coille," "Nature gave the poet a mind of great capacity, but evidently it did not intend that he should become a wealthy man. Poetry occupied his thoughts when pegging sole-leather in Scotland and cutting down trees in America; it took complete possession of him. He was a good poet, but a poor shoemaker and a poor farmer."

In Nova Scotia

NONE of his ventures proving very profitable, John Maclean determined to seek his fortune in Nova Scotia. The glowing accounts he had heard of America induced him to give up his forty-acre croft in Caolas, despite the persuasions of the Laird of Coll. He had visions of becoming independent and wealthy in the new land. All his friends discouraged him from going, but in August, 1819, with his wife and three small children, he sailed in the "Economy," arriving in Pictou about the first of October. His books, which he had published in Edinburgh the year before, helped finance his voyage to Canada. He had made a contract with the master of the ship whereby £27 6 Od. was paid in passage-money for himself and family, and in addition the master guaranteed the balance of £33 6 Od. due the printer, receiving £23 in cash and taking three hundred and eighty Gaelic song-books in security for the balance.

After a week in Pictou he and his family went by boat to Merigomish. He then went to Berney's River, where he lived in a house belonging to William Gordon. The following spring he cleared a lot and built a small log-house. He named his farm "Baile-Chnoic." It was while living there that he composed his famous song, "A' Choille Ghruamach" (The Gloomy Wood).

John Maclean found Pictou County a very different place from what he had expected. In his imagination he had seen himself cultivating a farm he could call his own and living in good

* Minister of Fort Massey Church, Halifax, and great-grandson of the subject of the article. The article was first published in Canada in 1948 and is here reprinted by kind permission.
—Editor.

circumstances. That he was grossly misinformed regarding conditions in America is clear from his references in poetry to the lying agents who beat up every inlet and bay with their false stories and flattering promises of wealth and plenty in a new land. Instead of well cultivated fields and thickly settled communities he found tall trees blotting out the sun, and his nearest neighbour lived more than two miles away. Hard physical labour, to which he was not accustomed, was necessary before the land could be cleared for cultivation. He probably felt the lack of friends far more keenly than the actual toil of chopping down trees. For the first few years in his new home the chief article of diet was potatoes. He complains of the scarcity of markets and of money, trading being done by barter. The winters he found particularly distressing. The severe frost set his teeth chattering, froze his face, and broke his axe. The deep snow made travel practically impossible for him. The summers were almost equally uncomfortable. In the early spring the bears would come out of their winter quarters, lean and hungry, to wreak havoc among the flocks of sheep. The annoying mosquito very nearly blinded him. So great were the pests in Pictou County that he compares the place with Egypt during the plagues of Pharaoh.

The poet was thirty-two when he came to America. Although he had left Treen of his own accord, he was homesick and lonely in the gloomy woods. Farming in Pictou County was as distasteful to him as cobbling shoes had been in Treen. Necessity had made him a shoemaker and farmer, but Nature had made him a poet. He sought an outlet for his feelings in verse and in his "A' Chaille Ghruamach" he expressed in vivid poetry the feelings and thoughts of many a settler—the loneliness, the hardships, and the never-ending toil. When this poem reached Treen it caused great concern. His old friend, the Laird of Coll, invited him to return and to live rent-free for the rest of his days. Without doubt this poem was responsible for keeping many a prospective emigrant from coming to Canada.

In 1831 he removed with his family to Glenbard in Antigonish County, where he found life a little easier. His children were

now able to work, Charles (his eldest son) being seventeen years of age. His last days were spent in comparatively comfortable circumstances. He died suddenly while visiting a friend at Addington Forks on 26th January, 1848.

In Glenbard he lived quite near the county line between Pictou and Antigonish. To the west of him were Highland Presbyterians and to the east a great community of Highland Roman Catholics. The Rev. Colin Grant, parish priest at Aisaig, was very kind to him.

John Maclean had six children: Christy, Charles, Archibald, John, Allan, and Elizabeth. Christy, the eldest of the family, was born in Treen on 25th December, 1809. She was married in 1839 to John Sinclair, by whom she had Alexander Maclean, named after the Laird of Coll. She died 7th March, 1887. In common with the early pioneers, John Maclean endured many hardships during his first years in this country. Yet the land, which had at first proved foreign and inhospitable became in time a new Scotland for them. Canada gave the Scottish exiles a home where there were no landlords to pursue them out of the glens, while they in turn formed the very backbone of the moral and religious strength of the country.

His Poetry

BEFORE the Forty-Five, bards occupied an honoured position in the social system of the Highlands. They were in close touch with the chief and preserved the history of the family. These poet-historians kept alive the traditions of the people. The changes that came about in Highland economy after the Forty-Five greatly affected the ties that bound the chief to his people. From being a leader in battle, a judge in peace-time, and the head of his clan, the chief became a mere landlord who held his property from the Crown. His great retinue of followers—pipers, bards, seannachies, and retainers—was no longer deemed necessary for his station and dignity. The chief became more interested in sheep than in men. With this social revolution in the economics of the Highlands a new school of Gaelic poets arose, men and women who had knowledge of the horrors of the Highland Clearances and the infamies of Culloden. A note of sadness and bitterness crept into their poetry. They denounced their chiefs, the

factors and the tacksmen for betraying the people; they lamented their fate in being compelled to leave their native crofts.

John Maclean has been described as the last of the family bards. It is significant that in Scotland he was known as "Bard Tighearna Cholla" (Bard to the Laird of Coll), whereas in Nova Scotia he was known simply as "Am Bard MacGilleain" (the Bard Maclean). In Scotland he occupied an honoured place as a family bard and enjoyed the company of distinguished men. On the death of the 14th Laird of Coll he composed a lament. It is the last lamentation over a chieftain by his bard. The poet was deeply attached to his patron, and he felt it his duty to compose this lament. In it he lauds his ancestors and praises the Laird for his many excellent qualities. But in America John Maclean was in a land having no hereditary titles, no lairds, no patrons. He became the poet of the people. Thus, as Hector Cameron wrote, "his poetry comes on the borderline between the hereditary and family bards, who sang their chiefs' and their clan's eulogies and elegies, and the free songsters of later days." He forms a link between the old land with its hereditary distinctions and the new with its more democratic ways.

Much of his later poetry is of purely local interest, the raffling of a watch, a wedding, or an election, and yet it is of value as throwing light upon the early days of the Highland settlers in Nova Scotia. There are vivid first-hand descriptions of the hardships of the pioneers, their social life, their politics, and their religion. Of a sociable disposition by nature, John Maclean entered enthusiastically into the social life of the people. His brilliant conversation and musical voice made him an agreeable companion. His eminence as a bard was well known and he was welcomed in every company. In the early spring of 1826 a Highland Ball was held at the home of David Murray, Merigomish. No one was admitted who could not speak Gaelic. The poet was invited and responded by singing a song in praise of the Highland soldier on the battlefields of France, Spain and Egypt, and concluded by proposing a toast to the kilted warriors. The "Big Election" of 1830 was the occasion for another poem. See keen

Continued on p. 131



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN DAMHAR 1950

Aireamh 10

Bothan an Fhuarain

CHA do ghabh sinn còmhnuidh anns a' bhothan seo bho chionn dà bhliadhna, agus mar sin bha e am feum a dheagh chur an òrdugh mun biodh e sàbhailte cadal ann. An dèidh do bhean an taighe ruith réiteach a thoirt air an taigh le sguabaich, dh'fheuch i ri teine fhadadh anns an dara ceann dheth. Cha robh deò a' dol suas an luidheir agus ann an tiota bha i ann an tiugh dhorchadas. Dh'fhosgail i an uinneag is dh'fheuch i rithis e, ach mir toit cha ruigeadh an t-adhair. Chodhùin i air ball gun do rinn na cathagan nead san t-simileir bho'n a fhuair iad an taigh dhaibh fhéin san Earrach agus is ann mar sin a bha.

Cha robh fireannach no fàradh mar astar do'n bhothan, ach ri àm rinn Gilleasbaig òg, an tuathanach, cobhair oirre. Thàinig esan agus le badaig bho'n taobh a staigh chuir e teine ris an luidheir. B'e sin an toirm, 's b'e sin an lasair is an smùid! Bha an gleann falachite an trusgan de chèò agus cha d'fhàgadh meabh-chuileag beò eadar am bothan is Clachaig! Thuit làn saic de shùith a nuas air leac-an-teinntein agus, creideadh sibhse mise, tha tarraing gu leòr aig an t-simileir againne an dèidh a' ghlanaidh ud.

An là a ràinig mise dh'fhosgail sinn doras taigh nan cearc—aig an àgh tha brath cuin a bha cearc no coileach ann! Is ann ann a bhios sinn ag cumail a' ghuail 's na mòna. Tha mo bhean-sa biorach 's chlaisteachd, mar nach 'eil mise, agus ghlaodh i gu robh beathach fadhaich air chor-eigin a staigh—neas, air a' chuid bu lugha. Cha do rinn sinn mòran rùrach ach, air do Ghilleasbaig tighinn an rathad goirid an dèidh sin, dh'innis sinn dha mu'n bhigheil a chuala bean an taighe. Thug sinn oidhirp eile air faotainn a mach ciod a bha staigh, agus cho luath is a dh'fhosgail sinn an doras siud a mach eadar ar casan ach cat mòr dubh! Ann am bocsa beag air a' chùl bha dà phiseig bhòidheach, cho òg is nach robh an sùilean air fosgladh. Bha aon diubh dubh agus an t-aon eile glas. Cha robh iad fada a' fàs suas agus ri cleas mar bhios piseagan an còmhnuidh. Bha sinn

ag cur bainne ann an slige-chreachainn air an fheasgar ach co dhiùbh a b'i a' mhàthair no na piseagan a bha 'ga òl chan aithne dhuinn ach bha an t-slige daonnan falamb anns a' mhadainn.

Air aon de na làithean thuirt bean an taighe rium fhéin, "Tha a' phiseag ghlas air falbh agus tha an té dhubh a' briseadh a cridhe le fadal." Thuig sinn mar a bha agus air an làrna-mhàireach bha an té dhubh air falbh mar an ceudna. Ge b'e àite do an tug am màthair iad chan aithne dhuinn, ach gun do rinn i tarraing-chailleach orra gus an do ràinig i a ceann-uidhe is sgeul chinnteach sin. Sean is mar a tha mi, bha mi ag ionndrainn nam piseag, a' leigeil ris gu bheil beagan de'n bhalach an cridhe a' bhodaich fhathast.

Tha gach seòrsa de eòin bheaga dhùth-chasach anns na preasan seilich is drumain mun cuairt oirnn, agus cha ruig mi leas dol mòran cheuman bho'n doras an uair a chlì mi breac-an-t-sil, bricean-beithe, clacharan, smèr-ach, is lòn-dubh. Agus, a mach 's a staigh an clachan a' ghàrraidh, am fear as spaideile dhiubh uile, an dreathan-donn e fhéin. Theagamh nach do chòrd mo bhàrdachd uile gu léir ris a' bhruideargan oir cha tàinig e a chur fàilte orm. Ma thogair, bidh iad ag ràdh nach comharra math air an t-sid esan a bhith mu na dorsan cho tràth seo sa' bhliadhna, ach is i mo bheachd, ged thigeadh an gearragort e fhéin, nach tugadh e atharrachadh air aimsir na bliadhna seo. Chunnaic mi bruideargan air a shon sin! Mun gabh na gobhlain-ghaoithe an turas fàda mu dheas bidh iad ag cruinneachadh 'nan sgaoth air druim an taighe mar gun b'ann a' fàgail beannachd againn. Air aon achadh chlì mi adharcan, guilbneach, gille-brighde, is faoileag, agus air achadh eile dà fhichead bo-bhainne ag ionaltradh. Sealladh breagha da-rìreadh!

An lusan cùbhraidh air an do rinn mi luaidh anns an òran thann bean an taighe rium nach 'eil anna ach feanndag, copag, buaghallan-buidhe, is gille-guirmein. Cha léir dhi-se

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

An Trod

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

N AN cluinneadh tu an trod a bha a staigh an diugh!" arsa an cuilean ris an tarbh.

"Trod, an e? Bha dùil agamsa nach robh duine beò an diugh do'm b'aithne trod ceart a dheanamh."

"Cò aca as fheàrr, trod ceart no trod ceàrr?"

"Tha feadhainn ann agus bu choma leotha cò aca. B'fheàrr leotha trod sam bith na bhith gun trod idir. Ach dé mu'n robh an trod?"

"Bha mu rud gun seagh."

"Is eadh? Is mi a chreideas. Is tric a thachair a leithid. Cho luath agus a chuirear na daoine 'nan cabhaig no 'nan teas chan 'eil maille air còmh-stri agus cath ach an t-adhbhar as lugha is as suarache a bhith aca air an son. Creutairean neònach, neònach!"

"Bha cabhag air Dòmhnall Glas, is e fhéin is Fearchar a' dol a dh'aiseag mhònadh, agus bha Fearchar ag cur dòigh air buill a bha aige air son an t-eithear a chur air chruaidh. 'Dé,' arsa Dòmhnall ri Fearchar, 'an obair gun fheum a tha ort ris an ròp sin agad, agus sinn gus an làtha a chall?' 'Is e am fear a cheangaileas a shiùbhaileas,' arsa Fearchar, agus dh'fhógainn sin. 'Ceangal gun bhuidh do chuid-sa ceangail, nam biodh duine agad a cheangaileadh dhuit e....' 'Cha do cheangail thu lùb riamh nach fuasgailinn,' arsa Fearchar, agus an colg sin a' tighinn air; agus b'fheudar dhòmhsa teicheadh mu dheireadh mun pronnadh iad fo na casan mi—cha robh iad a' sealltainn càite an seasadh iad! Ach fiach an innis thu dhomh dé a thuirtear?"

"Thuirtear rud glic gu leòir. Sean-fhacal a bha aige a tha ciallachadh 'Fan ri ullachadh ceart, dòigheil a dheanamh, agus caomhnadh e mòran dragh duit an dèidh-làimh; ullachadh slàn, làn, ceart, bòidheach càil as fheàrr a théid aig duine gnìomhach air a dheanamh.' An uair a bha mise an Gleann-dail cò thachair rium ach an Clobair Hearach agus e ag ceangal gamhainn ruadh, crosda a bha aige ri post de'n challaid agus am pathadh air tighinn air. 'Nach leig thu leis a' bheathach cead a choisè

gus an till thu,' arsa fear a bha dol seachad ris. 'An cuala tu,' arsa am bodach Hearach, 'an rud a thuirtear an t-Arab ri Muhamad agus an rud a thuirtear Muhamad ris?' 'Cha chuala,' arsa am fear eile. 'Thuirtear an t-Arab ris: Fàgaidh mi mo chàmhhal gun cheangal agus earbaidh mi ris an fhreasdal e. Agus thuirtear Muhamad ris: Ceangail do chàmhhal gu teann agus an sin earb ris an fhreasdal e.'"

"Dé," arsa Bus-dhubh, "a thuirtear am fear eile an uair sin ris a' Chlobair Hearach?"

"Thug e sùil mhi-choltach air agus thionndaidh e a chùlaibh ris. Rinn mi mach air nach do thuig e cò a bha ann am Muhamad ach gu robh beagan de amharus aige gur e seòrsa de easbuig Frangach a bha ann. Agus gach rud ach easbuig an Gleann-dail! A bheil fhios agad an uair a bha cogadh a' Cheusair ann gun tàinig pears-caglais de mhuintir Eilean Mhanainn a shealltainn air na gillean Gaidhealach—duine mór, trom agus flor choltas Gaidhealach air fhéin; làn a chinn de fhalt liath-ghlas air, agus fiasag fhada, làn, thuing air; agus bha Gàidhlig de'n t-seòrsa a tha aca an Eilean Mhanainn aige. Chuir e na ceistean air na gillean, agus cha robh iad gun freagairt gus an tuirtear e, 'Dé Ghàidhlig a tha air *bishop*?' Cha robh fhios aig duine aca air dé a chanadh e. 'O,' arsa am Manainneach, 'tha mi tuigsinn; chan 'eil a leithid de ni agaibh-se ann. Is e *easbuig* a tha air *bishop*.' Agus nach e easbuig a bha san duine chòir e fhéin!"

"Is e a tha cur an ionghnaidh ormsa." arsa Bus-dhubh, "gu robh fiasag air."

"U, a bhodachain," arsa Blàran, "anns na làithean cian a bha siud cha deanadh iad ach meigalan de sheann duine air nach biodh fiasag, agus is ann mar bu mhotha i a b'fheàrr i."

BOTHAN AN FHUARAIN

(Bho t.d. 37)

maise a' chruthachaidh mar is léir dhòmhsa e, ach fàgaidh sinn mar sin fhéin e..

Tha am fuaran a' sior chur an uachdar agus, cho fada 's a bhios clach air muin clòiche de'n fhàrdaich seo, dheasaidh i an t-ainm.

BOTHAN AN FHUARAIN.

NIALL.

Litir Eachainn

AN oidheche-roimhe, an uair a leugh mi an naidheachd a tha mi a' dol a dh'innseadh dhuibh a thiota, thug i gaire or, is thug i 'nam chuimhne naidheachd eile is seann nithean a chuala mi an uair a bha mi 'nam bhalach. Seo agaibh an sgeul a leugh mi an aon de ar paipearan-naidheachd am feasgar a bha siud. Is ann a' toirt cùntais air a' chogadh an Coria a bha am fear a sgrìobh, is e ag innseadh mu ruigheachd thall nan ceatharnach againn fhéin, Réiseamaid Earraghaidheal is Chataibh, agus réiseamaid Shasannach.

“Tha suaicheantas na h-Alb' agaibh,
Is dh'fhalbh sibh leis gu sùnddach,
Am foghannan cruaidh, colgarra,
'S neo-chearbach cur a' chrùn air;
An luibh as gaig' 's as reasgaiche
Bha riann am measg nam flùran,
Is ceann na muice fiadhaich
A leag Diarmad sa' choill ùdlaidh.”

Cho luath 's a shuidhich na h-Earraghaidhealaich an camp, shéid na pìobairean suas, is a réir coltais dhùisg iad a h-uile nathair a bha an astar éisdeachd dhaibh. Cha robh fios aig an fhear a sgrìobh co dhiubh a b'e eagal, fearg, no toileachas a dhùisg fuaim na pìoba anna; ach bha e am beachd gur e fuaim an fheadain is nan dos a chuir gu gluasad iad, oir cha robh aon tè a thog a ceann far an robh na Sasannaich glé dhlùth do làimh.

Tha sinn ag creidsinn anns an eilean againne nach fuirich radan ann an taigh sam bith anns am bi a' phìob 'ga cluich daonna; agus b'iomadh uair a chuala mi air a ràdh far an robh taigh anns am biodh na radain draghail gum bu chòir pìobaire fhaotainn gus an teicheadh a chur orra. Bha a' phìob cho math gus an teicheadh a chur orra 's ged a dheante aoir dhaibh, is bha sin féin ro-mhath. Chan urrainn dhomh, ged thà, a ràdh gum faca mi an creideas seo air a chur gu dearbhadh riann.

Seo agaibh, a nis, naidheachd a chuala mi air a h-innseadh tric gu leòr, agus is dòcha gun cuala sibh féin i cuideachd. Bha an siud pìobaire ag gabhail a rathaid troimhe chèarn iomallach de'n Ghaidhealtachd. Tha cho fada bho thachair e 's gu robh na madaidh-allaidh ri tachairt orra bitheanta gu leòr anns na coillean is am measg nan garbh-chrioch. Is e smaointich am pìobaire gun gabhadh e an t-aithghearr troimh choille dhùmhail, oglaidh an sin, ged a bha fios ro-

mhath aige gum faodadh e ruith trasd air na madaidh-allaidh mun ruigeadh e an fhìor-thìr, agus b'e sin dìreach a' cheart rud a thachair.

Chuala e an donnalach a' tighinn, is bha an siud dà mhadaidh-allaidh, is dòcha cù agus galla, agus a choltas orra a bhith gu math acrach, gionach. Bha biadh air cheann na slighe aig a' phìobaire ann am màileid, is theann e ri thilgeadh a dh'ionnsaigh nam biastan ceacharra a thàinig air. Dh'ith iad siud, ach cha do chaisg e an ciocras: bha iad coltach ri Olaghar aig Dickens, bha an sùil ris a' chòrr, ach an còrr cha robh aige-san dhaibh. A réir gach coltais b'e a mhaothan fhéin an ath ghreim air an robh iad an geall, agus is e a smaointich e gun cuireadh e a phòrt deireannach air a' phìob mum biodh iad an gréim ann, is shéid e suas a' phìob. Cha bu luaithe a rinn e sin na bhioraich na madaidh-allaidh an cluasan agus, an uair a chaidh a' phìob gu làn chluich, thug iad as dhi cho luath 's ged a bhiodh teine ri an earball. Ged a bha esan toilichte gu leòr dhe sin, bhual an t-aithreachas e nach do ghleus e a' phìob an toiseach, is mun do riarair e am beagan bidh a bha aige 'na mhàileid air na biastan.

IS ann glé fhada bho phìob, is bho mhadaidh-allaidh is bho nathraichean a tha cuspair eile mu bheil mi air mhiann beagan a ràdh a nis. Air dhomh a bhith a' toirt sùla air a' chalandar an la-roimhe, thug mi faireach gur robh, mu na làithean sin, coimealadh latha bàis an duine chomharraichte Iain Buinian, a' tighinn òirnn. Tha dà cheud, trì fichead is dà bhliadhna air an fhoghar seo bho thàinig a' chrioch air Iain Buinian, ùghdair *Turus a' Chrìosdaidh* is leabhraichean eile. Tha mi cinnteach gun do leugh sibh uile *Turus a' Chrìosdaidh*, co-dhiubh a' chuid as motha agaibh. Cha b'ann aon uair no dà uair a leugh mise e, an dà chuid an Gàidhlig is am Beurla. Is iomadh latha bho leugh mi an toiseach e. B'ann am Beurla a leugh mi e a' cheud uair. Bha mórann dhealbhan anns an leth-bhrec seo, is saoillean gu bheil mi a' faicinn cuid dhiubh fhathast, Crìosdaidh ag cur cath ri Apollion, no fo mhùiseag aig Fàmhair-gun-dòchas is móran eile.

Leugh mi anns a' Ghàidhlig e, is tuille na aon uair bhuaite sin, ach dhearg na beachdan a ghabh mi air a' cheud uair a leugh mi e iad fhéin cho domhain air m'inntinn 's gu bheil deagh chuimhne agam air gach car a chuir

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 39)

Criosdaidh dheth gus an là an diugh. Agus seo agaibh nì a shaoileas sibh annasach, is nì a tha annasach leam féin eadhon an diugh fathast.

Bha mi ag cuimseachadh na slighe air an robh Criosdaidh a' triall ri imeachd shònraichte anns a' cheann de'n eilean againn fhìin anns an robh ar dachaidh. Chan 'eil fios agam car son a shuidhich mi Baile Léir-sgrìos an Torastan, dlùth air an taigh aig an t-seana Phosta, Alasdair Fowler, nas lugha na gur ann a chionn gu robh càthar làimh ris a' cheum-rathaid a bhitheamaid ag gabhail a' dol dhachaidh an uair a bhitheamaid thall aig an taigh aige le litrichean a bha ri am postadh. Bha mi a' riochdachadh Criosdaidh a' tuiteam anns a' chàthar seo—Sloc na Mì-mhìsneach—agus is mi a bha toilichte an uair a fhuair e as. An uair a chuireadh air seachran e le briathraibh sodalach Ghliocais Saoghalta, ar leam gur ann suas rathad Creag Aibhnic a ghabh e, gus an do chuireadh làn gheilt air leis an fhuathas a bhuail air an sin. Bha callaid-criche eadar Torastan is Còrnaig Bheag, le ceum-stìle ri taobh an fhrith-rathaid a bhitheamaid ag gabhail gu streap thairis oirre. B'e seo an t-slighe a chomhairlich Soisgeulach dha a ghabhail.

Cha robh nì comharrachta sam bith a thachair dha nach do shuidhich mise 'nam inntinn féin e am bad sònraichte de'n rathad anns an d'fhiosraich se e. B'ann anns an iosal eadar an Sruthan is Beul na Glaise Duibhe, càrn anns am biodh e a' faicinn bhòcan riamh, a thachair Àpollion air, agus a chuir iad an cath duathail ud anns an tug Criosdaidh air a' cheann mu dhèireadh thall a' bhuaidh, agus mar sin air aghaidh, gus an do ràinig e na Beanntan air an robh na Buach-ailean, bho am faicadh e anns an astar fada air falbh am Baile Nèamhaidh.

B'e Druin nan Càrn na Beanntan. B'e Sòrasdal am Baile Nèamhaidh, agus b'ann air Cnoc MhicPhàrlain a bha àrd-lùchairt a' Bhaile air a suidheachadh; ach mun ruigte am Baile Nèamhaidh bha an Abhainn, Abhainn a' Bhàis, ri dhol thairis oirre, agus ged nach rachadh an t-uisge anns an t-sruth cùl taigh Dhonnchaidh Eòghain a' bheag os cionn nan aobran dhuinn, a mach bho latha a bhiodh tuil air, b'e an sruth sin a riochdaich mi mar an duilgheadas mu dhèireadh air am feumadh Criosdaidh buaidh a thoirt; ach thug e a' bhuidh is ràinig e am Baile Nèamhaidh le caithream is àrd-iolach.

Bhur Caraid Dileas,
EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOD

15. Aonghus MacCoinnich

AN uair a chaidh mise do Eilean A' Bheàrnaraidh an Leódhas anns a' bhliadhna 1902, bha mórán dhaoine còire ann a bhiodh ri bàrdachd. 'Nam measg-san bha Dòmhnall Dhonnchaidh an Circebost, Dòmhnall Bàn an Tacleit, agus Aonghus Ruadh an Roulinis. Is ann air cuspairean a bhuineadh do an eilean a bhiodh iad a' seinn, agus mar sin cha bhiodh am bàrdachd cho annasach do dhaoine nach robh eòlach air na nithean a bha iad ri luaidh orra.

Cha robh Beàrnaraidh riamh gun bhàrd, ach chan 'eil teagamh sam bith nach dleas Aonghus MacCoinnich a Breacleit no "Aonghus Chaluum an Thàilleir" an t-àite as onaraiche 'nam measg gu léir.

Bha Aonghus 'na ghille òg an uair a bha mise anns an eilean. Bha e 'na fhear-cuideachaidh (*pupil-teacher*) anns an sgoil am Beàrnaraidh an uair a bha Dòmhnall Mac-Gille-Mhoire nach maireann air ceann na sgoile sin.

Bha Aonghus 'na sgoilear barraichte 'na latha, agus meas iongantach aige air Laideann is Greugais. Ach bhris air a shlàinte an uair a bha e òg, agus is ann an uair sin a thòisich e ri bàrdachd a tha ag cur soluis air an lionsgaradh inntinne a bha aige.

Chan 'eil facal a sgrìobh e anns nach 'eil eòlas maith air eachdraidh a dhùthcha is a chàinane air am foillseachadh, agus nì motha chaill e riamh sealladh air an dìmeas a bha na Gaidheil fhéin a' deanamh air an càinane is an dùthchas. Coltach ri ìomadh Gaidheil fùghail eile, cha robh e gun fhéin-fhiosrachadh air an innéinn dhubhaich, chianail, anshocraich, agus tha e ag cur sin an cèill gu h-òrdail anns "An Lionn-dubh," agus a toirt dhuinn cunntais air Gaidheil agus Goill ainmeil a bha an còmhnuidh air an sàrachadh leis an eucail sin.

Tha "Spiorad na Gàidhlighe" cho mòralach ri moladh Dhonnchaidh Bhàin air a chàinane fhéin, agus "Moladh Bheàrnaraidh" ag àrdachadh am bàrdachd thaghte cliù nan daoine a tha tuineachadh ann.

was the feeling in Pictou at the time of the election that a riot took place and an inoffensive bystander named Irving was killed. The Liberals won the election. In his first editorial after the election, Joseph Howe, who had been in Pictou during the week of voting wrote in the "Nova-scotian": "The contest has closed and has ended gloriously." The poet, who went from Merigomish to Pictou in a schooner, took no special interest in the election until he was told that one of the Liberal candidates had made some insulting reference to the Highlanders. He then went to work to compose a song. He spent the greater part of the night at it. He sang it next day when thousands were present. It had a most exciting effect and almost caused another riot. In politics the poet was at first a Conservative, but some years after 1830 he became a Liberal and an ardent supporter of Joseph Howe.

As a Hymn Writer

IT was not only by keen political contests that the early settlers sharpened their wits and enlivened life. When they left the shores of Scotland they brought with them, along with the Bible and Shorter Catechism, some of the old clan feuds and the old ecclesiastical differences between Burgher and Anti-Burgher. These were perpetuated for many a dreary year in a land where they had little or no relevance whatever. The poet was a member of the Church of Scotland. After the disruption of 1843 he joined the Free Church. He was perhaps the only one of the old bards to compose spiritual songs. It was not till after he had spent several winters in Nova Scotia that his mind turned to writing hymns. His hard lot in this world no doubt tended to direct his attention to a better world. He had great praise for the Rev. James MacGregor, the apostle of Pictou. He writes of his hardships, on his long journeys by canoe and on horseback in summer and by snowshoe in winter, and compares the conditions in 1786, when Dr. MacGregor had come, with things as they were in 1840 with horses and carriages and plenty to eat and drink. His words are corroborated by Dr. MacGregor himself: "I had to learn to walk on snowshoes in winter, and to paddle a canoe in summer, and cross brooks and

swamps upon trees overturned or broken by the wind, and to camp in the woods all night, for there is no travelling the woods at night, where there is no road."

A small edition of John Maclean's hymns was published in Glasgow in 1835. A much more accurate edition appeared in 1880, edited by his grandson, Rev. A. Maclean Sinclair, who writes thus: "In his songs he sang the praises of the Laird of Coll; in his hymns he sings the praises of his Saviour. In his songs he sang the glories of Scotland; in his hymns he sings of the blessedness of the promised land."

As a Collector of Gaelic Poetry

JOHN Maclean spent much of his time collecting Gaelic verse. The year after Waterloo he travelled the Highlands and collected a large number of Gaelic poems. These he wrote down in a large manuscript, which he brought to Nova Scotia with him. The first ninety-four pages contain poems by himself, the remaining five hundred and forty-seven pages contain poems by others. Each page contains about twenty-eight lines. There are thus more than fifteen thousand lines of collected poetry in this manuscript.

Another manuscript brought to Nova Scotia by John Maclean was the collection of Gaelic poetry made by Dr. Hector Maclean of Grulin, in the Isle of Mull, about the year 1768. The poems are written in a strongly bound volume of foolscap size. They cover one hundred and twenty-eight pages. Dr. Maclean died about the year 1785. His daughter Mary gave her father's collection to John Maclean, and he brought it with him to Nova Scotia.

Dr. Maclean's collection is at least eight years older than Ranald MacDonald's, the first collection ever to be published. The majority of poems in it are to be found nowhere else. This is the actual manuscript from which Dr. Maclean's daughter Mary translated two Gaelic poems for the entertainment of Dr. Johnson and Boswell when they were guests at her father's house in Tobermory on the stormy evening of Friday, 15th October, 1773. Of her Dr. Johnson said, "She is the first person I have found that can translate Erse poetry literally."

All John Maclean's poems, together with the poems in Dr. Hector Maclean's manuscript, were edited and published by Rev. Dr. A. Maclean Sinclair, to whom these manuscripts were given. In his preface to "Gaelic Bards," Dr. Sinclair states: "I feel convinced that it would be useful, especially for philological purposes to publish the Maclean manuscript 'verbatim et literatim.'" This opinion is confirmed by John Lorne Campbell, who in his "Highland Songs of the Forty-Five" states that he very often found the best version of a song, bearing in mind that which gives the best meaning, is of greatest historical accuracy, and correctest metrical construction, in poems that had lain in manuscripts for many years after they had been transcribed, and some of the best texts of poems of this kind did not appear in print until they were published in Canada in such works as "Clarsach na Coille."

If it is true, as Jean Paul Richter says, that "the way to a people's heart is through its language," then a study of the productions of the old Gaelic poets is essential to an understanding of the Highlander. John Maclean was a thorough master of the language in which he thought and sang, although in "A' Chaille Ghruamach" he laments the loss of his wondrous skill in Gaelic since he left his native land. His poems are exceedingly useful in throwing much light upon the thoughts, feelings, habits and behaviour of the old Highlanders. We can learn their external history from writers like Skene and Scott, but, if we would know the inner history of the Highlanders, the real history of the people, we must study their poetry as well as their chronicles.

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*Mo rin geal òg.
Alasdair mhic, a hò.*

*Mhic Iurla nam Bratach Bàna.
Chraobh nan Ubhal, Gheug nan
Abhal.*

*Thug mi 'n oidhche, ge b'fhad i.
A Mhic a' Mhaoir.*

ANNA NIC IAIN :—

Is muladach mi o chionn seachdain.

ANNA RAGHNAILL EACHAINN nach
maireann :—

Latha bha 'n Rìdìre ag òl.

*Bhean ud a staigh, bheil thu
t' fhaireachadh?*

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Leabhraichean Ura

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Leabhar Ur Gaidhlig

* AN IUCHAIR OIR : Searmoinean leis an Urramach Calum MacLeòid, M.A. Air an deasachadh, le Iomradh air Beatha an Ughdair, leis an Urramach T. M. MacCalmain, M.A. (Comunn nan Trachdaichean, Sruighlea, 147 t.d., 4/6).

Is e seo leabhar shearmoinean Gàidhlig leis an Urramach Calum MacLeòid nach maireann, agus bidh a chàirdean uile—agus tha iad lionmhòr—toilichte gun do dh'fhàg e an cuimhneachan-sa aca.

Tha an leabhar air a dheagh dheasachadh leis an Urramach T. M. MacCalmain, agus tha e mar an ceudna a' toirt gearr-iomradh, ann am Beurla agus ann an Gàidhlig, air beatha an ùghdair, agus chuir e, gu freagarrach, flor iomhaigh an ùghdair ann an toiseach an leabhair. Tha an leabhar air a chur a mach ann an cumadh tlachdmhor le Comunn nan Trachdaichean, Sruighlea. Tha an còrr de'n leabhar mar a thàinig e bho pheann an ùghdair. Tha e coltach gu robh e 'na shealladh na searmoinean-sa, a chuir e fhéin ann an òrdugh mus do chaochail e, a chlà-bhualladh; agus is maith is fhiach gach aon de na seachd searmoinean fichead a chur ann an leabhar. Tha smior an t-Soisgeil anna uile, agus tha iad air an sgrìobhadh gu sìmplidh òrdail, dìreach mar a labhair e iad, ann an Gàidhlig mhìlis, bhlasda a mhàthar, sùghmhor, sàsaichte, blàth bho a chridhe. Nuair a leughas mi anns a' cheud searmoin, a thug an t-ainm "An Iuchair Oir" do'n leabhar, 'A charaid agus a bhana-charaid," saoilidh mi gu bheil mi araon ag cluinntinn a ghuth chàirdeil, choibhneil, agus a' faicinn a rithis nan sùilean tlàtha, tarraingeach.

Chaidh trian de na searmoinean anns an leabhar a shearmonachadh air tùs air Latha Comanachaidh ann an iomadh coimhthional air feadh na Gaidhealtachd agus gu sònraichte anna na h-Eileanan. Cuid eile dhiubh a chraobh-sgaoileadh air an Ràdio.. 'S iomadh duine a chuala na searmoinean-sa cheana, agus a bhios ro thoileach an leughadh a rithis agus cnuasachadh orra air an socair fhéin an

taic na cagailte. Bho dh'fhosgail mi an leabhar cha b'urrainn dhomh a leigeil seachad agus na leugh mi e bho thoiseach gu crìch, agus is iomadh dorus a dh'fhosgail "An Iuchair Oir" dhomh air an turus.

Chan aithne dhomh leabhar shearmoinean Gàidhlig eile, bho chaidh "Beatha agus Searmoinean McCheyne" eadar-theangachadh gu Gàidhlig, a bhios cho feumail do na h-uile aig a bheil spéis do na nithean sin, ris "An Iuchair Oir".

Cha b'urrainn cuimhneachan na bu fhreagarrach agus na b'fheumaile a bhith agalln air ar caraid caomh na an leabhar shearmonach-sa, a bhios 'na chuimhneachan air ministear soisgeulach agus prìomh sgoilear Gàidhlig agus caraid còir dileas, agus mar a ghuidh e fhéin anns an Roimh-Ràdh, "na mheadhon ùrachaidh is beathachaidh d'a chàirdean uile, agus mar sin 'na bheannachd agus 'na bhuanachd do no Gaidheil uile a leughas e."

Is mòr agus is maith luach na prìs (ceithir is sia sgìllinn), ged a bhiodh e uibhir eile.

D. McT.

Argyll

THE HISTORY OF ARGYLL, from the earliest times to the beginning of the 16th century; by Dr. Colin M. Macdonald (W. & R. Holmes, Glasgow, 343 pp., 15/-).

Much has been written about the Highlands—a great deal of it very shoddy history—and very much still remains to be done. One welcomes, therefore, this solid contribution to the earlier history of one of the most important areas of the Highlands. It is a well-documented book, the fruit of much research and study, as the numerous notes and references indicate. The author exercises his critical faculty on his sources of information and is not afraid to "debunk" much of what passes for history. Several very useful "illustrative maps" add to the value of the book.

Argyll is now a large county; it used to be an extensive province, reaching from the Mull of Kintyre to Loch Broom; earlier it was an independent Gaelic kingdom. The stages in its development are here traced with skill, against the background of Scottish history.

One hopes that Dr. Macdonald will continue his work on Argyll in a further volume or two.

* AN IUCHAIR OIR (THE GOLDEN KEY): Gaelic Sermons by the late Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A.; edited, with Gaelic Memoir and Biographical Sketch in English, by the Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A. (Stirling Tract Enterprise, 4/6, postage 4d.).

The Battle of Gruinard

MS. VII, IAN (*sic*) DEOIR. Earran I, Blar Traigh Ghruinneaird (John Grant, Edinburgh, 22 pp. 1/6).

This booklet contains the Gaelic text of an account of the battle of Gruinard, fought in Islay in 1598 between the Macdonalds and the MacLeans, and other shorter pieces of local history, from MS. VII of the late John Dewar, who collected much material of this kind for the then Duke of Argyll. The stories are interesting and well told, but the editing leaves something to be desired, which is a pity, because the project of publishing this material is an excellent one.

For example, we are not told where this MS. now is, nor on what pages the material printed is found, nor whether the orthography represents that of Dewar himself. Inconsistencies in spelling, such as *Niall* on line 1 of p. 12 and *Nial* on the third line of the same page, *Mac Ghilleathain* (p. 15) and *McGillean* (p. 9), are very common, and there are also misprints, such as *Lachum* for *Lachunn* (p. 18, line 3), *dh'fhalbh air aghart* (p. 15, line 3) for *dh'fhalbh e air aghart*. It may be intended to reproduce Dewar's exact text, but nothing would have been lost by making the spelling consistent, and abbreviations such as "McG," "McD" for "Mac Ghilleathain," and "Mac Dhòmhnuaill," are certainly only in place in the collector's notebook.

The Foreword gives references to allusions to Dewar in the Introduction of J. F. Campbell's "Popular Tales of the West Highlands." But these references do not coincide with the pagination of the 1890 edition of the Tales anyway. Here for *I xv* read *I xviii*, and for *I xiii* read *I li*. In the first case what Campbell writes is, "I am largely indebted . . . to many others, including John Dewar, a self-educated man of advanced age, whose contribution does him the greatest credit."

It is worth noting that Campbell also refers to Dewar on p. 184 of Vol II of the old *An Gàidheal*. "Of stuff of this kind (i.e. popular local history) I have here six large volumes collected for the Duke of Argyll by John Dewar, who died at the end of last year. (i.e. in 1872) These will be preserved in the library of Inveraray*. To the best of my belief, no such collection of popular history ever was made in any country." As Campbell only

mentions six books, the origin and present locality of No. VII becomes a matter of greater interest than ever.

As for the Battle of Gruinard itself, there is a vivid account of it in the Wardlaw MS., written by the Rev. James Fraser, and published by the Scottish History Society, pp. 232-233 of Vol. 47 (first series). This includes the witch's three warnings to Sir Lachlann MacLean; they are not identical with the warnings given in Dewar's story. "But such responses," says the worthy Mr. Fraser, "be commonly doubtfull and ambiguous, dangerous and unlawfull." It is also worth mentioning that another story (and locality) is given of the origin of the tune *Deoghail an t-àl* in the old *An Gàidheal*, Vol. VI, p. 112.

It remains to be said that it is the editor, not the reviewer, who should give his readers information of the above kind. Certainly the publication of Dewar's material deserves every encouragement. But a proper account should be given of the manuscripts themselves, as well as references to other publications where the same or diverging versions exist. And the Gaelic spelling should be made consistent, taking care to retain forms used in the reciter's own dialect. It would also be very useful to have the material in Dewar's MSS. properly catalogued.

J. L. C.

An Old Tale Re-told

THE CATTLE OF ST. MOCHUA; A Paraphrase of the Irish Tale, by Frank Darling, D.Sc. (Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh, 14 pp., 1/3).

This is a dainty little booklet telling the story of the saintly Mochua and his "cattle"—the cock which roused him at dawn to praise his Creator; the little grey mouse which tickled his ear and reminded him of his devotions; and the tiny fly which traced the lines for him upon his Psalter. When these in due course died, the desolate Mochua wrote of his loss to Columcille in Iona, only to be gently rebuked for grieving over the loss of his "flock"—"wealth" which he ought not to have had.

It is a charming tale, and many will be glad to have this short and simple version of it, beautifully printed, with several illustrations. Gaelic readers may recall a Gaelic version by Mr. I. N. MacLeod printed in *An Gàidheal* Og in November last year (page 38).

* Where are they now?

The Late Mr. Donald Graham

MANY will greatly regret to hear of the death, on 19th September, of Mr. Donald Graham, M.A., F.E.I.S., Inverness.

Donald Graham, who was in his 61st year, belonged to Uig, Skye. Educated there and at Kingussie School (where he was Dux), he graduated at Edinburgh University in 1910 and was First Prizeman in Celtic. In 1911 he became Headmaster of Dunvegan School, Skye, and there introduced Gaelic into the curriculum. As President of the Skye Branch of the E.I.S. in 1919 he did much to get Skye schools to take advantage of the Gaelic Clause in the 1918 Education Act.

During the First World War Mr. Graham served in the Royal Navy and, after a period on the staff of the Central School, Inverness, he became Gaelic Master at the Inverness Royal Academy in 1922, a post which he held till his death. He also had been Second Master for years past, and in addition interested himself greatly in school sports, his special interest being Shinty (he was an official of the Schools Camanachd Association).

Mr. Graham was for some years Hon. Secretary of the Inverness Branch of An Comunn, served for many years on An Comunn's Executive Council, and was until his death Convener of the Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee. He had been a Gaelic Adjudicator at local and national mods. For the past fifteen years he was Vice-President of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhir-Nis and was a member of Council of the Gaelic Society of Inverness and of the Educational Institute of Scotland (whose Fellowship he was awarded some years ago).

Donald Graham's many friends and former pupils mourn his passing. He was a true Gael, a kindly man, worthy of the high respect in which he was held, both in his profession and in the various spheres in which he was active. We record our deep sympathy with his brothers and sisters and other relatives.

At the funeral, which took place to Uig, Skye, An Comunn Gaidhealach was represented by Mr. John F. Steele, M.A., Gaelic Master, Portree School. A Memorial Service was held at Inverness, the Gaelic part of which was conducted by the Rev. Alex. Boyd, M.A., St. Mary's (Gaelic) Church, and the Benediction was pronounced by the Very Rev. Dr. Dugald Macfarlane, Kingussie.

AM FEASGAR

Air feasgar ciùin Céitein
Bu mhian leam bhith 'g èisdeachd
Ri ceilear gach creutair
Tha reubhadh sa' choill.

An uair thig am feasgar
Tha an ceòl tighinn gu crìch;
Tha gach creutair is beothach
Ag gabhail gu sìth.

Tha na bà laigh ag geumnaich
Air an achaidh ud thall
'S cluinnear luinneag na banachaig
Dol 'gam bleoghainn air ball.

DOMHNALL CAMBEUL.
(Sgoil Dhail-a-brog)

Ruairidh Agus An Togsaid

Aon latha thàinig Dòmhnall mu'n cuairt
oiseann an taighe agus chunnaic e Ruairidh ag
cur car de thogsaid anns an robh uisge-beatha.

"Tha thu ag cur car dhith, a Ruairidh!"
arsa Dòmhnall.

"Thà," arsa Ruairidh. "Is ann dhomh bu
chòir; is iomadh car a chuir i fhéin dhìomsa!"

DOMHNALL AONGHAS MACMHAOLAIN.
(Sgoil Dhail-a-brog).

COWAL and its CAPITAL (from p. 128)

Part of the ancient kingdom of Dalriada, Cowal remained a strongly Gaelic area until fairly recently, in spite of its being so near the strong English influences of Glasgow and Clydeside. In 1873 it was reported that along "the shores of Cowal, from Inverchaolain, by Toward, Dunoon, Sandbank, Kilmun, and Strone, English prevails, but a few natives and a considerable immigrant population still speak Gaelic." There was then "a considerable Gaelic population in Kilmun and Sandbank," while in Dunoon there were upwards of 200 Gaelic-speakers, "but chiefly immigrant." The Gaelic people were gradually going to the principal towns in their neighbourhood, while Lowlanders who have been successful in business in the towns, or farmers from the South, go to occupy farms or residences within the Gaelic area. This change has taken place extensively in the district from Otter Ferry on Loch Fyne round to Loch Long." In 1870, when a purely English-speaking minister was inducted to the Dunoon Free Church, a minority formed the Gaelic Congregation.

Gaelic still has many loyal supporters in Cowal and Dunoon, and the magnificent work of preparation for this year's National Mod there, as well as the Mod itself, will, we believe, further strengthen the Cause in South Argyll.

"Cuidich na Laoich: Cuidich an Oigridh"

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

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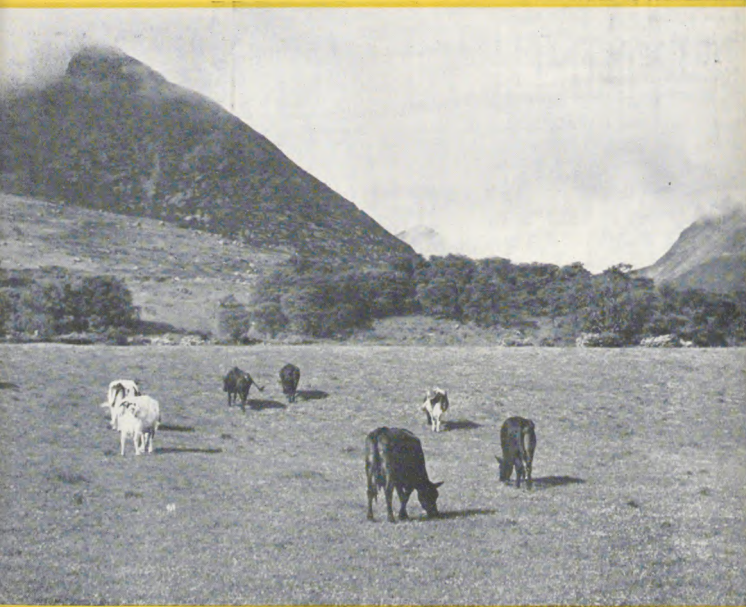
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VOL. XLV

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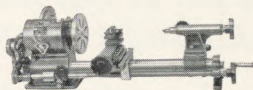


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Our Cover Picture

Suidhe Fhearghuis, Arran.

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WHEN
WRITING TO OUR ADVERTISERS

Oraid a' Chinn-Suidhe

(Seo an òraid Ghàidhlig a liubhair Ceann-suidhe a' Chom-uinn Ghaidhealaich, Mgr. Iain M. MacGhille-na-brataich, aig fosgladh a' Mhòid Mhóir an Dun-Obhainn air an dara là de'n Dàmhar, 1950)

THA fìchead bliadhna ann o'n a bha Mòd Nàiseanta againn ann am baile Dhun-Obhainn. Tha deagh chuimhne agam fhìn mar a thàinig mi dhachaidh 'nam dheann-rùith bhò America, 's mi 'nam eilthreach ann an tìr sin fad bliadhna— agus eagal mo chridhe orm nach ruigeadh am bàta Cluaidh ann an am. 'S e Mòd ainmeil a bh'ann. ach ar leam gum bi Mòd na bliadhna seo nas motha na Mòd Nàiseanta a bh'againn fhathast. Tha àireamh nan co-fharpaiseach co-dhiubh air thoiseach air na bh'againn, eadhon an Glaschu.

Tha sinn gu dearbh a' tairgse buidheachais do Chomhairle Dhun-Obhainn. a rinn a leithid de dh'ullachadh air ar son, agus do na càirdean còire a chuidich leotha.

Theagamh nach e nì furasda a th'ann a nis deisealachd a dheanamh fa chomhair Mòd Nàiseanta seach mar a bha e eadhon fìchead bliadhna air ais. Tha na h-uirde de cho-fharpaisich ann agus gu bheil e duilich chan e mhàin tallachan fhaotainn a tha freagarrach ann am meudachd, ach gur gann gu bheil tìr ann rè nan ceithir làithean anns am faod sinn ar n-anail a tharraing, leis mar a tha co-fharpais, cuirm, no coinneamh a' leantail a chèile.

Ar leam, mur a bheil Mòd ri bheil againn mar a th'aig na h-eòin—a' tòiseachadh ann an camhainich na maidne—gum feumar fuasgladh air chor-eigin fhaotainn air an amlach seo, ged a tha an t-amladh sin ann an

seagh eile 'na chùis gairdeachais leinn uile.

Tha am Mòd a' sior dhòl an treunad agus am meudachd. Ach an lorg sin tha ceistean cudthromach, do-rèidhtichte a' tighinn an uachdar, air am feum luchd-riaghlaidh a' Chomuinn breith thuigsach thoinnsig a thoirt seachad. Chan urrainnear a' chùis a chur air aon taobh nas fhaide. 'Nam bheachd-sa chan 'eil e idir cuimseach a bhith feuchainn ri leasachadh fhaotainn air a' cheist le seòrsa de thaghadh a dheanamh air na co-fharpaisich mus tig iad chun a' Mhòid Nàiseanta. Chan e sin dòigh a bhiodh freagarrach air na ceàrnan sin de'n Ghaidhealtachd far nach 'eil Mòd Dùthchail air a chumail agus, ma dh'fhaoidte, far nach 'eil thathast meur de'n Chomuinn air a stèidheachadh.

Chan 'eil mi fhìn a' faicinn dol as dha, aig a' cheann mu dheireadh thall, ach gum feumar dà roinn a bhith air a dheanamh de'n Mhòd Nàiseanta—Mòd nan inbheach, a mhaireadh co-dhiubh ceithir làithean, agus dà là air son na cloinne aig deireadh na seachdainne roimhe sin.

Aidicheam nach biodh an t-uidheamachadh sin furasda a cheannsachadh, agus gu bheil gu leòir a dh'fhaodar a ràdh 'na aghaidh. Ach, mas e clach-oisinn obair a' Chomuinn Comunn na h-Oigridh agus matheas na cloinne anns a' Ghaidhealtachd, tha e do-sheachainte feumail gum biodh farsaingeachd fais aig Mòd Nàiseanta na cloinne.

Riun Comhairle a' Mhòid 's a' Chiùil atharrachadh frithealaidh thairis air na co-fharpaisean co-cheangailte ris a' Bhonn Oir air a' bhliadhna seo, agus tha mi an dòchas gun tig faochadh beag co-dhiubh an lùib a' ghnothaich.

(An còrr air t. d. 138)

Gliocas nan Gaidheal

Chan 'eil euslainte gun iocshlainte, ach chan 'eil tilleadh air an Aog.

Firinn air son a' Mhios seo

Nach 'eil iocshlaint ann an Gilead? Nach 'eil léigh an sin? Car son mar sin nach 'eil slàinte air a h-aiseag . . . ?

—Jerem. viii. 22.

President's Address

ANNUALLY, at one great centre or another in Scotland, we hold the national festival of the Gaelic year—An Comunn Gaidhealach National Mod. This year in the famous Clyde resort of Dunoon we are given a truly Highland welcome by its Provost, civic heads, and kindly people and we find a welcome even in the name of the street which leads to this hall—Tom a' Mhòid.

It is MacCulloch, writing his history of the Highlands, circa 1817, who would be surprised could he attend this National Mod of 1950. For in that history, in no uncertain language, did he, nearly a century and a half ago, condemn the illiteracy of Gaelic, comment on its decline, and prophesy its sure and swift demise. An erudite man in other spheres, MacCulloch's criticism of Gaelic, its phonetics and general etymology, rested almost wholly on his ability to read the English in a Gaelic dictionary. Scholars, historians, and would-be realists in succeeding generations have followed the fashion set by MacCulloch, and have been discovering new reasons why Gaelic should die. They have stated cleverly that only as a dead language can it live! But still Gaelic, its traditions, its literature, its music, its spirituality, withstands today humbly, yet with proud conviction, the onslaughts of time, economic harshness, and the colossus of advancing materialism.

Our people were wise out of those opinions crystallised the proverb, "Is fheàrr an cumadair na an cranadair"—better the criticism of the man who encourages and builds than of him who finds fault and destroys. "While our National Mods increase in prestige and useful purpose, we are sadly aware that the fight to maintain our language and culture grows more stern as the remoteness of glen and island is penetrated by modern invention. We look more eagerly than ever before in our history for the "Cumadair" ("the encourager")—for the sympathy and understanding of our brother and sister Scots in our cultural purpose. I am proud and glad to say that we do not look in vain. We are stimulated in our work by the kindly word and generous deed of fellow-Gael and brother and sister Scots

throughout Britain and in almost every corner of the world. Their hearts truly speak of their love of the ancient language though upon the lips of many it may be silent.

Proof of the widespread practical help and interest was there for all to see at the four-

day War Memorial Feill held by An Comunn in Glasgow, when over half of our Target of £20,000 to help the youth of the Highlands was realised. And, if further proof is needed, know and appreciate the untiring work of the An Comunn Branch here in Dunoon during the past eighteen months, when they, helped by individuals many of whom do not

(Continued on p. 139)

Bho t.d. 137

Ach, mar a thubhairt mi, chan ann mi-shona a bu choir dhuinn a bhith a thaobh lionmhorachd nan co-fharpaisich no a thaobh àireamh na cuideachd a tha ag cruinneachadh a ceithir rannan ar dùthcha a dh'ionnsaigh a' Mhòid.

THA sin uile a' leagail ris, air a' chuid as lugha, gu bheil ùidh aig mòran anns an obair a tha An Comunn a' deanamh—nach 'eil iad a' tighinn a mhàin a chionn 's gu bheil toll-intinn nach beag ann a bhith ag coinneachadh ri càirdean Gaidhealach no a chionn 's gu bheil iad air an cuartachadh rè tamull bhig le bàrachd is ceò an dùthcha féin.

Ach, biodh sin mar a bhiteas, mór 's mar a shoirbhich leis a' Chomunn, chan urrainn dhuinn gun a bhith mothachadh nach 'eil ar n-obair ach aig toiseach toiseachaidh. 'S ann anns a' Ghaidhealtachd fhéin, anns gach gleann is fireach, gach croit is clachan, gach sgoth-iasgais is bothan-fighidh, a dh'fheumar a bhith sìreadh buill ùra a Chomunn. Oir, ma dh'fhàilnicheas oimn iad sin fhaotainn, cha bhì anns a' Chomunn ach seòrsa de phlaosg thairis air bodhaig ar daoine.

'S ann air an aobhar sin, ma tà, a chuir sinn air bonn comhairlean ionadail air feadh tìr-mòr agus nan eileanan gus coimhead as déidh feachdan Comunn na h-Oigridh a tha air an stéidheachadh anns na h-ionadan sin.

Tha sinn an dòchas cuideachd gun gabh meuran a' Chomunn tuille tlachd ann a bhith a' brosnachadh Comunn na h-Oigridh—rud a bhiodh na bhuanrachd 's 'na sporadh do no meuran fhéin.

Tha sinn an dùil 's an dòchas gun faigh sinn fir-dheilbhe bho Àrd-ùghdarras an Fhoghlainn ann an ùine ghoirid a ni cuideachadh leinn ann an rùintean a' Chomunn air fad.

Tha fios againn uile gur h-ann ris a' chloinn anns a' Ghaidhealtachd a tha cor ar cànan, ar ceòl, 's ar gnàthasan an urras. Chan 'eil teagamh nach bi gu leòir dhiubh, nuair a thig iad gu inbhe, 'nam maighstirean-sgoie, 'nam ministearan, 'nam sgiobairean, agus cuid dhiubh. ma dh'fhaoidte, 'nam *poicemen* (agus chan e a bheag dhiubh sin a bhios 'nan ceannardan a' riaghladh bhailtean mòra, mar a tha iad an dràsda ann an Glaschu, Dun Bhreatainn, agus iomadach àite eile).

Ach 's e ar dùrachd gun bi gach éis a th'air a' Ghaidhealtachd air a cheartachadh, agus gun faod a' mhòr-chuid de'n oigridh am beòshlaint a chosnadh gu sona, soirbheachail aig an taigh. 'S ann riutha sin gu sonraichte a bhios sinn ag earbsa cor ar cànan a dhion 's a dhaingneachadh.

Ar leam gum bi luach saogha'ta ann dhaibh, cho math ri luach intinneil, spioradail, ma sheasas iad dileas d'an cànan. Ach, ged nach fùigheadh agus ged nach robh sgillinn ruadh an lorg an dilseachd, bhiodh am buadhan intinn agus am mac-meanma beairteach thar chàic. agus b'urrainnear a ràdh mu'n Ghaidhealtachd air fad mar a thuir an bàrd n'a eilean fhéin: "Chan 'eil ionad anns a' chruinne

As intinniche òigridh: Sunnachd cridheil fonn nar nìgean

As binne sheinneas òran. Ar cuid bhodach, is iad tha frogail,

Mór tha thogail còmh riuth: Sùrd na caileig air a' chaillich; Is mear an aigne tha fòidhep.

Ma dh'oibriches sinn, chan a a mhàin mar bhuid de'n Chomunn, ach mar Ghaidheil uile, gus na faclan sin a dhèanamh fìor a thaobh na Gaidhealtachd gu lóir, bidh beannachadh is buaidh 'nar cois.

count themselves members of An Comunn, and helped also by the people of Dunoon, have made magnificent preparation in money and services to make our National Mod of 1950 a successful and memorable one.

BEHIND all that support I am convinced is the realisation that, in the era of the Welfare State, it is more than ever necessary to take individual and corporate action to safeguard and develop art and culture generally, and the arts and culture of a minority people such as ours—a people who, though sadly depleted in numbers and gear in their homeland, deserve consideration, if only because they are the proud source from which this country and empire have received invaluable spiritual and material benefit.

And so, in the past economic and social difficulties, aggravated by the "remoteness" factor, were responsible for our decline in numbers, with the consequent weakening of our language and cultural bulwark, today the big overdue development of our natural resources and native industries—together with the much needed transport improvements and the possible introduction of new industries (all of which will increase labour demand)—may make the phrase "Highland Development" true territorially, but not necessarily true racially.

It is not that we would wish to remain remote and cut off as we have been for centuries. On the contrary, we have had bitter struggle for generations to draw constructive attention to our adverse economic conditions. It would seem now that some measure of response is being slowly born. But the delay and neglect of generations makes the new development almost as great a menace to our folk-culture as was the apathy which preceded it. At the same time, then, as we welcome every effort that will give to our people a better standard of living and opportunities for happy work in their own land, we in An Comunn must work the harder to preserve the Gaelic language and all that it connotes.

There are brains in Gaeldom of the most desirable quality that are compelled to keep their contents latent because of the great economic limitations that have hitherto prevailed. The Gael is a valuable special product of a valuable special nursery, as Glas-

gow and the other cities of our country and empire know. It would be blind folly on the part of the powers-that-be not to develop and give opportunity to the acclimatised Highlander in his own land.

It will not do to say, "Let English education suffice." English education is necessary, but it must be given in the best way to yield results. The person who is able to understand his own language in a literary way is best fitted to understand anything in another language. All we ask for our own language is that each and everyone in the Gaelic area who may wish it be made intelligent in it.

That is why An Comunn Gaidhealach is making the keystone of its efforts the child in the Highlands. That is why we do honour to the great Gaels like Malcolm Macleod who worked to have a place given to Gaelic in the Education Act of 1918. The labour of these men has borne great fruit, albeit new difficulties have arisen occasioned by depopulation, shortage of teachers, and the consequent policy of centralisation. Nevertheless, that does not affect our gratitude to the Department of Education for Scotland, to the Directors and Education Committees in the Highland Counties for the sympathetic and active co-operation they have given, and are preparing to give, to An Comunn in its work of organising the youth of the Highlands so that they may know more fully their language and heritage.

But while we annually rejoice in the friendship and competition of the National Mod, and when we know that the Provincial Mods now—in great number held throughout the Highlands and in Glasgow, Edinburgh and London—are, as it were, the visible network of our activities as a Comunn, we are nevertheless fully aware that it is in the work of our Standing Committees and in the active membership of our adult branches and feachdan of our youth organisation in the towns and villages and glens of Gaeldom that there pulses the life-blood of our Association.

IT is from the fishing boat, the weaving shed, the croft-fields, and the school playing-fields that An Comunn must renew itself. It is our ambition that there should be established in our Gaelic Highlands permanent educative and recreational

establishments where children and adults may meet for the common purposes of friendship that actuate us all. Already we are proposing to add another Comunn na h-Oigridh camp in the South to the one already so successfully held in the North at Inverailort. Already we have established a Gaelic learners' camp to which this year came girls from the Glasgow schools of Bellahouston and Woodside—girls who, through the enlightened encouragement of the Glasgow Education Committee, have opportunity of becoming proficient in the Gaelic language.

In these and a multitude of ways An Comunn is trying to fulfil its objects.

With the maze of modern distraction and invention all around us, to follow the simple path of faith and tradition requires unselfishness, proper pride, and steadfastness of purpose. There is, however, one direction at least in which modern invention has helped in strengthening the purposes we have at heart, and that is the Radio. We continue to be much indebted to the B.B.C. for the enlightenment and constructive purpose behind Gaelic broadcasting in Scotland. The Gaelic lessons, for which we have to thank Mr. Hugh MacPhee, B.B.C. Gaelic Director, and Mr. Edward Pursell, Campbeltown, I understand, commanded up to a million listeners, and are bringing Gaelic to the masses who now know at least how to approve or disapprove of the weather in the old language.

To reconcile the demands of commerce and industry, the demands made by the restless urge of modern living with a quiet faith in the things of the spirit—our language of the tumbling streams and towering mountains embodies—is An Comunn's difficult task in this day and generation.

There is hope that we can succeed if we know in our hearts that the lasting values in the life of our people lie in their faith in the God of their fathers, in the language embodying that faith, in the music and poetry that bring to us the laugh of the waves round the sea-girt islands, the whisper of the west wind in the heather, and that conjure up a land beloved for its rugged grandeur and the quiet peace of its thousand havens.

It may be that the wind now
(Continued on p. 144)

Annual General Meeting

THE Annual General Meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Burgh Hall, Dunoon, on Saturday, 7th October, 1950. The President, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, occupied the chair, and a large number of members attended.

The President made fitting reference to Dr. John Cameron, Mr. Donald Graham, and Mr. Angus Kennedy, who had recently passed away, and the members stood in silence as the tribute of respect.

Mr. Bannerman then expressed the cordial thanks of An Comunn to the Mod Local Committee whose splendid work had not only brought the Mod Fund to over £2,100—a very fine achievement—but had also enabled all the arrangements to be carried through so smoothly. This, he said, was the happiest Mod he had known.

The Secretary reported the result of the election of Office-bearers as follows:—

For Office of President: Mr. J. M. Bannerman.

For Office of Vice-President: Rev. T. M. Murchison.

For Office of Elected Member of Executive Council: Mrs. J. M. Bannerman; Hector MacDougall; Rev. Alexander Macdonald; Roderick S. Thomson; Alasdair M. Matheson; Mrs. Jenny M. B. MacLean; Nicol Campbell; John MacKay; Charles Reppeke; and Kenneth Macdonald.

To fill casual vacancies on the Council the following were appointed: Angus Matheson; Angus White; and Hector F. MacNeil.

The Annual Accounts and Reports of the Standing Committees were submitted and approved. Mr. J. T. Graham, Treasurer, in submitting the accounts, said that, although he was demitting office as Treasurer, he was not giving up his lifelong interest in An Comunn and hoped to be able to serve in some less exacting way in future. Mr. Kenneth Macdonald, Convener of the Finance Committee, proposed that they minute their gratitude to Mr. Graham for all his work.

The Secretary submitted an invitation from Largs asking An Comunn to hold the 1952 National Mod in that town. He also submitted an invitation from Rothesay asking that the 1952 Mod be held there. Mr. A. Brown, President of the Largs

Branch, moved, and Mr. Cameron seconded, that the Largs invitation be accepted. Mr. John C. MacLean, seconded by Sheriff D. A. Donald, moved that the Rothesay invitation be accepted. After a lengthy discussion, in which strong arguments were brought forward in favour of both places and in which appreciation was expressed of the cordiality of both invitations, a vote was taken and it was decided by a majority in favour of Rothesay. It was then unanimously agreed that the 1952 National Mod should be held in Rothesay.

THE meeting then proceeded to consider motions of which notice had been given.

Mr. Donald Thomson moved, on behalf of Major Alasdair M. MacLachlainn who was absent, the following motion: "Gun clòdh-bhuailteadh an Ràdh air Cunntasan a' Chomunn anns a' Ghàidhlig gu bliadhna." After discussion, the motion was rejected.

Mr. Donald Thomson moved an amendment to Rule 15 of the Constitution, but, failing to secure the necessary two-thirds majority, it was rejected.

Mr. Thomson then moved the insertion of two new items in the Bye-laws, with reference to Standing Orders, and it was agreed to remit consideration of these matters to the Executive Council.

Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon's motions to increase the subscription rates for life members and ordinary members were moved, in his absence, by Mr. Farquhar MacRae, but were rejected.

Mr. Mackinnon's motion to include the Ex-President ex officio in the Executive Council was withdrawn.

Mr. Farquhar MacRae moved two amendments to the Constitution to allow all Presidents of the Association, on demitting office, to become Life Hon. Presidents and Life Members of the Executive Council. These proposals were rejected, and consequently Mr. Donald MacLean's motion, similar in substance, fell.

Mr. MacRae also moved an amendment to Rule 39, relating to the acceptance of nomination for office, and this was unanimously approved.

Two vacancies on the Feill Trust, caused by the deaths of Dr. John Cameron and Mr. Robert Bain, were filled by the appointment of Mr. Wm. Hume and Mr. Farquhar MacRae.

It was suggested that the

names of first-prize winning choirs, prior to the institution of the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy competition, should be printed in the official programme, and also that piping and Highland dancing should have a place at the National Mod. These suggestions were remitted to the Mod and Music Committee for consideration.

The meeting closed with thanks to the Chairman.

GAELIC BROADCASTING

THE B.B.C. Gaelic Department's plans for this winter's broadcasting include the third series of lessons on "Learning Gaelic." This particular feature has gained widespread popularity, and deservedly so. The first series of lessons was so successful that, after 10,000 copies of the accompanying pamphlet had been sold, the demand was still unsatisfied. Of the pamphlet for the second series, 14,000 copies were sold. The third pamphlet, now available from the B.B.C. Publications Department, price 6d., should also be in great demand.

Requests for these Gaelic lesson pamphlets have come from all over Scotland, England, Ireland, and Wales, as well as from the British Army in Germany; from France, U.S.A., Australia, and even Mexico. A request has come from Nova Scotia for permission to reprint the pamphlets there and get copies of the recorded programmes.

The usual full and varied programme of talks, music, and drama, along with occasional special features, has been arranged.

Appreciation should here be expressed of the excellent arrangements made for broadcasting from the National Mod at Dunoon. On four successive days (Tuesday to Friday), as well as the following Sunday (the religious service), broadcasts from the Mod carried to the far places something of what was being enjoyed by those fortunate enough to be present in Dunoon.

Representatives from France, Belgium, and other countries attended the Mod, in order to select from the wealth of Mod material what they wanted for building up broadcast programmes for their own countries. The Welsh Regional Service, the Children's Hour, the Third Programme, and the Scottish Home Service (non Gaelic), also carried features about the Mod.

The Mod

By HECTOR MACDOUGALL

THIS year at Dunoon, as last year at Inverness, the Annual Mod extended to a full week. It opened on Monday evening, 2nd October, and its final echo was recorded in the Mod Gaelic Service on Sunday, 8th October, in St. Cuthbert's Church, Dunoon.

Two full decades have passed since the Mod was held in Dunoon before—in 1930 (the only time it was held there till this year). Many changes have taken place since then. The President that year was Sheriff John MacMaster Campbell, one of the four founders of An Comunn. He is now gone, as are the four who succeeded him in turn—Rev. Dr. Neil Ross, Mr. John R. Bannerman, Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, and Dr. John Cameron.

It is a singularly tragic feature of the movement that, of its many past presidents, only one is alive today—The Countess of Cromartie, who was President for a short term during the early years of An Comunn.

Time has taken its toll of the rank and file in the movement since that visit to Dunoon in 1930. In addition to the President, other loyal workers who were prominent in Dunoon during Mod Week, 1930, and who are no longer with us, include: Mrs. Burley Campbell, Lady Elspeth Campbell, Phemie Marquis (Mrs. John Colquhoun), Rev. Hector Cameron, Rev. William MacPhail, Rev. T. S. MacPherson, Rev. J. A. Nicholls, Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Mr. Charles Campbell, Mr. Hugh MacCorquodale (Fingal) and his brother Donald, Mr. John A. Nicolson, Mr. Donald Graham, Mr. David Urquhart, Mr. H. Plunkett Greene, music adjudicator, and many others.

The Crowned Bard of that year was Roderick Campbell, and he is, happily, with us, as are the two Gold Medalists, Bessie Campbell and Allan MacLean. This Bessie Campbell is not to be confused with her namesake who was Gold Medalist the previous year, and who was the wife of Mr. Duff of Kinlochleven, well-known for his mountain rescue work. Several of those whose names were in the prize-list have

since gained greater renown as Gold Medalists.

A Great Mod

THIS year's was, without any exaggeration, a great Mod, and not in its duration only, but, more important still, in its excellence. Being officially opened on the Monday evening, the formalities of the opening ceremony were not allowed to steal any of the time or attention of the competitions during the week. The Mod was opened in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m. on Monday evening, and, as is customary, the proceedings began with a Gaelic prayer, the Rev. Malcolm MacLean of Conon, a member of the Executive Council, officiating. Mr. John M. Bannerman, President, then paid tribute to the memory of Dr. John Cameron, his own predecessor in office, whose death some little time ago has been such a loss to An Comunn and to the Cause at large. Mr. Bannerman recalled the last Mod at Dunoon, to which he himself had raced back from America to be present. The President's Gaelic and English orations are printed elsewhere in this issue, and we need not summarise them here.

The President spoke appreciatively of what Provost E. F. Wyatt of Dunoon, the Councillors, and Dunoon people generally had done to make the Mod the complete success which he was sure it was going to be.

Provost Wyatt spoke briefly, and even used a Gaelic word—"fiuch"—which, we presume, referred more to the weather than to any of the other connections in which that word is used! He welcomed the Mod to Dunoon, as he did later on in the week, when a Civic Reception was given on the Wednesday evening.

Other speakers at the opening ceremony included "An Seabhac," one of two delegates from the Irish Oireachtas, the Irish counterpart of our Mod. "An Seabhac" is now as well known at the Mod as our own regular attenders. He is doing good work in Ireland, and one of his more recent productions is a Gaelic map of Ireland with all place-names and surrounding seas in Gaelic.

Juniors' Day

TUESDAY was the Juniors' Day, and I never heard better singing, particularly from the choirs; and that was the expressed opinion of the adjudicators.

A Junior Concert was given in the Pavilion on Tuesday evening. Mr. T. G. Henderson, Director of Education for Argyll, presiding. The programme was sustained in the main by the day's chief prize-winners. In his brief address, Mr. Henderson showed that he is much in sympathy with the promotion of the language, though he himself does not speak it. He mentioned that very shortly there will be three workers under the Scottish Education Department, and in conjunction with An Comunn, working for the promotion of Gaelic in the Highlands.

Mrs. Marshall, wife of ex-Provost Marshall, who was in office when the work of preparing for the Mod actually commenced, presented the prizes and trophies.

The senior competitions commenced on Wednesday, and so great was the number of entries that "overtime" was the rule for three days.

As already stated, a Civic Reception was given in the Pavilion on Wednesday evening, and to cater for those for whom no room could be found in the Pavilion a concert was held in the Cosy Corner. Part of this programme, as many readers would have heard, was broadcast.

The competitions decided on Wednesday included the Orain Mhora, Nova Scotian, Uist and Barra, Mull and Iona, and the James Grant competitions.

The Gold Medals, the Oban and Lorn, the Rural Choirs, the Clarsach, and the Senior Oral competitions were disposed of on Thursday, leaving only the larger choirs, the quartettes, duets, instrumental and other smaller competitions for Friday.

Two "Rural Choirs" Concerts—one in the Pavilion and one in the Cosy Corner—were given on Thursday evening, the Pavilion one being presided over by Mr. Donald MacDonald, and the other by Ex-Provost James Marshall.

Two Grand Closing Concerts (a first and second house) were given on Friday evening. Brigadier Sir Bruce A. Campbell of Arduaine (Lord Lieutenant of Argyll) presiding over the first, and Mr. Neil MacLean, Convener of the Mod Local Committee, at the second. There was

even a third overflow concert held in the Cosy Corner—six concerts in all in Mod Week, and that did not take into account the many ceilidhs held in the various hotels and boarding-houses where visitors had put up. There was also a dance in the Cosy Corner on Friday night, with a full attendance.

The Prizewinners

EVEN though a full list of all the prizewinners is given elsewhere in "An Gaidheal" it might be well and quite interesting to readers, to make brief reference to the chief prizewinners.

The Junior Medallists are Alistair MacCulloch, son of the President of Govan Branch of An Comunn, who is a native of Inverness (his mother is from Lewis), and Anne MacLeod, who is of Lewis parentage. The Mrs. Campbell Trophy (for unison singing) was won by Oban High School Junior Choir "A," followed by Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir. In the former first-prize winners' competition the winner was Alasdair Gillies, a member of a musical Scotsoun family which hails from Skye.

The "Oban Times" Shield was won by the "G.G." (of Glasgow), followed by Oban. The winners of the Mrs. Miller Trophy (for choral singing) were the Nicolson Memorial Junior Choir, Greenock, followed by Tarbert (Loch-fyne). The Action Song competition (for the Shiant Shield, presented by Mr. Compton Mackenzie) was won by Carradale Junior Choir, followed by two Oban choirs.

The Gold Medallists are Flora M. Campbell, Campbeltown, and Angus MacLeod, Scalpay, Harris, with Aunice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead, Catriona MacLean, Dunoon, Alexander MacDonald, and Finlay MacKeachan, Glasgow, following them up closely. The Nova Scotian prizewinner was Finlay MacKeachan, followed by Duncon MacCalman, Islay. The James Grant (men) was won by Alex. J. MacDonald, followed by Angus MacLeod, Scalpay, and Finlay MacKeachan. The men's "Oran-Mor"—that masterpiece, "A' Chusairt-Chuain" by Gobha na Hearadh—was very appropriately won by a Harrisman, Angus MacLeod, followed by Iain Darroch, Jura, and Finlay MacKeachan, who is of Islay parentage. The winner of first place in the women's "Oran-Mor" competition was Catriona J. B.

MacLean, Dunoon, third generation as a leading prizewinner at a Mod, daughter of two Mod Gold Medallists and granddaughter of a prizewinner in the bardic competitions. Margaret MacKay, Glasgow was second.

Flora Campbell, as well as being the female Gold Medallist, was also first in the Kennedy-Fraser and James Grant (ladies' voices) competitions. Nan Hunter, Duror, was the winner in the Uist and Barra, and the winner in the Mull and Iona was Aunice Gillies. In the Members Competition for ladies (Bessie Campbell Memorial), Elspeth A. Lamont, Glasgow, was the winner, followed by Nan Hunter. Miss Hunter, followed by Anne M. Gillies, Scotstoun, was also the winner of the Oban and Lorn (female) competition; while Angus MacLeod, followed by another MacLeod—Donald, from Portnahaven, won the male voices' Oban and Lorn badge.

Literary and Oral

COMING to the Literary and Oral Competitions: Mr. Angus Matheson, a native of Skye resident in Glasgow and an ex-tramwayman, won first place (and also second place with another poem) for the composition of a poem on any subject. This gained for him the Bardic Crown, making him the fifth Skye-man to have that honour. But he won more than that, for he also took the Miss Miller Weir Gold Pendant. The Cassillis Cup, awarded to the most outstanding competitor in the Literary Section, was awarded to Mrs. Mary I. Millar, Kingussie.

Two outstanding prizewinners in the Senior Oral competitions were Mary MacLean, of Grimsay, Uist, and Lachlan Robertson, Glasgow (of Skye). The adjudicators gave the exceptionally high mark of 100 per cent. to Miss MacLean for a narrative told with supreme elegance. She won a number of prizes.

Lachlan Robertson's prize effort was an Ossianic lay which has come down in his family. The adjudicators recommended that An Comunn should get both Miss MacLean's story and Mr. Robertson's lay printed in An Comunn publications and thus have them permanently preserved, for they cannot be allowed to be forgotten.

The Calum MacPharlain Memorial Prize (for reciting original poetry specially composed for the occasion) was won by Mrs.

Margaret Black, Oban, a native of Mull. The Glasgow Skye Association Medal for the highest marks in the senior oral section was awarded to Christina M. Dick, Glasgow.

Choral

THE Rural Choirs Competitions on Thursday were a musical treat. The Lorn Shield, and also the Dalriada Cup for the choir gaining the highest marks in Gaelic, were both won by the Portree Gaelic Choir, and Glasgow, Lewis, and Ceilidh nan Gaidheal folk were proud to see that the choir was ably led by Aline Mackenzie, as we knew her when she was a leading member of the Ceilidh. The Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Cuach was won by Southend Choir.

A Govan Choir Quartette, who called themselves "An Ceathrar Corra-ghriodhach," won first place in that competition and proved that it would be more appropriate to term themselves "An Ceathrar Smeorach".

The winners of the Mull and Iona Shield (for male-voice choirs) were Greenock Gaelic Choir, followed by Campbeltown. The winners of the choral puirt-a-beul competition were the "G.G.," followed by London and Campbeltown again.

But the really big competition was that for mixed choirs, for the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield and the "Weekly Scotsman" Cuach (for highest marks in Gaelic). There were twelve choirs entered. Campbeltown was first, "G.G.," and Greenock were equal at second place, with Oban following. Stornoway was highest in Gaelic, being four marks ahead of Oban, which was second for Gaelic, and thus Stornoway again won the Cuach which they won two years ago at Glasgow, the first year it was competed for.

The annual meeting of An Comunn, of which a full report appears elsewhere in this number, was held in the Burgh Hall on Saturday morning, and there it was decided that Rothesay should be the venue for the 1952 Mod—the second time it will house the National Mod. There was another invitation before the meeting, one from Largs, and it was an inspiration that such an invitation should come from Celtic Ayrshire. Although the decision was made for Rothesay in 1952, we hope to see the Mod at Largs or elsewhere in Ayrshire in the not too distant future.

Impressions of the Mod

By FRANCIS COLLINSON

(A talk broadcast in Arts Review on 18th October, 1950, and reproduced by kind permission of the author and the B.B.C.)

WHAT are my chief impressions of the Mod? First and foremost, the fervent love of the Gael for his language, at times most moving in its intensity.

Secondly, the eagerness of the children and the fresh pure quality of their voices.

Then, the superb virtuosity of some of the choirs and the high level of them all—and the keenness and knowledgeability with which this virtuosity was noted and approved and discussed afterwards by the audience, almost like the discussing of the finer points of play after a football match.

Of course the Mod had its disappointments too—but we shall leave those for the moment.

I have not the Gaelic, and it shows the un-failing friendliness I met with everywhere that never for a moment did I feel on the outside of things. This has been my first Mod, so I did not know in the least what to expect.

The first day of the Mod was entirely taken up with the children and juniors, and in some ways I found this the most interesting part of it. With them one would expect to hear a native music not yet become sophisticated, and so, possibly, nearer the traditional way of singing it. There was always the chance that there might be a granny in the background who had taught the songs the way she remembered them. Once or twice this was plainly so, as when one little girl sang a different version of the tune to that in the book, and sang it with authority—but somehow, as the competition for children's solo songs went on. I began to get the uneasy feeling that there was a curious restraint in the singing of these boys and girls that should not have been there. They were obviously *singing by the book*.

This was forcibly brought home to me in the next competition, which was for the best traditional singing of an unpublished Gaelic song. Some of the children were the same as those I had just heard, yet the difference was unbelievable—they were like birds set free from a cage! Now there was a freedom of performance that allowed full rein to the real Gaelic idiom. My immediate conclusion was that the code of adjudication must be based on a purely musical standard that did not allow for traditional freedoms: yet, when I discussed this with the distinguished musician who was adjudicating, he said that he himself had no intention of imposing any such standards—that he would have welcomed any freedom from the printed page, provided that it sprang from tradition and not merely from careless performance; but that in fact he had not had any such freedoms to deal with—which one had to admit was true.

All the same, when I was listening to solo singing by senior entrants next day, I noticed that another of the adjudicators took off marks from one girl's performance for what he described as approaching the notes of the tune from below, but which I felt to be quite an appropriate and artistic use of grace notes in the traditional manner, grace notes that had given me particular

pleasure when I heard them. Here then are two opposing points of view, the result of which must be that singers will play for safety and continue to sing by the book. If this is really so, then I am very much afraid that it means that a *native tradition of singing is being suppressed by an imported tradition of adjudication*. This is no reflection on the panel of adjudicators, who gave their decisions with high musicianship, clarity and fairness, but it does pose the question of whether the object of the Mod is to preserve the traditional style of singing of the Gael, or to sacrifice this for the usual standards of the purely musical festival.

Let us take just one aspect of the traditional style—the one that most closely concerns the kind of songs I have been talking about—the use of the grace note. This is an artistic device that is common to traditional songs in all languages. Its purpose is, firstly, to *adorn* the melody, but the grace note also has the function of a kind of *accompaniment* to a melody: it is in fact a form of harmony for a single voice.

Now, one of the marks of a good instrumental accompaniment is that it should be varied before it becomes monotonous; and the same thing holds good in this single-line form of self-accompaniment, the grace-note. A folk singer will introduce his grace notes in different places in different verses. But, obviously, you cannot indicate these things in the printed music, unless you are prepared to print every verse in full with every grace note stereotyped in print for all time, which is obviously unpractical. Therefore it follows that the printed copy must be considered to be only a guide to the main broad lines of the tune.

As it is, the grace notes that are so characteristic of all Highland singing have almost entirely disappeared from the singing at the Mod; or, if they do appear, they are marked down—and to me a Gaelic tune without its grace notes is like a diamond that has had all its edges and points ground away. You may have something beautifully smooth that is still a diamond, but all the sparkle will have gone out of it.

But I should like to return for a moment to those unpublished traditional songs that the children sang. There were nineteen entrants for this competition, which meant nineteen unpublished traditional songs; and some of these were really lovely—one in particular from Iochdar and one from Portree. The astonishing thing to me is that the Mod let these children go without any thought of collecting these songs. For my part, I would propound the axiom that anything traditional is worth preserving. The worthless can be discarded afterwards, and the treasures added to the repertory of Gaelic song, and even included as test-pieces in the next Mod.

I should like to say a word or two about the various arrangements of the music. To my mind, the first criterion of a good arrangement of a Gaelic tune is whether it still sounds Gaelic after it has been arranged. If it does not, then no amount of cleverness or musicianship will save it—it is an unsatisfactory arrangement.

This was particularly the case, I thought, in some of the arrangements for two voices. If you take a

(Continued on p. 151)

Festival of Britain, 1951

Gaelic Poetry Prizes

In connection with the Festival of Britain, 1951, the Scottish Committee of the Arts Council of Great Britain is offering a number of prizes for Scottish Gaelic poetry.

The following scheme of awards has been drawn up by An Comunn Gaidhealach at the invitation of the Council's Scottish Committee.

1. The awards for Gaelic poetry, which are open to Gaelic writers in any part of the world, are as follows:—

(i) For a poem of approximately 200 lines in the Oran Mor tradition. Prizes—1st, £30; 2nd, £20; 3rd, £10.

(ii) For a play in verse to take not less than twenty minutes in performance. Prizes—1st, £40; 2nd, £25; 3rd, £15.

(iii) For a collection of six original poems. No poem to exceed 50 lines. Prizes—1st, £25; 2nd, £15; 3rd, £10.

Further prizes of £5, £3 and £2 respectively will be awarded in the third section for poems of sufficient merit.

2. Entries will be judged by the following Panel of Adjudicators who have been appointed by An Comunn Gaidhealach:—

The Very Rev. Alexander MacDonald, M.A., D.D.

John MacDonald, M.A.

The Rev. Alexander MacKinnon, M.A., B.D., Ph.D.

Angus MacLeod, M.A., B.Sc.

Angus Matheson, M.A.

3. The decision of the Adjudicators is final.

4. No prizes will be awarded unless the works submitted in the category concerned are, in the opinion of the Adjudicators, of sufficient merit.

5. No poem will be considered which has been entered in any other competition. Each competitor will be required to submit

a signed declaration that his poem has not been entered for any other competition, nor has it been published, publicly read, recited or broadcast.

6. Entries should be made under a pen-name and should be accompanied by the name and address of the competitor enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the pen-name.

7. Two typed copies of each work submitted should be supplied, and each copy should bear the competitor's pen-name.

8. Competitors are asked to

keep a copy of all works submitted, as no responsibility is accepted for safety of scripts.

9. Entries should be sent not later than 31st December, 1950, to the Arts Council of Great Britain, 29 Queen Street, Edinburgh.

10. The Scottish Committee of the Arts Council will do its utmost to secure publication of the prize-winning poems, and also to arrange for recitals of the selected poems during the Festival of Britain celebrations in Scotland. Neither means of publication can be guaranteed.

KEIL SCHOOL

KEIL School, established and endowed by the munificence of the late Sir William Mackinnon and other members of the Mackinnon family of Baile-na-cille, has been in existence now for thirty-five years. It was situated first at Southend, Kintyre, and latterly at Helensburgh (with a sojourn at Baile-na-cille during the war years). Many boys from the West Highlands and Islands, who have done well in their various professions and occupations, have received there a first-class all-round education. Mr. James Mason, headmaster since the school was first opened in 1915, has now retired, and richly deserves the high tributes paid to him for his excellent work in making Keil School what it is. The new headmaster is Mr. A. H. Robertson, M.A., B.Sc.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

(from p. 139)

whispers through electric pylons but it is as the Hydro-Electric Board have it on their motto—*Neart nan Gleann* (The Strength of the Glens).

Even the electric power is Gaelic. Let us keep unsullied and gloriously alive what is in truth the essence and spirit of our people, the vehicle of their faith, the cloth and colour of their lives and land—our beloved Gaelic Language.

THE CENSUS

EVERY ten years since 1801 a census of the population of this country has been taken, except in 1941 (owing to the War). In 1939, however, an enumeration was made in connection with National Registration. The last full census, therefore, was in 1931. Preparations are now being made to take a census next year. We understand that the census will include a query about the number of Gaelic speakers, as has been the practice since 1881. We hope that the Gaelic-speakers will not overlook this matter. Much importance will attach to the 1951 figures as compared with the 1931 figures.

Cuimhnich na Laoich Cuidich an Oigrìdh

WAR MEMORIAL AND
THANKSGIVING FUND

Please help to reach the Target
of £20,000 by
31st December, 1950



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN T-SAMHUIN, 1950

Aireamh 11

Mar a Fhuair na h-Eoin na h-Itean

Le TORMOD DOMHNALLACH

ANN an toiseach an t-saoghail cha robh itean idir air na h-eòin. Air làtha àraidh a null mu dheireadh an fhoghair chruinnich a h-uile eun a bh'anns an ealtainn ann an aon àite air son gun deante luim air gné de chòmh-dach fhaotainn mun tigeadh am fuachd.

Ann an còmhhdail mhór nan eun chaidh iarraidh air triùir de na bha làthair dol air turas a dh'ionnsaigh na gréine air son gun toireadh a' ghrian dhaibh deise de chòmh-dach. B'e na h-eòin a chuireadh air falbh, tunnag, fhaoileag, agus sgarbh.

Nuair a ràinig iad an ceann-uidhe, bha e cho fada air adhart anns an fheasgar agus gu robh a' ghrian a' dol fodha anns a' chuan. Dh'innis na teachdairean an gnothach gu h-aon-sgeulach, ach thubhairt a' ghrian riutha mar seo :

“Tuigidh sibh nach 'eil an aiteal as lugha de thìde agamsa air son nì a dheanamh air bhur son an nochd, ach bìthibh 'gam fheith-eamh anns a' mhadainn mhoich am màireach, nuair a chì sibh a' cheud ghat dh'lomsa a' nochdadh os cionn fairge, agus nì mise mo dhìcheall air cuideachadh leibh.”

Cha robh air sin ach sin féin. Chaidh a' ghrian gu grad á sealladh.

Chuir an tunnag, an fhaoileag, agus an sgarbh romhpa gu fuiricheadh iad far an robh iad an oidhche sin, agus rinn iad sin, agus rinn iad air gob rubha faisg air làimh.

Thubhairt an fhaoileag agus an sgarbh á beul a chéile gu fuiricheadh iad 'nan caithris air son gum biodh iad cinnteach gun rachadh aca air a' ghrian a ruigheachd cho luath 's a bhiodh i togail a cinn os cionn sàil.

Cha dubhairt an tunnag diog, ach chuir i a ceann fo a sgréith agus chaidil i.

Cho luath 's a mhothaich a companach dha seo, thubhairt an dàrna h-aon ris an aon eile :

“Nach faic thusa an òinseach ud, a' dol a

chadal an uair bu chòir dhi fuireach 'na dùisg! Bidh a' bhuil ann; cha bhì ann dhi-se ach turus gun bhuannachd!”

Co-dhiubh no co-dheth, chaidh aig an fhaoileig 's aig an sgarbh air an sùilean a chumail fosgailte air éiginn, a' chuid bu mhotha de'n ùine, ach, an uair a bha e tighinn dlùth do bhristeadh na faire, thuit iad seachad le chéile 'nan trom shuain.

Anns an dearbh mhionaid sin féin dhùisg an tunnag gu beò, sunndach, air dhi a leòir de'n chadal fhaotainn.

Rinn i na b'urrainn dhi air son càch a dhùsgadh, ach, ged a bhiodh i a' fàguil fathast, cha chluinneadh aon seach aon i. Cha robh nì air a shon ach gu feumadh ise deanamh air a' ghréin 'na h-aonar.

Nuair a ràinig i, chuir a' ghrian fàilte chridheil, chòir oirre, agus, mun robh a h-aghaidh òr-bhuidh' ach gann air cuairt nan speur fhàgail, bha an tunnag air a còmh-dach leis na h-itean dlùth agus blàth a tha oirre thun an latha an diugh. Anns an dearbh àm fhuair gach eun eile a dh'fhàg i 'na déidh a chulaidh féin a réir a mhiann.

Nuair a ràinig an fhaoileag is an sgarbh, bha a' ghrian cho àrd anns an iarmailt is cho mòr 'na drip 's 'na cabaig le nithean eile agus nach robh dad de ùine aice air son còmh-dach a chur orra-san cho fìor mhath 's a bha aig an tunnaig.

Coma co-dhiubh, fhuair iad na tha deanamh a' ghnòthaich dhaibh air éiginn, ach bhiodh an trusgan cus na b'fheàrr nan robh iad air a bhith cho glic ris an tunnaig an oidhche roimhe siud.

'Se seo an t-aobhar air son gun seas ise fuachd, reodhadh, is crannadh geamhraidh nach seas eun eile ach i féin.

An Comharra

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

“NAN cluinneadh tu a’ chainnt a bha orra an diugh an uair a sgaoil a Choinneamh-Cheist!” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Cha teirig cainnt,” arsa Blàran, “ach, a chuilcin ort, dé mu’n robh iad?”

“Bha an rud a thuir Gilleasbuig Ruadh Eòghainn agus e toirt comharra dhaibh air gràs.”

“Seadh, agus a dhuine chléibh, dé a thuir e?”

“Thuir e gur e modh comharra cho soilleir agus a gheibhte air an fhlòr-Chriosdaidh.”

“Tha mi anns a cheud àite an cuala mi riamh a leithid, agus tha mi a’ dol leis a h-uile facal dheth. Cha bhiodh ann an Criosdaidh mì-mhodhail ach fàth-rud.”

“Ma thà, a Bhlàrain, nach ann a bha iad ‘ga fhaicinn faoin do Ghilleasbuig a leithid a ràdh; cha do chòrd e idir idir ris na daoine. Thuir Tormod gur h-iomadh sinn coinneamh-cheist air an robh esan o dh’fhàg e an sgòil an Rubha nan Caillicheach agus nach cuala e riamh dad cho faoin. Agus nach e a thuir Fearchar againn fhéin, ‘Bu neònach nach do smaoinich Maighistir Ruairidh a bha an Ceann-sail-oighre air sin.’”

“Biodh iadsan ag cainnt agus biodh aca agus an toil!” arsan tarbh, “ach mur ‘eil mise ‘na mo dhamh buileach, is e sin comharra as fheàrr leam a chuala mi o dh’fhàg mi an t-Eilean. An cuala tu fhéin an sean-fhacal, ‘Am fear a bhios gun mhodh saoilidh e gur e am modh am mì-mhodh?’”

“Cha chuala,” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Cha téid thu nas òige ri a chluinntinn,” arsa Blàran. “An uair a bha mise san Eilean Sgitheanach chuala mi naidheachd bheag aig Niall Dubh Raghnaill a Ròthag air ministear a bha rathad an t-Sratha, agus e dol mun cuairt le each, agus có a thachradh ris ach Dòmhnallan, leth-chiallach bochd a bhùineadh do’n àite, agus e tighinn agus basgaid aige air a ghàirdean. ‘Cìod e a tha agad anns a’ bhasgaid?’ arsan ministear. ‘Tha modh,’ arsa Dòmhnallan, agus e dol seachad ‘na throtan, ‘modh, modh!’”

“Agus an e sin a bha aige innte?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Tut, chan e ach na clachan!” arsa Blàran, “ach, a dhuine ‘s a chuilcin ort, có a chunnaic mi an là-roimhe ach gamhainn breac a thàinig á Uibhist, agus cha robh e fhéin gun naidheachd aige—”

“A bheil naidheachd an Uibhist?” arsa Bus-Dubh.

“A dhuine chléibh, tha seachd làn fichead na *Dunara* a h-uile latha deug sa’ bhliadhna. Ach seo naidheachd a’ ghmhainn bhric dhuit. Bha e dìreach aig caladh an uair a thàinig ministear gu bruaich agus thug e sùil air fear a bha taomadh culaidh ris an laimrig. ‘Nach ann agad a tha an t-eathar grannda!’ arsan ministear. ‘A leabhair!’ arsan duine, ‘falbh thusa dhachaidh agus thoir sùil anns an sgàthan, ‘s mo làmh-sa dhuit gum faic thu ‘rud grannda!’ Diog no durd cha tàinig á beul, thall no bhos, ach an uair a bha iad eadar an t-Eilean Glas is an Caol nach ann a chuala an gamhainn an ministear a’ di-moladh nan Uibhisteach air son a bhith cho mì-mhodhail!”

“Agus a bheil iad mar sin?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“Ud, ud, chan ‘eil! Sin agad duit daoine a lceigas modh an rathaid le duine is le beathach. Nam biodh esan air an t-eathar a leigil seachad—rud nach bu mhór dha—théid mise an urras duit nach cluinneadh e guth air sgian no sgàthan an Uibhist. Ged nach biodh aig Eileanach ach clàrag de sheann sgoth a bhiodh aig a sheanair, agus i ‘na criathar tholl an doc air cùl muil, ‘na crìonaich ‘s ‘na caillich, cha bu bheag an dànachd do dhuine geal a càineadh dha!”

“Agus a bheil thu fhéin a’ deanamh dheth nach e Criosdaidhean a bha san dithis a bha sin?” arsa Bus-dubh.

“U, cha chanainn-sa nach b’e—tha friamhag de’n t-seann Adhamh beò fhathast—ach canaidh mi seo ruit, a mhic Oseair: tha trì nithean anns an uaisle nach dealaich rithe—firinn, fearalas, agus fiùghalas.”

“Dé a tha san fhiùghalas?”

“Tha modh innte, agus tha tuilleadh innte,” arsa Blàran, “agus can thusa ri Fearchar, far ‘eil an Criosdaidh gu bheil modh. Gun sealladh sealbh orm! bu nàr leamsa riamh an mì-mhodh agus chan ‘eil annam-sa ach a’ bhrùid! Is e ministear de mhuintir Bheinn-a’-bhaoghla duine cho grunn, modhail agus a thachair riumsa riamh!”

Litir Eachainn

BHA Mòd againn bho'n a bha còmhradh againn an seo mu dheireadh, Mòd a bha fìor thainneach, ann an Dun-Obhainn, baile mòr Chòmhghaill. Thubhairt mi an litir a' mhìos a' dh'fhalbh gur dòcha gun tachramaid aig a' Mhòd, co-dhiubh gun tachrainn-sa ri cuid agaibh. Bha mise ann bho'n latha a dh'fhosgadh c gus an d'fhàg mi a' choinneamh bhliadhnail Di-sathuirne, is mi air mo shearbh-adachadh leis gach seamasan a bha aca an sin — an aon chuid de'n Mhòd a chlaoidh mi, oir bho dh'fhosgail e air oidhche Di-luain gus a' mhionaid mu dheireadh Di-haoinne, is e còig latha de thoil-intinn a bha againn. Agus eadar-dha-sgeul, car son nach tàinig aon agaibh idir, fìu a h-aon, is nach duirt sibh rium, “Ciamar a thà sibh, a Sheanair?” Is cinnteach gur aithne dhuibhse Eachann, ged nach 'eil Eachann cinnteach asaibhse, oir tha sibhse a' fàs mar na craobhan giuthais! Nach math a dh'fhaodadh sibh, a nis, furan a chuir air bhur seanair (no bhur n-athair, ma fhogras sibh fhàgail aige sin). Creidibh gun cuireadh esan furan oirbhe. Is ann mar a bhà gu robh eadhon pocan beag de mhilseanan agam 'nam phòca gu blasad beòil a thoirt do aon sam bith a bhruidhneadh rium is a leigeadh ris gu robh e no i de Chomunn na h-Oigridh, ach aon fèin cha d'fhàiltich mi. Chan 'eil mi a' dol a dh'inneadh dhuibh cò, air a' cheann mu dheireadh thall, a dh'ith na milseanan!

A nis chuala mi naidheachd bheag air a' Mhòd—agus bu lionmhor iad na naidheachdan a fhuair mi aig a' Mhòd; ach buinidh i seo dhuibhse a bha a' seinn aige. Chan 'eil cinnt agamsa gu bheil i fìor, ach mas breug bhuaim i, bu bheug chugam i. Ach dh'fhaodadh i bhith fìor, agus is ann a chionn gum faodadh a tha mise a' dol 'ga h-inneadh dhuibh an seo. Bha balach an siud—dh'inneadh dhomh a ainm, ach chan 'eil mi an dùil a thoirt dhuibhse an dràs—*is chuir e ainm a staigh mar chomh-fharpaiseach gu òran a sheinn. Chaidh e dh'ionnsaigh a' Mhòd, is bha e air falbh bho'n sgoil dà latha gun chead. Is dòcha nach robh dhachaidh ro fhada air falbh à Dun-Obhainn an uair a rinn e an gnòthach le dà latha fèin; ach co-dhiubh, an uair a thill e ciod a rinn a mhàthair—nach i a bha air bheag toinise—*is eagal oirre nach bu chòir do'n balach dol gu Mòd gun chead, ach leisgeul glè chuangach, ann an sgrìobhadh, a thoirt dhà gu a thoirt do'n bhan-mhaighstir-sgoile, gu robh an amhach aige goirt le fuachd, agus nach b'urrainn dha a dhòl innte an dà latha seo a**

bha e air falbh aig a' Mhòd! Ach bha teanganan fada anns a' chlas, is bha fios air a' bhan-mhaighstir-sgoile gu math gur ann aig a' Mhòd a bha Ruairidh, no ciod air bith dé an t-ainm a bha air; is air a' chùil sin bha fios aice gun do sheinn e òran.

“A nis,” arsa ise ris, an uair a leugh i an leisgeul feallsa, “is è a ni thu an t-òran a sheinn thu aig a' Mhòd a ghabhail dhòmhsa is do'n chlas air a' mhionaid uair, 's gum faic mi an tug thu dimeas air an sgoil seo.”

Rinn Ruairidh (no ciod air bith an t-ainm a bha air) sin gu sgoinneil, is ghabh e an t-òran gu fonnar. Chòrd e ris a' bhan-mhaighstir-sgoile cho math 's gur e a thuir i ris: “Rinn thu anabarrach math; bha fios agam gu gasda gu robh thu aig a' Mhòd, is nach robh amhach no ceann goirt agad; agus a chionn gun do sheinn thu cho math dhùinn an diugh, chan 'eil mi aon chuid a' dol a thoirt lùmh air tàs no slatag, agus tha thu a' faotainn mathanas a thaobh cho grinn 's a ghabh thu an t-òran. Ach innis do d' mhàthair bhamsa, an ath uair a thèid thu gu Mòd gum feum thu cead faotainn—agus gheibh thu e—ach cha ghabhar ri leisgeul crùbach mar a chuir i sios air a' bhideag phaipeir seo an diugh.” Is e an leasan a dh'fhaodas sinn a thogail as a seo gur i an fhìrinn as còir inneadh, eadhon an uair a bhios sinn a' dol gu Mòd!

ANIS, is dòcha gu bheil cuimhne agaibh ag gu robh naidheachd bheag agam a bha mi an dùil inneadh dhuibh air a' mhìos a dh'fhalbh, ach cha robh rùm agam dhi.

Is ann an earrann na h-oigridh de phaipeir seachdanach àraidh a bhios mi a' faotainn a chunna mi i, agus leis gu bheil deagh theagasg do shean is òg air a thoinneamh innte, tha mi an dùil gur fhìach i a h-inneadh.

B'ann anns na h-Innean a thachair an rud. Bha dà Inneanach ag gabhail an slighe air trèan. Cha robh ach iad fèin a mhàin anns an roinn-chàr air an robh iad. Cha robh an aon dhiubh ach creutair beag, 's gun e ro bhòidheach ri amharc air, ach, an uair a dh'inneas mi dhiubh cò a b'è, duine a bha fo mhòr mheas aig an t-sluagh. Cha robh de èideadh air ach còmhach leasraidh. Bha am fear eile an èideadh coitcheann na dùthcha, agus bha e a réir gach coltais caran beag baireasach dheth fèin. Cha do shaoil e ni de'n truaghan a bha 'na shuidhe fa chomhair, is cha b'fhìach leis

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

Na Baird Ghaidhealach A B'Aithne Dhomh

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

16. Murchadh MacLeòid

RUGADH Murchadh MacLeòid, no “Murchadh a’ Cheisteir,” mar a theirte ris, an Liùrbost nan Lochan an Leòdhas anns a’ bhliadhna 1837. Is e duine sònraichte am buadhan inntinne agus an spiorad na diadhachd a bha ’na athair, Ceistear Mór nan Lochan, agus bha mòran de na gràsan ceudna air am buileachadh air Murchadh a mhac.

Chuir Murchadh seachad a’ chuid a’ bhù mhotha de a bheatha am baile mòr Ghlaschu, agus, an dèidh a bhith greis an seirbhìs Comunn Abhainn Chluaidh (*Clyde Trust*), thaghadh e anns a’ bhliadhna 1873 le Comunn na Stua-machd mar fhear-eagair air son a bhith toirt air aghaidh cùis na stua-machd (*temperance*) am measg Gaidheil Ghlaschu agus taobh a tuath Albann agus Innse-Gall. Thug an gnothach a bha sin cothrom dha air eòlas a chur air gach cèrnaidh de’n taobh tuath agus na h-eileana, agus a chionn gu robh e ’na fhear-labhairt comasach, dealbhach, an Gàidhlig is am Beurla Shasainn, bha meas mòr air anns gach cèrnaidh ’s an robh e a’ tadhal. A bharrachd air sin, bha e ’na sheinneadair taineach, agus bhiodh a luchd-éisdeachd air an tàladh chuige an uair a bhiodh e seinn nan laoidhean Gàidhlig a rinn e fhéin aig gach coinneamh a bhiodh aige.

Cha robh mise ach glé òg an uair a chunnaic mi Murchadh a’ Cheisteir an toiseach aig Orduighean Chille-Mhoire an Trondairnis. Duine beag, grinn, sgiobalta a bha ann am Murchadh, agus cha d’rachadh duine—sean no òg—seachad air aig doras na h-eaglaise ris nach bruidheadh e gu càirdel, carthannach. Tha cuimhne agam, ged bha mi glé òg an uair sin, mar a bha e ag cur ionghnaidh orm cho toilichte agus a bha gnùis Mhurchaidh an còmhnuidh an uair a bha fiamh cho brònach, dubhach air cuid de na bodaich eile. Ach is e Criosdaidh toilichte mar bu chòir a bha am Murchadh a’ Cheisteir riamh.

Is ann mar ùghdar “Eilean an Fhraoich” a bhios cuimhne mhaireannach air Murchadh a’ Cheisteir. Tha mise is tàladh is cleachdaidhean Eilean Leòdhais air an cur air mhaireann am briathran taineach is an rogha na bàrdachd anns an òran sin, agus bidh luaidh air a dheanamh air cia b’e àite anns am bi

Litir Eachainn (*bho t.d. 43*)

eadhon facal seanachais a dheanamh ris. Rinn e an sin rud a tha tuille is bitheanta r’a fhaicinn, anns an dùthaich seo féin cuideachd, smugaidich e a mach air ùrlar a’ charbaid. Bhruidhinn am fear beag ris, is chomharraich e a mach gu modhail an cleachdadh ceacharra a bha an seo, is nach e mhàin gu robh e ceacharra ach gu robh cunnart ann a thaobh slàinte a’ phobuill, gu sònraichte a thaobh sgaòileadh an tinnis chaitheimh. Bha am fear eile cho mòr as féin ’s nach b’fhiach leis freagairt a thoirt agus, gus an tuille dmeas a thoirt do’n fhear bheag a chrònaich e, is è a rinn e smugaid eile a thilleadh air an ùrlar. Cha duirt am fear beag an còrr.

Thòisich an sin am fear mòrail air òran a ghabhail, agus ciod an t-òran a bha ann ach òran-molaidh air Gandhi! Ràinig iad an t-ionad-stad, far an robh iad le chèile a dol a thighinn as an trèan. Bha sluagh mòr an siud mar gum biodh iad a’ feitheamh air aon-eigin inbheach, agus cò ris a bha iad a’ feitheamh ach ri Gandhi, an ceart fhear a bha anns a’ charbaid leis an fhear spaideil! An uair a thuig esan cò a b’e an companach a bha leis, bhuail-eadh seachd e mar gun rachadh peileir ann. Dh’amhairc e mar chiontach air Gandhi tìoda beag, agus is e a rinn e an sin dol air a ghluin is mathanas iarraidh air a’ Mhaighstir. Sheall Gandhi air le snodha gàire air a ghnuis, is mar gum biodh rud beag de thruas aige ris. “O,” arsa esan, “tha mi a’ toirt mathanas dhuit gum teagamh, ged a leig thus ris domh gu soilleir an duine fìor leibideach a tha annad.”

A nis, is cinnteach gur còir domh sgur an tràth seo, oir bidh rùm gann air an fhear-dheasachaidh leis a h-uile iomradh is seanachais a bhios aige ’na mhàileid air cheann a’ mhios seo mu’n Mhòd, agus an tuille pìsich a ghuidhe dhuibh an ath bhliadhna.

Bhur Caraid Dileas,
EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

muinntir Leòdhais ri tuineachadh. Bu chòir gum biodh an t-òran sin air a sheinn na bu trice na tha e aig cuirmean-ciùil Gaidhealach.

Ma rinn Murchadh a’ Cheisteir òran dùthchasach eile, cha d’fhuair mise lorg òra riamh, ach tha na laoidhean soisgeulach a rinn e, mar tha “Bàs is fàs a’ ghràinne chruith-neachd” agus “O éisd, anam, éisd,” cumanta gu leòr an Leòdhas fhathast, agus tha iad air am freagairt ri fuinn Albannach air a bheil gach neach eòlach.

News from Nova Scotia

INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS

SINCE my resignation from the staff of the Gaelic College on 31st December, 1949, some progress has been made in increasing the degree of literacy amongst the native Gaelic speakers of Nova Scotia. One of the most promising developments in the Gaelic Department of the Adult Education Division is the successful accomplishment of a Gaelic Course for teachers held at Dalhousie University, Halifax, under the auspices of the Nova Scotia Summer School (4th July - 9th August).

Twenty-four teachers enrolled and attended the course. The majority of these hailed from Cape Breton Island, and already had a Gaelic background, although most of them could not write the language.

I divided the work of the class into three main sections, viz.,

- (a) Lectures on the development of Gaelic as a literary language; its relationship to other Brythonic languages in the Celtic Group, and the appreciation of classical and modern Gaelic poetry.
- (b) Basic principles of Gaelic Grammar, pronunciation, and practice in simple sentence construction.
- (c) The *Modh Direach* (direct method) as outlined by visual education experts.

I included oral exercises in vowel pronunciation in each lesson, and gradually built up a list of key-words which illustrated the main vowelisation inflections. Students who had a previous knowledge of French, of course, found Gaelic pronunciation comparatively easy.

Fourteen teachers sat the final written examination, and all of them received credits for their teacher's license. Two students who sat the examination were awarded Honours, viz., Sister St. Margaret of the Cross, Mount Saint Bernard College, Antigonish, and Miss Frances MacKillop, South Haven, Victoria County, C.B. None of the candidates who participated in the final examinations were university graduates.

The following members of the Nova Scotia Summer School Faculty attended the course and showed keen interest in the class:—

Dr. Burns Martin, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of English, King's College, Halifax; Professor A. J. MacEachern, Professor of Economics, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N.S.; and Mr. J. C. Webster, B.A., B.Paed., Inspector of Schools, Brantford, Ontario.

Texts used for the course were as follows:

- (a) *Simplified Gaelic Lessons for Beginners* (1950) by C. I. N. MacLeod (Nova Scotia School Book Bureau, Halifax).
- (b) *A' Cheud Cheum and Leabhar na Cloinne Bige* edited by Lachlan MacKinnon, M.A. (Blackie & Sons, Ltd.).

As a result of this Gaelic Course I made the following recommendations to the Nova Scotia Education Department:—

1. That in future student-teachers taking the Gaelic Course be divided into two categories viz., (a) *Beginners*, i.e. teachers who have no previous knowledge of the language; and (b) *Advanced*, i.e. teachers who have a Gaelic background, and who can speak or understand the language.
2. As this course is only in its embryo stage, comments on the application of the subject in the provincial school curriculum cannot be made yet. This is really a question for higher policy to decide in future years, when teachers have been trained and qualified to teach. Gaelic has been officially authorised as an optional subject in the school curriculum since 1921, but it cannot be substituted for any other language. Advanced students receiving a credit for Gaelic at the Nova Scotia Summer School should be able to give instruction in that subject in the day school curriculum up to Grade 12. These teachers in the meantime, however, can render valuable assistance as local instructors to grant-aided Adult Education Division Classes within their own school or community area. With this idea in view, teachers receiving credits in Gaelic should be encouraged to take up teaching appointments in Highland Scottish areas on the mainland of Nova Scotia and in Cape Breton Island.
3. I strongly recommend that this course be continued at Dalhousie University in future years.

C. I. N. MACLEOD.

Ailean Beag is Mac-a-Phi

Le DONNCHADH DOMHNALLACH

(Peighinn Aoirinn, Uibhist a Deas)

BHA nighean fúamhasach briagha ag Mac-a-phi Cholabhasa agus bha ainm mór dhíth a thaobh cho tlachdmhor 's a bha i, agus cha robh a h-athair dol 'ga toirt do fhear sam bith rí pòsadh ach fear a leumadh le a phónaidh clisneach mhór árd a bh'aig an taigh aige agus seachd glasan oirre.

Agus bha móran, móran a' tighinn de dhaoine-uaisle le'n cuid phónaidhean ríomhach, agus bha corra fhear a bhentrigeadh ris a' chlisnich agus bha a' chùis a' fáilneachadh air agus bha móran móran nach bentrigeadh idir!

Ach chuala Mac Mhic Ailein mu'n chùis a bh'ann, agus chaidh e feadh nan oighreachdan aige fhéin cuairt, agus thagh e each beag cnapach a bha e smaointinn a bha gu math spioradail, agus theann e rí a ionnsachadh rí leum na clisnich, agus nuair a bha e smaointinn gu robh e glé mhath fhuair e air dòigh e fhéin air-son a dhol a dh'fhiachainn rí clisneach Mhic-a-phi Cholabhasa a leum seachad leis an each.

Bha an t-each a nist beag sgiobalta, agus cha deach a mhuingeadh ríamh, muing no earball, agus chuir Mac Mhic Ailein air deise de chló Gaidhealach agus taod gaoisid anns an each, agus tha mi cinnteach nach robh an dlollaid ach air an aon dòigh, agus chuir e cruidean airgid air an each, agus dh'fhalbh e leis.

Chunnaic na bha cruinn aig taigh Mhic-a-phi a' tighinn e, agus 's ann a theann iad rí díbhearsan a dheanamh air nuair a chunnaic iad a' tighinn e, a thaobh an eich a bh'aige agus cho ao-coltach 's a bha e ris na h-eich mhóra a bh'aca fhéin.

"Coma leat," arsa fear de na bha sa' chuid-eachd, "ged a tha sibhse deanamh roinn de mhadag air, nuair a thig e, théid mi an urras nach seas e mach mar ghealtair mar a rinn sibhse."

Agus 's ann mar seo a bha.

Thàinig Ailean Beag a' Chridhe Mhóir, mar a théirte ris, agus seachad air a' chlisnich a ghabh e fhéin 's an t-each beag!

Nuair a chunnaic Mac-a-phi Cholabhasa a nist an seòrsa eich a leum a' chlisneach 's cho beag 's a bha de ríomhadh mu chuairt air fhéin no air a mharcaiche, cha robh e deònach a nighean a thoirt dha, agus thionndaidh Mac Mhic Ailein ris agus thuir e nach gabhadh

esan an nighean aige, ach gu robh e air son leigeil fhaicinn dha gu rachadh aige air siud a dheanamh. Agus dh'fhalbh e air ais dhachaidh agus na daoine eile cuideachd, agus bha Mac-a-phi air a thàmailteachadh agus dh'fhàgadh an nighean aige.

Naidheachd a Iubhir-Asdail

CHUIR Iain an Fhéilidh an samhradh seachad an Éirinn. Chuala e an t-òran grinn seo an Gàidhlig na h-Éireann an latha roimhe. Is e "Inis Thiar" a tha aig na h-Éireannaich air. A bheil fhios aig na h-Albannaich ciod e an t-ainm a tha air, an Gàidhlig na h-Albann? (Bidh fhios aig Coinneach MacLeòid—Coinneach ar gràidh—cò dhiubh!)

INIS THJAR

Tá an mor-fhairge am ghairm féin aniar,
'S mé ag imtheacht romham im fhánaidhe
tríd an slábh;
'S gura buan a mhairfidh mé go bhfeichidh
mé mo mhian,
An t-oileán órdha, áluinn Inis Thiar.

(An Seisd)

O tré aiteann is tré raithean is tré fhraoch atá
mo thriall,
Thar carraig is thar portach is thar riasc;
Is ma ceapann tú gur amaid mé, nó stroere
bocht gan chiall,
Níor airighis géim na mara fós aniar.
Is gura buan a mhairidh mé go bhfeichidh mé
mo mhian,
An t-oileán órdha, áluinn Inis Thiar.

Bim ag síor-thaistéal liom gan sealadh, sos,
ná sgíth,
Tré dhúthaigh glé an t-Seódhagh ag
imtheacht siar,
Tré chrich Uí Flaithbheartaigh ag tarraingt
ar an dtuinn
Go sroisidh mé fá dheòidh Inis Tiar.

O 'gus grádh le m'anam-sa na cladaighthe,
na trágha,
Mar a gcluinnim glór na mbóchna 'g éigheamh
go fiadhain;
Is le deonú 'n Athar 's a mhairfidh mé go bás,
'S an oileán órdha, áluinn Inis Thiar.

I. M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

Mod Prize List

LITERARY COMPETITIONS

Adjudicators: Rev. A. J. MacVicar, M.A.; Kenneth G. Finlay; Hector MacDougall; Lachlan MacKinnon, M.A.; Murdo MacLeod, M.A.; Donald MacNair, B.Sc.; Edward Pursell, M.A.; Patrick Shuldham-Shaw; John F. Steele, M.A.

Junior Section

Group "A"—(1) Book Prizes for Secondary Classes. (2) Merit Certificates for Primary Classes. Awarded to pupils from following schools—Gigha Public School; Dingwall Academy; Nicolson Institute, Stornoway; Oban High School; Port Ellen Junior Secondary School; Portree Secondary School; Sir E. Scott School, Harris.

Group "D"—Special Competition: Essay in Gaelic on the life of Abraham (Prizes presented by the late Mrs. Stewart, Simla).—Boys: 1, Donald J. MacLennan; 2, Donald Campbell. Girls: 1, Mary B. MacDonald; 2, Beth MacLeod. (All from Sir Edward Scott School, Harris).

Senior Section

Silver Cup presented by the Earl and Countess of Cassillis, awarded to the competitor having the highest number of marks in Senior Literary Competitions in which he or she has been a prize-winner—Mrs. Mary I. Millar, Kingussie.

Gold Medal presented by Miss Millar Weir, Alexandria, given to the most distinguished prize-winner in the Literary Competitions (former winners debarred—Angus Matheson, Glasgow).

Poem on any subject (Prize of £5, along with Bardic Crown and Bardic Scroll and retention for one year of the Ailsa Trophy)—1 and 2, Angus Matheson, Glasgow.

Short Story (not exceeding 600 words) (Hugh MacCorquodale (Fingal) Memorial Prize of £3)—Mrs. Helen MacGregor, Oban.

Story, extending to 2,000 words or more (Prize of £5 presented by Gaelic Society of Glasgow)—Mrs. Mary I. Millar, Kingussie.

Essay on any subject (Prize of £5)—1, Mrs. Mary I. Millar, Kingussie; 2, John N. MacLeod, Beaulieu.

Compilation of Unpublished Gaelic Vocal Music (Prize of £2)—Mrs. Kate Douglas, Kilmuir, Skye.

Arrangement in harmony of Gaelic song (Angus Robertson Memorial Prize of £5, presented by the Glasgow Skye Association)—C. MacColl, Helensburgh.

ART AND INDUSTRY COMPETITIONS

Section "A"—Home Industry: kilt hose of handspun wool (Prize of £3 and retention for one year of An Comunn Gaidhealach Trophy)—1, Miss MacDonald, Dunoon; 2, Mrs. Catriona B. MacKinnon Brown, Dunoon.

Section "B"—Design: book cover in Celtic design—1, Elspeth M. Anderson, Glasgow; 2, Anne C. M. MacConochie Glasgow; 3 (equal), Jean Fletcher, Ardgour, and Mairi I. Campbell, Glasgow.

Section "C"—Handicraft: leather handbag in Celtic design—Elspeth M. Anderson, Glasgow.

Section "D"—Needlework: reproduction in colour of selected design for tea-cosy, table-centre, etc.—Mrs. D. Brown, Dunoon.

TUESDAY

Junior Section

ORAL DELIVERY

"The Rev. George W. MacKay, D.D., Memorial Cup" (awarded to competitor with highest aggregate marks for reading, reciting, and conversation)—Mona MacDonald, Glasgow. MASONIC HALL (Main Hall): Adjudicator—Donald Jackson, M.A.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (native or fluent Gaelic speakers) (a) Aged 12-16—1, Agnes MacDonald, Portree Secondary School; 2, Nan MacEachan, Iochdar; 3 and 4 (equal), Mona MacDonald, Glasgow, and Chrissie MacDonald, Iochdar; 5, Catriona MacDonald, Glasgow. (b) Children under 12—Margaret A. Campbell, Port Ellen.

Reciting from memory "Loch Dubhthaich"—1, Agnes MacDonald, Portree Secondary School; 2 and 3 (equal), Mona MacDonald, Glasgow, and John MacKenzie, Portree Secondary School.

MASONIC HALL (Room A): Adjudicator—Mrs. C. M. MacKay, M.A., Glasgow.

Reading at sight an unfamiliar prose piece chosen by the adjudicator—1, Mona MacDonald, Glasgow; 2, John MacKenzie, Portree Secondary School; 3, Mary Cameron, Oban High School. 4 and 5 (equal), Margaret M. MacLean, Glasgow; and Elizabeth Cameron, Oban High School.

Verse-speaking by groups of from 6 to 10 speakers (Prescribed piece: "Blar Chuil-lodair") (Prizes presented by Col. and Mrs. Ritchie, Laggan)—1, Portree Secondary School; 2, Oban High School "A"; 3, Dail-an-tobair Group.

Narrative based on some local incident, tradition, or legend, followed by conversation on the subject of the narrative between the competitor and adjudicator—1, Mona MacDonald, Glasgow; 2, Catriona E. MacKay, Glasgow; 3, Margaret M. MacLean, Glasgow.

BURGH HALL (Room A): Adjudicator—Rev. A. M. Beaton, M.A.

Excellence in Gaelic conversation—1, Agnes MacDonald, Portree Secondary School; 2, Nina Campbell, Oban High School.

Co-fharpais air son Comunn na h-Oigridh: Còmhradh ris a' Bheirtheamh air cuspair a thaghas an Co-fharpais seach—1, Una NicDhòmhaill (Port-Rìghheadh); 2 agus 3 (co-ionann), Raonul MacAoidh (Port-Rìghheadh), agus Catriona Nic 'Ile Dhuinn (An t-Oban).

Repeating from memory St. Matthew's Gospel, vi, 1-4, children under 12 (Prizes presented by the late Mrs. Stewart, Simla).—Boys: Donald G. MacLarty, Ardriaisaig. Girls: 1, Margaret A. Campbell, Port Ellen; 2, Kathleen MacKinnon, Oban; 3, Catriona Thomson, Oban. BURGH HALL, (Room B): Adjudicator—Rev. Hector A. M. MacLean, M.A.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (learners, aged 12-16)—1, Anne MacKenzie, Oban High School; 2, Mairi MacCallum, Tavallych; 3 and 4 (equal), William T. Ross, Lochinver, and Margaret Paisley, Glasgow; 5, Margaret Fraser, Oban High School.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (learners, aged under 12)—Kathleen MacKinnon, Oban.

Excellence in Gaelic Conversation (learners)—1, Kathleen MacKinnon, Oban; 2, Catriona Thomson, Oban High School.

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Chraobh nan U'bhàl, Gheug nan
Abhal.

Thug mi 'n oidhche, ge b'fhad i
A Mhic a' Mhaoir.

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Is muladach mi o chionn seachdain.

ANNA RAGHNAILL EACHAINN nach
maireann :—

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t' fhaireachadh?
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VOCAL MUSIC

PAVILION: Adjudicators—Gaelic: John MacLean, M.A.; Music: Maurice Jacobson, Mus. Bac.
Solo singing (Silver Medal Competition—Girls) (Songs prescribed: "Dean Cadalan Samhach" and "Cha Dirich Mi 'n Gleannan")—1, A. McLeod, Glasgow; 2, Kennethina Campbell, Dunvegan; 3, Elizabeth Ferguson, Port Ellen.

Solo singing (boys and girls—former prize-winners only) (Song prescribed: "Eilean Mo Ghaol")—1, Alasdair B. Gillies, Glasgow; 2, Margaret M. Matheson, Port Ellen; 3, Donald MacCalman, Port Ellen.

Solo singing (Silver Medal Competition—Boys) (Songs prescribed: "Null do Mhuile" and "Fàilte do Bharraidh") 1, Alistair M. MacCulloch, Glasgow; 2, John Shaw, Caol Ile; 3, John N. M. MacIntyre, Colonsay.

Traditional singing of an unpublished song—1, Margaret M. Matheson, Port Ellen; 2, Alasdair B. Gillies, Glasgow; 3 (equal), Catriona Macdonald, Glasgow, and Islay Mactaggart, Glasgow.

Duet singing (Song: "Muile nam Mór-bheann")—1, Margaret M. Matheson and Donald MacCalman, Port Ellen; 2, Anne MacLeod and Alistair M. MacCulloch, Glasgow.

Unison singing by junior choirs (Mrs. Campbell Blair Trophy). Songs prescribed: "An t-Eilean Muileach" and "Purt-a-beul"—1, Oban High School Junior Choir "A"; 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir.

PAVILION: Adjudicators—Gaelic: John MacLean, M.A.; Neil MacLeod, M.A. Music: Gilmour Barr, L.R.A.M.; Maurice Jacobson, Mus. Bac.

Choral singing in two-part harmony (at least 50 per cent. of each choir to be able to converse in Gaelic) (Songs prescribed: "Maol Ruanaidh Ghlinneachan" and "Null thar an Aiseil") (*Oban Times Challenge Trophy*)—1, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir; 2, Oban High School Gaelic Choir "A"; "Mrs. Hobbs of Inverloch Trophy" for highest marks in Gaelic in this competition—Portree Secondary School Junior Gaelic Choir.

COSY CORNER: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A.; Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Solo singing—Girls (Songs prescribed: "Mo Chiocharan" and "M'ionam air a' Ghille Bheag")—1, Margaret Hughes, Greenock; 2, Helen Bell, Glasgow; 3 (equal), Ann Connell, Morven, and Mary L. Graham, Campbeltown.

Solo singing—Boys (Songs prescribed: "Fàilte de Eilean Leòdhais" and "Chi Mi Muile")—1, James C. Burnett, Ardrishaig; 2, Donald MacCallum, Campbeltown; 3, Ross MacMillan, Glasgow.

Duet singing (Song—"Croth Chaillein")—1, Rebecca Dickson and Margaret Hughes, Greenock; 2, James C. Burnett, Ardrishaig, and James R. Gillies, Lochgilphead.

Choral singing in two-part harmony (Mrs. Miller's Trophy) (Songs prescribed: "Gheibh thu co-raich" and "Am faca tu mo luaidh-sa")—1, Nicolson Memorial Junior Gaelic Choir, Greenock; 2, Tarbert Junior Secondary School Gaelic Choir.

BURGH HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Neil MacLeod, M.A.; Music: J. Gilmour Barr, L.R.A.M.

Solo singing (boys and girls—own choice)—1, Barbara MacArthur, Campbeltown; 2, James C. Burnett, Ardrishaig; 3, Anne MacKenzie, Oban High School.

Solo singing (girls aged 16-18—own choice)—1, Sheila A. MacDougall, Glasgow; 2, Nancy Campbell, Oban High School; 3, Margaret M. B. Kellock, Glasgow.

Action song (Shiant Shield, presented by Mr. Compton Mackenzie)—1, Carradale Junior Choir; 2, Oban High School Rockfield Junior Choir "A"; 3, Oban High School Rockfield Junior Choir "B".

**WEDNESDAY
Senior Section**

VOCAL MUSIC

PAVILION: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A.; Music: Maurice Jacobson, Mus. Bac.

Solo singing of the Oran Mór, "Martainn a' Bhealaich" (female voices) (The Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prize)—Catriona J. B. MacLean, Dunoon.

Solo singing of a song composed in Nova Scotia (Gaelic College Gold and Silver Medals presented by the Cape Breton Island Gaelic Foundation)—1 (Gold Medal), Finlay A. G. MacKeachan, Glasgow; 2 (Silver Medal), Duncan MacCalman, Islay; 3 (Bronze Medal), Aunice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead.

Solo singing of a song connected with the County of Inverness (James Grant Memorial Prizes) (male voices)—1, Alexander J. MacDonald, Glasgow; 2, Angus MacLeod, Scalpay.

COSY CORNER: Adjudicators—Gaelic: John MacLean, M.A.; Music: J. Gilmour Barr, L.R.A.M.

Solo singing of the Oran mór, "A' Chuart Chuain" (male voices) (The Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prize)—Angus MacLeod, Scalpay.

Best rendering of a song from Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser's "Songs of the Hebrides" (male and female voices) (Songs prescribed: "Barra Love Lilt," "The Potato Lifting," "The Grail Galley")—1 (equal), Flora M. Campbell, Campbeltown, and Jinty MacLean, Greenock.

Solo singing of a song connected with the County of Inverness (James Grant Memorial Prizes) (female voices)—1, Flora M. Campbell, Campbeltown; 2, Aunice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead.

Solo singing (competitors to be natives of Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart, or Stratherrick districts or, failing such, natives of the County of Inverness, excluding burghs with population of 2,000 or more) (Mrs. Quintin MacLennan Prizes)—1, Thomas MacKenna, Kinlochell; 2, Cecilia Mackintosh, Glasgow.

BURGH HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Donald Jackson, M.A.; Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Solo singing of the prescribed Uist song "Smeorach Chlann Dòmhnail" (Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Prizes)—1, Nan D. Hunter, Duror; 2, Elspeth A. Lamont, Glasgow.

Solo singing of an unpublished Mull or Iona song (Glasgow Mull and Iona Association Prizes)—1, Aunice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead; 2, Catriona J. B. MacLean, Dunoon.

Solo singing (female voices—confined to members of An Comunn Gaidhealach or of its Branches or Affiliated Societies) (Bessie Campbell Memorial Prizes)—1, Elspeth A. Lamont, Glasgow; 2, Nan D. Hunter, Duror.

THURSDAY

ORAL DELIVERY

Gold Medal (presented by Glasgow Skye Association) for highest aggregate marks in specified oral delivery competitions (reciting prescribed poem and prose and reading unprescribed prose)—Christina M. Dick, Glasgow.

MASONIC HALL (Main Hall): Adjudicators—Mrs. C. M. Mackay, M.A., and John MacLean, M.A.

Recitation of the poem, "Cumha Mhic Cruimein"—1, Christina M. Dick; 2, Neil MacLeod, Oban.

Recitation of a piece of original poetry specially composed by the competitor (Calum MacPharlin Memorial Prizes, presented by Paisley Highlanders' Association)—1, Mrs. Margaret Black, Oban; 2, Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay.

Best acted dialogue (Queen Elizabeth Coronation Trophy)—1, Mrs. Isabel Campbell and Mrs. Mairi Stewart, Lochgilphead; 2 and 3 (equal), Catherine L. Christie and Neil MacLeod, Oban, and Margaret MacMillan and Miss MacLeod, Glasgow.

Best prepared original speech on any subject—1, Mrs. Margaret Black, Oban; 2, Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay.

MASONIC HALL: Adjudicators—Donald Jackson, M.A., and Hector MacDougall.

Recitation of the prose piece, "I Chaluim Chille"—1, Mrs. Catherine L. Christie, Oban; 2, Christina M. Dick, Glasgow.

Recitation (by beginners) of "Caol Muile"—1, Iua MacGregor, Kyle; 2, Christine MacIntosh, Carradale.

Reading of an unfamiliar piece of prose—1, Mrs. Grace Baxter, Glasgow; 2, Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay.

Ancient folk-tale narrated in traditional style—1, Mary M. MacLean, Grimsay; 2, Lachlan G. Robertson, Glasgow.

VOCAL MUSIC

PAVILION THEATRE: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Neil MacLeod, M.A.; Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Oban and Lorn Association 1939-45 Commemoration Medal for best rendering of following songs by Lorn bards, "Nuair thig oirn an samhraidh" and "An Cagar" (female voices)—1, Nan D. Hunter, Duror; 2, Anne M. Gillies, Scotstoun.

COSY CORNER: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A.; Music: Maurice Jacobson, Mus. Bac.

Oban and Lorn Association 1914-1918 Commemoration Medal for best rendering of following songs by Lorn bards, "Mo Ghleannan taobh Loch Lìobhann" and "Slàn le Lathurna" (male voices)—1, Angus MacLeod, Scalpay; 2, Donald MacLeod, Portnahaven.

COSY CORNER: Adjudicators—Gaelic: John MacLean, M.A.; Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Best rendering of two unpublished folk-songs sung in the traditional manner (The Scotia Trophy)—1, Neil MacCalman, Bowmore; 2, Anne M. Gillies, Scotstoun; 3, Alexander J. MacDonald, Glasgow.

BURGH HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic: John MacLean, M.A.; Music: J. Gilmour Barr, L.R.A.M.

Solo singing (male voices—confined to members of An Comunn Gaidhealach or of its Branches or Affiliated Societies—former gold medallists and first-prize winners excluded (The L/Cpl. Lachlan MacLean Watt Memorial Prizes)—1, Angus MacLeod, Scalpay; 2, Ewen Lamont, Glasgow.

GOLD MEDAL COMPETITIONS

PAVILION: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Lachlan Mackinnon, M.A., and Donald Thomson, M.A.; Music: Dr. Herbert Howells and Maurice Jacobson, Mus. Bac.

Solo singing of the songs, "An Gille Dubh Ciar-Dubh" (female voices) and "Braig Rùsgaich" (male voices), along with a song chosen by competitor—Female voices: 1, Flora M. Campbell, Campbeltown; 2, Annice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead, Male voices: 1, Angus MacLeod, Scalpay; 2, Alexander J. MacDonald, Glasgow.

Gold Medallists (aggregate of marks in specified competitions)—Ladies: 1 (and Gold Medal), Flora M. Campbell, Campbeltown; 2, Annice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead; 3 (equal), Catriona M. B. MacLean, Dunoon, and Mrs. Jemima M. Bell, Barrhead. Men: 1 (and Gold Medal), Angus MacLeod, Scalpay; 2, Alexander J. MacDonald, Glasgow; 3, Finlay A. J. MacKean, Glasgow.

RURAL CHOIR COMPETITIONS

PAVILION: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A., and Neil MacLeod, M.A.; Music: J. Gilmour Barr, L.R.A.M., and Maurice Jacobson, Mus. Bac.

Choral singing of the songs, "Fallain's gun dith" and "Tha 'n Samhraidh air Tighinn" (confined to choirs from rural districts, excluding towns of more than 2,000 population) (Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Cuach)—1, Southend Gaelic Choir; 2, Portree Gaelic Choir; 3, Bowmore Gaelic Choir; 4, Carradale Gaelic Choir; 5, Port Charlotte Gaelic Choir.

Choral singing of the songs, "Soraidh" and "Air Fal Al Al O" (confined to choirs from rural districts, excluding towns of more than 2,000 population) (at least 50 per cent. of each choir to be Gaelic speakers) (Lorn Shield, presented by Col. and Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds)—1, Portree Gaelic Choir; 2, Bowmore Gaelic Choir; 3, Port Charlotte Gaelic Choir; 4, Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir; 5, Newtonmore Gaelic Choir.

Dalriada Cup (presented by Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith, Lochgilphead), awarded to choir in "Lorn Shield" competition with highest marks in Gaelic—Portree Gaelic Choir.

CLARSACH COMPETITIONS

BURGH HALL: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Mrs. C. M. MacKay, M.A.; Music: Mrs. F. V. Wilson, A.R.A.M.

Playing of two Gaelic airs on the clarsach (Prizes presented by Mrs. A. E. Matheson and Edinburgh Branch of Comunn na Clarsaich)—Edith L. O. Taylor, Rahoy.

Special clarsach competition for those who have played the clarsach for from one to four years (two Gaelic airs) (Prizes presented by Mrs. Neil Orr)—Honor R. Wilson, Dorset.

Solo singing with the clarsach ("Hilda Mary Campbell Clarsach Trophy" and prizes presented

by Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds)—1. Edith L. O. Taylor, Rahoy; 2. Honor R. Wilson, Dorset.

FRIDAY

VOCAL MUSIC

PAVILION: Adjudicators—Gaelic: John MacLean, M.A.; Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Quartette singing of the song, "Miann an Eilthirich"—1. An Ceathrar Corra-ghruidhach, Govan; 2. Gantocks Quartette, Dunoon.

Choral singing (male voices) of two songs in three- or four-part harmony, "Fhuair mi naidheachd as ùr" and "Iain Mac 'e Fhionghuin" (Mull and Iona Shield, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Cameron)—1. Greenock Gaelic Choir; 2. Campbeltown Gaelic Choir; 3. Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

PAVILION: Adjudicators—Gaelic: John MacLean, M.A.; Music: J. Gilmour Barr, and Dr. Herbert Howells; Adviser: Pipe-Major George MacDonald.

Choral singing of the *pùirt-a-beul*, "Anna Mo Nighean" and "Hi O Sombhair" (Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup)—1. Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association; 2. London Gaelic Choir; 3. Campbeltown Gaelic Choir.

COSY CORNER: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Rev. Malcolm MacLean, M.A.; Music: Maurice Jacobson, Mus. Bac.

Choral singing (female voices) of the songs, "An Gille Guanach" and "Mo Rìn Geal Og" (Esme Smyth Trophy)—1. Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association; 2. London Gaelic Choir; 3. Campbeltown Gaelic Choir.

Duet singing of a song—1. Margaret O. MacLean, Edinburgh, and Flora T. MacNeil, Barra; 2. Mary M. W. MacCall, Croftfoot, and Anne M. Gillies, Scotstoun.

LOVAT AND TULLIBARDINE TROPHY

PAVILION: Adjudicators—Gaelic: Lachlan MacKinnon, M.A., and Donald Thomson, M.A.; Music: Dr. Herbert Howells and Maurice Jacobson, Mus. Bac.

Choral singing of two songs in four-part harmony, "Cabar Feidh" and "Aillte" (at least 50 per cent. of each choir to be Gaelic speakers) (Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy)—1. Campbeltown Gaelic Choir; 2 and 3 (equal). Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association and Greenock Gaelic Choir; 4. Oban Gaelic Choir.

"Weekly Scotsman" Cuach" awarded to choir with highest marks in Gaelic in Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy competition—Stornoway Gaelic Choir.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

BURGH HALL: Adjudicators—Piano: Islay MacEachran; Violin: Charles Sutherland.

Playing of a Highland March, Strathspey, and Reel on the pianoforte (seniors—amateurs) (The Aberdeenshire Targe, presented by Aberdeen and District Pipers' Society)—1. Helen Mitchell, Campbeltown; 2. Ronald MacKellaig, Glenfinnan; 3. Mrs. J. Smith, Aviemore.

Playing of a slow Gaelic air (own choice) and march on the pianoforte (juniors)—1. Fiona M. Black, Bearsden; 2. Helen Black, Tarbert; 3. Vireen Black, Tarbert.

Playing of a Highland March, Strathspey, and Reel on the violin (amateurs) (Sutherland Trophy, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sutherland)—1. A. J. M. MacKenzie, Invergordon; 2. James MacHugh, Dunoon; 3. Duncan Henderson, Whitehouse.

Playing of Strathspey and Reel on the violin (competitors to be natives of Glenmoriston, Glenquhart or Stratherrick districts or, failing such, natives of the County of Inverness, excluding burghs with population of 2,000 or more) (Mrs. Quintin MacLennan Prizes)—1. A. J. M. MacKenzie, Invergordon; 2. Donald MacDonell, Morar.

MOD IMPRESSIONS (from p. 143).

tune that is constructed in the Highland scale, and write a part for a second voice which is not in the Highland scale, and which even harps on a note which is not in the Highland scale, then the result is hardly likely to be Highland in character—and this, I am afraid, was the case here. The arrangements were almost redeemed by the lovely singing of them—almost, but not quite.

The same applies to some, though not all, of the choral arrangements. In particular, chromatic harmonies and modulations surely have no part in Gaelic music, or in any traditional music, however well they are sung—and they were sung well in most cases, in spite of their considerable difficulty. The best arrangements were those of the more virile tunes, particularly the male chorus songs, and the *pùirt-a-beul*. These all sounded what they were—strong, virile Gaelic music that stirred the blood.

The great disappointment of the Mod to me was the senior competition for traditional unpublished Gaelic folk-songs, and I really got worked up about this. There were thirty-four entries; and out of these there was only one tune that really interested me—a little tune from Barra that had the true lilt I was looking for. One or two of the others were pretty, but no more than that. Yet there are good Gaelic folk-songs still existing unpublished. As I said, the children brought a whole batch of them. I heard another at a ceilidh the night before—an early 17th century song of the Island of Raasay, which to me was the most interesting melody of my whole visit. I got the singer to come and sing this to one of the music adjudicators, just to see what his reactions would be: and, as he heard it, his face lit up, and he said "I *knew* instinctively there was music like this in the background—I could feel it by all sorts of small signs. Why, for goodness' sake, haven't we had it in the Mod?"

Such songs still exist for the gathering of them, particularly in the islands. Most people think that Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser—that great Scotswoman—collected everything that was worth having in the Hebrides. That is not so. I have it on good authority that even with her high achievements in this sphere she only succeeded in scratching the surface—that in fact there are still hundreds of fine Hebridean songs to be gathered into the fold. Fortunately a start is at last being made. The Folklore Institute of Scotland is starting to record them, and, in passing, I think everyone will agree that this is something well worth doing, and well worth supporting by all who love the old Gaelic folk songs.

(Continued on next page)

Iomhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod—Dunoon, 1950

Received at Dunoon—

Previously acknowledged	£1,939	0	8
Rev. C. A. MacDonald, D.D.	0	10	0
Mrs. Cameron, Corpach	15	0	0
Millhouse Branch of An Comunn (2nd Donation)	30	12	6
Glasgow Central & Govan Branches of An Comunn	20	0	0
Session, Kilmoran Church	2	0	0
Miss I. M. MacDonald, Onich	8	0	0
Master Geo. MacLellan, Lochboisdale	0	3	6
Misses Somerville & Sinclair, Annet Bhan, (2nd donation)	12	0	0
Bunessan Branch of An Comunn	5	0	0
Ceilidh Govan, per Mrs. M. Neill	5	0	0
Misses McNicol & Lamont, Dunoon	2	0	0
Lochinvier Branch of An Comunn	1	10	3
A. M. Ross, Esq., Lochinvier	0	10	0
Dingwall Branch of An Comunn	5	5	0
Fort William Branch of An Comunn	10	10	0
John Murray, Esq., Glasgow	0	5	0
Mrs. D. J. Robertson, Jura	0	10	0
Miss S. Carmichael, Lochgilphead	2	0	0
D. Hughes, Esq., Dunoon	3	10	0
Proceeds from Boxes in Shops	10	9	4
	<u>£2,073</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	£97	12	0
Miss Catherine A. MacDonald, Evanton, Ross-shire	5	0	0
Anonymous	0	12	0
Peter MacDonald, Esq., Glasgow	1	0	0
Neil Cameron, Esq., Sunderland	10	0	0
Proceeds from Six-a-side Shinty Tournament at Inverness	13	3	0
Angus Matheson, Esq., Glasgow	1	1	0
Paisley Highlanders' Association	3	3	0
A. Macdonald, Esq., Bridge of Weir	0	10	0
	<u>£2,205</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>

War Memorial & Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged	£192	14	4
County of Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee	5	0	0
Flag Day at Tarbert, Harris	2	5	6
A MacDonald, Esq., M.A., Headmaster, Tarbert	1	0	0
Flag Day at Leverburgh, Harris	2	16	4
Balmacara Branch	5	0	0
	<u>£208</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>

Total since 1st May, 1950, exclusive of specific donations to Feilidh which will be separately acknowledged later

Central Fund

The high levels of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.I. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged	£36	5	4
County of Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee	5	0	0
Dingwall Branch	5	0	0
Mrs. B. C. Carmichael, Oban	3	3	0
Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir	5	0	0
Robert MacFarlane, Esq., Helensburgh	0	10	0
Fort William Branch	10	0	0
Balmacara Branch	10	0	0
	<u>£74</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>4</u>

Total since 1st May, 1950

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£17	6	6
	<u>£17</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

Total since 1st May, 1950

MOD IMPRESSIONS (from p. 151)

I have not said anything about the ceilidhs. These are a vital and interesting part of the Mod, and they were an index to me of what the Gael chooses to sing for his own pleasure. There were some fine songs at the ceilidhs—lively memorable things with strange, unexpected, haunting, flattened notes in them that only the Gael knows how to use—notes that remained in the memory long after the sound of them had died away. There were also some songs that were—well—not so fine—songs of which sometimes the music seemed to be little more than a meandering up and down the black notes, and of which I felt the theme to be a little over-sentimentalised—an indulging in nostalgia for nostalgia's sake. After a bad patch of this at one ceilidh I longed to ask, "Where is the glorious Gaelic music of the old mode—the music with that melodic sweep and wild rhythmic freedom that's like the swing of a claymore in sound?"

So, if it isn't making light of a still bitter subject, I should like to ask if you don't think the time may have come for yet one more "Clearance"—a clearance of all but the best of the songs about the Clearances?—and some of the less distinguished songs about "no nighean" as well? You've got so many lovely songs that you can well afford to allow the second-raters to drop into what a greater man has called "honourable disuetude." But, if I go on like this, I shall feel the point of the sgian-dubh at my throat! So let me close by saying how much I enjoyed this unforgettable week, and by hoping that these criticisms may be accepted as constructive, coming, as they do, from one who feels very much in tune with the Gael and his ideals.

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Ann's a' Chathair

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

OIDHIRP UR

IS iomadh dòigh is meadhan leis an d'fheuch An Comunn Gaidhealach ris an obair a dh'earbhadh ris a thoirt gu buil. Tha am Mòd Naiseanta agus na Modan Dùthchail a' brosnachadh sean is òg, gach neach fa leth agus am buidhnean is còisirean, gu bhith gabhail tlachd an ceòl nan Gaidheal, gu bhith 'gan uidheamachadh fhèin fa chomhair nan comh-fharpaisean, agus mar sin a' faotainn agus a' toirt seachad còlas air ceòl ar tìre.

Chan e mhàin ceòl a tha na Modan ag cur fa chomhair dhaoine, ach mar an cendna litreachas is aithris. A bharrachd air sin, tha mòran de mheuran a' Chomuinn ag cumail chlasaichean Gaidhlig. O chionn ùine mhòir a nis tha Comunn na h-Oigridh a' toirt do na buill òga speis do'n chliù agus do'n dìleab a bhuneas dhaibh mar Ghaidheil.

Ma tha àite aig a' Ghaidhlig anns na sgoilean mar nach robh aice riamh roimhe, tha sin os cionn gach nì eile, mar bhuil air oidhirp gun fhannachadh a rinnadh leis a' Chomuinn fad iomadh bliadhna. Cha do sgithich cinn-ùil a' Chomuinn anns na làithean a chaidh seachad ann a bhith cur air beulaibh luchd-riaghlaidh is luchd-stiùraidh an dleasdanas a thaobh na Gaidhlig, agus, ged a fhuair iad iomadh diùltadh agus iomadh freagair mhi-chàirdheil, chùm iad orra, agus tha a bhuil ann an diugh.

Chan 'eil an fheadhainn a tha air cheann a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach an diugh dad air dheireadh orra-san a chaidh romhainn. Is cleachdadh leinn daoine a mholadh an deigh do'n bhàs an dealachadh bhuninn, agus is leig leinn fuail misneachaidh a chur 'nan cluasan ann feadh 's a tha iad an làthair comhla

rinn. Bu mhath leamsa, a nis, agus ann an seo, an cleachdadh sin atharrachadh agus an leigse sin a leigeil seachad, a chum 's gun abair mi ris a' Cheann-suidhe againn, agus ris na daoine eile a shabtraich còmhla ris ann an obair, gu bheil An Comunn Gaidhealach 'nan comain, agus gum bi a' Ghaidhealtachd 'nan comain, agus gum bi eadhon a' chluain a tha fhathast gun bbreith 'nan comain, air son mar a rinn iad ann a bhith còmhla ri riochdairean Bòrd an Fhoghlaim agus nan Comhairlean-Foghlaim Gaidhealach.

THIGEADH dhomhsa seo a ràdh, agus am facal taing seo a thoirt seachad, oir cha robh cuid no gnòthach againn anns na còmhraidhean agus na còinneamhan a ghleidheadh mu'n chuspair seo, ach a mhàin gu robh mi an làthair aig aon choinneamh an àite neach eile nach b'urrainn tighinn.

Tha aonta a nise air a thoirt do rian-oibreachaidh tre am bi trìuir dhaoine air am fasdadh, gu bhith a' saothrachadh a chum leas na Gaidhlig anns na ceithir siorrachdan, Cataibh, Ros, Inbhir-nis, is Earraghaidheal. Bidh aig an trìuir seo ri bhith dol o àite gu àite ag cur air chois mheadhanan is chomuinn is chlasaichean tre am faigh òigridh na Gaidhealtachd cothrom air na nì feum dhaibh an corp is an iuntinn—ceòl is drama is litreachas is deasbud, lùth-chleasan is ealdhain-làimbe, agus a leithid sin. Cha bhì an trìuir ud iad fhèin a' teagasg nan clasaichean ach bitheadh iad a' teagasg agus a' seòladh dhaoine eile gu bhith 'nan cinn-ùil agus 'nan luchd-teagaisg anns na cuspairean a dh'ainmich mi. Bitheadh ùidh shonraichte aca ann an Comunn na h-Oigridh, agus

(An còrr air t. d. 154)

AN GAIHLEACH THE GAEL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Leabhar XLV Aireamh 12
AN DUBHLACHD, 1950

Clar-Innsidh

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Sannox, Arran

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Is trom an eire an t-aineolas.

Firinn air son a' Mhìos seo

Is i toil Dhé gun cuireadh sibh le deagh dheanadas toid air aineolas dhaoine amaideach.—1 Peadar, ii, 15.

Thall 's a Bhos

NOTES AND COMMENTS

"Taobh Tuath Earraghaidheal"

THA sinn ag cur meal-an-naidheachd air ar caraid, Alasdair Camshron, agus e an dèidh a bhith air a thaghadh mar Bhall Urramach de Chomunn nan Airsean an Albainn, agus cead aige a nis na litrichean "F.S.A. (Scot.)" a chur as dèidh ainme. Is math a thoill Mgr. Camshron a t-urram seo. Tha aithne air am fad 's an farsaing air sgàth a chuid sgrìobhadh, an dà chuid an Gàidhlig agus an Beurla, fo'n ainm-phinn. "Taobh Tuath Earraghaidheal." Tha eòlas anabarrach aige air eachdraidh is beul-aithris na Gaidhealtachd, agus is iomadh mìr is òraid a sgrìobh e 's a chuir e an clò mu na cuspairean sin, agus fs tric e ag cuideachadh leis a' Ghaidheal, agus tha ar taing chridheil aige. Gu ma fada a ghlèusas e peann!

British Medical Association

THE well-known "Radio Doctor," Dr. Charles Hill, M.P., has been succeeded as Secretary of the British Medical Association by Dr. Angus MacRae, whom we heartily congratulate on this distinction. A son of the Manse, Dr. MacRae served as a junior officer in the First Great War. He graduated in Arts and Medicine at Edinburgh University, and his publications include two books, "The Case for Vocational Guidance" and "Talents and Temperaments". Dr. MacRae's father was at one time minister at Lochearnhead, and he himself is a perfervid Highlander.

Trìùir Mhinistearan Airdh

THA an t-Urramach Alasdair Bòid, Eaglais Ghaidhlig Inbhir-nis, an dèidh a dhreuchd a leigeil dheth, air dha n bhith sia bliadhna fichead an ceanna-bhaile na Gaidhealtachd. Rugadh e an Uibhist a Tuath, thug e mach foghlum an Obar-dheadhain, agus shaothraich e an Uibhist a Deas agus an Gleann-Comhann mus deachaidh e do Inbhir-nis.

Tha còig bliadhna fichead bho shuidhicheadh an t-Ollamh Urramach Alasdair MacFhionnghuin mar mhinistear air an sgrì as farsaing an Albainn — Sgrì Chill-Mo-Naomhaig. Buidin esan do Thiriodhe, agus bha e an mhinistear an Tairbeart Loch-Fine, am Manchester, agus an Eaglais Chalum-Chille an Glas-

chu. Tha e 'na bhall de Chomhairle-Siorrachd Inbhir-nis agus 'na Rùnaire air Cléir Lochabar.

Còig bliadhna fichead air ais shuidhicheadh an t-Urramach Niall A. MacDhòmhnaill mar mhinistear air sgrì mhòr Aird-nam-murchan. Is ann do Uibhist a Tuath a bhùineas esan.

Tha na coimhthionalan aca an dèidh an spéis agus an deagh dhùrachd a nochdadh do na Gaidheil chòire sin, agus bu math leinne ar deagh-ghean a nochdadh daibh leis an iomradh seo a thoirt orra.

Stornoway College

"S TEORNABHAGH Mór a' Chaisteil" is transforming its Castle into a College. The Lewis Castle Technical School will provide courses in navigation, agriculture, weaving, domestic science, and various other crafts and skills, as well as cultural subjects. This project is an excellent one, and the setting up of one more technical college in the Highlands (and the first in the Islands) is an encouraging sign of the times. We

Bho t.d. 153

ni iad dicheall air an taic a chur ris a' Ghaidhlig air feadh nan roinnean-dùthcha anns am bi iad a' saothrachadh.

Bithidh seo uile fo riaghladh comh-chomhairle anns a bheil ochd riochdairean uile gu léir bho na Comhairlean-Foghlum Gaidhealach agus ochd eile bho'n Chomunn Ghaidhealach, agus paidhear cosgais na h-oibre agus tuarasdail nan trìùir oideachan leis a' Chomunn agus na Comhairlean agus Bòrd an Fhoghlum an Albainn.

THA sinne, mar Chomunn, fada an comain Cinn-ùibheil an Fhoghlum agus nan Comhairlean-Foghlum air son cho deiseil 's a bha iad gu bhith tighinn còmhla ruinn anns an obair mhòir seo, agus tha aobhar-toileachaidh againn gur e an deagh Gaidheal sin, an t-Ollamh Iain A. MacGilleathain, Fear-ùibheil an Fhoghlum an Siorrachd Inbhir-nis, a tha 'na Cheann-suidhe air a' Chomh-Chomhairle. Tha an Ceann-suidhe againn fhéin, Mgr. Iain M. MacGille-nabratàich, 'na Iar-cheann-suidhe, agus 's e an Rùnaire Mgr.

hope that Gaelic will be included in the curriculum.

Professor Jackson

PROFESSOR Kenneth Jackson, of the Chair of Celtic in Edinburgh University, who has now entered upon the duties of his office, devoted his inaugural lecture to a consideration of "The Place of Celtic Studies in Scottish Intellectual Life," in which he urged that knowledge of Gaelic should be regarded as essential for all who occupy public positions in Gaelic-speaking areas—administrators and officials, as well as doctors, ministers, and teachers.

According to a press report, Professor Jackson, referring to the work of the Linguistic Survey of Scotland, said that the development of the Gaelic language through the centuries could only be properly understood if they studied the dialects in detail, and there was an unfortunate tendency among some Gaelic speakers to despise the dialects as being barbarous and ignorant, and to attempt to practice a so-called "good Gaelic." But this "good Gaelic" was an artificial abstraction, the product of the writers of grammars.

Dòmhnall MacPhàil, Fear-deilbhe a' Chomuinn san Airde-Tuath.

Tha sinn an dòchas gun cuidich buill is meuran a' Chomuinn anns gach àite leis an oidhirp ùir seo, agus gun cuir na Gaidheil gu h-iomlan an taic ris an obair.

Chan 'eil teagamh sam bith nach e seo an ni as cudthromaiche ris an do chuir an Comunn làmh o chionn iomadh bliadhna.

Anns an t-saoghal a th'ann na iomadh seòrsa ni a' faotainn buaidh thairis air inntinnean is beachdan dhaoine, eadhon anns na cèrnan as iomallaiche de'n Ghaidhealtachd, agus tha eagall oirnn gu bheil dòighean is cleachdaidhean as dual do na Gaidheil air am mùchadh agus air an cur air chùl. Chan fhaod sin tachairt, ma ghabhas a sheachnadh idir!

Leanamadh, mar ein, dlùth do chliù ar sinnsir, agus cuireamaid gu feum gach dòigh is meadhan ùr a chuirear 'nar tairgse a chum na nithean luachmhor a bhùneas dhuinn mar shluagh a dheanadh eadhon nas luachmhoire dhuinn féin agus d'abhaib-san a thig 'nar dèidh.

Feithe-na-Fala

Le NIALL MAC-AN-TUAIRNEIR

IS iomadh uair a chaidh mi air turus seachad làimh ri Fèithe-na-Fala ann an Càirinnis an Uibhist a Tuath. Chaidh batal cruaidh a chur timcheall na Fèithe, agus canaidh an seann duine gur e as aobhar do'n fhiamh ruadh a gheibhear thar an àite ud na chaidh a dh'fhuil a dhòrtadh ann. Mar is tric 's e "Blàr Chàirinnis" a their muinntir an àite ris an t-sabaid ud thun an latha 'n diugh.

'S ann sa' bhliadhna 1601, a réir eachdraidh, a chuir Dòmhnallaich Uibhist agus Clann MhicLeòid na Hearadh latha fuilteach aig Fèithe-na-Fala.

Aig an ám seo cha robh mòran gaoil 'ga chall eadar na Leòdaich agus Clann Dòmhnail, 's cha robh dad idir aca an aghaidh a bhith milleadh 's a' splanneadh càch a chèile. 'S e togail creiche, air an dòigh a b'fhasa, a b'annsa leotha taobh air thaobh, agus 's e aobhar glé shuarach a ghluaiseadh iad gu sin a chur an gnìomh.

Ach co-dhiubh, aig an ám mu bheil m'eachdraidh a' tòiseachadh, bha còmh-strì nach bu bheag eadar Dòmhnallaich Shléibhte agus Leòdaich Dhun-bheagain. Tha eachdraidh ri aithris gur ann mar seo a thòisich an aimbreit.

Phòs Dòmhnall Gorm Shléibhte nighean le MacLeòid—Mairearad, piuthar do'n duine ainmeil ud, Ruairidh Mór; agus, ciod air bith a bha aige 'na h-aghaidh, cha robh iad co-dhiubh a' tighinn a réir a chèile, agus 's ann a chuir e dachaidh i do Dhun-bheagain.

Tha e air aithris gun do thachair altrap dhi a dh'fhàg air leth-shuil i, agus a chionn 's gu robh i a nis cam chaill i an tlachd a bha aig a fear innte. Gus a' chùis a dheanamh na bu tàmailtiche do MhaicLeòid chuir Dòmhnall Gorm dachaidh Mairearad air seann each cam, le gille cam 'na cheann agus cu air leth-shuil 'gan leantainn.

Nuair a ràinig an còmhlan neònach ud Caisteal Dhun-bheagain ghabh Ruairidh Mór an cuthach dearg 's mhionnach 's bhòidich e gun toireadh e aicheamhail do Dhòmhnall Gorm Shléibhte. Tha mi ag creidsinn nach robh Leòdach ag còmhnuidh san Eilean Sgitheanach no anns na Hearadh nach robh ann an rùn na sgeine do Dhòmhnallach Dhun-tuilm is d'a dhaoine anns gach àite. Chan 'eil an teagamh as lugha nach do dhloghail iomadh neach neo-chiontach fad iomadh latha air a' ghlomh mhaslach a bha an seo. Chan 'eil eachdraidh a' toirt duinn ach pàirt de na tachartasan ud.

B'e Dòmhnall Glas MacLeòid ceann-feadhna nan Leòdach anns na Hearadh. Bha e uair de a shaoghal 'na dhuine ro threun, ach aig an ám seo bha e air fàs trom, ludarra, agus cha b'urrainn da dol a mach air cheann a chuid dhaoine treuna a thogail creiche no a thoirt blàir. Ach bha a mhac 'na dhuine òg, flor thapaidd, gaisgeil, treun, agus ro dhéidheil air glòir is onair fhaotainn dha féin is d'a chinneadh.

Chuala esan mu'n tàmailt a thugadh do a chàirdean an Dun-bheagan, agus chan fhac e dad a b'fhearr na togail air do dh'Uibhist a Tuath le dà fhichead gaisgeach a thogail na creiche chum dloladh do na Dòmhnallaich pàirt de na thachair san Eilean Sgitheanach.

Nuair a ràinig iad Uibhist dh'acraich iad na bàtaichean an Loch-nan-Ceall air taobh an ear-dheas eilean Ghriomasaidh. As a sin ghabh na seòid ud air an aghaidh agus thog iad a' chreach mór-timcheall gun mòran strì. Chruinnich iad an spréidh gu Teampull na Trionaid gus am bitheadh iad a falbh an làrna-mhaireach. Gabh iad féin còir air Taigh-a'-Chnuic, o'n a bha e an àite àrd, fradharcach am bràighe a' bhaile.

Bha iad ag cur seachad na h-ùine leis gach cluich is feala-dhà is toileachas-inntinn a b'urrainn daibh, 's iad an dùil gun do shoirbhich a' chùis leo mar bu mhiann.

Ach cha robh e an dàn gun faigheadh iad an toil fhéin sa' chùis seo, oir mun deachaidh a' ghrian a laighe bha "caochladh cuir air clò Chalum."

Aig an ám bha duine treun ann an Uibhist mu Dheas, an curaidh ainmeil ud, Dòmhnall Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais. Bha Dòmhnall Mór 'na dhuine aig an robh mór-ghràdh do'n fhìrinn, do dh'onair, agus do gach gnè ceartais. Tha e air innse m'a dheidhinn gu robh e ri strì is spàirn gu cur as do'n chreachadh 's do'n spùinneadh is do gach làmhachas-làidir a bha 'na chleachdadh cho cumanta anns an ám ud.

Nuair a thàinig na Leòdaich air tìr an Uibhist thuig muinntir an àite gu math gu dé bha air an aire, agus is e a thachair gun deachaidh gille cois-luath a chur air falbh gu fìos a thoirt do Dhòmhnall Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais mar a bha a' chùis air thuar a bhith.

Cha bu luaithe a ràinig am fear-turuis Aoraisgeidh, an t-eilean 's an robh Dòmhnall a còmhnuidh, na bha an curaidh a cheart cho ealamh gu falbh le dà fhear dheug de na

ceatharnaich a bu chalma 's a bu cholgarr a bha ri am faotainn an Uibhist mu Dheas. Air tràigh oidhche chaidh iad thar faodhail a' Chàrnain agus bha iad thar Faodhail 'Ic-an-Aoidheir 's troimh 'n Chaigein mun do thill an sruth, agus mu ghlasadh an latha ràinig iad Càirinnis.

Nuair a ghabh Dòmhnall 's a chuid ghillean beachd air staid a' bhaile thuig iad gu robh na creachadairean fhathast gun fhàilbh agus dh'fhòlaich iad iad fhéin ann am féithe am bráighe a' bhaile.

Air do'n latha soilleireachadh gu math mhothaich iad gu robh barrachd cuideachd aig Taigh-a'-Chnuic 's a bu chóir a bhith ann, agus thuig iad cò a bha aca.

Thig Dòmhnall Mór saighead agus leòn e fear dhiubh. Leis an ath té leag e fear eile. Ghabh cuideachd Taigh-a'-Chnuic an t-eagal agus thuirtear fear dhiubh ri a nàbaidh. "Tha mi air mo mhealladh mur ann bho làimh Dòmhnail 'Ic Iain 'Ic Sheumais a thàinig na saighdean ud, agus gu firinnach, mas ann, tha latha dubh air thoiseach oirne."

Cha robh iad fathast glé chinnteach cò an àirde bho'n tàinig na saighdean, ach 's e an rud a rinn iad, thionndaidh iad na ceithir buidhnean le an aghaidhean gu ceithir àrdaibh an adhair, agus an uair a thàinig an treas saighead thuig iad gur ann o'n àirde an ear-thuath a bha na saighdean a' tighinn.

Cho luath agus a bha aca, bhruich iad a sìos an cnoc. Cha bu luaithe a theàrn iad le mala a' chnuic na thuirtear Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais: "A nis, 'illean, ma rinn sibh riamh e, deanaibh an diugh e, oir tha mi faicinn gu bheil triùir aig gach fear agaibh ri a chur mu làr."

"Ma thà," fhreagair na gillean, "chan fhad a bhithes!"

Bha na Dòmhnallaich cho ealanta air a' bhogha is gun tug iad tanachadh maith air na Leòdaich mun do chrom iad ach gann le bearradh a' chnuic. Nuair a dhlùthaich na laoch ud r'a chèile chluinntea fuaim am buillean fad air astar.

De'n dà fhichead Leòdach cha do thàrr 's ach an dithis. Thuit càch gu léir ach an ceannard—Mac Dhòmhnail Ghlais—anns an t-sabaid. Theich esan as le a bheatha. Thug Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais teann-òrdugh gun a mharbhadh air chor sam bith, ach, nam bu chomasach e, a ghlacadh beò.

Chaidh an laoch ud dlùth air dà mhìle mun tàinig fear de shaighdearan Mhic Iain 'Ic Sheumais suas ris air tràigh a' Bhaile-Shear. Ged a bha an dithis aca air an leòn gu dona roimhe siud, thug iad deannal nach bu bheag air claidheamhaireachd. Cha tugadh Mac

Dhòmhnail Ghlais suas agus an deò ann, ach bha e ag gubhail iomain-chùil gus mu dheireadh an 'ceachaidh e a mach air a' mhuir thun na duilleige.

Ged a bu toil leis an fhear eile a ghlacadh beò a réir òrdugh a mhaighstir, an uair a thòisich an sàile ri dol anns na lotaibh aige, dh'fhàs an fhoidhidinn aige goirid agus le aon sàthadh de'n chlaidheamh chuir e crioch air anns a' bhad an robh e 'na sheasamh agus dh'fhàg e marbh air an oitir e. Their muinntir Uibhist "Oitir 'Ic Dhòmhnail Ghlais" ris an oitir ud gus an latha 'n diugh. Neach sam bith a ghabhas an tràigh a dh'ionnsaigh a' Bhaile-Shear, nach faod e a faicinn?

Chaidh na cuirp aig na Leòdaich a thiodh-lacadh far an do thuit iad, agus canar "Leathad-a-Bhuailte" ris an àite gus an latha 'n diugh. Chaidh na cinn a thoirt diubh agus an cur ann an uinneagaibh Teampull na Trìonaid, far a bheil cuid diubh, is inaithe, ri am faicinn fhathast. Anns a' bhliadhna 1924 shealladh do'n sgrìobhaiche claignean Mhic Dhòmhnail Ghlais, a réir beul-aithris, agus gu dearbh, ma bha an cnàimhneach ud 'na eisimpleir air meud a' chòrr de'n cholainn. 's e flor churaidh a bha am Mac Dhòmhnail Ghlais.

Chan 'eil eachdraidh ag innse dhuinn meud an àireimh a thuit de na Dòmhnallaich anns an t-sabaid, ach faodaidh sinn a bhith glé chinnteach gun do thuit a' chuid bu mhotha diubh. Tha e air aithris gu robh an fhéithe daite le fuil nan laoch agus 's ann mar sin a fhuair i an t-ainm a lean rithe.

Chaidh Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais a leòn gu dona le saighead a chaidh an tiughadh na sliasaid aige. Bha e 'na shìneadh air leathad a' chnuic agus fear d'a ghillean a' toirt an aire dha. Cha robh dada gun an cual an dithis aca eubha—neach ag iarraidh an aiseig bho thaobh Ghramasdail am Beinn-a-Faodhladh. Feumaidh gu robh sgàl anabarrach aig an neach ud nuair a rachadh aig duine air a chluinntinn air Leathad-a-Bhuailte an Càirinnis. Ach, co-dhiubh, chualas e, agus grad dh'aithnich Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais eubha Nic Coiseam—ise a oha deanamh gnòmh màthar ris agus a thug e á Caisteal a' Chamuis an Sléibhte gu seilbh a ghabhail air Eilean Aoraisgeidh mu dheas.

Tha e coltach an uair a thuig Nic Coiseam an turus air an deach Dòmhnall Mór gun do ghrad lean i e. Bu mhath dhàsan gun do lean, agus b'ann gu a bheatha a shàbhaladh a chuir e an gille a bha toirt an aire dha chum a toirt thar an aiseig.

Nuair a ràinig i an t-àite 's an robh "laogh
(an còrr air t.d. 164)

Executive Council

A MEETING of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Central Halls, Glasgow, on Friday, 10th November. Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President, was in the Chair, and thirty-seven members were present.

The President made sympathetic reference to the death of Mr. Donald MacDonald, Liverpool, who was President of An Comunn for a short term in 1946 and who had been for many years Convener of the Propaganda Committee. He also referred to the passing of Mr. Alastair C. MacLaren, a former Gold Medalist and member of the Council.

A minute of the reconstituted Copyright Special Committee reported that several additional members had been co-opted and recommended that the Rev. T. M. Murchison be appointed Convener in place of Mr. Hugh MacPhee, who was unable to act. The minute was adopted.

A minute of joint-meeting of Advisory and Mod and Music Committees was read, and the President explained the proposals for organising Gaelic concerts sponsored by the Scottish Committee of the Arts Council of Great Britain in connection with the Festival of Britain, 1951. The cost, he said, would be allowed for in the Guarantee Fund, and the concerts would be held under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

A minute of the Advisory Committee nominated the following members of Council as the representatives of An Comunn on the Committee for Gaelic Informal Education, viz. Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Mr. Kenneth MacDonald, Mr. H. MacDougall, Mr. L. MacKinnon, Mr. H. MacPhee, Mr. F. MacRae, Rev. T. M. Murchison, and Mr. A. Nicolson. Mr. Donald Thomson moved that An Comunn's representation should include persons resident in the counties covered by the Scheme to be operated by the Committee. The President explained that the Advisory Committee felt that they should nominate those within easy reach of the Committee's meeting-place in order to ensure full attendance. The Regional Committees still to be set up would contain local representatives of An Comunn. There was much discussion, during which the Rev. T. M.

Murchison and Messrs. H. MacDougall and F. MacRae expressed their willingness to stand down to make room for local representatives. Mr. Thomson's motion was carried, and the Rev. Alex. Macdonald (Ardchattan) and the Rev. Malcolm Maclean were appointed in place of Mr. Murchison and Mr. MacDougall. Mr. MacRae agreed to continue on the Committee. Mr. Donald MacPhail was appointed to take the place of Mr. L. MacKinnon, who said he would be unable to attend the meetings.

THE rubrics of two minutes of the Finance Committee were read. Mr. Kenneth MacDonald, Convener, said the new office premises at 65 West Regent Street would be ready for occupancy by the end of November, and, on behalf of the Committee he expressed grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Bannerman for their personal supervision of the necessary alterations and decoration in the new premises. The question of Comunn na h-Oigridh badges, referred to in the minute, was referred back to the Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee for reconsideration. Mr. Donald Thomson raised the matter of allowances granted to junior choirs attending the National Mod. This was remitted to the Finance Committee for consideration.

The President said that Mr. J. T. Graham's retiral from the office of Treasurer of An Comunn would take effect as from 30th November, and, on behalf of the Council, he made acknowledgement of Mr. Graham's valued services and also expressed appreciation of the further service he had rendered in kindly agreeing to continue as Treasurer until such time as the new premises were available. Mr. Graham, replying, said his demission from office did not mean the end of his interest in An Comunn, and he hoped to help as best he could. The President intimated that Miss Mary S. Young would officially take over the Treasurership as from 30th November.

A minute of the Education Committee referred to the teaching of Gaelic in primary schools and in centralised schools. Mr. Donald Thomson drew attention to the sympathetic references to Gaelic in the

recently published memorandum on "The Primary School in Scotland" issued by the Scottish Education Department. He also recommended that the Education Committee should investigate the position in primary schools where there are no Gaelic-speaking teachers and where, in An Comunn's opinion, there ought to be. This was agreed to.

In submitting a minute of the Publication Committee, Mr. Laclan MacKinnon, Convener, intimated that fourteen Gaelic plays had now been published and that a further printing of Reid and MacLeod's "Elementary Course" was being put in hand.

A minute of the Propaganda Committee strongly urged an intensive recruitment of new members.

MINUTES of the Mod and Music Committee were submitted. The President thanked the Committee for the excellent manner in which, in conjunction with the energetic Mod Local Committee, they had carried through the recent National Mod at Dunoon. Mr. Hugh MacPhee, Convener, expressed the Committee's indebtedness to the Gaelic adjudicators, whose services were always unpaid and ungrudgingly given. He also thanked the Association of Gaelic Choirs for the co-operation of their members at the Mod. Mr. Hector MacDougall referred to the lateness in issuing the Mod Programme. Mr. MacPhee assured the Council that everything possible was being done to have all the Mod music available by 31st December. The Mod and Music Committee—to which the matter had been referred at the Annual Business Meeting of An Comunn—recommended that a competition for bagpipe-playing should be included in the National Mod syllabus. On the motion of Mr. Donald Thomson, and after full discussion, this recommendation was rejected.

A minute of meeting of Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee was read and approved.

The motion by Mr. Donald Thomson, substituting the word "voting" for the word "present" in Bye-law 47, was carried unanimously.

To obviate the trouble involved

(Continued on p. 159)

Naidheachd na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

Northern Propaganda Subcommittee.

At the first meeting of the new session, Mr. John N. MacLeod (Alasdair M6.) was appointed Convener in place of Mr. Donald Graham, whose death is so much regretted by Gaels all over the Northern Area. Mr. Graham had been Convener of this important Committee for a number of years, and on taking the Chair the new Convener paid a warm tribute in Gaelic to the memory of that good Gael, Domhnull Greum.

The Northern Organiser submitted an interim report which showed that two branches had been re-constituted, Grantown-on-Spey and Kilmallie, and that, at a meeting of branch representatives held at Lairg, it had been decided to hold next year's County of Sutherland Mod at Dornoch on Friday, 8th June. He had also attended a similar meeting at Kingussie, when it was decided to hold next year's Badenoch-Strathspey Provincial Mod at Newtonmore on Friday, 1st June. It was decided at a meeting of representatives in the South-West Ross area to hold next year's Mod at Kyle on Friday, 1st June.

A meeting of the Skye Provincial Mod Committee is to be held on Saturday, 11th November, at Portree to make arrangements for the 1951 Mod. Further meetings will be held shortly to arrange the remaining Mods for the Northern Area. It was also intimated that twelve plays had been translated into Gaelic, and the members voiced their appreciation of the good work done by the Publication Committee of An Comunn.

The Organiser submitted an itinerary he had prepared for Sutherland from 30th October to 9th November inclusive. This was approved.

Sutherland.

THE Organiser has just completed a tour of Sutherland. Visits were paid to Lairg, Melness, Durness, Kinlochbervie, Scourie, Lochinver, Bettyhill, Strath, Melvich, and Port Skerra, and Strath Halladale districts. Additions were made to Comunn na h-Oigridh Feachdan as follows:—

Melness	9 boys and 3 girls
Durness	7 boys and 8 girls
Drumbrég	1 boy and 2 girls
Stoer	4 boys and 3 girls
Melvich	6 boys and 5 girls

Total: 48

A meeting of the branch was held in the hall, Durness, when various matters in connection with the Movement were discussed. In order to raise the necessary funds to take the junior choir to the County Mod at Dornoch next June a concert has been arranged.

At Kinlochbervie the Fast Day was being observed.

At Scourie the Organiser was billed to address a public meeting. The Rev. A. Silver presided and, although the audience was small, Mr. MacPhail gave a talk on An Comunn's activities and strongly urged the formation of a local branch. Because of the small attendance it was not possible to form a branch that night. The school roll has dwindled within recent years and now stands at about twenty-five. Thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Silver for hospitality.

On the following day, the Organiser continued on his way to Assynt via Kylesku Ferry. It is not really a vehicular ferry but a landing craft. Despite the difficulty and danger of this method of locomotion, there is one thing in its favour, no charge is made for the crossing, which is some compensation. The road from Kylesku to Drumbrég is in a bad state of repair, some parts of the road resembling a river bed and that, along with very steep hills, makes travelling very difficult.

On arriving at Drumbrég, the Organiser called at the school, had a talk with the children and made enrolments in Comunn na h-Oigridh. From Drumbrég to Stoer there is a fairly good road and lovely scenery. In these lovely parts Professor John MacLeod, author of "Airigh a' Chùil Chinn" and many other songs, both Gaelic and English, spent the latter years of his life. Here, also, was the home of the author of that favourite song "Cathair a' Chùil Chinn." Mr. Donald MacLeod, H.M.I.S. At one time the school population of Stoer was in the region of 200; today the school roll stands under 30. Gaelic is still the spoken tongue in these parts. Further enrolments in Comunn na h-Oigridh were made at Stoer.

There was a goodly attendance at Lochinver, the local branch staged a ceilidh for that night. Unfortunately, the Branch President, Rev. Angus MacKenzie,

was unable to be present but a worthy deputy was found in the person of Mr. Hector W. MacKay, an ex-Secretary and a native of North Sutherland. The Organiser gave a talk on the work of An Comunn, and this was followed by a ceilidh programme, several of Rob Donn's songs finding a place on the programme. Mr. MacPhail was handed the sum of £3 as a donation from the branch to the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund. Sincere thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Ross, The Schoolhouse, for hospitality. In the course of a discussion on the works of the Cul-cinn Bards, it emerged that a niece of the Professor was present and is in fact the new Hon. Secretary of the Lochinver Branch, and that a nephew of the author of "Cathair a' Chùil Chinn" was also present. Mr. MacPhail was booked with copies of the two booklets containing the works of Professor MacLeod, published in 1907 and 1918. For these gifts he is extremely grateful.

THE following Monday night, 6th November, found the Organiser at Bettyhill, or "Am Blàran Odhar," as the old people say. Another meeting had previously been arranged in the hall, but Mr. MacPhail was invited to speak to those present. He outlined the progress of An Comunn from its formation to the present day. He was accompanied by Mr. Donald MacLeod, M.A., Headmaster (a nephew of the late Ruairidh Mór, the Gaelic singer), who offered to help the young people in acquiring a more intimate knowledge of the Gaelic language through the medium of a Continuation Class. He also offered his help in the resuscitation of the local branch. Visits were made to Skerray and Strathly Schools.

At Melvich the Organiser gave a talk in the school and additional enrolments were made for Comunn na h-Oigridh. In the evening he addressed the young people, who had gathered in the hall under other auspices.

The final day of the tour was devoted to Strath Halladale. During the day the Organiser visited the school and spoke to the children. The school roll here has increased from three to seventeen but, unfortunately, there is not a native speaker of Gaelic amongst them. In the

(Continued on p. 159)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar II

AN DUBLACHD 1950

Aireamh 12

Sgeul ri Aithris air na Ciuthaich

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

ANNs na làithean o chéin bha triùir fhamairean móra, garga a' tuineachadh air taobh an iar Leódhais—triùir bhràithrean ris an abrar na Ciuthaich. Cha robh lagh no ceannachadh orra, ach dìreach mar a thogradh iad fhéin. Thog iad dùn am fear, a h-aon am Boranais aig iomall na Tràghad Móra, aonan aig Tràigh na Beirge, agus am fear eile aig Carlabhadh.

Faodar a thuigsinn gu d'rinn iad iomadh fóirneart agus reubainn. An uair a thigeadh e cruaidh air fear sam bith dhiubh bhíodh an dithis eile deas 'ga chuideachadh, ach aon làtha tháinig ám an doirbheid 'nan lùib.

Là de na làithean nochd cabhlach Fhinn air iomall a' chuain, agus an ùine ghoidh bha iad ag àlach nan ràmh o'n chladach an déidh dhaibh na siùil a leagail an sìth-shàimh Loch Ròg. Tháinig iad mar seo eadar na fàmhairan air dhòigh agus nach b'urrainn dhaibh a chéile a chuideachadh mar a b'abhaist.

Ghluais Fionn gu sèimh, socrach le a mhór-ghaigich a mach bràigh a' ghlinne ach am faiceadh e na Ciuthaich agus gun deanadh e cùmhnantan-sithe riutha mar bu nós. Chuir Fionn mar a b'abhaist a' chuid mhór de'n Fhéinn do'n bheinn-sheilg air chor agus gum biodh féisd mhór agus fheadhachas aca an caidreabh nan Ciuthach. Aig an ám cheudna chuir e Oscar le fear-iomchair airm a null gu taobh eile Loch Ròg le cùmhnantan-sithe a dh'ionnsaigh an fhir a bha an Dùn Charlabhaidh. Ach cha b'e sìth a bha air aire Ciuthach Dhùn Bhoranais. Is maith a bha fios aige nach toireadh e bàrr air an Fhéinn mur deanadh e le seòltachd e. Ged a dh'fhairich e na daoine a tháinig chuige leis na cùmhnantan-sithe, cha robh an dà chabhaig air mo liagh. Thuig e ro-mhaith gu robh a' chuid mhór de'n Fhéinn anns a' bheinn agus nach robh sgial air Oscar. Mar sin is e a tháinig fodha a chur ri Fionn mar a bha e.

Thòisich e an toiseach a' tilgeil shaighdean

a null ri àite Fhinn ach an cuireadh e as do fhear no dhà de'n bheagan a bha ann; ach, ma thòisich, cha b'fheàrr bhuatha na chuige. Bha strip a null agus strip a null aig na saighdean. Cha robh an Ciuthach leis fhéin idir; bha àireamh mhaith de shluagh borb combhla ris, agus o nach robh e a' deanamh sgairte leis na saighdean chómhairlich a luchd-leanmhainn air Fionn a bhrath far an robh e gun dàil mun tilleadh an luchd-seilge no Oscar. A null leotha, ma tà, leis na bha aca agus rinn iad calg-dhìreach air Fionn agus a bhuidheann. Dh'aithnich Fionn gu robh e an fhìor ghaic ach bha fhathast aige air a chris an fheadag mhór a chluinnte an "cóg cógidhe na h-Eireann," nach robh riamh air a séideadh ach an làtha catha agus ainneirt. Shéid e i, agus ar leam nuair a shéid gun do shéid e i gu ro-mhaith, oir chuala Oscar i is e aig an ám shìos am Barabhas—pàit trl fìchead mìle thair mur agus monadh; agus, ma chuala, leum a chridhe le aoibneas ged a bha eagal air gu robh a sheanair an fhìor chunnart leis an sgál eagalach a thug e oirre.

Cha chuala mi co-dhiubh an e Ciuthach Charlabhaidh no an e curaidh eile a bha air tachairt beagan roimhe sin ri Oscar, ach air do'n fhear eile faicinn gu robh Mac Luinn aig Oscar dh'iarr e air iomlaid chlaidheimhean a dheanamh, agus ged bu duilich leis dealachadh ri Mac Luinn—claidheamh nach do dh'fhàg fuigheall-béime riamh—a réir a uaisle fhéin, agus cleachdadh na linne anns an robh e beò, thug e dha e, ach cìod a fhuair e 'na àite ach seann lann meirgeach. Leamhaich seo gu tur am fear-iomchair airm, agus cìod a rinn gille mo ghnòthaich ach an uair a bha am fear 'na chadal shiab e an claidheamh as an truail agus dh'fhalaich e e am measg gach airm eile a bh'aige fhéin. Cha do dh'fhairich Oscar an t-iomairt a bha seo idir, agus cha robh guth mu dheidhinn a' chlaidheimh gus an cualas an fheadag a rithist.

"Feum air fir, cath 'ga chur, goath fhuar

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

o bhàrr an t-sluaigh, mo thruaigh fear gun lann," deir esan.

"Ciod a dheanadh tu ged a bhiodh i agad?" deir am fear-iomchair airm.

"Chuirinn dà thrian a' chatha 'nam aonar," deir esan.

Ghluais na fir, agus, ged a bhiodh Caoilte an t-sìosa ailne fhéin ann, bu mhór air gun tugadh e toiseach orra. Rinn iad dìreach a null gu òs na h-abhann duibhe; lean iad i agus abhainn Ghriemersta 'na déidh. Chual iad an fheadag na bu nimhcile na roimhe an uair a bha iad air mullach a' mhonaidh.

"Feum air fir, cath 'ga chur, gaoth fhuar o bhàrr an t-sluaigh, mo thruaigh fear gun lann!"

Cha robh air ach gearradh goirid a dheanamh agus Sruth Loch Ròg a leum. Chaidh na fir air mire-chatha, gach fear ag cuimhneachadh air na daoine o'n tàinig e agus cruaidh chathan nan làithean a dh'fhalbh. Cha d'rinn an Abhainn Mhór ach sìnteag dhaibh. An uair a bha iad aig Bealach an Sgala chualas an fheadag an treas uair, agus i cho tur nimheil gun saoithe gun sgoltadh i eadhn na creagan. An uair a nochd iad ri machair eadar dà fhaodhail bha cath 'ga chur da-riribh agus feum air fir.

"Feum air fir, cath 'ga chur, gaoth fhuar o bhàrr an t-sluaigh, mo thruaigh fear gun lann," deir esan.

"Ciod a dheanadh tu ged a bhiodh i agad?" deir am fear-iomchair airm.

"Chuirinn dà thrian a' chatha 'nam aonar," deir esan.

"Seo dhuit i," deir am fear-iomchair airm, agus e 'ga tarraing a mach á dòrlach shleaghan agus airm eile a bha aige fo a achlais.

Las sùilean a' ghaisgich le aoibhneas, leum e agus rug e oirre, agus o nach b'urrainn da creidsinn le meud a thioleachais gur e Mac Luinn a bh'ann sguab e mu'n cuairt air a' cheann i agus i a' dealradh mar an dealanach, agus ciod e an tubaist a thachair ach gun do bhuail i anns a' chuairt a bh'ann am fear-iomchair airm agus gheàrr i an ceann deth mar gun biodh cuiseag ann.

Cha do stad Oscar ri sùil a thoirt air ann, ach leum e sìos a dh'ionnsaigh blàr a' chatha. Chunnaca e a sheanar agus, o nach robh Mac Luinn aige mar bu nòs, bha an Ciuthach an impis a chur as da. Bha na gaisgich air na h-airm a bh'aca a bhriseadh no air an tilgeil uatha, agus iad ag gleachd aig bun

creige ris an abrar "Creag a' Chiuthaich" gus an latha an diugh. Tha tolg an teismhadh na creige seo, agus, mas fìor an seanchas, is ann an uair a dh'fhiach an Ciuthach buille air Fionn an comhair a chùil ris a' chreig a thachair seo. Cia b'e air bith mar a bha seo cha b'ann roimh an àm a thàinig Oscar. Tharraing e Mac Luinn agus ma thug i an ceann grad de'n fhear-iomchair airm, bu sheachd ghraide na sin a gheàrr i ceann a' Chiuthaich. Bha ta leithid de nimh innte féin agus de neart uamhasach anns a' ghàirdcan a bha 'ga tarraing agus gun do thilg i an ceann thairis air naoi iomairean eòrna. Nuair a chunnaic muinntir a' Chiuthaich seo sgur an cath agus thug iad na buinn, agus faodar a ràdh a nis gun aga sam bith gun do chuir Oscar a chath 'na aonar mar a thuir e roimhe.

"Theibeas"

Le GILLE-PADRAIG

"NAN cluinneadh tu na facail neònach a tha aig a' ghille-Eireannach a tha an taigh Nèill," arsa Bus-Dubh ri Blàran. "Is e 'theib orm' a tha aige air 'dh'fhairtlich orm.' An cuala duine riamh a leithid an taobh seo, a thairbh?"

"Um, gun tà, chuala. Sin agad facal air a bheil mise eòlach gu leòir o rugadh mi. 'Theib am muir falbh leis an eathar'; sin agad, 'cha mhór nach tug am muir leis an t-eathar, ach cha tug!' 'Theib nach tigeadh iad dhachaidh idir'; sin agad, 'Ghabh sinn ar leòir fadachd 'gam feitheamh, agus sinn gu dùil a thoirt thairis, ach mu dhreireadh thall thàinig iad.' Cha d'fhairtlich orra buileach tighinn, ach cha mhór nach d'fhairtlich. Agus tha sin ag cur naidheachd riagh 'nam chumhne. Chan fhaca tusa riamh Ruairidh MacLeòid nach maireann, agus, o nach fhaca, chan fhaca tu duine a bha cho gleusda agus a bha e ceòlmhor, àbhachdach, agus duine a bha cho luath ri gearr-fhiadh an uair a bha e òg. An latha bha seo nach ann a bha e air sgiobadh a bha dol astar ochd mìle deug air muir, agus eadar dà chalahd chaidh cuid aca air tìr air eilean beag fiach am beireadh iad air beathach corrach a bha dhith orra air an eilean, agus cò a b'fheàrr 'nam measg air tìr ach Ruairidh. Ach nach iomadh rud a thig air laogh nach saoil a mhàthair! Bha Ruairidh air a dhà chois ris, gus nach cuireadh a bhòrgan éis air, agus

(an còrr air t.d. 48)

Litir Eachainn

GED a thug mi iomradh air a' Mhòd mhór Ga bha againn an Dun-obhainn an litir a' mhios a dh'fhalbh, tha nìthan a chunna is a chuala mise a' ruith orm fhathast; tha, agus cuid de na deagh naidheachdan a chuala mi. Nì eile a tha a' tighinn fainear dhomh bhuaith sin is e gnìomh-òran na cloinne, agus ged nach ann an cruth ranntachd uile gu léir, co-dhiubh ranntachd a ghabhadh seinn, a bhiodh na cluichean a bhiodh againn anns an sgoil, tha mi an dùil gu robh cuid dhiubh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith freagarrach air co-fharpais de'n t-seòrsa seo. Seo agaibh aon; agus saoil mise am biotar 'ga deanamh an sgoil sam bith an diugh. Mas fhiosrach aon agaibh gum biotar, bu ghasda leam nan leigeadh sibh fios chugam.

Is e cluich bhalach a bha ann; ach far am biodh caile sgariteil nach cuireadh ag ann an cuairt charachd a thoirt do bhalach, is tric a ghabhadh ri làmh anns a' chluich cuideachd.

Bha a' chlann-uile, ach aon a rachadh a chur fo'n chrann, a' dol 'nan sreath air cùl no air dara làimh a' cheannaird. Bha an sin an t-aon nach robh anns a' mhòr-chuideachd is air an tàinig an crann a' tighinn am fagus, is e a' toirt sùil uaibhreach, neo-eisimeileach air a' chuideachd seo a bha air an tarraing suas 'nan sreath f'a chomhair. Bhruidhneadh an sin an ceannard, is theireadh e, "Fàilte ort féin, a Chrom an Fhàsaich; cia as an dràs a thàinig thu?"

"Thàinig mi á m'fhonn 's á m'fhearann 's á m'fhàsach fhéin," theireadh an coigreach.

Ceannard—"Dé chuir fonn is fearann is fàsach a bhith agadsa, 's mise gun fonn, gun fhearann 's gun fhàsach?"

Crom—"Mo chruas, mò luaths 's mò làidireachd fhéin; is chan 'eil agadsa na bheir dhìom e!"

Ceannard—"Tha aon ghiomanach gearr, donn agamsa an seo, is bheir e a mach na h-iallan 's a h-uile iall a tha 'nad chorp!"

Crom—"A mach an seo e, ma tà;" agus car mar a bha na furbaidhean a bha aig Arailt an uair a thàinig na Sacsannaich agus na Normanaich gu aghaidh bualaidh air Blàr Hastings, bha a nis a' chaonnag air a bonn.

nach biodh ann ach gum biodh e a nis air a sgitheachadh, gheibheadh e a theise mu dheireadh, is bhiodh Crom an Fhàsaich le dhruim ri talamh. Bhiodh an sin croich air a' chluich, agus nam biodh an ùine ann bha ceatharnach eile air a chur fo'n chrann gu àite Crom an Fhàsaich a ghabhail.

Is e cluich ghasda a bha an seo. An aon nì a bu mhiosa is e gur dòcha gun tigeadh fìor á fanaid, is gun tigeadh a' charachd gu tabaid an da-rìreadh, ged is ann annamh a thachradh sin. Is dòcha, air a shon sin, nach biodh seo ro fhreagarrach aig Mòd, ged is cinnteach gur iomadh seòrsa de sheana chluichean mar seo a ghabhadh cur air gheus. Co-dhiubh, ged a dh'fhaodadh nach biodh iad freagarrach aig Mòd, dh'fhaodteadh sàr-chridhealas fhaotainn asda, abairibh, an camp Comunn na h-Oigrìdh. Bu ghasda leam Crom an Fhàsaich fhaicinn aon uair eile, is a' chluich air a riaghladh le Dòmhnall MacPhàil, is e ag cumail rian air na balaich a chù'm 's nach deanteadh dochunn air aon sam bith, is nach biodh aodach 'ga shracadh.

Bha ùidh mhór aig Seòras Gallda nach beò anns na cluichean seo, is tha mi am beachd gu robh cuid dhiubh aige air an cur fo rian gu bhith aig na balaich ré làthan a' champ. Tha eagal orm gu bheil an diugh mòran de na cluichean laghach seo a bhiodh againn anns an sgoil air an dearmad is air an leigeil bàs, le cluichean Gallda, ball-coise is eile, ag gabhail an àite. Tha eadhon an iomain air a dearmad. An uair a bha mise anns an sgoil bha iomain gu leòr againn. An rud a bu mhiosa anns an eilean againne nach robh coille a' fàs ann, no geug a bu làidire na preas seilich, is e cho dùilich caman fhaotainn. Corr uair a gheibh-eamaid geug no craobhag air a' chladach; agus an uair a gheibh-eamaid sin, bu sinn a dheanadh an sodan rithe! An uair a bhiodhte a' faotainn pasgan rongaisean calltainn á Muile gu bodhachan do na cléibh ghiomach a dheanamh, bhiodh daonnan ar sùil air a' phasg fìach am biodh rongais ann air am biodh nàdur de chromaig; agus an uair a thachradh sin, creidibh gun deanamaid ar cuid fhéin dhi glé ealamh!

A GUS bho'n a tha sinn a' bruidhinn air A iomain co-dhiubh—agus cha b'iad balaich na sgoile a mhàin a bhiodh rithe, ach inbhich is fir-thaighe—seo mar a bhiodh taghadh an sgiobaidh air a dheanamh leinne. Bha caman

(An còrr air an ath-dhuilleig)

Litir Eachainn (bho t.d. 47)

air a thigeadh suas os cionn an dà cheann-stoc, is am fear air an bu dluithe cas a' clamaid an uair a thuiteadh e 'na charan air an làr, is an nne aige a bhiodh a' cheud tagha. "Buaileam ort!" theireadh esan; "Leigidh mi leat," theireadh am fear eile. "Bidh a leithid seo de fhear agam," theireadh a' cheud fhear, is e ag combarrachadh aon air ainn; is leanadh iad orra gus nach biodh aon aig am biodh fad a lùdaig de chaman air fhàgail. Thubhairt mi nach b' iad balaich na sgoile a mhàin a bhiodh ris an iomain. Bha an siud latha an uair a bha tuath ann an Torastan, is an déidh àm braiceast thug na suinn an cladaich orra leis na h-eich is na cléibh gu Tràigh Thorastain gus an fheamainn a chur suas. Bha an fheamainn fathast gun tràghadh, is arsa aon no aon-eigin gur math a dh'fhoadadh iad bàir a chur air an iomain gus an tigeadh an tràigh. Cha bu luaithe am facal na an gnìomh; leigeadh na h-eich ris an ionaltradh suas am baca, is thòisich an iomain.

Thràigh an fheamainn, ach lean an iomain; thàinig àm dinnearach, ach lean an iomain; theann i ri lionadh, ach lean an iomain, agus b'ann an uair a thuit sgothan na h-oidhche is nach bu léir dhaibh ball na b' fhaide a sguir i, is an fheamainn air a fàgail air an tràigh gu latha cìle!

Tha an diugh Torastan gun tuath, an fheamainn air a fàgail ag grodadh air a' chladach, agus gun an iomain ach mar sgeul a dh'innscar.

Bhur Caraìd Dìleas,
EACHANN MACDHUGHAILL.

"THEIBEAS" (bho t.d. 46)

a bhriogais truite gu math aige eadar an t-aobrain 's a' ghluin, agus a' dol seachad 'na steall os cionn creige a bha sin nach ann a chaidh òrdag mhór na coise an lùb osan na briogaise, agus chaidh e an comhair a chinn leis a' chreig agus—gu fàbharach, air dòigh—dìreach sìos do'n mhuir. Chaidh càch 'nan cabhaig, 's bu chabhaig a leth, agus mu dheireadh thogadh Ruairidh agus e gun chainnt, agus chaidh a chàradh an toiseach an cathair agus na ghabhadh lorg de dh'aodach mun cuairt air, air son blàths a chur air, agus chaidh na ràimh a chur rithe agus deanamh air dotair, agus abair thusa dìcheall is tarraing air na ràimh, agus mu dheireadh thall ràinig iad port agus stad iad. Chuir am fear a bha 'na toiseach a mach a cheann agus arsa e fhéin, "Chaidh Theib e creig is theibeas a bhàthadh!" Agus sin agadsa, a nis, aig

Ruairidh an dearbh fhacal a bhios aig Eireannach Néill. "Theibeas a bhàthadh"—chaidh e glé fhagus air a bhàthadh, ach cha deachaidh a bhàthadh idir an déidh sin. Cùm thusa do chluas dheas ris an Eireannach agus do chluas chlì ri Fearchar, agus an rud nach tig air a' ghaoith an iar thig e air a' ghaoith an ear."

"Nach iomadh facal neònach a tha ann," arsa Bus-dubh.

"Neònach, a dhuine! Bheil fhios agad dé air a bhéil 'An stiecan staoram'?"

"Chan 'eil, ach bu chòir gum bitheadh."

"Sin agadsa, ma thà, am beathach a bhios an cas na meanbh-chuileig; agus, ged a tha na beathaichean móra cunnartach gu feòir, is e a tha dona, da-riubh, an fheadhainn bheaga. Chan 'eil anns a' mhcanbh-chuileig ach creutair mór an saoghal nam fridean, a dhuine. Sheasadh na miltean aca air gob na snàthaid!"

"A bheil thu ag ràdh rium?" arsa Bus-dubh. "Tha mise ag ràdh riut nach 'eil aca, ma thà, ach àite corrach gu feòir, a thairbh, air gob na snàthaid."

"Na cuireadh e cùram idir ort, a chuilein, foghnaidh e dhaibh maith gu leòir!"

"Biodh aca!" arsa Bus-dubh, agus e dol an taobh as an tàinig e. "Tha mi fhéin sgith de na seangain, agus tha an t-acras orm."

SUIPEIR AN EICH

IS fìor an ràdh, "Cha diùlt peann breug," agus is e breug cho mór agus a chuir peann a riann air paipear gur e gnè is cleachdadh muinntir nan Eileanan a bhith brùidich agus an-ìochdmhor ri an cuid ainmhidhean.

Bha an t-each cho mùirneach aig Pàdraig ri ball de a theaghlach.

Bha e annoch anns an fhcasgar nuair a ràinig e dhachaidh as a' bhaile-mhór le luchd a' chàirn de bhathar air son a' cheannaiche. An déidh an t-each a chur do'n stàball agus gabhail uime gu math chaidh e steach a dh'iarraidh soitheach anns am measgaicheadh e suipeir an eich. Cha robh soitheach falamh ri fhaotainn. Cha robh cuinneag no cuman no miodar anns an fhàrdaich nach robh làn bùirn.

"Cha chreid mi," thubhairt e, 's e a' tionndadh ri a mhnaoi, "nam falbhadh an t-anam asam, nach lionadh tu mo chorp làn bùirn!"

A. M.

Bearnan A Rinn Am Bas

OBITUARIES

Donald MacDonald

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Donald MacDonald, which took place at his home, Ardanlshin, Inverness, on 27th October.

His parents belonged to the Ross of Mull and, although their family of four were brought up in Glasgow, they were as fluent in Gaelic as if reared at Port Uisginn. Mr. MacDonald early identified himself with the Gaelic movement and acted for some time as Minute Secretary of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal. He was a member of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association and the Mull and Iona Association. He served for many years on the Executive Council of An Comunn and, on the death of Mr. Charles Campbell in 1940, was appointed Convener of the Propaganda Committee, an office which he held until failing health necessitated his retreat two years ago. He held office as Vice-President for several terms and, following the death of the President, the Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, in June, 1946, he acted in that capacity until an ensuing Annual Meeting when Dr. John Cameron was appointed. Mr. MacDonald had the honour of accompanying Her Majesty the Queen on the platform at the Mod Grand Concert held in the Music Hall, Aberdeen, that year.

Mr. MacDonald served An Comunn faithfully and well for over twenty years, and was most diligent in his attendance at meetings of Council and Committees.

The funeral took place at Tomnahurich on 30th October and was largely attended. An Comunn was represented by Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary, and Mr. Donald MacPhail, Northern Organiser, who wore pall-bearers, and by Mr. James T. Graham, Treasurer. The Rev. Alex. Boyd officiated in Gaelic at the house and at the graveside.

Mr. MacDonald's only daughter, Iona (Mrs. Calum I. N. MacLeod) rushed home by plane from Nova Scotia but did not arrive in time to see her father alive. The sincere sympathy of An Comunn members is extended to Mr. MacDonald's daughter, his two sisters and brother in their bereavement.

Alastair C. MacLaren

THE death took place some time ago of Mr. Alastair C. MacLaren, who won the Gold Medal for singing at the

Edinburgh Mod of 1910. At that time he occupied the farm of Inverdranrat, Criarlach, and took a very prominent part in the Gaelic movement. He was a strong supporter of An Comunn, serving on the Executive Council and the Propaganda and Mod and Music Committees. He was wounded in the First World War but was able to conduct sheep farming at Torr a' Chlachain, Mull, and latterly at Succoth, Dalmally. He retired to Edinburgh many years ago but took no active part in Highland affairs in the city. Alastair MacLaren was a true and loyal friend of An Comunn and was passionately fond of Gaelic which he acquired and spoke very well.

John J. Munro

THE death occurred recently of Mr. John Jamieson Munro, O.B.E., Managing Director of Messrs. Jamieson and Munro, printers, Stirling. He had been a Life Member of An Comunn and was President of the Stirling Branch for many years. It was through his influence that the late Rev. Dr. George MacKay, Killin, and the General Secretary were able to form the Branch, which has done such good work in Stirling. Mr. Munro's firm was closely associated with that of Eneas MacKay, and, as readers of Gaelic books know, they issued many notable Gaelic publications. For An Comunn the most notable are—"Am Fear Cùil," "An Seanachaidh," "Elementary Course of Gaelic," and, more recently, "Approach to Gaelic."

We regret the passing of a member who served the cause so well

Angus Kennedy

THE sudden death at Taynult while attending a brother's funeral of Mr. Angus Kennedy has deprived the Edinburgh Highland Associations of a worthy and enthusiastic fellow-worker. He was President of Tir nam Beann Dhun-eideann and its representative on the Executive Council of An Comunn. He was also a member of the Edinburgh Mod Local Committee, and his death is keenly felt by the members, who relied on his wise counsel and active participation in their de-

liberations and efforts. He dearly loved his mother tongue and was proud of his heritage. Duine usal coir gasda.

A Nova Scotian Gael

THE death has occurred of D. D. MacFarlane, at the age of eighty-eight. One of the foremost Gaelic scholars in Eastern Nova Scotia, Mr. MacFarlane was the oldest living graduate of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, where he graduated in 1886. He was a frequent contributor to "The Casket".

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

(From p. 158)

evening he addressed a public meeting in the school. The night was stormy and cold and many of the older people did not venture out. Mr. John MacKay, Trantlebeg, was in the Chair and welcomed Mr. MacPhail as an old friend. The Organiser gave a talk on the work of An Comunn and deplored the depopulation in the Northern Area. Gaelic, he said, was weakening in these parts, and it behoved everyone to put their best efforts forward in order to retain Gaelic as a living language in the glens. After the meeting, the Organiser returned to Melvich, and on the following day returned to Inverness via Kildonan Strath.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(From p. 157)

in frequent changes in the Trustees it was resolved that the investments of the Association should be transferred to Clydesdale Bank (Moore Place) Nominees, Ltd., 134 West George Street, Glasgow, C.2., to be held in trust for An Comunn Gaidhealach.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Executive Council in Glasgow on 12th January, 1951, at 6 p.m.

Mr. Finlay J. MacDonald gave notice of motion for consideration at next meeting, to the effect that copies of all minutes to be submitted at meetings of the Executive Council should be sent to the members of the Council beforehand.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

The SCOTTISH CENTRE

THE SETTS OF THE SCOTTISH TARTANS (Details of the Setts of 258 Tartans) by Donald C. Stewart	70/-
AN IUCHAIR OIR: Searmoinean Leis an Urramach C. MacLeod	4/6
BLAR TRAIGH GHRUINNEAIRD—Ms. VII. Iain Deoir.	1/6
SCOTTISH RAILWAYS. O. S. Nock	18/-
MOIDART AND MORAR. Wendy Wood	10/-
B.B.C. GAELIC PAMPHLET: Third Course QUEST BY CANOE (Glasgow to Skye). A. F. Dunnet	6d. 12/6
FAREWELL TO PRIORS FORD. O Douglas	12/6
1951 CALENDARS— " Scotsman " (Home 4/-; Abroad 3/9) " Scots Pictorial " (Home 4/9½; Abroad 3/6) " Clans " (Home 4/6; Abroad 3/6) " Highland Heritage "—5/10 " Isle of Arran " —5/6. " Clyde " 4/2.	

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Alasdair mhic, a hò.*

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Chraobh nan Ubhal, Gheng nan
Abhal.*

*Thug mi 'n oidhche, ge b'fhad i.
A Mhic a' Mhaoir.*

ANNA NIC IAIN :—

Is muladach mi o chionn seachdain.

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maireann :—

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Books about Scotland

SCOTLAND: A Select Bibliography (National Book League, 40 pp., 1/-).

One of the many useful services rendered by the National Book League is the preparing of book-lists on various subjects. The above list is intended as a brief guide to the history, literature, customs and institutions of Scotland. The selection on the Highlands lists 13 books, and that on Gaelic lists 20, while some of the books included in other sections also deal with the Highlands and Gaelic. It is easy to say, "Why was this or that excluded?" but it is on the whole an excellent selection. Anyone possessing the Gaelic books listed here has the cream of Gaelic prose and poetry.

Leabhran Beag a Bragair

Tha "Iain Beag Fhionnlaigh," Bràgair, Leódhas, air leabhran a chur a mach (Alasdair MacLabhrainn 's a Mhic, Glaschu, 36 t.d., 1/-). Chan fhaic mi gu bheil ainm no tìotal air an leabhar idir. 'S e tha ann pasgan de laoidhean agus de dh'òrain cràbhach eile a rinn an t-ùghdar. Tha aon ni soilleir, agus 'e sin gu bheil eòlas maith aig an ùghdar air a' Bhìoball. B'fhèarr leam gu robh mi comasach air a bhith tuigsinn cìod a tha an t-ùghdar ag ciallachadh an cuid de na pòsan aige; ach gu seachd sònraichte b'fhèarr leam gum feuchadh an t-ùghdar ri a chuid bhàrdachd a chur an riochd 's an cumadh rannaigheachd agus gum biodh e nas faiceallaiche ann an ceartachadh nan clò-mhearachdan.

Tha iad ag ràdh gum faod bàrd a bhith coma co-dhiubh chluinneas no leughas neach eile a chuid bhàrdachd. Tha e fhéin a' faotainn faochaidh is toileachaidh ann a bhith deanamh na bàrdachd, agus is e sin fhéin a dhuais. Tha mi cinnteach gu bheil an duais sin aig ùghdar an leabhraim seo, ach tha mi mar an ceudna an dòchas gun ceannaich agus gun leugh feadhainn eile an leabhraim, o'n chaidh an t-ùghdar gun an dragh agus a' chosgais a chur an clò.

How We Are Ruled

SCOTTISH ADMINISTRATION: A Handbook Prepared by the Scottish Office (H.M. Stationery Office, 56 pp., 1/6).

In view of "increasing public interest" in the subject, this little "handbook of reference" has been published, and, while it gives an interesting account of the whole set-up of

Scottish administration, it will strengthen the conviction of those who hold that the Secretary of State for Scotland carries the heaviest burden of any in the Cabinet, and that, indeed, he is loaded with responsibilities too vast and varied for any one individual to bear.

In addition to the four main Departments—Agriculture, Education, Health, and Home Department—there are other functions which are carried out by, or in conjunction with, the Departments of other Ministers of the Crown (as, e.g., the Board of Trade, the Ministries of Labour and National Service, Supply, Works, Fuel and Power, Food, Transport, Civil Aviation, National Insurance, the Post Office, and the three Service Departments). Appendices deal with the Scottish Courts of Law, the nationalised industries in Scotland (coal, electricity, gas, transport, and civil aviation), and such organisations as the Scottish Economic Conference, the Scottish Council (Development and Industry), the Advisory Panel on the Highlands and Islands, the Scottish Tourist Board, the Scottish Board for Industry, etc.

Every citizen who is interested in the government of his country (and what true citizen is not?) should have this booklet at hand.

Annas a' Mhaileid

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

" MAIRI MHOR NAN ORAN "

Sir,—I observed a query from "J. N. M." some months ago concerning an incident said to have happened to above lady. Mairi was a regular visitor to "Fionn's" house in Glasgow, and I have been told by "Fionn's" daughter that she heard Mairi repeatedly tell the story to "Fionn" and his wife. We can well believe that the story lost nothing in the telling, but would rather gain.

It may be that the first part of the story is true about the quarrel and the incident that gave rise to it, but the part about the police and the sheriff court is a figment of her imagination, "Poetic Licence" perhaps added to embellish this story, for Mairi was fond of a sympathetic audience, and knew perfectly well on which side her bread was buttered.

Yours etc.,

J. E. S.

Gaelic in Primary Schools

IN "The Primary School in Scotland" (A Memorandum on the Curriculum), recently issued by the Scottish Education Department, Chapter 16 (pages 60-62) deals with Gaelic, and we take the liberty of quoting the following extracts.

"In the course of the centuries the areas within which Gaelic is spoken have grown fewer and fewer, but it is still the language spoken at home by some thousands of school children, the language which they bring to school with them. These children have to be taught English, and at the same time their Gaelic must be maintained and developed. The schools which they attend have thus to undertake a task which is unknown elsewhere in Scotland."

"Before the Education Act of 1918 made instruction in Gaelic compulsory in Gaelic-speaking areas, Gaelic was seldom, if ever, regarded as an integral subject of the primary curriculum. Since 1918 the position has become somewhat better, but it is not yet satisfactory. Education Authorities have printed schemes of work, suitable school text-books have become procurable, and a number of teachers have from time to time attended vacation courses mainly directed towards improving the teachers' own knowledge of Gaelic. Certificated Gaelic-speaking teachers have been appointed, when available, wherever the educational needs of the children required bilingual teachers. Staffing, however, has been a troublesome problem. In the country as a whole there is no dearth of Gaelic-speaking teachers, many of whom, having taken full Senior Leaving Certificate and Training College courses in Gaelic and frequently a degree as well, are fully qualified for employment in bilingual schools. Unfortunately, however, over a period of years a relatively large number of them have accepted appointments in areas where there is no Gaelic, thus reducing the supply for Gaelic-speaking areas almost to a minimum. The prospects of securing suitably qualified teachers might be brighter if Gaelic-speaking pupils, and especially those who intend to take up teaching as a profession,

were encouraged to study Gaelic in the secondary school."

"Gaelic in the school has a two-fold place. It can, and often must, be used as a vehicle of communication between teacher and pupil, particularly in the infant classes; in this respect it is a means of instruction. It is also a subject of instruction, particularly at the upper stages, and sometimes it serves both purposes."

"With the child whose mother tongue is Gaelic, the teacher should not hesitate to use it in the initial stages of his school life. . . . Even at the infant stage the Gaelic-speaking child should be encouraged to regard his own language with respect, and to discover that it contains matter of unending interest."

Having indicated the material and method of Gaelic instruction in the various classes of the primary school, the Chapter ends with this significant paragraph:

"It is wrong to think of instruction in Gaelic merely from the linguistic point of view. In paragraph 266 above, the use of Gaelic songs and tales at the infant stage was stressed as an important means of leading the child to realise that his native language contains matter of rich variety and interest. This fact should be impressed on the pupils throughout their course. They should be brought to understand that the songs and the literature reflect the life of an ancient and famous people; they should be taught something of the legends, the traditions, the customs, and the life of their race, and they should be encouraged to take pride in its culture as well as in the achievements of its sons in all parts of the world. When in the school there are non-Gaelic-speaking as well as Gaelic-speaking pupils, it is only fitting that they, too, should hear these legends and traditions, sing these legends and traditions, and learn of that civilisation and those achievements; and it may be that some of them at least will be stirred thereby to learn the language for themselves."

The Schools (Scotland) Code, 1950, states: "In Gaelic-speaking areas reasonable provision shall be made in schemes

of work for the instruction of Gaelic-speaking pupils in the Gaelic Language and Literature, and the Gaelic language shall be used so far as is necessary for instructing Gaelic-speaking pupils in other subjects."

Comunn na Clarsaich

Report for 1949-50

THIS energetic Society reports an increase of membership as well as a healthy financial position. The Scholarship Fund—initiated on the suggestion of General Sir Philip Christison—is providing a year's free tuition in clarsach playing for three scholars. Miss Peggy Macdonald (Barra), Duncraig Castle School, Ross-shire; Miss Isobel Fairbairn, Edinburgh; and Miss Combie, Edinburgh.

A "Long Week-end Clarsach School" was held at Oban at the beginning of April, with Miss K. Barry-Milner as instructress.

It is noted that there is increasing recognition of clarsach-playing, whether it be at ceilidhs, concerts, or broadcast programmes.

The President of the Society is Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds), and the Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Herbert Y. Wilson, 30 Dirleton Avenue, North Berwick.



The late Mr. Donald Graham, M.A., Irveneress.

(Photo by Andrew Paterson Irveneress).

Fios o'n Runaire

SECRETARY'S NOTES

National Mod—1951

MEMBERS of the Mod Local Committee in Edinburgh are in full swing with their preparations for next year's National Mod. Mr. Hugh MacPhee, Convener of the Mod and Music Committee, and the General Secretary attended a meeting of the Local Committee on 16th October and were highly pleased with the progress being made. Arrangements are well forward for the holding of a Feill on 22nd and 23rd June, the Joint Conveners of which are Miss Mena Whigham, LL.B., Mrs. Durward, and Miss MacKinnon. Mr. Donald S. MacDonald, W.S., is Convener of the Mod Local Committee, with Miss Isa MacMillan and Mr. Donald Cameron as Joint-Secretaries, and Mr. Euan MacDiarmid, C.A. as Treasurer.

Gaelic Classes

GAELIC Classes under the Continuation Class Code are being held at Ardrossan, Dundee, Dunoon, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Govan High, Woodside and Victoria Park Schools), Helensburgh, Paisley, Perth, Pitlochry, Rothesay, and Stirling. In addition to these, four Gaelic Classes are being held in Glasgow University under the auspices of the Adult Education and Extra-Mural Committees. The Gaelic League (Dionnag na Gaidhlig) have an attendance of over 100 at their various Gaelic Classes.

Branches

THE following Branches in the Southern Area have resumed for the current session:— Ayr, Bunnessan, Campbeltown, Dundee, Dunoon, Edinburgh, Govan, Largs, Millhouse, Oban, Port Ellen and Stirling.

Paisley Highlanders' Association

THE Secretary presided over a meeting of the Paisley Highlanders' Association on Saturday, 4th November. There is a regular attendance of fully 300 people at these weekly ceilidhs, and patrons are provided with a first-rate programme. The President, the Rev. A. C. MacGillivray, conducts the Gaelic Classes already referred to.

Provincial Mods

THE Islay Provincial Mod will be held at Bowmore on 20th April, 1951, and the syllabus is now in the hands of prospective competitors. Mr.

Neil MacKechmie, M.A., Fort Ellen, who acted so efficiently as Secretary last year, is again in charge this session. A meeting of the Perthshire Provincial Mod Committee was held in Aberfeldy recently and arrangements were made for the holding of next year's Mod at Aberfeldy on 15th June.

Ladies' Highland Association

ONE ought not to refrain from saluting this Association which has just celebrated its centenary. Among

the many voluntary bodies which have tried to help the Highland people, none has given finer help, and few longer help, than this Association. In the course of its hundred years' of service it has successively served in three main ways: first, through its schools (established to supplement the parish and church and other schools); secondly, by developing nursing services; and thirdly, by religious and social welfare work, which is still being carried on. The lady agents of the Society teach classes, visit, and generally help in particular parishes and centres, their work being mainly among the young.

Gaelic Informal Education

FOLLOWING upon negotiations which have been going on for some time between representatives of An Comunn Gaidhealach, the Scottish Education Department, and the County Education Committees of Sutherland, Ross-shire, Inverness-shire, and Argyll, a Committee for Gaelic Informal Education, consisting of representatives of all these parties, has now been constituted.

The objects of the Committee are to help in maintaining and developing Gaelic language and culture in the Gaelic-speaking areas of Scotland, and to promote and encourage, especially among young people, cultural, social, and recreational activities suited to a Gaelic environment. Three full-time organisers are to be appointed to work under the Committee in Inverness-shire (excluding Skye), Argyll, Sutherland, and Ross-shire (excluding Lewis). (It should be noted that full-time Further Education Officers have already been appointed to Lewis and Skye).

The work of these organisers will be directed towards developing social, recreational and cultural activities, and to foster Gaelic language and culture, crafts and handiwork, local tradition, folklore, and history, and generally to foster the sense of belonging to a community bound together by a common language and tradition.

The cost of the scheme is being shared by the County Education Committees referred to and An Comunn Gaidhealach, and the Scottish Education Department.

At the first meeting of the Committee the following office-

bearers were appointed: Chairman, Dr. J. A. MacLean (Director of Education for Inverness-shire); Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. M. Bunnerman (President of An Comunn Gaidhealach); Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Donald MacPhail (Northern Organiser of An Comunn Gaidhealach), 92 Academy Street, Inverness.

Regional Sub-Committees are to be appointed to direct the Organisers in their work.

This is one of the most important—probably the most important—of all the enterprises on which An Comunn Gaidhealach, in the course of its long history, has embarked. Appreciation should be expressed of the vision and ready co-operation of the Scottish Education Department and the Highland County Education Committees concerned. If, in the past, there has been justification for the charge that “the powers-that-be” in matters of education were not only unsympathetic, but hostile, to Gaelic, the attitude of the Department of Education and the Education Committees in recent times, and especially in this new venture, has gone far to atone for former neglect of, and indifference to, the language.

Whoever the new Organisers may be, their work is one of great importance and of immense possibilities, and it is to be hoped that the Gaelic and Highland people among whom they are to work will rally round and help as much as they can, so that this splendid new opportunity may be fully used.

Iomhas a' Chomuinn

TREASURER'S NOTES

National Mod—Dunoon, 1950

Received at Dunoon—

Previously acknowledged	£2,073 16 3
Morrison's Bakery	5 0 0
		£2,078 16 3

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	£132 1 0	
Uist & Barra Association	...	3 0 0
Glasgow Celtic Society	...	4 10 0
Hector MacDougall, Esq., Glasgow	...	0 7 6
Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds), Bray-on-Thames, Berkshire	...	3 0 0
Comunn na Clarsaich	...	3 0 0
Mr. & Mrs. Alex. Duncan, Manchester	...	2 2 0
Oban & Lorn Association	...	6 0 0
Glendaruel & Colintraive Branch	...	37 12 8
.....	...	191 13 2
Total to date		<u>£2,270 9 5</u>

Central Fund

The high level of present-day costs of all kinds are reflected in the largely increased expenditure involved in conducting the various activities of An Comunn, even on the pre-war scale, let alone expanding them. Towards meeting this largely increased expenditure, donations and subscriptions to the Central Fund of An Comunn are required to the extent of £1,000 per annum. Donations, large or small, will be gladly received by the Treasurer, Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., 5 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1. Remittances should be made payable to "An Comunn Gaidhealach."

Previously acknowledged	...	£74 18 4
Lewis Branch	...	10 0 0
Farquhar MacRae, Esq.	...	8 0 0
Millhouse & District Branch	...	5 0 0
Glasgow Mid-Argyll Association	...	1 0 0
Lochalsh Gaelic Choir	...	10 0 0
Total since 1st May, 1950		<u>£108 18 4</u>

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	...	£17 6 6
Kenneth Macleod, Esq., Inverness	...	0 6 0
Donald Cameron, Esq., Glasgow	...	0 4 0
Total since 1st May, 1950		<u>£17 16 6</u>

War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

Previously acknowledged	£208 16 2	
Proceeds from Concerts at Fort William & Inverness on 22nd & 23rd September, 1950, respectively per Charles C. Macdonald, Esq., Organiser	...	18 14 4
Lochnaver Branch	...	3 0 0
Collection at Whist Drive in Balmarcara Hotel per A. J. Macphail,		

Esq., Honorary Treasurer, Balmarcara Branch 6 15 0

Total since 1st May, 1950, exclusive of specific donations to Feill, which will be separately acknowledged later £237 5 6

FEITHE-NA-FALA (bho t.d. 156)

a cèille'' 'na laighe leònta, thug i fainear bannal ghruagach fhaotainn a thogadh fonn òrain a bha i a' deanamh dha 's i ri toirt a' ghath as a shliasaid. Bha seo a chum aire a thoirt beagan bho'n chràdh a bha e fulang an ám a bhith toirt as a' ghath. Tha an t-oran seo ri chluinntinn fathast :

“ Mhic Dhò'aill, a laoigh mo chéille,
 Hi ri ri ri ho u ;
 Gur moch a chuala tu m' éigheach,
 Ho ro ho hi ri ;

Fhreagair thu 'n tràigh 's an là ag glasadh,
 Hi ri ri ri ho u ;
 Bhuail thu màim air Slol a' Chapuill,
 Ho ro ho hi ri ;
 Chall eile bho hi o ro ho ;
 Slol na làire, blàire, bacaich, ” etc.

A cheart cho math 's a bha Nic Coisearm gu òran a thàdhadh bha a sgil air leigheas a cheart cho math, air son gu robh Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais comasach air Dun-tuilm a ruigh-eachd ann an trì seachdain bho'n latha a fhuair i e 'na shineadh 's fhuil chraobhach ri taosgadh mu làr.

Nuair a chuala Dòmhnall Gorm mu Bhàlr Chàirinnis agus gaisge Mhic Iain 'Ic Sheumais cha b'fhiù leis ach gabhailt na Cuidrich anns an Eilean Sgitheanach a thoirt dha. Gu dearbh, bha an gaisgeach ud làn airdh air agus ged a chanadh tu an còrr leis.

B'ann de a shìochd a thàinig Caiptean Ailean Dòmhnallach Chinnse-borg a bha pòda aig Fionnghal Nic Dhòmhnail (no, mar is tric a theirear, " Fionnghal a' Phrionnsa ").

Sin agaibh gearr chunntas air an latha fhuilteach ud a chaidh a chur ann an iochdar Chàirinnis. Agus mar a fhuair mise an naidheachd bho sheann duine còir an Uibhist tha mi 'ga toirt do luchd-leughaidh a' Ghaidheil, oir tha mi cinnteach gu bheil gu leòir am measg ar gineil òig aig nach 'eil eòlas air an eachdraidh agus nach cuala iomradh air an laoch ainmeil, Dòmhnall Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais—curaidh cho ionmholta 's a bha aig Clann Dòmhnail riamh.

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